

Thursday 15 September 2022

Dear Friends,

On Sunday, I went along to St Paul's for the Requiem Mass, and to Buckingham Palace to pay my respects. I went with a friend who worked at the Palace for 5 years, and a friend who had never been to the Palace before. It was lovely to share our favourite stories about Her Royal Highness Queen Elizabeth II, and to listen to the stories of others. I am sure that in each of our churches, on Sunday, we were sharing stories in the pews or over coffee.

My friend who had worked for the Queen only met her once and described being utterly overwhelmed in her presence. She did add that, before she left the employ of the Palace, she got to swim in Her Majesty's pool!

Perhaps you have found the same thing over the course of the last week? Whether we had the privilege of meeting the Queen in person, or knew someone who had, or even has stories about where we, or our loved ones, were at significant moments in her 70-year reign, it has been a comfort for people to share stories of how Her Majesty's life intersected with each of ours.

In the House of Lords on Friday, Archbishop Cottrell said that he had noticed that, since the Queen's death at Balmoral on Thursday afternoon, "we are all telling our stories." He went on to ponder whether this is strange, given that the Queen had not been a member of people's families. "Except she was. That is the point. She served the household of a nation. For her, it was not a rule but an act of service, to this people and to all of us."

Our stories about the Queen are about her, and they are about us: who we are as individuals and as a nation and a society. Her loss is felt all over the world and in innumerable different ways. As we all reflect, we find that our own private grief, loss, fears, hopes, joys, concerns come to the fore. I hope that, as we approach the funeral, you find comfort in the companionship of others, in sharing stories, and in that sure and certain hope – which Her Majesty herself enjoyed all her life – of a love which is stronger than death and redemption which brings eternal life.

With prayers and blessings,

Anne, Charlie, Neil and Wilma

This week the letter has been written by Revd Charlie Smith

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

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

...**the departed, may they rest in peace** – Ted Briden, Nelly Paxton

*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/>

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 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.

PLEASE NOTE: there will be no Morning Prayer or Evening Prayer on Monday 19 September.

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.](#)

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.

The latest edition of Team Talk is now [available to read online](#) or there are some paper copies at the back of church.

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.

Children's Service

We will celebrate Harvest on Saturday 1 October at 4pm at the Children's Service at St Mary Magdalene. Everyone is welcome!

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](#).

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.

Upcoming meetings in the Richmond Team

3 October Property and Finance Committee
5 October PCC at St John the Divine

[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.

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
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

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