

Thursday 8 September 2022

Dear Friends,

The month of August is usually a good month for planning and preparing for the weeks ahead and looking towards Advent and Christmas. Together with Liz and Tina in the parish office we have booked in the many school Carol services and a host of rehearsals. We have begun to think with the clergy team about this year's Advent course, the Christmas services and the publicity that needs to go with all this. August has been a good time for looking ahead!

But we have also started thinking what happens beyond our churches, in our local community. Last week Neil wrote about Glasdoor and the Richmond Soup kitchen, the latter being our response to a need for warm food in the winter months. Whilst Glasdoor is not happening in Richmond this year, we cannot walk away from those who are hungry.

Neither can we walk away from those who are vulnerable in other ways in our society, for instance families struggling to cope or young people who for whatever reason have left home and have nowhere to go, often traumatised. Whilst we may not be able to be involved in direct action, we can support some of the charities who do amazing work with young people. I think of Welcare, which we support financially as a parish, or the work of the Children's Society, who receive the collections from all the Christingle services we hold.

Being involved in practical, hands-on action or through generous giving is not an optional extra for those who have time or money. It is an essential part of living out our faith. In the first letter of John (3:17-18) we read:

"How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help? Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action."

I love the letters of John: they are insightful into the nature of God but also very practical and clear. If you would like to explore them more deeply, I hope you will join Charlie for 4 weeks of Bible study of the three (short) letters. A notice about this is further down in the newsletter.

Finding ways of living out our faith, especially as we face uncertain, challenging times, is something we can do together, as a community of faith. There will be different tasks for different people: some will pray, for protection, for wisdom, for abundant love; others will do, by cooking, welcoming, sharing. There is a role for each one of us this coming autumn and winter.

May I give you one small example? At St Mary Magdalene, near the west doors, there is a small laundry basket, which has become an emergency food box. People who need some food, easy things which do not require cooking, can help themselves when the church is open. Particularly at weekends, when the foodbank is not open, the food box is often used. I sometimes see people coming in during the service, when I stand at the altar, and I'm glad they can take what they need. But what I also love is that I see people coming in quietly and adding something to the food box. Some take, some give. That is the beautiful ebb and flow of Christian love.

As we plan for the months ahead, I hope we may call on your support and that together we may show our local community that love is practical, real, present in our churches and for all. To quote some more words from the first letter of John:

"God is love and those who live in love live in God and God lives in them."

With prayers and blessings,

Anne, Charlie, Neil and Wilma

This week the letter has been written by Revd Canon Wilma Roest

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, for all staff, students and governors

...**those recently baptised**, including Matt Gladwell

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

...**the departed, may they rest in peace** – Alastair Davidson, Ted Briden

*Please note that 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:

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/>

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.

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.

NB: Morning Prayer on 9, 15, 16 and 19 September will be in church only – there will be no Zoom.

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.

Church, Community and other news:

Junior Church Leader

The Richmond Team Ministry is seeking to appoint a Junior Church Leader for 8 hours per week who will plan and lead Junior Church for children aged 4 to 11 years on Sunday mornings. To find out more and apply [please click here](#).

Bible Study – “Life, love and light: John’s letters and the nature of God”

A four-week Bible Study will take place on Wednesday mornings (11.00am – 12.00noon) and Wednesday evenings (7.30-8.30pm) – the same session will run in the morning and the evening, please attend whichever one suits you best. Sessions will run on 14, 21, 28 September and 5 October at St Mary Magdalene. No preparation needed, bring a Bible if you can. [For more information or to attend by Zoom, please contact Charlie](#).

The Diocese of Southwark will be celebrating Black History Month at Southwark Cathedral on **Saturday 1 October at 11.00am**. You are warmly invited to come and participate in uplifting worship and workshops exploring this year’s theme of **Welcome**. [You can read more here](#).

Exploring Prayer - 500 years ago St Ignatius of Loyola, a wilful and warlike young man, met God when a cannonball ended his military career. During his long and painful convalescence God met him and he met God in an entirely new way. Ignatius learned to listen to God through reflecting on his feelings and experiences and taught others to do the same. Sue Eastaugh is running 5 sessions in which we will learn the different sorts of prayer Ignatius used, so that we, like him, can deepen and grow our relationship with God. God always meets us where we are, so this group is for everyone - no previous experience necessary! There will be time for prayer and silence and if you want to, sharing our experience of prayer. Everything shared in the group is absolutely confidential.

We will meet in St Mary Magdalene in the All Souls Chapel at 3pm to 4pm on Tuesdays 27th September, 11th and 25th October, 8th and 22nd November. The group will be run by Sue Eastaugh, who is a trained Prayer Guide in the Ignatian tradition. Please let her know if you would like to come at sue@eastough.net. Everyone is welcome.

Understanding Islam

Dr Chris Hewer is returning to the Church of St Mary Magdalene in Richmond on Friday 23rd September, 10.00am to 4.00pm to continue exploring 'Understanding Islam'. Along with the central beliefs of Islam he will be covering such topics as A Muslim Life, Economics, Gender, and Muslims in Britain and Western Europe today. The course is free but donations welcome to help cover costs.

The Vineyard Community Centre has a vacancy for a Christian to be its P/T Communications Officer. The details are on the website <https://www.vineyardcommunity.org/> if you are interested or know someone who might be. Closing date for completed applications is Friday 30th September at noon.

Recital at St Mary Magdalene, Saturday 1 October, 12.30pm

The next recital at St Mary's will be by Ben Hunt, organist and director of music at St John the Divine. We look forward hearing Ben who will bring a programme of organ music by Karg Elert, Brahms, Howells, Mathias, Franck, Alain and Dupre.

Harvest 2 October

We will celebrate Harvest Festival and give thanks for God’s goodness on Sunday 2 October, in all three churches and at all services. You are invited, if you can, to bring non perishable food products and toiletries which will be donated to Richmond Foodbank.

[Click here to read and download the September edition of the Bridge](#)

A celebration of the life of Leslie Cook

You are invited to a service of celebration on Saturday 8 October 2022 at 11.30am, at St Mary Magdalene. It is a chance to come together with Leslie's family and friends to remember Leslie together and give thanks for his life.

Team service of farewell to Fr Neil on 9 October 2022, 10.30am at St John the Divine. No 9.30am service at St Matthias or St Mary Magdalene. All are invited to come to St John's as we say goodbye and God bless to Neil.

A letter of thanks from Alex Knight

My first year of my Masters in Performance course at the Royal College of Music was thoroughly informative and enjoyable. Over the past 12 months I studied with David Graham and Andrew Dewar, who have both helped develop my technique, musical understanding and analytical skills greatly. My end of year recital was planned collaboratively with both David and Andrew and saw me tackle some lengthy and weightier pieces than I had learnt previously. My programme consisted of Hindemith's first organ sonata, a collection of Brahms's Chorale Preludes, finishing with Reger's Introduction and Passacaglia in F minor from the Monologue (Op. 63). I was fortunate to obtain a high distinction mark, and am looking forward to challenging myself again next year.

Alongside my main study, my two options last year were Recording Experience and Continuo. Recording Experience allowed me to explore what it's like to be a performer, recording engineer and producer. The module consisted of four lectures, with the two tasks requiring editing skills of pre-existing recorded content, as well as recording one's own content and editing it. Continuo allowed me to explore instrumental chamber music from the Baroque era whilst realising figured bass on the harpsichord in the appropriate styles. I am looking forward to being part of a chamber group next year to continue my development in this area. In both Recording Experience and Continuo, I managed to obtain distinction marks.

The modules I am studying next year alongside my organ provision are threefold: Art of Piano Teaching will provide me with a deeper understanding of what it takes to teach piano; I will also be receiving piano lessons alongside this module with one of the professors lecturing for the Art of Piano Teaching, Nigel Clayton. The final module is Improvisation, which I hope will feed back into my organ playing at St Mary Magdalene. I am also looking forward to performing on the organ in the RCM Symphony Orchestra in an upcoming concert, themed for the 150 years since Ralph Vaughan Williams was born featuring his Sea Symphony, which will be paired with Liszt's Piano Concerto No. 2, with Misha Kaploukhii on piano and Adrian Partington conducting. The performances will be in the Amaryllis Fleming Concert Hall on Thursday 27 and Friday 28 October.

Finally, I'd like to thank everybody who has helped support me, both financially and pastorally in helping me through my Masters. I am pleased to say that my course fees are all sorted for the remainder of my 2-year course. I am deeply grateful for those of you who donated to help with my course fees, I'm incredibly lucky to have such support and I really could not be doing it without you.

Kind regards,

Alex

Emergency Foodbox @ St Mary Magdalene

Near the west door in the church is a box with emergency food for anyone who needs it. If you are able to contribute to this scheme, please donate items like long-life milk, easy to open cans and tins and food items that do not require cooking.

Planned Giving

Earlier this year we wrote to you introducing the Parish Giving Scheme (PGS). Many thanks to those of you have joined the scheme. If you are still making regular donations by standing order, envelope or GiveALittle, please do switch to PGS if you are able to. This will help us enormously by reducing the amount of administration and significantly improving our cashflow. If you have any questions, please contact Jackie Harrison: jackieharrison456@gmail.com or 07747 111525.

With best wishes,

Tina

Tina Roberts
Parish Administrator

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Richmond Team Ministry
St Mary Magdalene • St Matthias • St John the Divine
www.richmondteamministry.org

Registered Charity No 1130018

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