

The Magdala News



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*Our Mission: To love God and be
the light of Christ in the world.
(March 2017)*



From the Editors

It is to be hoped that all the people who have been able to attend our parish conferences so far, have found them to be interesting and helpful, and that through them we have been able to get to know one another better.

When we got together for our most recent conference to review where we see God at work in our midst today, when pondering the gifts we have been given, the group I was in mentioned ‘courage’ as being one of these.

Courage brings to mind many different things. Mighty deeds of heroism might be a place to start and it all might end there if that has little appeal! I joke about my daily goal being to accomplish one thing besides getting out of bed, but for some, even getting out of bed requires effort and focus to achieve, so perhaps we should not make light of it and see that for some, courage is needed to face the day.

Courage is sometimes defined as the ability to face our fears and overcome them. This implies being realistic in recognizing and understanding what fills us with unease or even dread. Facing truth or reality then seems to be key, when we are addressing the things that make us afraid. A ‘reality check’ is often what we need to make.

Sharing concerns with family, friends and professionals is often helpful so that we do not

feel alone. For people of faith we know that we are not alone and the notion of ‘God with us’ is hugely inspiring and comforting. In a hymn recently sung in Sunday Worship called *The Lord is my Light*, we find the verse: “Wait on the Lord and be of good courage, Oh, wait on the Lord and be of good courage. Wait on the Lord and be of good courage, He shall strengthen thy heart.”

Courage in battle often results in medals being won. In our house we have a collection of WW1 medals awarded to our parents and other relatives, which are an awesome reminder of terrible times past. On a happier note, today children and grandchildren often find comfort in the stickers and treats they receive for work done at school or after visits to the dentist.

continued on next page

In this issue:

From the Editors	2
Because we hunkered down	4
Studying God’s Word	4
Holy Week Services	4
Our time of transition	5
2017 Vestry	6
Children in church	6
The Last Supper	7
Anglesey Eggs Recipe	9
Spring 2017 Garage Sale	10
Parish Calendar	11

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The selection of material for publication is made by the editors, Heather Birtles and Therasa Hunt, c/o St. Mary Magdalene Anglican Church, 3 St. Vital Road, Winnipeg, Manitoba R2M 1Z2

continued from previous page

There is a great organization, “Beads of Courage” founded by Jean Laroche, an oncology nurse in Arizona, which helps very ill children. It addresses emotional needs by offering brightly-coloured, handcrafted beads, symbolic of the treatments and experiences children undergo and which are often so hard for them to deal with. This idea has spread and is now in 70 childrens’ hospitals in eight countries.

There are not always such rewards for everyday courage but there are other rewards. Remember the prayer of St. Ignatius in which we ask ‘to labour and not ask for any reward save that of knowing that we do God’s will.’

Although translations vary, and sometimes it will say ‘take heart’ or ‘be of good cheer’, in John’s Gospel, chapter 16, verse 33 we find that Jesus has spoken to his disciples of the coming events in Jerusalem leading to His death and resurrection and then says “These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage: I have overcome the world.”

It is to be hoped that we as a parish will continue to face our common walk together with courage and in our individual lives we’ll walk in faith, facing the challenges we have, taking on new and exciting roles as God offers them to us and knowing that we are not alone.

Heather and Therasa



Because we hunkered down

Here is a poem for those of you who, like me, find this time of year difficult to get through, perhaps all the more so with the news, as well as the weather, so bleak. So here, from Parable and Paradox, is something about hunkering down and hanging on.

These bleak and freezing seasons may mean grace

When they are memory. In time to come

When we speak truth, then they will have their place,

Telling the story of our journey home,

Through dark December and stark January

With all its disappointments, through the murk

And dreariness of frozen February,

When even breathing seemed unwelcome work.

Because through all of these we held together,

Because we shunned the impulse to let go,

Because we hunkered down through our dark weather,

And trusted to the soil beneath the snow,

Slowly, slowly, turning a cold key,

Spring will unlock our hearts and set us free.

Malcolm Guite

Studying God's Word

In his book *Discipleship*, David Watson reminds us of our need to study God's word. Watson was an English Anglican Priest, evangelist and author. He died in 1984 and had a few years earlier conducted a mission in our Diocese.

He says that "throughout any study of the scriptures we must remain in total dependence on the Holy Spirit of God. He who inspired the writers of the original text must also illuminate our minds before we can receive the word of God. God, however, has also given us minds, and he wants us to use them to ask two basic questions: What did the text mean to the original hearers, bearing in mind the written words, their context, the literary form of the passage and the cultural setting? And then, what does the text mean for us today, probably in a very different setting?"

It is at this point that we must bow to the word of God, let him speak to us, and allow our hearts to be examined and shaped by that word. 'You do not interpret the text, it interprets you.' Our difficulty in hearing God today is that most of us hear only what we expect to hear. We come with our pre-conceived ideas and it is with these same ideas that we go away. Many of us need that divine rebuke which came to Simon Peter when he was prattling away on the Mount of Transfiguration: And a voice came out of the cloud, saying, 'This is my Son, my chosen: listen to him'."

However you choose to approach God's word as a disciple, please remember that the parish offers us copies of *Forward Day by Day*, *Christian Meditation* at the church Thursday evenings and Bible Study combined with mid-day prayers each Wednesday at noon.



Palm/Passion Sunday

**April 9
10:30 am**

Maundy Thursday

**April 13
6:00 pm**

Good Friday

**April 14
10:30 am**

Easter Sunday

**April 16
Sunrise Service 6:00 am
Eucharist & Flowering of the Cross 10:30 am**

Awaken

Today, stay awake. Be alert. Be on the lookout for moments of wonder, signs of grace, revelations of beauty, glimpses into the mystery of life, and of God. Or we may well miss the miracle that is right before our eyes.

-Br. David Vryhof

[Society of Saint John the Evangelist](#)

Our time of transition

Following the announcement of the retirement of the Rev. Canon Mary Lysecki - scheduled for June 2017 - the Bishop, in consultation with the wardens of the Parish, appointed The Rev. Canon Richard Condo as Interim Minister to assist us in our time of transition.

A traditional interim appointment usually follows the departure of the incumbent and has the transitional priest work full time for up to two years. We have what is called a 'modified interim ministry' which takes place while Mary is still Parish rector. The Interim Minister's involvement is limited to about 10 hours a month, and is focused largely in working with the Transition Team, as well as conducting several congregational gatherings, in preparing for a new incumbent. In November Cathy Mondor, Barbara Bater, Heather Birtles, Nancy Aasland and Qaiser Bhatti were asked to comprise the Transition Team. During the ensuing months, Qaiser found he was unable to continue serving on the team, and so his place has been taken by Shiraz Khan.

The team has held a number of regular meetings, along with a couple of preparatory meetings in advance of parish gatherings. The team developed a transition timeline, gathered an abundance of information about the parish's history, reviewed printed materials from some recent parish planning events, and devoted much time and energy to preparing for the three parish gatherings.

On January 7, we held the first congregational gathering, which focused on developing a 'living history' of the parish. Using the image of Christ as the vine, running through nine pieces of newsprint depicting the nine decades of the parish's life, parishioners attending were asked to gather around the decade in which they joined the parish and attach written items of their own personal histories within St. Mary Magdalene. This living history was then placed on the walls

of the upstairs meeting room where people who could not attend the gathering were invited to add their own histories to the newsprint.

On January 29, the focus for the second gathering was an in-depth look at where God is at work in the parish and what God is actually doing. Participants were then asked to list all the gifts God has given them in partnering with God in the ministries of Worship, Education and Spiritual Nurture, Hospitality and Fellowship, Pastoral Care, and Mission and Outreach.

On March 5, we gathered for the third and final congregational event. The focus was on updating the parish's Mission and Visioning Statements, and then discerning what gifts will be required in a new incumbent to assist the people of St. Mary Magdalene in fulfilling God's mission in and through the parish.

Following the third gathering, the Transition Team will set about collating and drawing on the information provided in the three congregational gatherings, along with other resource material, to prepare a draft of the parish profile for submission to the Vestry, Bishop and Archdeacon. Beyond this, the team will continue to be available to the parishioners to support them as they move through the time of Mary's departure and the preparation to receive a new rector.

I wish to express my sincere thanks to God, for the exemplary work of the members of the Transition Team. Their generosity and devotion to Christ and the Church is truly amazing. I also wish to offer my appreciation for the kind and gracious welcome I have received from the wardens, rector and parishioners of St. Mary Magdalene. You are a wonderful community of faith, and I wish you God's richest blessings as you continue in your journey, walking hand-in-hand with our Saviour Jesus Christ.

- The Rev. Canon Richard Condo, Interim Minister

Transition Timeline

January – March	<p>Congregational gatherings :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Saturday, January 7 <i>Parish's Living History: Our Journey So Far</i> ➤ Sunday, January 29 <i>Parish Life in the Here and Now. Where is God at work in our Parish? What are our God-given gifts?</i> ➤ Sunday, March 5 <i>Where is God calling us? Updating God's Vision and Mission for the Parish. What gifts will we require in a new incumbent?</i>
March 17	Deadline to prepare the Parish profile and submit to Vestry, Bishop and Archdeacon
April 3	Deadline for finalizing the Parish profile synopsis (for posting the position)
April 4 – May 16	Advertise position of incumbent and accept applications
May 23 - 26	Advisory panel (consisting of the Bishop, Archdeacon, Rector's Warden, People's Warden and two Diocesan Synod members from outside the Parish) reviews and shortlists applications
May 29 - June 19	Canonical Committee (consisting of the Rector's Warden, People's Warden and Parish's lay delegates to Synod) interviews candidates and makes recommendation. Appointment of new incumbent announced as soon as possible thereafter.
September	New incumbent begins.

2017 Vestry

Welcome and thank you to new and returning members of Vestry, who were selected at the Annual General Meeting on February 19.

Hope Bettess	Sadaf Birch
Heather Birtles	Brian Crow
Manzil Emmanuel	Alan Forrest
Carey Isaac	Barbara Jalibat
Shiraz Kahn	Allan Martin
Abid Munir	Raymond Nembhard
Charles Olagbuji Sr	Marlene Smith
Aisha Tahir	Tannis Webster
Sharon West	

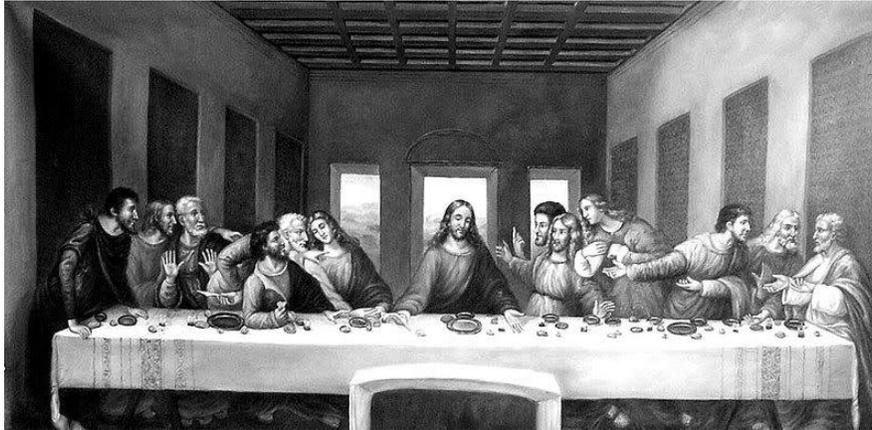
Children in Church

A little boy opened the ancient family Bible with fascination, looking at the pages as he turned them. Then something fell out of the Bible. He picked it up and looked at it closely. It was an old leaf from a tree that has been pressed in between the pages.

"Mama, look what I found," the boy called out. "What have you got there, dear?" his mother asked. With astonishment in the young boy's voice he answered:

"It's Adam's suit!"

The Last Supper



The Last Supper is a late 15th-century mural painting by Leonardo da Vinci in the refectory of the Convent of Santa Maria delle Grazie, Milan, Italy. It is one of the world's most famous paintings.

The work was commissioned as part of a plan of renovations to the church and its convent buildings by Leonardo's patron Ludovico Sforza, Duke of Milan. The painting represents the scene of the last meal of Jesus with his disciples. Leonardo has depicted the consternation that occurred among the disciples when Jesus announced that one of them would betray him.

The Last Supper measures 460 cm × 880 cm (180" × 350") and covers an end wall of the dining hall at the monastery. The theme was a traditional one for refectories, although the room was not a refectory at the time Leonardo painted it. The main church building had only recently been completed (in 1498), but was remodeled by Bramante, hired by Sforza to build a family mausoleum.

Leonardo began work on *The Last Supper* in 1495 and completed it in 1498, but he did not work on the painting continuously. The beginning date is not certain, as the archives of the convent for the period have been destroyed, and a document dated 1497 indicates that the painting was nearly completed at that date. One story goes that a prior from the monastery complained to Leonardo about the delay, enraging him. He wrote to the head of the monastery, explaining he had been struggling

to find the perfect villainous face for Judas, and that if he could not find a face corresponding with what he had in mind, he would use the features of the prior who complained.

***The Last Supper* specifically portrays the reaction given by each apostle when Jesus said one of them would betray him. All 12 have different reactions to the news, with various degrees of anger and shock.**

The apostles are identified from a manuscript (*The Notebooks of Leonardo da Vinci*) with their names found in the 19th century. From left to right, according to the apostles' heads:

- Bartholomew, James, son of Alphaeus, and Andrew form a group of three; all are surprised.
- Judas Iscariot, Peter, and John form another group of three. Judas is wearing green and blue and is in shadow, looking rather withdrawn and taken aback by the sudden revelation of his plan. He is clutching a small bag, perhaps signifying the silver given to him as payment to betray Jesus, or perhaps a reference to his role within the 12 disciples as treasurer. He is also tipping over the salt cellar. This may be related to the near-Eastern expression to "betray the salt" meaning to betray one's Master. He is the only person to have his elbow on the table and his

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head is also horizontally the lowest of anyone in the painting. Peter looks angry and is holding a knife pointed away from Christ, perhaps foreshadowing his violent reaction in Gethsemane during Jesus' arrest. The youngest apostle, John, appears to swoon.

- Jesus
- Apostle Thomas, James the Greater, and Philip are the next group of three. Thomas is clearly upset; the raised index finger foreshadows his incredulity of the Resurrection. James the Greater looks stunned, with his arms in the air. Meanwhile, Philip appears to be requesting some explanation.
- Matthew, Jude Thaddeus, and Simon the Zealot are the final group of three. Both Jude Thaddeus and Matthew are turned toward Simon, perhaps to find out if he has any answer to their initial questions.

In common with other depictions of the Last Supper from this period, Leonardo seats the diners on one side of the table, so that none of them has his back to the viewer. Most previous depictions excluded Judas by placing him alone on the opposite side of the table from the other eleven disciples and Jesus, or placing halos around all the disciples except Judas. Leonardo instead has Judas lean back into shadow. Jesus is predicting that his betrayer will take the bread at the same time he does to Saints Thomas and James to his left, who react in horror as Jesus points with his left hand to a piece of bread before them.

Distracted by the conversation between John and Peter, Judas reaches for a different piece of bread not noticing Jesus too stretching out with his right hand towards it (Matthew 26: 23). The angles and lighting draw attention to Jesus, whose head is located at the vanishing point for all perspective lines.

The painting contains several references to the number three, which represents the Christian belief in the Holy Trinity. The Apostles are seated in groupings of three; there are three windows behind

Jesus; and the shape of Jesus' figure resembles a triangle. There may have been other references that have since been lost as the painting deteriorated.

For this work, Leonardo sought a greater detail and luminosity than could be achieved with traditional fresco. He painted *The Last Supper* on a dry wall rather than on wet plaster, so it is not a true fresco. Because a fresco cannot be modified as the artist works, Leonardo instead chose to seal the stone wall with a double layer of dried plaster. Then, borrowing from panel painting, he added an undercoat of white lead to enhance the brightness of the oil and tempera that was applied on top.

This was a method that had been described previously, by Cennino Cennini in the 14th century. However, Cennini had recommended the use of *secco* for the final touches alone. These techniques were important for Leonardo's desire to work slowly on the painting, giving him sufficient time to develop the gradual shading or *chiaroscuro* that was essential in his style.

Due to the methods used, and a variety of environmental factors, as well as intentional damage, very little of the original painting remains today, despite numerous restoration attempts, the last being completed in 1999.

Because the painting was on a thin exterior wall, the effects of humidity were felt more keenly, and the paint failed to properly adhere to the wall. Soon after the painting was completed on February 9, 1498 it began to deteriorate. As early as 1517, the painting was starting to flake. By 1556, fewer than 60 years after it was finished, Leonardo's biographer described the painting as already "ruined" and so deteriorated that the figures were unrecognizable. In 1652, a doorway was cut through the (then unrecognizable) painting, and later bricked up; this can still be seen as the irregular arch shaped structure near the center base of the painting. In 1768, a curtain was hung over the painting for the purpose of protection; it instead trapped moisture on the surface, and whenever the curtain was pulled back, it scratched the flaking paint.

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A first restoration was attempted in 1726 by Michelangelo Bellotti, who filled in missing sections with oil paint then varnished the whole mural.

This repair did not last well and another restoration was attempted in 1770 by an otherwise unknown artist named Giuseppe Mazza, who stripped off Bellotti's work then largely repainted the painting; he had redone all but three faces when he was halted due to public outrage. In 1796, French revolutionary anti-clerical troops used the refectory as an armory; they threw stones at the painting and climbed ladders to scratch out the Apostles' eyes. In 1821, Stefano Barezzi, an expert in removing whole frescoes from their walls intact, was called in to remove the painting to a safer location; he badly damaged the center section before realizing that Leonardo's work was not a fresco. Barezzi then attempted to reattach damaged sections with glue. From 1901 to 1908, Luigi Cavenaghi first completed a careful study of the structure of the painting, then began cleaning it. In 1924, Oreste Silvestri did further cleaning, and stabilised some parts with stucco.

During World War II, on August 15, 1943, the refectory was struck by Allied bombing; protective sandbagging prevented the painting from being struck by bomb splinters, but it may have been damaged further by the vibration. From 1951 to 1954, another clean-and-stabilize restoration was undertaken by Mauro Pelliccioli.

The painting's appearance by the late 1970s had become badly deteriorated. From 1978 to 1999, Pinin Brambilla Barcilon guided a major restoration project which undertook to stabilize the painting, and reverse the damage caused by dirt and pollution. On May 28, 1999, the painting was returned to display. When it was unveiled, considerable controversy was aroused by the dramatic changes in colors, tones, and even some facial shapes.

- *from Wikipedia (edited for space)*

Anglesey Eggs

Leeks, the icon of Wales, were once amongst the only vegetables grown there. Used in place of onions, the hardy leek imparts a sweet subtle flavour and a gloriously silken texture.

Anglesey Eggs makes the most of the natural partnership between leeks, potato and cheese, with added eggs for extra protein and flavour.



To make Anglesey Eggs, or Wyau Ynys Mon, you will need 8 hard-boiled eggs and about half a kilo of hot mashed potato. Chop and wash 6 leeks then sauté in about 50g of butter until soft but not browned; about 20 minutes should do it. Add a pinch of salt if necessary.

Mix the leeks with the mash and all the butter from the pan, and then spread into an ovenproof dish, leaving a large crater for the eggs. Quarter the eggs and pile into the potato mixture. To make the cheese sauce, melt 25g of butter and add 25g flour, stirring for a minute or so until it browns and hardens. Slowly whisk in 200ml of warm milk and when smooth add 50g of grated cheese; you can add a little mustard powder, paprika or a splash of Worcestershire sauce for a savoury edge if you like. Pour the cheese sauce over the eggs and cover with a little more grated cheese before baking in a hot oven until bubbling and golden.

Serve the dish as it is, with the sweet salty tones of ham or bacon, or perhaps a grilled sausage or two.

Friday April 28 9am - 6pm
Saturday April 29 9am - 12 noon

Church Spring Garage Sale

**GET YOUR
RID OF
STUFF**

ACCEPTING DONATIONS NOW!

Bring your donations of gently used toys, books, shoes, purses, jewelry, kitchen items, tools, small electrical appliances, furniture and clean used clothing. Place all items neatly behind room dividers in the lower hall.

Items we do not accept: entertainment units, used box spring/mattresses, pillows, childrens' car seats, strollers, cribs, baby gates, high chairs, playpens and helmets.

We also do not take old typewriters, computers, TVs, Reader's Digests, weekly magazine publications or encyclopedias.

How you can help:

- Set up in the lower hall will take place after service Sunday April 23.
- Sorting and displaying items, Mon-Thurs 9am - 3:30pm.
- Folding bags.
- Be a greeter at the front door. Greet our shoppers and inform them of what we have for sale. Speak to Nancy or John if you want to sign up.
- Clean up Crew!!! We need lots of help from 11:45 - 1:30 on the Saturday to pack up, fold tables and put away shelving units.
- Any persons with a van or truck that we can load with boxes please speak to John or Nancy.
- Advertising!!! Flyers will be available at the church beginning of April. Place them in your apartment building or pass them on to friends.

John and Nancy Chan

St. Mary Magdalene Church - Calendar of Activities
April 2017 – June 2017

April	May	June
2 5th in Lent Eucharist 10:30 am	7 4th of Easter Eucharist 10:30 am	4 Day of Pentecost Eucharist 10:30 am
9 Palm/ Passion Sunday Eucharist 10:30 am Asian Christian Fellowship 7pm	9 Vista Park Lodge 2:30 pm	11 Trinity Sunday Eucharist 10:30 am
11 Vista Park Lodge 2:30 pm	14 5th of Easter Eucharist 10:30 am	13 Vista Park Lodge 2:30 pm
13 6 pm Maundy Thursday	18 River Park Gardens 10:30 am	15 River Park Gardens 10:30 am
14 Good Friday 10:30 am Asian Christian Fellowship 1:00 pm	21 6th of Easter Eucharist 10:30 am	18 2nd Sunday after Pentecost Eucharist 10:30 am
16 Easter Day Sunrise Service 6:00 am Eucharist 10:30 am	23 Vestry Meeting 7 pm	25 3rd Sunday after Pentecost Eucharist 10:30 am Asian Christian Fellowship 7pm
20 River Park Gardens 10:30 am	24 Catherine Place 2:00 pm	27 Vestry Meeting 7 pm
23 2nd of Easter Eucharist 10:30 am Asian Christian Fellowship 7pm	28 7th of Easter Eucharist 10:30 am Asian Christian Fellowship 7pm	28 Catherine Place 2:00 pm
25 Vestry Meeting 7 pm 26 Catherine Place 2:00 pm 28 & 29 Garage Sale		
30 3rd of Easter Eucharist 10:30 am Asian Christian Fellowship 7pm		

Weekly Activities			Contact
Wednesday	Bible Study	12:00 pm	Heather Birtles
Wednesday	Choir Practice	7:30 pm	Nancy Aasland
Thursday	Christian Meditation	7:30 pm	The Rev. Mary Lysecki

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