

Thursday 29 September 2022

Dear Friends,

As I write this week's letter millions of people in Florida are bracing themselves as Hurricane Ian approaches its shores and threatens to bring untold damage and destruction. Weather experts say this once-in-a-hundred years storm will bring with it life-threatening storm surges, catastrophic winds and flooding. Theme parks and tourist attractions are all closed, and roads are jammed with people on the move to a safer place.

Florida's woes are coming hot on the heels of the devastation caused by monsoon flooding in Pakistan. Homes have been washed away, villages cut off from medical help and food supplies, and hundreds of children have died and more are at risk from Cholera and diseases which thrive in dirty water. The news is heart breaking, and we feel helpless and useless. Climate change is undoubtedly the cause of the increased severity of the storms the world is experiencing, and whilst we may feel helpless in the face of such destruction, we can and must make the changes necessary to reduce our carbon footprint and help heal the damage we've created.

As I reflect on the devastating effect of climate change this week, I am reminded of my visit just a few weeks ago to the gardens of Highgrove House, King Charles' home in the Cotswolds. In a tucked away part of the garden, hidden almost from public view, is a simple Icon of St George. It was given to the then Prince of Wales as a gift from the monks on Mount Athos after he'd spent time with them on retreat. The guide who was leading our visit told us that our new King sees all nature as sacred, all living things are to be protected and nurtured, cherished because they belong not to us, but to God. The icon stands as a reminder of the need to fight against greed, for all of us to respect God's creation, reduce waste and live more sustainably. That has been our new King's life's work, his passion, and we can have confidence that he will be fighting alongside us as we learn what needs to be done to turn the tide of suffering which is being experienced by people least able to deal with the consequences of climate change.

This weekend, as the Church enters the new season of Creation tide, perhaps we can pledge ourselves afresh to the work of healing our planet and renewing our efforts to reduce our own waste and the negative impact our sometimes selfish choices have on the environment. I am delighted that the newly formed Richmond Team Ministry's Green Team held their first meeting a couple of weeks ago and look forward to hearing how we can best support them and join the fight.

With prayers and 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, 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. From Sunday 9 October Evening Prayer will take place on Wednesdays only (not Mondays and Fridays) at 4.30pm.

Church, Community and other news:

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. The final session will run on 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 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.

War Memorial garden at St Mary Magdalene

The garden at the base of the War Memorial has become overgrown with the cypress shrubs, which are now around 2m tall and have already obscured the writing on the Memorial. The shrubs have also inhibited most other plants from growing underneath. St Mary Magdalene Church Committee has agreed to improve the setting in keeping with preserving the grade II listed War Memorial heritage whilst enhancing the environment for wildlife and the public and is working with Ken MacKenzie to improve the situation. The plan is to remove the cypress shrubs, improve the quality of the earth there and plant this with a mix of bulbs and flowers which will provide year-round interest and nectar for invertebrates (bees and butterflies etc). The aim will be to complete all the work in time for Remembrance Day on 11 November 2022. Ken has already liaised with the Ward Councillors, LBRuT Parks and Tree Department, Richmond Society and information is available on the adjacent St Mary's noticeboard. The work will start the work on **Saturday 1 October at 10.00am (do feel free to come along and take part)** as part of the LBRuT Green and Clean Week working with volunteers from the community, church and GoodGym.

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 – Food, glorious food!

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. This year the foodbank is asking for:
Tins of meat, Rice, Pasta, Sugar, Tea/coffee, UHT Milk, Deodorant, Razors, Washing powder/tablets, Nappies, Unwanted carrier bags.

Ted Briden's funeral will take place at St Mary Magdalene next Thursday, 6 October, at 1.00pm – all are welcome.

A warm welcome to Heidi, ordinand at St Melitus College

"My name is Heidi Munn. I am training for ordination for the next 2 years alongside a part-time job as a civil servant in Whitehall. I am delighted to have the opportunity to be part of St Mary Magdalene and the Richmond Team Ministry while I train, as this will broaden my liturgical experience. I look forward to getting to know everyone. I am married to Nick, and we have two children in secondary school: David and Peter. Nick will be continuing his Licensed Lay Ministry at St Mary's Spring Grove in Osterley where we have worshipped as a family for 15 years."

Farewell to Bishop Richard

Please hold in your prayers Bishop Richard who will be retiring in the coming weeks. Bishop Richard has been our area bishop of Kingston for around 20 years. We thank him for his ministry among us. May God bless him as he embarks on a new phase of life.

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 Sunday 9 October 2022, 10.30am at St John the Divine. There will be no 9.30am service at St Matthias or St Mary Magdalene (there will be a service at 8am and at 6.30pm at St Mary Magdalene). All are invited to come to St John's as we say goodbye and God bless to Neil.

Concert at St Elizabeth of Portugal on Sunday 9 October at 3.00pm. The choirs of St Elizabeth of Portugal and St Mary Magdalene, Richmond will sing together at a concert of Imogen Holst, Gustav Holst and Vaughan Williams's works. Free admission with retiring collection.

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

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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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