



**The Parish Magazine
St Andrew's Church
Old Headington**



May 2022

50p

PARISH DIRECTORY

www.standrewsheadington.co.uk

Enquiries about marriage and baptism should be made directly to the Vicar, by telephone or email.

The Clergy will gladly visit and (if requested) bring Holy Communion to people who are ill at home or in hospital, by arrangement.

Vicar	Fr Darren McFarland The Vicarage, 33 St Andrew's Road, Headington. vicar.headington@gmail.com .	761094 07773 772610
Curate	Fr Luke Norman frluke.headington@gmail.com	07707 866062
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THE NORMAN ARCH is published on the last Saturday of each month.

The parish magazine is named after the splendid Norman chancel arch in the church.

Editor Fr Darren McFarland
Sub-Editor Vacant

Deadline for next issue: 25th of each month

THE VILLAGE HALL
DUNSTAN ROAD, OLD HEADINGTON
www.oldheadingtonvillagehall.co.uk

Excellent facilities for Receptions, Parties, Meetings, Dances, Gatherings, Functions. Kitchen, car parking Reduced charges for regular and long-term bookings	Hall Charges One-off events £20.00 per hour Regular hire £16.00 per hour
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May Calendar

1 Sun	3rd SUNDAY OF EASTER	BCP	8.00am
	Parish Eucharist		10.00am
	Baptism		noon
2 M	Athanasius, Bishop of Alexandria		
	Eucharist		9.30am
3 T			none
4 W	English Saints & Martyrs of the Reformation Era		
	Eucharist	BCP	10.00am
5 Th	Little Fishes play group		9.30am
	Eucharist		7.30 pm
6 F	Artweeks set-up		none
7 S	Start Art at St Andrew's		12 - 6pm
8 Sun	4th SUNDAY OF EASTER	BCP	8.00am
	Parish Eucharist		10.00am
	APCM		11.15am
9 M	Eucharist		9.30am
			3.00pm
	Knit & Natter at Tea on Monday		
10 T			none
11 W	Eucharist	BCP	10.00am
12 Th	Eucharist		7.30pm
13 F			none
14 S	Wedding		1.00pm
15 Sun	5th SUNDAY OF EASTER	BCP	8.00am
	Parish Eucharist		10.00am
	Baptism		10.00am
16 M	Eucharist		9.30am
17 T			none
18 W	Eucharist	BCP	10.00am
19 Th	Dunstan, Archbishop of Canterbury		
	Little Fishes play group		9.30am
	Eucharist		7.30pm
20 F	Wedding		1.00pm
21 S			none
22 Sun	6th SUNDAY OF EASTER	BCP	8.00am
	Parish Eucharist		10.00am
23 M	Eucharist		9.30am
			3.00pm
	Knit & Natter at Tea on Monday		
24 T	John and Charles Wesley		none
25 W	The Venerable Bede		
	Eucharist	BCP	10.00am
26 Th	Ascension Day		
	Little Fishes play group		9.30am
	Eucharist		10.00am
27 F			none
28 S			none
29 Sun	7th SUNDAY OF EASTER	BCP	8.00am
	Parish Eucharist		10.00am
30 M	Josephine Butler, Social Reformer		
	Eucharist		9.30am
31 T	Visit of the BVM to Elizabeth		none

From the Registers

Wedding

4th April Kim Dowson & Scott Eltham

Baptism

23rd April Gabrielle Cooper

Funerals

8th April Philip McKearney

21st April Pippa Hamill

Interment of Ashes

27th April Philip McKearney

May Readings

1st May

Old Testament
Psalm
New Testament
Gospel

3rd Sunday of Easter

Acts 9.1-6
30
Revelation 5.11-end
John 21.1-19

8th May

Old Testament
Psalm
New Testament
Gospel

4th Sunday of Easter

Acts 9.36-end
23
Revelation 7.9-end
John 10.22-30

15th May

Old Testament
Psalm
New Testament
Gospel

5th Sunday of Easter

Acts 11.1-18
148
Revelation 21.1-6
John 13.31-35

22nd May

Old Testament
Psalm
New Testament
Gospel

6th Sunday of Easter

Acts 16.9-15
67
Revelation 21.10, 22-22.5
John 14.23-29

29th May

Old Testament
Psalm
New Testament
Gospel

7th Sunday of Easter

Acts 16.16-34
97
Rev. 22.12-14,16-17,20-end
John 17.20-end

NOTICE

The Vestry Meeting to elect the Churchwardens will be held on Sunday 8th May at 11.30am in the church.

St Andrew's APCM will be held on Sunday 8th May at 11.45am in the church.

MISSION OF THE MONTH



www.christianaid.org.uk

'Let us love, not in word or speech
but in truth and action'
(1 John 3.18)

Christian Aid is an international development organisation that works with local partners and communities to fight injustice, respond to humanitarian emergencies, campaign for change, and help people claim the services and rights they are entitled to.

Together with supporters and partners, Christian Aid aims:

- to expose poverty throughout the world,
- to help in practical ways to end it,
- to highlight, challenge and change the structures and systems that favour the rich and powerful over the poor and marginalised.

There can be no doubting the challenges facing the world at the moment, where war, climate change, COVID-19 and natural disasters have combined to create multiple crises across the world. The war in Ukraine is a stark example of this, creating a vast number of often traumatised refugees requiring care and support. But Ukraine is also one of the world's largest grain producers, and so the war is leading to further food insecurity for poor communities across the world. There is also a serious danger that while the West concentrates its aid on helping the plight of Ukrainians, other countries desperately in need of aid are now being overlooked, Afghanistan being a clear case in point. There is a great deal for the international community to do at the moment to help those in need.

Current Christian Aid appeals and programmes include:

Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal. Christian Aid is working with three partner organisations in the ACT Alliance; Hungarian Interchurch Aid (HIA) in Ukraine and Hungary, the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) in Poland, and Swiss Church Aid

(HEKS) in Ukraine, Hungary and Romania, to offer assistance to internally displaced peoples and to refugees.

Global Hunger Appeal. More than 41 million people in 43 countries are teetering on the brink of famine. Without immediate action, women, men and children will lose their lives. The COVID-19 pandemic, violent conflict and the climate crisis have all increased global hunger. Now, people in countries including South Sudan, Ethiopia and Burkina Faso are facing the very real threat of famine. The situation is particularly dire in South Sudan, where it is estimated that up to 60% of the country will face severe food insecurity. Hundreds of thousands of women, men and children are likely to face famine. Christian Aid want to raise emergency funds to provide the lifesaving support they need, to provide water hygiene kits to give households clean drinking water; buy assorted seeds and tools for households to grow vegetables; and buy essential food for families facing starvation.

Afghanistan Crisis Appeal. Drought, the war in Afghanistan and the COVID-19 pandemic are causing a catastrophic rise in hunger. Christian Aid's partners are on the ground scaling up their operations, and are able to reach the people most in need. Initiatives include to: provide emergency food and nutrition support for children; support healthcare facilities; provide kits to help displaced families stay warm; supply clean drinking water; and protect women and girls.

Educating Syrian adolescents. The Syrian conflict, which began in March 2011, has triggered the biggest displacement crisis of this century. Some 6.7m Syrians are internally displaced, including 2.5m children. A further 6.6m have fled across national borders as refugees, mostly in countries near Syria. Christian Aid is working together with their partner in Syria to provide safe spaces and improve the skills, resilience and social inclusion of children and young people through remedial education, vocational training, psychosocial support, and community involvement.



Where does the money come from?

Us! Christian Aid relies on a network of staff members and supporters to fund its activities. This includes CHRISTIAN AID WEEK, in which a concerted effort is made to raise funds.

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 15-21 May 2022

Every year at St Andrew's Church we have taken part in the house-to-house collection for Christian Aid, apart from during the last two years of the COVID-19 pandemic. This year we will be recommencing the house-to-house collection.

WILL YOU HELP?

All that is required is to deliver an envelope to 30 or 40 houses near the beginning of Christian Aid Week, and collect it later in the week. If you would not yet feel comfortable collecting envelopes, we will have alternative envelopes available. These can just be posted through letterboxes, and have a space on them on which you can write a brief instruction, explaining that the envelope should be returned by posting it through your letterbox and/or the vicarage letterbox.

If you would like to help, please sign the list on the Tract Table. The envelopes will be in Church to collect on 8 May and 15 May.

Please consider whether you would like to undertake a sponsored fundraising event, which could be virtually anything you like. Friends and colleagues are usually very happy to support such activities, and undertaking them can be a great deal of fun in itself. The main thing is to raise money so that Christian Aid can continue with their vital work. I myself will be undertaking a sponsored walk in September around the Ring of Steall in Glen Nevis.

With all of these challenges, it's also important to look back on what Christian Aid has been able to achieve over the past year.

Here are a few highlights:

Bangladesh/Refugees. Christian Aid supports Syrian and Palestinian refugees in Lebanon and Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh, plus many more internally displaced people in places like Burkina Faso, DR Congo, Ethiopia, Iraq and Syria. In Bangladesh, Christian Aid manages Jamtoli Refugee Camp in Cox's Bazar (long-term commitment).

COVID-19. India had a huge wave of COVID-19. Over 130,000 of the most vulnerable people were provided with life-saving health information as well as ensuring they could access vital welfare and healthcare.

Haiti. In August 2021 a 7.2 magnitude earthquake struck southwestern Haiti with devastating consequences. Christian Aid has been working with partners in the region most affected by the earthquake. They are also pioneering a methodology called Survivor and Community Led Response (SCLR), which identifies ways that communities have taken action to help themselves and then provides mini grants so the same community members can replicate the same actions on a bigger scale.

Afghanistan. When the Taliban took over, over 550,000 people were displaced, in addition to many others from previous years. More than 22m people face going hungry. Christian Aid has participated in the DEC Afghanistan Crisis Appeal, which raised over £34m. In the coming months, through two partners they aim to reach thousands of people with food packages and provide pregnant women, new mothers and malnourished infants with additional nutritional support.

Thank you

Nigel Voak
(tel. Oxford 750084)

Art at St Andrew's 2022



Art at St Andrew's runs from Saturday 7th May until Sunday 15th May.

If you would like to volunteer to be a steward during the event, there is a signup sheet on the tract table. The duty will be to welcome visitors as we are still not offering refreshments this year.

Thank you.

Notes from the Organ Bench



*Praise God in his sanctuary:
praise him in the firmament of his power.
Praise him for his mighty acts:
praise him according to his excellent greatness.
Praise him with the sound of the trumpet:
praise him with the psaltery and harp.
Praise him with the timbrel and dance:
praise him with stringed instruments and organs.
Praise him upon the loud cymbals:
praise him upon the high sounding cymbals.
Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord.*

At the beginning of the Parish Eucharist of Easter Day, with words from Psalm 150, Fr Darren re-dedicated the organ to its use in our worship following the extensive re-voicing work and re-setting of the action during the first quarter of this year.

The quality of the workmanship exhibited by the craftsmen of Nicholson & Co, Malvern has far exceeded our wildest expectations. It is safe to say that we are thrilled with what has been achieved. The organ sounds so much better. Thank you to so many of the congregation who have commented how much better the organ sounds and thank you to Fr Darren for his support of this project and his well-chosen words at the re-dedication.

Easter is a busy time for the church musician: perhaps more busy even than Christmas. Effectively, there is one month's worth of music during the Triduum and Easter Day. But it is not just the quantity of the music that makes Easter so different to Christmas: it is the emotion of the season too.

In the run up to Christmas, everyone is looking forward – that is what Advent means, of course. In stark contrast, at Easter, the joy of the Resurrection is kept in abeyance until the last possible moment by the events of Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. It is as though, just as John Bunyan's Pilgrim had to pass through the Slough of Despond before he could reach Wicket Gate, we must 'suffer' the agonies of the Passion before we can enjoy the thrill of the Resurrection.

There is much beautiful music that has been written to reflect the various stages of the journey, but it is music that is draining both on the voice and the emotions. The question posed by the spiritual, 'Were you there when they crucified my Lord?' is a difficult question: it creates a moment of high emotion.

The choir carried us through the musical journey with their customary commitment and skill and have added enormously to the beauty of the various services. I want to place on record my thanks to them for all they do so willingly during the whole of the year but, in particular, during this Holy Week and Easter – our first full, choral Easter for three years.

This year it was a special joy for me, personally, that the choir was augmented by Marianne & Candy, sisters who were two of my Junior Choir back in my time in Tadworth. Given that my last service as the choir master there was Easter Day 2006, it was wonderful to make music with them again. I hope it will not be the last time!

Looking forward, we will be changing our Mass setting for the month of May. We used a plainchant setting during Lent and then celebrated Easter using David Thorne's Mass of St Thomas and for the next month we will be singing Anthony Caesar's St Mary's Mass. It is a joyful setting which I hope you will remember and enjoy.

My best wishes to you all.

Richard Bennett
Director of Music



A group for pre-school children and their parent/carers

Thursdays in school term
9.30 – 11.30
in the Church Room

Please bring your own drinks and snacks.

No charge.

Natacha Huggett - 07436 837779

Easter 2022

Thank you to everyone who prepared the church for our Easter Festival and to those who have donated the lilies.

Everyone worked very hard and it was much appreciated by those who came to services and visited the church.



Maundy Thursday



Good Friday



Easter lilies



The Easter Garden



Young Church on Easter Day



Easter activity

Bellringing

New recruits are sought for the tower!

If you are interested please contact Clare Fairbairn on 01865 515816



Open Gardens Day

Sunday 26th June 2022

CHURCHYARD AND CHURCH

Volunteers are needed to welcome visitors to the churchyard and church.

2.30pm – 5.30pm.

Please use the signup sheet in church next month.

PLANT STALL

The Growers Group are planning the Plant Stall to be held on Open Gardens Day on 26 June this year. We would be grateful for offers of plants to sell. Proceeds go to the Friends of Old Headington to fund enhancements to the village environment and to local charities. Now is the time to sow seeds or grow on cuttings. Please contact Alison Soskice (01865 760695) or asoskice@talktalk.net if you would like to join the group, help on the day or have plants we could collect nearer the time.

Tea on Monday



& Knit and Natter

Tea on Monday and Knit and Natter is back in full swing!

Our next project is to supply blankets to Fewcott House Nursing Home in Bicester. One of our parishioners has a link with the Home and it's great to be able to contribute to their work. We are always looking for local organisations which might benefit from a donation of our blankets and would be grateful for any suggestions. Please do continue to leave 6 Inch squares in the box in church, where there is a good supply of wool.

**Meetings are from 3pm – 4.30pm
9th and 23rd May.**

TOM and Knit & Natter is for everyone! Come along and enjoy tea, cake and chat.

Natacha and Helen

May Flag News



5th May

Europe Day

EU Flag!!

Tim Cadel



***Please recycle your copy of the Norman Arch.
Maybe pass it on to someone else!***

CHURCH GARDEN



*There'll be blue birds over,
The white cliffs of Dover,
Tomorrow, just you wait and see.*

I always think of Vera Lynn singing this lovely song at the beginning of May. We all know it, even my children who sang it at their primary school, in the play 'Evacuees'. Blue birds are a symbol of peace and also of joy, happiness, prosperity and good health. But its the 'peace' that I am reminded of, as the end of WW2 (VE day) is celebrated on May 8th. The image of our Queen, who has just celebrated her 96th birthday and 70 years on the throne, as a young woman on the balcony of Buckingham Palace is enduring. We also have 'peace' in our minds as we remember Ukraine, symbolized at St Andrews by the Ukrainian flag and our many blue and yellow flowers (pansies, grape hyacinths, daffodils and primroses). I know that St Andrew's Garden is a special place where many people find a feeling of peace.

A huge 'Thank you' to everyone who worked so hard to make the garden look so beautiful for Palm Sunday and Easter. I was delighted that the sun shone (there's always the fear that it will rain and no one will come) and so many of you kindly gave up Saturday morning to help. It wasn't all hard work, as we enjoyed each other's company, chatted, laughed and ate cake. As always, new friendships were formed while removing those stubborn weeds! Please don't be shy about joining future garden mornings, there's something that everyone can do, handing round cups of coffee and tea is a 'job'!

I thought the garden was looking good as we went into April, but it's still offering new colour as we start May. I am especially pleased with the amount of bloom on the renovated lilac (Ascension flower) bush. It has new vigour and almost every shoot is carrying flowers. It has responded well to being hard pruned, the removal of a large amount of ivy and a good feed of chicken manure. I have the wood that was removed and am looking for

someone who may have a talent for wood carving or turning. The wood is very beautiful and polishes well. I would love it if some small items like crosses could be made, please contact me if you could help. The lilac is also host to a white summer flowering clematis, and underneath there are some beautiful purple honesty plants. Honesty is a biannual and after flowering has flat, disc-like silver seed pods which are often used in Christmas decorations. If left, they will happily self-seed for the next year. Some of the most successful plants at St Andrews are (in my view) the easiest to grow. Our soil is rather sandy and free draining, but snowdrops, primroses, cyclamen and bluebells are thriving and popping up all around. We are (slowly) removing the dense ground ivy and brambles under the Yew tree to allow our native flowers to spread. Wild life is buzzing, there is plenty of protein-rich pollen and sugar-rich nectar for our insect population. The more we learn about nature, the better we gardeners we become. This year, I am trying 'companion' planting in my vegetable patch. Garlic, marigolds and nasturtiums to deter blackfly and aphids and other annual flowers to encourage pollinators to improve the cropping of my beans and courgettes.

Last month, I mentioned listening for the cuckoo while walking in Cuckoo Lane as a child. This raised a few questions. In truth, I don't remember if I heard a cuckoo or not, but I understand you may hear cuckoos on Otmoor. I was also asked about the name. Consulting my book on 'The Origins of Oxford Street Names', I can report that the original lane, between Old High Street and Pullen's Lane is thought to be over 1000 years old, and was once a main route into Oxford. This makes sense as Old Headington was an important Manor, and listed in the Domesday book. Interestingly, St Andrew's Road was Church Street until 1955. There used to be six Church Streets in Oxford, but all have been renamed in the 1950's due confusions with the Post, Ambulance and Fire services etc. Cuckoo Lane was named in 1930, originally it was called 'Oxforde Way' and is shown on a map from 1605 and predates the current London Road.

Happy Gardening,

Jane Shepherd
jane.shepherd1955@gmail.com

**The views expressed in this magazine are not necessarily those of the Editor.
No responsibility can be taken for advertising statements published**

I have written before how Mothers' Union supports the children of prisoners via the charity Children Heard and Seen. For Easter this year we made knitted lambs for them and put them in very brightly striped bags (with an obligatory cream egg!).



There was a gathering for the families on Maundy Thursday with a barbecue and lots of activities. We have received letters of thanks and one mum (who lives a long way away from this diocese) wrote this: I wondered if it was possible to send a little message back to the lovely donors

of the Easter Egg and cosy that X (her son) received? It's really just to say that these gestures really mean something. X was going over the moon, immediately named his sheep and with my permission gobbled his egg. He had a huge smile on his face.

To me, it made me tear up. It meant that people care. It meant that someone recognises he deserves it. That he is a child, needs love and nurturing like all children and with the months of shame and secrecy that have become normal, someone recognises his innocence. The love in that small gift really moved me. So thank you to Children Heard and Seen and to Mother's Union. These kindnesses carry me through and help me to continue doing my best for X.

Mothers' Union will continue to support families all around the UK in as many ways as possible.

Our Bible Study dates in St Andrew's Church are as follows:

Tuesday 31st May @ 10.30 am
Tuesday 21st June @ 2.30 pm

Do join us if you can, we would be delighted to welcome you.

Alison Bennett
01869 343760



Open Gardens Day

Sunday 26th June 2022
2.30 - 5.30pm

Some wonderful gardens are available for you to wander around, plus bell ringing available at church.

The cost of admission (covering all the gardens) will be £5 per person, but for members of The Friends, the cost will be £3 on production of their current membership card, there will be free admission for accompanied children.

Teas, provided by the Otmoor W.I., will be available between 3pm and 5.30pm in the Church rooms at the back of St Andrew's.

Plant Stall in front of the Vicarage
All welcome!



SPECIAL OCCASION CARDS & PRAYER CARDS

We have a collection of beautiful greeting cards with an inspirational verse designed by Just Cards Direct.

The greeting cards are in the Bookstall to the right of the main door as you enter church.

Just Cards Direct work in partnership with projects in Rwanda, South Africa and Kenya and give the majority of their profits to Christian charities.

We also have a stand with prayer cards at the back of church.

