

Thursday 5 May 2022

Dear Friends,

When I sit down to write for the newsletter, I usually reflect on what has moved or interested me lately. This last week it was a piece of art which I saw in Bristol Museum and Art Gallery. The piece was called *Tomorrow, Everything will be Alright* by Lebanese artist, Akram Zaatari.

*Tomorrow, Everything will be Alright* is a short film of a roll of paper on typewriter.

On the paper appear messages: on the right are messages typed on our typewriter; on the left, messages appear as if on WhatsApp or another modern electronic messenger. But, the typewriter is slow: The unseen authors pauses, think, backtrack, and rewrite.

Their communication is slow and aching because the messages are messages of love: Love and loss and grief and anger and longing. They write to their lost loves cautiously, protecting themselves, their heart and their pride.

"I want to see you again"

"... will you love me again?"

"If you wish it."

"I wish"

At times the pair write at cross-purposes, at others they seem to deliberately avoid saying what they mean. It's a beautiful, heart-aching piece of art and it led me to reflect on how we talk to one another and to God. It is such a human thing to long for love. At once to seek love and to feel unworthy of it. We long to be deeply known and understood and still to be loved.

No matter how good and holy and fulfilling our human relationships are, they cannot fully satisfy that longing. Because that longing is, in part, a longing for God. God who is the inexhaustible source and completeness of love.

When we pray, we know that God knows us completely and yet, sometimes, we find it hard to say what we mean. It's a vulnerable thing to be completely, deeply known, and to rest assured that we are utterly loved.

My encouragement for us is to rest, assured that we are wholly known and utterly loved.

With prayers and Easter blessings,

Anne, Charlie, Neil and Wilma

*This week the letter has been written by Revd Charlie Smith*

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Please pray for:

...**Fr. Jamil Khadir and the Anglican congregations in Nablus** in the West Bank and the Anglican Church in Beirut; also for the peace of Jerusalem

...**Christ Church**, the Anglican Church in Kyiv, and the people of Ukraine

...**Christ's School**, and for all schools in our parish

...**Glass Door staff** and clients

...**those who are preparing for confirmation** on 29 May

...**the sick and those in need** – Charles Stiller, Cedric Lee, Suzie Cox, Liz Velluet, Algernon Alexander, Marc Cranfield-Adams, Beverley Walsh

...**the departed, may they rest in peace** – Paul Wiszniewski, David Kirby, Geoff Rollason

*The Prayer List is renewed at the beginning of each month. If you would like to add someone's name, please ensure you have their agreement, if at all possible.*

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## Church Services:

**We recommend you wear a mask in church as it's an enclosed space and we are continuing to care for each other.**

Holy Communion is now being offered again in two kinds, i.e. the bread and the wine, to those who wish to receive both. However, those who would prefer to continue to receive the bread only, will still make a full communion.

**We have received clear advice that 'intincting' (i.e. dipping wafer into wine) should be discouraged as there is a higher risk of contamination this way than from receiving directly from the chalice.**

If you have any questions about receiving communion, please do talk to your clergy.

St John the Divine's Sunday service at 11.00am is both in-person and live-streamed via their [Facebook page](#).

St John's midweek service takes place on Tuesday evenings with half an hour of quiet contemplation focused on the Blessed Sacrament at 6.30pm, followed by the Said Eucharist at 7.00pm.

St Mary Magdalene's Sunday services are at 8.00am, 9.30am, 11.30am (third Sunday only) and 6.30pm. The 9.30am service will also be live-streamed via their [Facebook page](#). **Apologies if the live-streams on 8 and 15 May are not available, due to the vicar's holiday.**

During the week there is a Said Eucharist at 10.00am on Wednesdays.

St Matthias' 9.30am Sunday service is an in-person service. The midweek Eucharist at St Matthias is held on Thursdays at 10.00am.

Orders of service and readings can be found on the News page of our website – here:

<https://richmondteamministry.org/news/>

## Private Prayer:

St Mary Magdalene is open for private prayer on Saturdays between 10.00am and 12.00noon, when you can light a candle and reflect or meditate. The church is also open Monday – Friday, from 8.00am until 3.00pm.

St John the Divine is normally open on Tuesdays between 9.30am and 12.30pm, Saturday mornings between 10.00am-12.00noon, and at various other times when Fr Neil is working in the office.

## Morning Prayer, Monday – Fridays, at 8.30am:

Morning Prayer takes place in church and on Zoom. We meet at St Mary Magdalene on Mondays, at St John the Divine on Tuesdays, at St Mary Magdalene on Wednesdays and Thursdays, and at St Matthias on Fridays.

### On Zoom, Monday - Thursday:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88554825313?pwd=cVVLdFkrUy95MFU4OTVld3hNNi9tUT09>

Meeting ID: 885 5482 5313

Passcode: 410548

### and on Fridays:

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81983343470?pwd=ejVpVnB4d3VGdkFtVWjl2c2tTOC9XUT09>

Meeting ID: 819 8334 3470

Passcode: FriPrayer

We apologise if Morning Prayer on Zoom is not perfect in the coming weeks due to annual leave of clergy.

**Evening Prayer** is normally said in-person at St John the Divine on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 4.30pm.

## Children's Services at St Mary Magdalene

We'll be hearing some of the stories which Jesus told and thinking about what they teach us about God and ourselves and the world! There'll be stories, songs, prayers and activities, and families from all churches are welcome to come along!

**7 May - 4pm – The Good Stranger**

4 June – 4pm – The House on the Rock

2 July – 4pm – The Lost Sheep

**Ascension Day 26 May 8pm at St John the Divine**

There will be a Team Eucharist on Ascension Day to which everyone is invited.

**Confirmation Sunday 29 May 2022, 6.30pm**

Bishop Richard, Bishop of Kingston, will come to the Richmond Team for a Confirmation Service on Sunday 29 May at 6.30pm at St Mary Magdalene.

Confirmation preparation has now started and will continue on the following dates:

Tuesday 10 May, 7.30pm, in the parish office, Vicarage basement

Saturday 21 May, 10.30-12.00noon, at St Matthias

Will you pray for those who are preparing for confirmation and support them on Sunday 29 May by your presence?

**Church, Community and other news:**

**APCM and ACM**

On **Sunday 22 May** each church will hold an Annual Church Meeting, after their main service, to elect church wardens, members for Church Committee, PCC members and Deanery Synod. It is a chance to affirm the work of each church and to begin to look ahead to the future.

**In the evening**, following the 6.30pm Evensong at St John the Divine, there will be the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, when elections are affirmed and matters of the Team, such as financial reports, are shared.

Copies of the Agenda, together with the reports and the full accounts will be available at the back of church next Sunday, 15 May. They will also be available electronically next week, please contact the Parish Office – [admin@richmondteamministry.org](mailto:admin@richmondteamministry.org)

If you would like to be more involved in the life of one of the churches or the Team, please do consider standing for Church Committee or for PCC or for Deanery Synod. For more information, speak to the clergy or to the current Church Wardens. Nomination forms will soon be up in each church.

The revision of **our electoral roll** is now complete – copies of the Roll will be available at the back of church for the next two Sundays, 8 & 15 May for proof-reading purposes. If you notice anything that needs correcting, please contact the electoral roll officer (Margot Gallie - 020 8948 2775 / [margot.gallie@gmail.com](mailto:margot.gallie@gmail.com)).

**Recital @ St Mary Magdalene this Saturday, 7 May at 12.30pm**

We look forward to welcoming the organist Eleni Kevenetsidou, who will perform a programme with music by Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy, Philipp Wolfrum, Maurice Duruflé, Bernard Heyes, Manolis Kalomiris and Yannis Constantinidis.

**Geraniums for Patience School**

Sue O'Toole will have a few red, white and pink geraniums for sale at St Mary's this Sunday – they'll be £3.00 each. The proceeds will go to fund teachers' salaries at Patience School in Uganda. Thank you for your support.

**Peter's Party – a date for the diary**

Peter Bowyer, our parish architect for more than 30 years, is retiring and we want to thank him for all he has done for the Richmond Team. Everyone is invited to a celebration on Saturday 25 June from 6.00pm onwards at St Mary Magdalene. More info to follow.

**What can we do for Ukraine?**

**Pray!**

At home and at church.

**Give!**

<https://donate.redcross.org.uk/appeal/ukraine-crisis-appeal>

**Offer a home or a room!**

Via the Sanctuary Foundation (<https://www.sanctuaryfoundation.org.uk>) or the government scheme.

**Buy a ticket to the 'Cook for Ukraine' dinner and raffle at St John the Divine**

Find out more at: <https://richmondteamministry.org/uncategorized/cook-for-ukraine-dinner-at-st-john-the-divine/>

**Christian Aid Week 15 – 21 May**

With fewer door-to-door collections for Christian Aid, you may feel that you are missing out. But not fear, there are other ways of giving to this important charity:

<https://giving.give-star.com/online/christian-aid/richmond-upon-thames-christian-aid-group-40cf3>

**Parish Giving Scheme / Give A Little**

We are hugely grateful to so many who continue to make regular contributions to the finances of the Team.

Our planning, budgeting, and spending within RTM would be immensely helped by a new scheme that is being launched called the Parish Giving Scheme (PGS). This is a free Direct Debit scheme, enabling you to give safely and securely. We receive 100% of your donation plus Gift Aid is automatically claimed for us, which means reduced administration, less work for our Treasurer and Gift Aid Secretary and improved cash flow.

The PGS would replace other means of regular giving (standing orders, Give A Little, envelopes etc.). To find out more about PGS, please read the [donor leaflet](#) or speak to Jackie Harrison, our Stewardship Coordinator on 07747 111525 or email [jackieharrison456@gmail.com](mailto:jackieharrison456@gmail.com). You can also watch [this video](#) to see how PGS works. You can sign up [online](#), by telephone or [by post](#). When you sign up, please do opt into Gift Aid if you are a UK taxpayer.

As in the past, contributions can also be made electronically in church and there will also be a plate for cash collections at the back of each church.

However if anyone would like to make an additional on-line donation to the work of our churches this can be done at <https://givealittle.co/campaigns/5260a080-4ee0-49b6-a1c3-d552ef9a0700>

Whilst this is a challenging time for many, financially as well as emotionally, I hope we can continue to count on your support for the work of our three churches.

Please feel free to contact Jackie Harrison, our Stewardship Coordinator, on 07747 111525 or [jackieharrison456@gmail.com](mailto:jackieharrison456@gmail.com) if you have any questions.

With best wishes,  
Tina

Tina Roberts  
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Richmond Team Ministry  
St Mary Magdalene • St Matthias • St John the Divine  
[www.richmondteamministry.org](http://www.richmondteamministry.org)

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