

Thursday 19 May 2022

Dear Friends,

As I write this week's newsletter the sun is streaming in through my study window and the birds are chirping away, obviously as delighted as I am that summer has arrived. And with the new sunny season comes a whole array of wonderful events to look forward to, including the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations just round the corner. The first happy event of summer up here on Richmond Hill is the Open Gardens Day*, which takes place this Sunday with private gardens all over Richmond Hill welcoming visitors, a celebration of gardening and the joy of being among some of the most glorious plants and flowers of early summer – the roses this year seem to be flowering their socks off and I can't wait to see what lies behind our neighbours' garden gates this year. And on Tuesday I shall be off to the Chelsea Flower Show, and I expect you can guess how much I am looking forward to that over-the-top extravaganza of all things horticultural!

But no matter which outdoor event we are looking forward to this year, the one ingredient which adds sparkle to the day is sunshine. Who wants a wet and miserable Jubilee Street Party? Rain stops play as any cricketer will tell you, and no one wants it to rain on their parade. We feel better when the sun shines. The symbolism of light and dark in our Christian faith is powerful – the cold winter season of Advent starts in the darkest part of the year, but gradually, as we near the celebration of Christmas and pass the winter solstice, the light returns. In this season of Easter we began our celebrations with Mary Magdalene in the garden 'while it was still dark' (well, in the courtyard at St John the Divine, but it was just as heavenly!), and by the time we arrived in church to sing our Alleluias the sun had risen and so had our Jesus, the Light of the World. We flourish when we live in the light of Christ's resurrection life, and the sun for me is a powerful reminder that we are made to live in the light of God's love. The poet Mary Oliver, in her poem 'Why I Wake Early' refers to the sun as 'the best preacher that ever was' and so I offer it here as a celebration of all that's bright and beautiful on this lovely summer's day:

*Hello, sun in my face.
Hello, you who make the morning
and spread it over the fields
and into the faces of the tulips
and the nodding morning glories,
and into the windows of, even, the
miserable and the crotchety –*

*Best preacher that ever was,
dear star, that just happens
to be where you are in the universe
to keep us from ever-darkness,
to ease us with warm touching,
to hold us in the great hands of light –
good morning, good morning, good morning.*

*Watch, now, how I start the day
in happiness, in kindness.*

* Richmond Hill Open Gardens – Sun 22nd May from 12 noon. Pick up your guide and map at St Matthias Church, along with a cream tea and other delicious refreshments. All proceeds to charity.

With prayers and Easter blessings,

Anne, Charlie, Neil and Wilma

This week the letter has been written by Revd Anne Crawford

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 – Joan Robertson, 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](#).

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

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.

ALBAN PILGRIMAGE Saturday 25 June 2022. This is a Team event suitable for all ages, and if you've never experienced a pilgrimage on a grand scale, then I can highly recommend it: a grand carnival style procession through the streets of St Albans, a glorious Eucharist in the ancient Abbey, with inspiring preaching and awesome worship, picnics in the Abbey orchard, and a festal Evensong with procession to the rose adorned Shrine. It's an event not to be missed! We will travel together by train, leaving Richmond Station at 8.30am, arriving in St Albans in time for coffee before ascending the hill to find our places along the procession route and the start of what promises to be a truly spectacular day. For more information please contact Anne via email anne.crawford@richmondteamministry.org

RTM staff are finding that many of their emails are going into people's junk folder – please check yours regularly, especially if you're expecting an email from us!

We raised £190 from the sale of geraniums earlier this month. This money will go towards the teachers' salaries at Patience School in Uganda. There will be a display at St Mary's showing Annet's graduation from the teacher training programme she attended over 6 holiday periods. Her colleague Jackie will graduate in 3 months' time. Their course fees have been very generously paid for by RTM's Away Giving Scheme. (I will be writing about this in the next magazine).

The May edition of The Bridge can be read and downloaded from: southwark.anglican.org/thebridge

Church, Community and other news:

APCM and ACM

This 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.

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>

St Anne's, Kew are looking for a part-time Parish Administrator and Parish Assistant – for more information please see: <https://saintanne-kew.org.uk/parish-administrator-and-parish-assistant-roles/>

Richmond's Volunteer Fair takes place on Thursday 26 May, 2.00-6.00pm at RHACC, Parkshot, Richmond TW9 2RE – to find out more please go to: <https://richmondcvcs.org.uk/>

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

Parish Administrator

Working remotely on Mondays and Tuesdays, 9.00am – 5.00pm

Mobile: 07521 299109

Working in the Office on Wednesdays and Thursdays, 9.00am – 5.00pm

Parish Office, The Vicarage, Ormond Road, Richmond TW10 6TH

020 8940 0362

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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