

Thursday 22 September 2022

Dear Friends,

Last Friday was my monthly 'wellbeing' day, a relatively recent innovation granted to clergy in the diocese, in addition to the normal one day off we have each week. I hadn't planned to do anything particular on it this month: just as well, really, because when I woke up early on Friday morning, I decided there and then to go and join 'The Queue' for the Lying-in-State of H.M. The Queen. I guess a number of you were also part of it at some point over the four days. It became a phenomenon in its own right and has already been extensively written about and analysed.

I arrived at Southwark Park and started what our diocesan bishop called the 'pilgrimage' at 8.45am. The journey was to take 13.5 hours, culminating in the entry to Westminster Hall at 10.15pm. I met some wonderful people en route, from Essex, Dorset, Hampshire, California and Australia. We were strangers to each other, but we quickly became companions on the road, looking out for and taking care of one another as the journey progressed. We stayed together to the very end, meeting up again after our time in the Hall to wish each other well on our continuing, but now divergent, journeys.

Although I hadn't really thought of it in these terms before I set off, I will always be glad I made this 'pilgrimage', despite the stiff knees and lower backache! The camaraderie of the travelling gave way eventually to the silence, stillness and reflection at the destination, and the stunning sight of the Imperial State Crown, the orb and the sceptre on the coffin, high up on the catafalque.

One of the most moving parts of the Funeral ceremonies for me was the removal from the coffin of these Instruments of State during the Committal in St George's Chapel, Windsor and their placing on the altar. This was a very visible sign of one journey ending, while also pointing to a different one beginning, for they will eventually be given to the new King. But this act was also a reminder for Christians of where ultimate authority is located and – crucially - that true kingship it is not about gold and jewels, but is rather a response to the call of the King who came not to be served, but to serve. It is a vocation we all share.

With prayers and blessings for your continuing journeys,

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, 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, Wim Roest
...**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.

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 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 27 September, 11 and 25 October, 8 and 22 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@eastaugh.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 tomorrow, 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

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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