

Thursday 12 May 2022

Dear Friends,

On Saturday, the Church calendar will commemorate St Matthias the Apostle, which is obviously of particular significance to us in the Richmond Team Ministry. As I write this, Anne isn't quite back from annual leave, and I haven't asked the permission of anyone else up the hill, but I'm sure they won't mind if I appropriate their patron saint just briefly!

In the first chapter of the Acts of the Apostles, when a replacement for Judas Iscariot was needed in the apostolic body, the brotherhood prayed to God for guidance as to which of two candidates it should be - Joseph Barsabbas, or Matthias. The two qualifications needed were that they had been with Jesus during his earthly ministry and that they were witnesses to the resurrection. Although lots were cast for them, Luke (the author of Acts) stops short of saying that Matthias was God's preferred candidate, even though the method of being chosen by lot back then **did** indicate being chosen by God rather than by mortals. Instead, Luke simply reports, '*the lot fell on Matthias*'.

It set me thinking about how 'stuff' happens in life. There are many things we can determine, deal with and respond to, but there are others that turn up in our lives unexpectedly, over which we may have little or no sway. Some of them may well be positive, but too many are unwelcome and hard to bear. In pastoral encounters, clergy are sometimes asked by people in difficult circumstances, '*Why me? Is there something I've done to deserve this?*' - questions provoked, for instance, by a terminal diagnosis, a mental health issue, a relationship gone horribly wrong, a bereavement, a loss of control or independence, or any number of other reasons.

The Collect for St Matthias' day asks God to '*preserve your Church from false apostles*', which seems a fitting thing to request. Looking at what some call the 'lottery of life' from a 21st century perspective, the manner of Matthias' election suggests we might also usefully pray for something else, and that is for wisdom, strength and fortitude to face the unpredictable, the random and the painfully life-changing when they come our way. The apostolic calling was a noble one, but it was no easy path, being founded on one who himself walked the way of the Cross, but who - as this Easter season continues to insist - was not defeated by it.

With prayers and Easter blessings,

Anne, Charlie, Neil and Wilma

This week the letter has been written by Revd Neil Summers

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** – David Kirby, Geoff Rollason, Fiona Bartlett

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.

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 that the live-stream on 15 May will not be 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=ejVpVnB4d3VGdkFtWjl2c2tTOC9XUT09>

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!

4 June – 4pm – The House on the Rock

2 July – 4pm – The Lost Sheep

Ascension Day Team Service – Thursday 26 May, 8pm at St John the Divine

This is a major feast day in the Christian calendar, but is often ‘the forgotten festival’ because it falls in the week (40 days after Easter). Please come to the Sung Eucharist with our Team choir. Guest preacher: Revd Andrew Tyler from Dorchester (a member of Neil’s extended family!)

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 classes continue on Saturday 21 May, 10.30-12.00noon, at St Matthias

Please pray for those who are preparing for confirmation and support them on 29 May by attending the service.

Church, Community and other news:

APCM and ACM

On **Sunday 22 May** each church will hold its Annual Church Meeting, after the main service, to elect Church Wardens, members of the 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 Team Choral Evensong at St John the Divine, there will be the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, when elections are ratified and matters relating to the life of the Team, such as financial reports, are shared.

Copies of the agenda, together with the reports and the full accounts are available at the back of church. They are also available electronically, please email the [Parish Office](#) for a copy.

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 are available at the back of church on Sunday 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).

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>

We Need Your Bras! Ladies, please have a search through the back of your cupboards for any bras you don't wear any more. ZABRA, AfreeBra initiative, collects pre-owned and new bras for distribution to women all over the world who can't afford to buy their own. In developing countries wearing a bra can give women status and make them less likely to be attacked. Please place your bras in the postbox-style boxes at the back of each church, for collection by Fiona Morgan from St John the Divine, who will take them to the Turks Head 10K run on Sunday 12 June. After a couple of years off, the Bearcat Running Club is trying to build the biggest bra mountain yet at this event! Thank you.

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/>

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.

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. 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 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

Registered Charity No 1130018

Our Privacy Notice can be viewed at: <https://richmondteamministry.org/gdpr/>



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[Click here for St Mary Magdalene's Facebook page](#)



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