

## Lent and Easter 2021

Easter this year has been a much better experience for the Team. Compared to 2020, when there were feelings of isolation and sadness across the congregations through the complete closure of our churches, 2021 has seen our joy at being able to celebrate Christ's resurrection live in church with others, albeit in smaller numbers because of social distancing. We move forward in hope and better spirits. This article shows how Easter 2021 was celebrated across our three churches.

### Lent & Easter 2021 at St John the Divine

On the Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of Holy Week, instead of the usual Stations of the Cross and Eucharist, we had half an hour of silent meditation before the Blessed Sacrament. That made social distancing easier to observe, and those who came remarked on how helpful they had found the opportunity for a quiet time of prayer and reflection.

The Team's Good Friday Liturgy was held in St John's this year. Again, there were some differences because of Covid restrictions; it was non-sacramental, and the veneration of the Cross was from where we were sitting. That said, it was as moving a service as ever for the most solemn day in the Christian calendar – not least

because of the (socially distanced) contributions of our choir and Ben's organ music.

Easter Day marked the first Sunday service in St John's since late December, with the Government's 'Stay at home' advice finally lifted. It was a beautiful morning with sunlight flooding the sanctuary, and the worship was both joyful and uplifting, with a tentative but very real sense of new beginnings after the long period of the third lockdown. Alleluia!

*Revd Neil Summers*

A small team from St John's came together during Lent to offer Junior Church online each Sunday. The sessions were held by Zoom an hour before the main service was live-

streamed, allowing Fr Neil enough time to transition from one format to another! The story was brought to life each week by our animated storyteller Mish, with her myriad of accents and the children engaged with songs and prayers. A great way to keep in contact with our families during the lockdown. We also reached out to our families by offering them Easter bags containing a blessed Palm Cross, some Easter craft activities and even some chocolate Easter eggs. These went out to those with young children and also to those young at



*Easter at St John the Divine*

*Revd Neil Summers*

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*Easter Garden at St John the Divine* Revd Neil Summers

heart who have been unable to attend church in person.

Fiona Morgan

During Lent we normally meet together on Saturdays to walk through the Stations of the Cross. This year, we had to find an alternative. We have a beautiful set of photographs taken by the late Peter Moore several years ago, so we used those to make a booklet in the first place, and then a presentation for use online. The booklets were sent to members of the congregation who were unable to come to church at all, for their own use at home. Then on Wednesday afternoons we held a zoom meeting with different people leading the meditation and prayer to accompany the presentation. Both were well received. Each week was very different, with a different slant according to the source for the meditation and prayers. During Good Friday a picture of each station was put onto our Facebook page.

Easter itself was a joyous day – the first day back for the congregation since Christmas. The church was full (by COVID standards), but as full of flowers as ever! Our flower team really excelled this year, even though a couple of regular members were unable to take part and the whole church shone with beautiful colour, light and perfume. Our Easter Garden was particularly lovely, surrounded as it was by vases filled with daffodils. There are always some animals in and around the garden, but this year, sadly, there were no children able to play with them. The beauty of the garden does overcome the darkness of the cross.

Mary Ricketts

## Lent & Easter 2021 at St Mary Magdalene

The Dawn Service early on Easter morning is a very special service. This year it was the turn of St Mary Magdalene to host the service and with Easter being early it was very dark at the beginning - immensely powerful. Because of covid, the congregation was unable to gather around the fire outside at the beginning of the service for the lighting of the fire and the Paschal candle. Nor could they surround the font at the end of the service. There was no asperging, which is when the congregation is sprinkled with holy water from a tree branch to remind them of their baptism, nor could the cacophony of bells noise and music that normally greets the joy of the resurrection after the Easter Acclamation be heard. There was also no communion. The more restricted circumstances, however, did not diminish the great power of the



*The Clergy following the Dawn Service on Easter Day*  
Charles Stiller

service nor the immense gladness that unlike 2020 this service was able to take place. One of the joys of the Dawn Service

in normal times is that everyone at the service has breakfast together after the service. Although this was not possible this year, instead, thanks to the kind generosity of a member of the St Mary's congregation, everyone was given a bun from Ole and Steen to take away and eat at home.

Easter Bags were prepared for the children and could be collected from church in the run up to Easter. They



*Good Friday at St Mary Magdalene*  
Revd Canon Wilma Roest



included amongst other things a Palm Cross, a chocolate egg, colouring sheets and the surprise of a knitted Easter chick. A team of dedicated knitters – to whom many thanks - produced a wide range of chicks in different colours and sizes, and some with hats. On Easter Saturday Wilma and Sue Eastaugh held a Zoom session 'Easter Joy' for children and families. Using a book for children which began with the story of Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane Sue showed the pictures and also talked about the Last Supper, using bread and wine (cranberry juice!) to explain this last meal with the disciples. The children also had their Easter bags with them which included a colouring sheet with pictures of the Holy Week and Easter events and Sue linked the sheet to the book.



*Easter at St Mary Magdalene*

Charles Stiller

The spring 2021 edition of Team Talk included a short

article on an open air carol service held in the churchyard of St Mary's just before Christmas. Those taking part felt very happy at this chance to sing together after months and months of not being able to do so. Since then outdoor



*He is Risen!*

Charles Stiller

singing has continued at St Mary's. After the 9.30am service on Easter Day the congregation gathered outside the church to sing the magnificent Easter hymn 'Thine Be the Glory, Risen Conquering Son' set to the stirring music of Handel's aria 'See the Conquering Hero Comes' from his oratorio 'Judas Maccabeus'. At the Team Service for Ascension Day which this year was held at St Mary Magdalene, the choir had in the past been able to sing hymns before the service, from the top of the tower. With social distancing this sadly was not possible this year. So instead, at 7.45pm, some 15 minutes before the service began, people gathered outside in the churchyard to sing the popular Ascension hymns 'Hail the Day that Sees Him Rise' and 'Christ is the King of Heavenly Joy'.

On each of these occasions the weather was kind - it did not rain - and the reaction from everyone was very positive. Lots of people pass along the passageways beside the church and singing in the churchyard provides a good opportunity for St Mary's to interact with the greater community of Richmond. Thanks also go to those making music at St Mary's - to the Choral and Organ Scholars, to Alex Knight, Director of Music and Karl Dorman, Assistant Organist, and not least to everyone in the outdoor congregations singing the hymns. We also look forward to a time when our volunteer choir members can re-join the choir – they have been much missed and in turn have much missed being in the choir.

## Lent & Easter 2021 at St Matthias

**Lent:** Many people have spoken about the Lenten feel of lockdown, and certainly the dark days after Christmas prompted a more reflective take on life and an exploration of what it means to be a Christian when worship is done exclusively on line via Zoom. At St Matthias we engaged with a Lent course which encouraged an exploration of those 'holy habits' which nurture and provide not only for a closer relationship with God but which also promote more fruitful, missional discipleship ([holyhabits.org.uk](http://holyhabits.org.uk)). Quite a few of us also took part in the '40 words for 40 Days' offering from Norwich Diocese, receiving an image and accompanying reflection each day. This, along with our regular Sunday worship via Zoom, and Thursday coffee catch-ups, helped to keep us connected to one another, and provided a good deal of spiritual nurture, comfort and strength as we continued to deal with the restrictions of lockdown.

**Mothering Sunday:** For the second year in a row we were unable to be in church together for Mothering Sunday, but we opened church for private prayer and offered posies to



*Enjoying what was inside the Easter bags*

Revd Anne Crawford



*Easter flower display*  
Revd Anne Crawford

those who visited. We also made up posies for visitors making their way in to the Park via Cambrian Road, offering them from the Vicarage doorstep, along with an explanation of what this special day means for Christians. One lady, who picked up a posy as she was passing, sent a heartfelt thank you card afterwards, saying "My daughter has just given birth to our first grandchild and I am unable to visit because of the pandemic. Your flowers brought me so much joy and pleasure".

Along with the other churches in the Team we provided Holy Week and Easter activity bags for the children in our congregations. The bags contained a leaflet explaining the journey through Holy Week towards Easter Day, craft activities for all ages, a Palm Cross, an Easter egg and some sunflower seeds as a sign of hope and new life.

**Maundy Thursday:** We came together for the Team's Maundy Thursday service and worshipped in a way none of us expected would be possible, given that the liturgy on this holiest of nights is so full of symbolism and imagery. But Zoom provided the means for us to engage in a deep and meaningful way, and we were able to illustrate the liturgy with paintings from various artists, including Ghislaine Howard and Ford Maddox Brown, peppered here and there with some

wonderfully evocative photos taken in the Holy Land, among them images of a peaceful sunset over the Sea of Galilee, early dawn in the Garden of Gethsemane, and a powerful image of Pope Francis kissing the feet of migrants whose feet he had washed in St Peter's Square earlier. We listened to music which stirred the heart and soul – Paul Mealor's 'Ubi Caritas', 'What Wonderful Love is This' sung by St Olav's choir, and Faure's 'In Paradisum'. We muted our mics to sing hymns Dear Lord and Father of Mankind and A New Commandment and we brought our vigil to a close with wonderful images taken over the years of the candlelit Gardens of Repose at St Mary Magdalene's, St Matthias and St John's. There was time for silent reflection too, which somehow expressed the unexpected intimacy of worship made possible by technology.

**Easter Day:** This year our celebration had deeper significance than usual at St Matthias – this was the first day back for worship in our church building since Christmas Day. The joy of Jesus bursting from the tomb was mirrored in the joy we all felt at being set free from the restrictions which had kept us bound up at home and apart from each other for far too long.

Many members of our church family have suffered bereavement over this last year and our senses were overwhelmed by the sight and smell of lilies given in memory of those we love and miss. Glen McNeill beautifully illuminated each name to be displayed alongside the floral arrangements, which together with the Easter Garden were so lovingly created by our small but dedicated flower team.

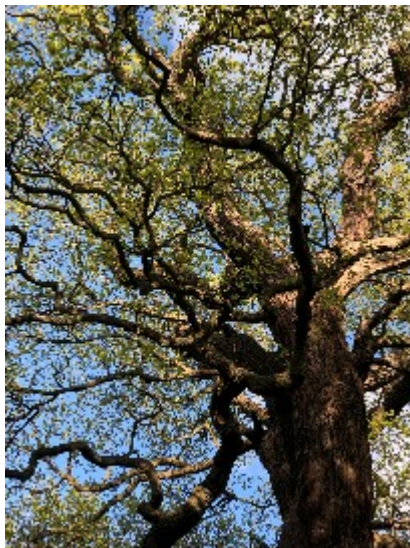
To be able to be in church together again, to celebrate the Eucharist and to sing 'Thine Be the Glory' in the sunny church garden among the daffodils and crocuses, made Easter Day 2021 one we shall never forget.

Revd Anne Crawford

## Creation

by Revd Cannon Wilma Roest

*Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad; let the sea resound, and all that is in it.  
Let the fields be jubilant, and everything in them; let all the trees of the forest sing for joy.  
(Psalm 96:11-12)*



*Ancient trees* Revd Canon Wilma Roest

In all the challenges people have faced this past year, there have also been glimpses of hope and, dare I say it, joy. Even though there has been isolation, loneliness and loss, there has been a renewed awareness of the world immediately around us.

Here in Richmond we are so blessed with many wonderful green spaces, where we were able to take our daily exercise. Walks by the river or in Richmond or Bushy Park have been good for body, mind and soul. As we were not able to do all the things we would normally do, our eyes were drawn to what was simply there all along, but not always noticed. The little hints of colour in the middle of winter, where in the past we would have simply thought all was grey. The shapes of trees without leaves with their majestic strength. The first green leaves, so tentative, yet so vibrant. The birds making nests, the first goslings and ducklings. As Spring now moves on, our sense of smell is being stimulated by roses, jasmine, peonies.

Being in nature can make us more mindful of God's presence and creativity, if we take time to notice.

*continued . . .*



# Creation - continued

*The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it;  
for God has founded it on the seas, and established it on the rivers.  
(Psalm 24:1-2)*

The world we live in is God's gift to everyone. And we have a responsibility towards each other to protect our environment. We cannot think of ourselves as isolated from others or from creation, in fact we have been entrusted to protect the world, as we can read in the early creation stories in Genesis. However, we know that good theology doesn't always mean good action. Our impact on the planet is reducing biodiversity, changing the climate, and polluting the earth. Around the world, climate change is affecting food security, creating social vulnerability, and disrupting peace and security. There is no doubt we need to act.

The Church of England is committed to be more environmentally aware and has formalised this in the fifth mark of mission, which calls on us **To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth.\***

Living this out begins at home where almost every action you take will have a positive impact: you may have already thought of what you can do such as recycling, using more sustainable energy, using the car less to cut down on air pollution. All small changes make a difference. Rowan Williams, former Archbishop of Canterbury, said "When we believe in transformation at the local and personal level, we are laying the sure foundations for change at the national and international level."

Living out the fifth mark of mission should also be part of our life together in our other homes, namely our churches by actively taking care of what is around us, even our churches and church grounds.



*Wild flowers in the Vicarage garden*

Revd Canon Wilma Roest

\* The five marks of mission

Strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and renew the life of the earth. As Anglicans, we've been called to follow the five marks of mission. All are deeply relevant to environmental action:

- Proclaiming the good news of the Gospel
- Teaching
- Responding to human need
- Transforming unjust structures of society & pursuing peace
- Safeguarding creation & renewing life on earth

## Psalm 96 Cantate Domino

Our Saviour, King and Shepherd calls us home  
and on our homeward journey bids us sing,  
to join that all-renewing song to him

Which all creation sings. The valleys ring  
with praises and the mountaintops rejoice;  
the greenwood trees and meadow flowers bring

their silent praises and call on us to voice  
it for them in our songs, to worship him  
in awe, in beauty, and in holiness.

It is not for ourselves alone we hymn  
the great creator, for we lift our song  
to voice creation's praise. The drowsy hum

of honey-laden bees, the lovely long  
and lapsing sigh of waves along the shore,  
and our own joy, must all make up the song.

Malcolm Guite



*Thames*

Revd Canon Wilma Roest



# Peter Moore: 1943-2021

*Based on the funeral eulogy written by the family, and Fr Neil's tribute on behalf of St John's*

Peter was a faithful and active member of St John the Divine, and made many contributions to the life of the Team Ministry. One of them was *Team Talk* - hence this article. Tina Roberts, the Parish Administrator, has spoken warmly of the professional advice and support



*Peter Moore*

Peter provided in making the style and presentation of our parish magazine so attractive and engaging. Graphic design was just one skill among many from a life of varied and interesting experiences, which was made very clear in the eulogy given at the funeral service on 1st March.

In 1977, Peter enrolled at the London College of Printing at the Elephant & Castle. He expected to be learning more about printing, but found he was actually discovering the finer points of design, layout and aesthetics of typography and, in 1978, with a certificate in Advanced Typographic Design, he began to work as a freelance graphic designer, and never looked back. His methodical attention to detail was legendary (as was his infinite patience with those who didn't share that gift!). Peter's clients over the past forty years or so have included well-known publishing houses, the Royal Society of Arts, and a great number of book design commissions for independent authors, as well as graphics and production for many local organisations, including Orleans Park School, St Margaret's Fair and Teddington Choral Society. He also taught printing and typography in colleges and continued the freelancing for the rest of his life. In other phases of his career, Peter also taught history, Latin, sports, English (to Spanish students), Spanish and French.

In 1980, Ruth had turned up on the Advanced Typographic Design course as one of Peter's students,

and forty years on, the rest is history. They married in 1982, and Joanna arrived in 1985, with the family moving to Orchard Road in St Margaret's shortly afterwards. Eleanor joined them in 1986 and Nic in 1990. In April 2017, Peter was delighted to become a grandfather to Jo's daughter, Hannah.

Peter was a descendant of a renowned Victorian stained glass artist, Thomas John Grylls, and, after his retirement from teaching, he took the opportunity to continue a family project to catalogue the work of his great-grandfather's stained glass window company, Burlison & Grylls.

Following his diagnosis in August last year, Peter never once complained about his illness, nor did he ever ask, 'Why me?' He accepted his various treatments with stoicism and optimism, wanting his family and friends to worry as little as necessary, in his typical way of

*continued . . .*



*Burlison and Grylls stained glass windows at St Matthias showing St Peter and St Andrew* John Salmon

## Skylarks

In the Autumn 2020 edition of Team Talk, Fiona Morgan of St John the Divine, wrote about her experiences during the first lockdown as Operations Manager for Skylarks. This is a local charity which provides activities and therapies for children with disabilities and additional needs. Two further lockdowns on, Fiona provides an update on the charity's work:

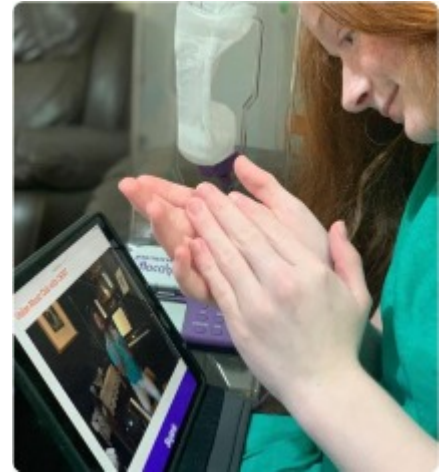
'The work of Skylarks has remained challenging over the past year, as many families who have children with disabilities have struggled with lack of school, with isolation and financially. However we have done all we can to support our families and to reach others who didn't know about us. Luckily we were allowed to stay open more than businesses and shops, so we continued offering support in a Covid-compliant manner when we could. And when we were compelled to close, we had already worked out how to move many services online, such as support groups for parents and drama classes for children. As soon as we were able to meet up outside, we held play sessions in the kitchen garden at Marble Hill Park and at Holly Lodge in Richmond Park, come rain or shine – luckily dry most of the time!

We are now able to operate back at the Crossway Centre in Twickenham, which was refurbished during the lockdown. We limit the number of families coming to the

centre, but can still enable families to access music therapy, osteopathy, karate and more, while moving to a hybrid model where we also still offering online activities. The pandemic has certainly forced us to be creative and to

call on the technological know-how of our younger volunteers! We love seeing familiar faces again while the number of families registered with us has grown significantly over the past year, which of course increases the need to provide more services for them.'

For more information on what Skylarks does, please visit [www.skylarks.charity](http://www.skylarks.charity)



*Girl clapping in an online music lesson* Skylarks

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## Peter Moore: 1943-2021 - continued

always putting others before himself, right up until he died on 2nd February. Peter was one of those people who just got on with things, even when difficulties and challenges came along – never demonstrative, never seeking the limelight, quite unassuming, often self-deprecating. I was very moved when Ruth said to me that Peter had found a genuine spiritual home at St John's, perhaps due to Catholic influences in his early years (his mother was Roman Catholic, and he was educated at Benedictine community outposts in Huntingdonshire and, later, near Reading). The specifically Anglican, and liberal, approach to Catholic tradition here suited his own theological outlook; he was remarkably knowledgeable and profound, though not at all dogmatic. It also engaged the spiritual significance and appreciation of his aesthetic interests. Ruth remarked that Peter felt himself to be among a loving and supportive 'second family' at St John's. He was without doubt one of those people who are a vital part of the foundations on which local churches like ours are built.

In 1999, Peter rediscovered the joy of singing, firstly as a founder member of the re-established Richmond Community Choir, then moving on to Teddington Choral Society. In between, he had begun to sing at St John's. While slightly unsure of his own ability in the early days, he grew in confidence, to the extent that one of his final contributions to the worship here was when he acted as solo cantor in a Sunday service between lockdowns last autumn. His musical contribution has drawn tributes from Ben and his two predecessors as Director of Music, Cameron and Mark. Mark commented that Peter's attitude towards singing in a parish choir is one which

all directors of music wish was replicated far and wide! Even after his diagnosis, Peter still kept on participating, as Ben remarked, with the weekly 'fantasy anthem' emails to his fellow choir members during lockdown, accompanied by brief reflections on the biblical theme of the day and related stained glass window images that were such a proud part of his family history.

He also produced the monthly music schedules, employing those amazing graphic design skills, together with our posters and the much-admired service booklets for each season of the Christian year: a lasting legacy. He took countless photos which will also be of continuing use. Most recently, we used his images of the St John's Stations of the Cross online during Lent. He enjoyed reading the lessons in church, and 'Remembrance Corner' will forever be associated with Peter. He spent countless hours researching the background stories of the names on our WW1 memorial, a work still in progress, which another volunteer has now kindly offered to continue. And so the list could go on.....

There is now, inevitably, a Peter-shaped gap in our lives: how could there not be? Our thoughts and prayers remain with Ruth and all the family. But, in saying farewell, we give thanks for Peter and celebrate his life. In the sacred space of St John's, a place that was so special to him, we commended him to the unending love of God into which the Christian faith assures us we are born, and into which we also die. And, somehow, the fact he left us on Candlemas Day holds a significance all of its own....



# Tilman Riemenschneider and His Religious Art

## 'God is in the Detail'

by Elspeth Fearn

The Italian Renaissance had a profound effect on art in other countries including Germany and the Low Countries, now the Netherlands and Belgium. Notable artists such as Van Eyck, who pioneered painting in oils, and Albrecht Durer, with his masterful engravings, showed however that the Northern Renaissance could flourish too. In Germany at this time, a specialised art form, particularly in Bavaria and Baden-Württemberg, was that of large altarpieces and religious statues carved out of limewood or *tilia platyphyllos*. Limewood has a soft even texture, and is very easy to carve.



*Central panel of the Altarpiece of the Holy Blood, Rothenburg showing the Last Supper*  
Dr Volkmar Rudolf

Riemenschneider's commissions ranged from a modest small statue of an angel in a remote village church to the grandiose tomb of the Emperor Heinrich II in Bamberg Cathedral. One of his most famous works is the altarpiece in the church of St Jacob at Rothenberg ob der Tauber in Bavaria, carved in 1501-1505. This church was one of the important stops on the cross-European pilgrim routes to Compostella in Spain. The altarpiece which stands upstairs in the Chapel of the Holy Blood was the first sculpted altarpiece to show the scene of the Last Supper in its central part. Judas is situated, unusually, right at the heart of the altarpiece rather than, as more common in depictions of the Last Supper, on the margins. He grasps a small bag containing the 30 pieces of silver. The altarpiece shows Christ offering the eucharist to Judas even though he knows Judas will betray him. Pilgrims entering the chapel would approach the scene, immediately seeing Judas and being confronted at once with his great betrayal and its consequences. The altarpiece is a very powerful image.

Another well known Riemenschneider work is at Volkach also in Bavaria at the pilgrimage church of the Virgin in the Vineyard (Maria im Weingarten) where a carving of the Virgin and Child in a Rosary is suspended, floating freely in space from the arch at the entrance to the choir. The Virgin stands on a crescent moon flanked by angels whilst five medallions show scenes from her life – the Annunciation, Visitation, Nativity, Adoration and her Death. The work is supposed to be the last major work by Riemenschneider and was carved between 1521-1524. Tilman Riemenschneider was one of the great German sculptors of the late Gothic period, a true master of religious art.



*Madonna of the Rosary, Maria am Weingarten, Volkach*

komoote.de



# Information Board in St Mary's Churchyard

A new information board about St Mary Magdalene Church was formally unveiled by the Mayor of Richmond, Councillor Geoff Acton on 20 May. The board is a very generous gift from the Richmond Society to celebrate the 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary and is located on the north side of the churchyard by the junction of Church Court and Church Walk.

The board has a wide range of interesting information including aspects of the church's long history, famous people connected with the church and parish, the architecture and specific items such as the bells, the clock, the organ and the pulpit with its distinctive 'barley sugar' curved legs. The top of the board shows



*The unveiling of the noticeboard by the Mayor with Mr Barry May and the Revd Canon Wilma Roest*  
Charles Stiller



*The new noticeboard*

Elspeth Fearn

Roest, Peter Bowyer, the Parish architect, Paul Velluet, President of the Richmond Local History Society, and the Museum of Richmond all being involved. The board also benefited from earlier research carried out by some St Mary's parishioners as part of the 2019-2020 exhibition, 'Celebrating 800 years of St Mary Magdalene at the Heart of Richmond', which was supported by grants from the Heritage Lottery Memorial Fund and Richmond Church Charity Estates.

It is hoped that in the future, when things are hopefully back to normal, that this board will encourage more people, whether locals or tourists, to visit the church.

the part of the famous print 'The Prospect of Richmond' from 1725 which has St Mary's and the churchyard in it looking quite similar to how they appear today. Designed by the local artist and illustrator, Caroline Church, the board is a very attractive means of informing people about the church's long history right at the heart of Richmond.

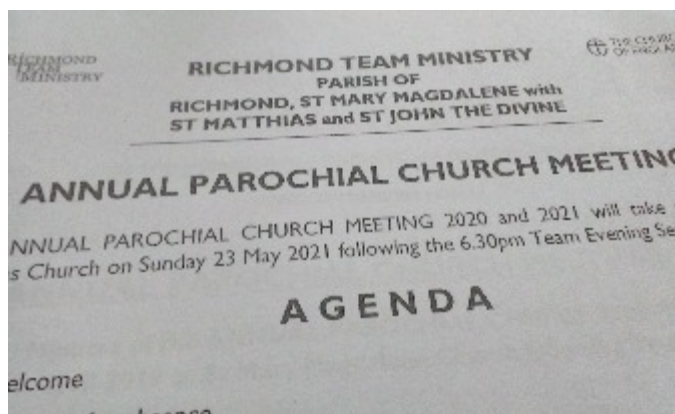
The project was the idea of Barry May, Chairman of the Richmond Society and bringing it to fruition has been a combined effort with the Richmond Team Ministry Rector, Revd Canon Wilma



*Detail of St Mary Magdalene church from the 'Prospect of Richmond' 1725*  
Elspeth Fearn



# RICHMOND TEAM MINISTRY'S ANNUAL MEETINGS 2021



APCM Agenda

Elsbeth Fearn

On 23 May, each church in RTM held its annual church meeting after morning service and elected people for various posts such as churchwardens and lay PCC representatives. Later the Team came together at St Matthias for Evening Prayer at 6.30 pm followed by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting ratifying the earlier elections. Because of covid and the first lockdown last year, the Church of England decided that no annual meetings could be held safely in 2020, and so this year's meetings, exceptionally, dealt with both 2020 and 2021. The results of the elections are set out in the table below. There was also good news on the electoral roll with numbers increasing to 340 despite the pandemic. Thank you to everyone taking part in the meetings and to those elected for important roles within the parish and the Deanery Synod.

	St John the Divine	St Mary Magdalene	St Matthias
<b>Churchwardens 2020</b>	Fiona Morgan Mary Ricketts	Ron Hill (part) Emma Meredith	Margaret Morrison Judith Pearson
<b>Churchwardens 2021</b>	Fiona Morgan Mary Ricketts	Emma Meredith Charles Stiller	Margaret Morrison Judith Pearson
<b>PCC Treasurer (Team) 2020 &amp; 2021</b>	- - - - - Stephen Cockell - - - - -		
<b>PCC Secretary (Team) 2020 &amp; 2021</b>	- - - - - VACANT - - - - -		
<b>PCC Lay Representatives 2020</b>	James Arnold Shirley Stark	Alice Eastaugh Sarah Percival	Alexander Millbrook <i>Vacancy</i>
<b>PCC Lay Representatives 2021</b>	Shirley Stark <i>Vacancy</i>	Sarah Percival <i>Vacancy</i>	Alison Hall <i>Vacancy</i>
<b>Deanery Synod Lay Members 2020-2023</b>	Martin Brecknell <i>Vacancy</i>	Anna Khan Charles Stiller	Margot Gallie <i>Vacancy</i>
<b>Church Committee Representatives 2020</b>	Helen Kelsey Francesca Miller Zenna Rose	Teresa Cross Sara Cunningham Claire Derbyshire Esther Firth Fiona Haigh Dennis Horner Bleddyn Phillips Jenny Powell-Smith David Shaw	Edgar Allen Anne Dell Mandy Whittaker
<b>Church Committee Representatives 2021</b>	Gill Gregorowski Helen Kelsey Francesca Miller	David Bartlett Stephen Brown Carole Cregeen Teresa Cross Sara Cunningham Karl Dorman Sarah Garrett Jenny Powell-Smith David Shaw	Edgar Allen Anne Dell Gill Doling



# Looking Ahead Out of Lockdown

Generally people seem to think that the most recent lockdown, the third, the one we have been emerging from in stages, has been the most difficult to cope with. In 2020 in the first lockdown when we thought that the crisis would be over by the end of the (very hot) summer, we would never have imagined that over one year on, our lives would still be so restricted. We have also become used to a strange new vocabulary – asymptomatic, cluster, community spread, flattening the curve to name but a few of the words that have become so meaningful to us. And we have learnt to live with masks, smiling at people with our eyes as we very politely swerve around them. However, despite the changed nature of our life today, our very efficient vaccination programme has given us hope and a good foundation for rebuilding our country and society. We are however quite nervous in these still early days out of lockdown,



*Emma Meredith precisely checks every pew is adequately distanced each week*

Charles Stiller

because when things seem to be going a little better along comes another covid variant. But the general direction of travel is much more hopeful and we are all beginning to look forward to a family, social and working life that has not been possible for so long. Here are thoughts and reflections from some of RTM's parishioners.

Helen Kelsey of St John the Divine comments that she is 'really looking forward to having chats with the older generation and meeting up with other mothers and new babies both of which have been in our prayers but will be lovely to actually meet!' Jackie Harrison of St Mary Magdalene says 'We have officially been allowed to start bell ringing again but unfortunately at St Mary's our bells require some maintenance so we're not going to be able to start ringing for a few more weeks. This is very sad having not been able to ring properly for so many months and we do need to get some practice in before

the three weddings we have booked this summer.' Jackie and her husband also hope to see their son and his wife in Cyprus and to have the joy of meeting their grandson, who was born in December, once travel rules allow.

'We're very excited that we'll be able to enjoy many more activities as a family when we come fully out of lockdown. Attending church together will be possible again and the children will also be able to enjoy junior church in person.' says James Arnold of St John the Divine.

When the pandemic struck, St Mary Magdalene was in the middle of its 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary year celebrations. As Charles Stiller, who organised the wide ranging programme of events, explains 'At the beginning of the pandemic we had to put a swift halt to the remaining celebrations we had planned. The plans have in effect been cool boxed, awaiting the time when hopefully life returns to normal and we can once again celebrate with our community of Richmond.'

Finally some thoughts from various members of the congregation at St Matthias -

'Looking forward to singing in church - we've loved singing in the garden and may still do this because it's attracting positive attention from passers-by – but we have missed singing hymns through the service.'

'Can't wait to enjoy coffee and biscuits after the service, all of us together and able to talk freely.'

'It will be wonderful to finally sit closer together'

'Looking forward to the arrival of two new St Matthias babies this month!'

'No more masks!'



The Team Talk Editorial Board was very sad to learn that one of its members, Professor Richard Rondel has died. He was a much valued member of the Board and had been instrumental in the revival of the parish magazine and its reincarnation as 'Team Talk' in 2013-2104. Richard always contributed positive thoughts and ideas at our meetings and we will miss him greatly. May he rest in peace and rise in glory.

*Pentecost flower display at St Mary Magdalene in memory of Richard Rondel*

Rev'd Canon Wilma Roest



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*St John the Divine*



*St Mary Magdalene*



*St Matthias*

## Our Churches