



Advent, Christmas, Epiphany & Candlemas

St Mary Magdalene



Everyone received this present at the Christmas Day morning service
Elspeth Fearn

churches across the team, were displayed around St Mary's for people to come in and look at them. There was a wide variety, some made in wood, some in metal, some in stone, some detailed and some very simple. By each one was displayed a card with details of their background and it was obvious that they were much loved by their owners.

The Service of Nine Lessons and Carols on 18 December was a feast of music from the choir. There were two Christingle services on the afternoon of Christmas Eve at 3pm and 5pm to cope with demand. Thanks go to the Christingle makers and also for the monies raised in the collections for the Children's Society. Beginning at 11.30pm Midnight Mass was well attended. On Christmas Day morning, at the All Age Christmas Eucharist service there is always much excitement. Not only is it actually Christmas Day when you can say 'Happy Christmas' to everyone you meet but also because children had recently been opening their Christmas presents. Some of the presents were brought to church amid great excitement. These included two large stuffed toys – a snow leopard and a husky, both fitting for the winter season, and much admired by the congregation. Revd Charlie gave the sermon which began by every person in the church receiving a small present wrapped in brown paper. When

The season began on the evening of 27 November when a full serving team (not often possible since Covid began) together with the choir of St Mary's, entered the church for the Advent Procession. This service consists of Advent hymns such as the stirring 'Hills of the North Rejoice' together with a number of readings. With its contrast of dark and light and the anticipation that Advent brings, it is always special. Shortly afterwards on Saturday 3 December at 2pm there was a welcome return by our old friends, the Band of the Honourable Artillery Company, for a concert of carols and seasonal music, which was much enjoyed by the audience.

As part of the Exploring the Festive season and within that, Exploring Christmas, on Saturday 17 December from 10am to 4pm, various cribs and nativity sets owned by members of the

In this issue

| | |
|--|------------|
| Advent, Christmas, Epiphany & Candlemas | 1-4 |
| Looking Backwards & Looking Forwards | 5 |
| <i>Revd Canon Wilma Roest</i> | |
| Interregnum | 6 |
| <i>Elspeth Fearn</i> | |
| Richmond Soup Kitchen | 7 |
| What Can You Give? | 8 |
| <i>Sarah Percival</i> | |
| Servers Festival at Southwark Cathedral | 9 |
| <i>Elspeth Fearn</i> | |
| Holocaust Memorial Day | 10 |
| Lambeth Palace Library | 10 |
| Posada | 11 |
| Christmas Lights | 11 |
| Richmond Team Ministry | 12 |

... continued on page 2

St Mary Magdalene - continued



One of the cribs on display in Exploring Christmas
Elspeth Fearn

nave. On the back were messages and prayers which had been written by individual worshippers. These stars shimmered in the light and danced in the air, reflecting off the candles, lights and the Christmas flowers.

Speaking to Team Talk Canon Wilma Roest said 'It was wonderful to welcome many once again to all the Christmas services, to sing carols and to share in the joy of the birth of the Christ-child.

For a moment we were all able to experience the peace that He came to bring. For that: thanks be to God!

opened inside was a disc that resembled a slice across a tree with its rings of age. On it were written the words 'You are Loved'. As Charlie pointed out, the package is humble like the poor circumstances Christ was born in but the gift is great because it has the message – you, and that is every one of us, are loved by the God who is love.

The church looked beautiful with the tall candle stands in the aisle, wreaths on the pillars, wonderful floral arrangements, and a splendid Christmas tree to the right of the altar. A particular feature carried over from last year because it had been popular was the suspension of many individual gold and silver baubles high across the



Advent Candles

Elspeth Fearn

St Matthias

Revd Anne Crawford writes: A big thing which took place throughout Advent was the electronic Advent Calendar, with an image, reading and related reflection plus prayer sent out to 70 people across the parish every day, with many people sharing with family and friends around the world. So many wonderful affirming comments, people finding the windows 'beautiful, uplifting, inspiring, thought-provoking, stilling, comforting, glorious.....' It was hard work, but I enjoyed finding the right image to

Advent Calendar Window 17 – Tuesday 13th December
LUCY Martyr, 304AD



Today the Church remembers Lucy, Saint and martyr of the early 4th century. Lucy died at Syracuse, Sicily, at the hands of the Roman Emperor Diocletian for refusing to denounce her Christian faith. She is often depicted in iconography holding her eyes which were reputed to have been torn out as part of her torture. Miraculous stories about her can be found across Europe, and in Sweden and Italy Lucy is celebrated today with great church processions and feasting on saffron buns. It is said that Lucy ministered to poor and frightened Christians hiding from the Roman authorities in dark caverns and burial grounds, a crown of candles on her head to light the way.

To watch a short video of a Swedish St Lucy procession (and beautiful singing!), go to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x0Ld5n02PU>

For a recipe for St Lucy's Saffron Buns <https://www.bibocookfood.com/recipes/st-lucias-saffron-buns>

Prayer for St Lucy's Day:
God our redeemer,
who gave light to the world that was in darkness
by the healing power of the Saviour's cross;
shed that light on us, we pray,
that with your martyr, Lucy we may, by the purity of our lives,
reflect the light of Christ and, by the merits of his passion,
come to the light of everlasting life;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen

Advent Calendar Window 18
Wednesday 14th December



Photo: A Crawford

Isaiah 55:12-13
For you shall go out in joy, and the land back in peace;
the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song,
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.
"Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress;
instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle;
and it shall be to the LORD for a memorial,
for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

As we draw closer to Christmas we are beginning to bring trees inside to decorate our homes, but there is nothing more beautiful than the trees in Richmond Park this week, their stately bare branches dusted with snow, works of art freely given by Mother Nature to brighten up our winter walks. Isaiah prompts us to see divine beauty in the world around us, a sign of God's transforming saving love. Today might be a good day to give thanks for the trees of the field which not only cause us to clap our hands as we delight in their beauty, but also provide our planet with oxygen and are vital in the fight to reverse the damage of climate change.

Why not give a gift to the planet this Christmas and support one of the charities planting trees at home and in places where deforestation has caused damage and destruction to the environment and to the lives of the poorest people? This year, as we have celebrated the life and service of Queen Elizabeth, why not plant a tree as a living memorial? Our new King has extended the Queen's Green Canopy initiative until March 2023, so there is still time to order your sapling from the Woodland Trust. For more information visit <https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/planet-trees/schools-and-communities/queens-green-canopy>

Prayer
Creator God,
teach us to see your transforming glory
in the beauty of the trees of the field
and help us to play our part
in bringing healing, joy and peace
back to the earth.
Amen.

match each day's reading (usually one appointed for morning prayer or the gospel for that day's eucharist). One or two images were given to me to use by parishioners, either photos taken in nature, or of a sculpture or painting. The images which produced the most comments were of a painted staircase in Lima, a bright morning star in the dawn sky, trees in the park covered in the snow we had in early December, and my little grandson dressed excitedly as a star ready to appear in his nativity play.

... continued on page 3

St Matthias - continued



Christingle Oranges

Gill Doling



Christingle Service at St Matthias

Allan Crawford



Preparing the candles to be blessed

Fiona Morgan

On Sunday 29 January there was a Team Candlemas Service at St Matthias and the congregation was invited to bring candles from home for them to be blessed with the prayer:

God our Father, source of all light,
today you revealed to Simeon and Anna your Light of revelation to the nations.
Bless + these candles and hallow them for our use.
May we who carry them to praise your glory, walk in the path of goodness
and come to that Light that shines forever.
Grant this through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

St John the Divine



In early December Good Gym kindly delivered St John's Christmas Services cards to houses

Fiona Morgan

The building of St John's at Christmas (Gill Gregorowski)

A key feature of our church at Christmas is our splendid **nativity stable**. It makes a dramatic statement with dimensions of 8 feet 6 inches at its highest point and 5 feet 8 inches wide across the plinth at its base. This extract from St. John's Parish Magazine, January 1921, reveals its origin. 'We have a new crib this year designed by Mr. Grove. It can be put up and taken down again quite easily by anyone who understands the elements of carpentry. It is so designed as to fall in with the general scheme and decoration of the church and looks very pretty in its bower of evergreens'. (Arthur Grove was the architect who designed our 1905 chancel extension and St. John's Parish Hall. He was a key member of our

... continued on page 4

St John the Divine - continued



Families gathered St John the Divine on 11th December for our annual combined Nativity Service and Christingle. Children were able to choose a costume from the collection and take part in an informal Nativity play and tableau, ably led by Revd Charlie. Then Mary demonstrated and explained the significance of the Christingle, before the children enjoyed the sweets! We gathered together afterwards for seasonal refreshments.

Fiona Morgan

time consuming at such a busy season with much preparation needed plus a great deal of watering. Our flowers are for the glory of God and in memory of those whom we have loved.

Christmas - at one remove (Alyson Barr)

Once upon a time, for those unable to attend Midnight Mass, Christmas Day or Sunday services - as I was this season - the experience was confined to the mind's eye. Now, thanks to our indefatigable Wardens we can participate: watch the service live, see the flowers, hear the music, join in the prayers. Although the congregation is not filmed we feel its presence, and, with the follow-up of texts, cards, calls, become part of the communal act of worship: St John's continuing to prove a truly Inclusive Church.

Getting involved (Molly Switek)

In 2016 I moved to Richmond and attended the Christmas Eve Midnight Mass in St John the Divine for the first time, not knowing what to expect. As I walked into the darkened church it seemed to be full of candlelight and I remember being surprised and moved. This Christmas I was involved in preparing the Church for the service and felt so privileged to be able to help recreate that wonderful, uplifting sight for all who came to share the Midnight Mass magic

Sanders' Christmas Memorial Service (Mary Ricketts)

We were happy to welcome the local community into the church when Sanders held their Christmas Memorial Service during Advent. The service led by Revd Charlie, was arranged by the team from Sanders in Richmond for the families of people whose funerals they had organised. It is a simple service of carols, readings and reflection together with lighting of candles. It is inevitably a sad occasion but afterwards the Sanders team served mulled wine and mince pies and several people stayed to have a chat. The atmosphere was very friendly. Everyone seemed to appreciate the warmth, colour and beauty of St John's.

Clergy Support (Martin Brecknell)

SJD enjoyed support from a variety of priests: Wilma (Carol service); Anne (Blue Christmas); Nick Roberts (Midnight Mass) and John Kiddle our Archdeacon (Christmas Morning). All brought enjoyable different perspectives to our services.

church and amongst other things sang in the choir.) I presume the figures and animals are from the same time. Before that there was a large stone cave which was described as very tricky to erect and dismantle.

Candles feature even more than usual. The Paschal candle stand glows even brighter with the Advent candle wreath which we place beside the pulpit. The marble covered walls on either side of the chancel gates host long lines of red cased tea lights, and two stands at the entrance to the nave feature large red candles decorated with flowers and greenery. One of our pricket stands is placed near the stable for anyone to light a candle. A festive reminder that the infant Christ is the light of the world.

We have a long tradition of combining red, white and yellow **flowers** in our Christmas arrangements. This year, six of us, including three additional members from Maureen's family, worked on eleven displays. We use mostly fresh flowers but also add some others including artificial poinsettias. We are fortunate to have accumulated items like cones on sticks which add to the variety. It really is quite a creative activity but of course



The gift of incense at the Exploring Epiphany event on Saturday 7 January
Huw Morgan

Looking Backwards and Looking Forwards

by Revd Canon Wilma Roest

This edition of Team Talk is about looking back and looking forward. It's good to remember the joys of Christmas and Candlemas, to rejoice that so many were able to visit services in our churches, to give thanks that things felt more normal again. We also look forward, as the season of Lent is almost upon us.

On Tuesday 21 February many of us will enjoy pancakes, traditionally meant to signify the finishing up of rich and sweet ingredients before the start of a season of fasting. Then on Wednesday 22 February we come to church to collect an ash cross on our forehead as a sign of repentance. Lent is 40 days of repentance, fasting and prayer as we prepare to celebrate our salvation at Easter. It would be easy to think of the coming weeks as a passive time, an inward looking time, even a time of being a bit miserable. What a missed opportunity that would be!

Yes, during Lent we are invited to retreat and reflect, to mirror Jesus' time in the wilderness before the celebrations of Easter. As we spend time drawing closer to God, we cannot help but notice what is going on in our world. As we immerse ourselves in God's love, we cannot help but see the absence of love in so many places. As we reflect on God's will for our world, we cannot ignore the cries of those who are marginalised, rejected, hurting. Lent is the perfect time to begin inclining our hearts and prayers towards those in our community and in our world who need to hear and experience the good news of God's love. Action and world will follow naturally.

The prophet Micah reminds us that what God requires of us is 'to do justice, and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God'. There's nothing passive about that. It is an active engagement with the world and God's people.

The Richmond Team Ministry Lent Lectures 2023 will focus on 5 aspects of social justice, challenging our thinking and our actions. I hope you may be able to come for one, two or even all the sessions. The lectures take place at St Mary Magdalene on Wednesday evenings in March at 7.30pm, with a talk by highly respected speakers, time for questions and ending with the office of Compline.



The poster for Lent Lectures 2023 features a dark purple background with a central diamond shape. The text is white and blue. At the top, it says 'Lent Lectures 2023' and 'What does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God? Micah 6:8'. Below this, five diamond shapes contain the following information:

- Racism**: The Revd Ben Brady, Wednesday 1 March 7:30pm, St Mary Magdalene
- Poverty**: Nolly Masinga, Wednesday 8 March 7:30pm, St Mary Magdalene
- Gender Identity**: The Revd Dr Tina Beardsley and Ash Brockwell, Wednesday 15 March 7:30pm, St Mary Magdalene
- Ecology**: Jack Edwards, Wednesday 22 March 7:30pm, St Mary Magdalene
- Disability**: The Revd Canon Tim Goodie, Wednesday 29 March 7:30pm, St Mary Magdalene

At the bottom, it includes the contact email 'charlie.smith@richmondteamministry.org', the website 'www.richmondteamministry.org', and the Richmond Team Ministry logo.



The four Bishops in the Diocese of Southwark Eleanor Bentall

May I also take this opportunity to invite you to a special service of welcome on Sunday 5 March? On that day we look forward to meeting the new Bishop of Kingston, the Rt Revd Dr Martin Gainsborough, who was consecrated at Canterbury Cathedral on the Feast of Candlemas (to read more about +Martin, [click here](#)). He will preach and preside at a special Team service, at St Mary Magdalene, at 10.30am. It would be wonderful to have a full church with representation from the whole Team and a warm Richmond welcome.

Wishing you a holy, blessed and active Lent,

Wilma

Interregnum

by Elspeth Fearn

At present following the retirement of Father Neil Summers, St John the Divine and RTM are in the middle of an interregnum, whilst a new Team Vicar for St John's is sought. An interregnum in the Church of England is a period before a new parish priest is appointed to fill a vacancy. The word 'interregnum' strictly means 'a vacancy between leaders'. During an interregnum the administration of the parish is technically the responsibility of the churchwardens who are the Bishop's officers and have to ensure that services continue, that the pastoral needs of the congregation are looked after and that the church, the vicarage and other church property is kept



Altar in the Chapel of Kings College, Cambridge with a painting by Peter Paul Rubens of the Adoration of the Magi

Saiko

maintained. PCC also has an important part to play in the process as do the patrons of the living.

Strictly the process of selection and presentation has to be completed within 9 months beginning with the date that the vacancy begins, although it can be a shorter or longer time in practice. People often ask why the process takes so long. The process takes time because firstly all vacancies are reviewed by the Bishop - it gives the diocese the chance to look at the structure of the parish and the resources available. A planned gap also gives time for reflection. The parish needs to decide amongst many other things whether there are changes in the parish and different needs that have emerged over time that it would like to

address. The Statement of Needs provides, for the candidates, a guide to what the parish wants and hopes for. A further reason for a gap is that the successful candidate is likely to be working in another parish so finding a replacement for them there has to be factored in. Or a successful candidate may subsequently decide for personal reasons that they do not want to take up the position and so the whole recruitment process has to begin again.

Patronage or advowson is an ancient tradition which goes back to Anglo Saxon times. Landowners often gave land and funds to establish a parish, build a church and support a priest. After the Reformation when the Church of England was established as a Protestant state church governed by the monarch, patrons and patronage remained. Today patrons can still be an individual person but are most likely to be an ecclesiastical corporation such as the dean and chapter of a cathedral or a collegiate body such as an Oxford or Cambridge college. And that is the case with RTM whose patron is the Provost and Fellows of Kings College Cambridge. They first acquired the patronage of Richmond (with Kingston with whom it was then linked) in 1781 and have been involved with the current preparations. Patrons can be very helpful during an interregnum being able to give a third and more detached view of the parish's requirements and can offer wise counsel and support to the parish. The candidates for the St John's vacancy will be looking round the churches and meeting representatives on 25th February, with the interviews taking place on 1 March. We pray for the candidates, the congregation of St John's and the wider Team Ministry at this time.



St John the Divine awaits its new Vicar
Peter Moore

Richmond Soup Kitchen

The Richmond Soup Kitchen (RSK), now in its second year, provides an outdoor takeaway food service at St John the Divine, which is run by volunteers and is supported by Richmond Team Ministry. RSK is open on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 5 – 6 pm. It opened on 2 November 2022 and will run to 27 April this year.

RSK operates from a gazebo in the car park at St John's with the food being cooked in the kitchen there. Each week the food available is soup, a variety of hot sandwiches – cheese/ham toasties, falafel wraps, bacon sandwiches and sausage sandwiches. Some weeks a hot meal such as Beef Bolognese and pasta is also on offer. Drinks available are tea, coffee or hot chocolate and there are also cakes for people to enjoy.

Generally people come and order food and either consume it there or take the food away with them. In very wet weather a second gazebo is set up for people to wait for food. The atmosphere is friendly and feels more like a service you happen not to pay for, rather than something that feels like a 'hand out' or a matter for shame. In its first year of operation RSK's guests were largely street homeless or people in temporary transition accommodation such as that run by SPEAR, and were usually single men similar to those who had accessed the Glass Door project when it operated in Richmond in the past. The effect of the worsening current economic climate and the increasing difficulty that people have in managing financially, plus some bad cold weather means that in this second season demand has increased by around a substantial 30%, particularly in the post Christmas period. A wider range of people is now involved. Guests include several elderly couples as well as young families with children.

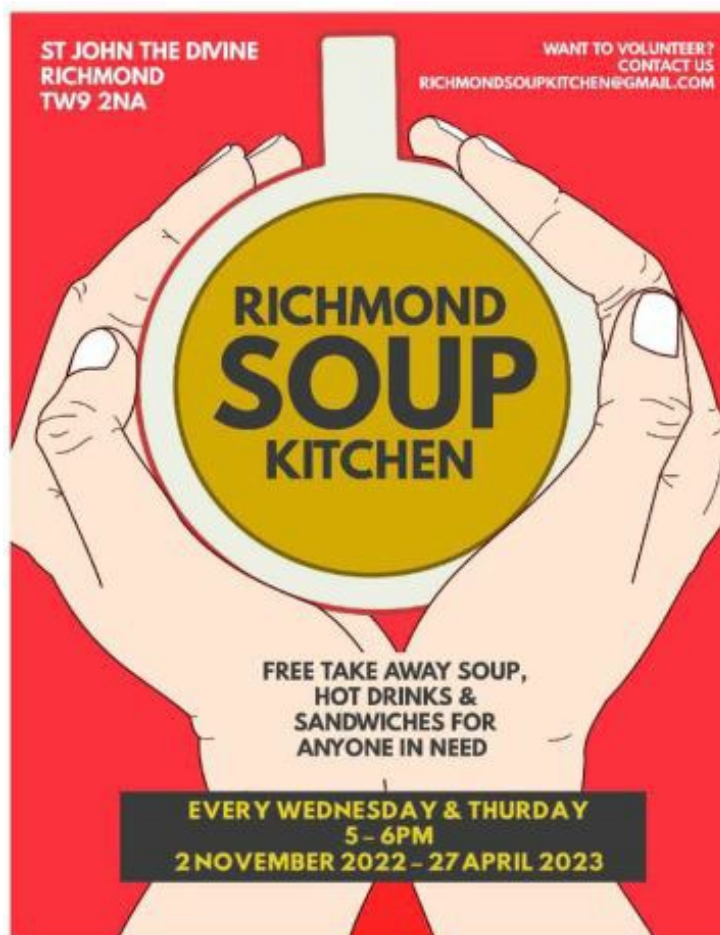
At Christmas RSK gave a Christmas present of a pair of socks to each person. An appeal was made within RTM for the donation of socks and the response was fantastic. At the time when everyone was busy with Christmas shopping the socks helped the community realise that many would be without presents on Christmas Day. The socks were not just a personal present but had the bonus of helping keeping them warm - a practical support in a very cold spell.



Sock presents

Pat Johnston

demand. RSK has also taken on a member of staff this year who has experience of working in the sector supporting the homeless community and will attend RSK when it is open. And RSK always welcomes on-site volunteers, bakers and soup makers. Please contact Isabelle and Pat on richmondsoupkitchen@gmail.com



What Can You Give?

by Sarah Percival



Flower arranging

Elsbeth Fearn

We all have something to give. In the carol, it is your heart. But, as the days lengthen and our thoughts turn to plans for the year ahead, think what you can plan in to your life in 2023 to sustain your church.

There are so many ways to be involved, and there is always something you can offer from your experience, your skills, your time. It needn't be at a service. Our churches need people to put Team Talk together, to do some gardening,



Coffee after the service

Coffeecupgals

And it is richly rewarding. Spending time with so many good and interesting people in our beautiful buildings working to sustain something we all care about. That is well worth it.

So please think about what you are interested in, find out who in your church currently leads on that activity and offer yourself to be a part. You will enjoy it.

If you are reading this you probably attend one of the churches of the Richmond Team Ministry. You make time, among all the other demands on you, to attend when you can a service and you are, we all hope, nourished and sustained by doing that.

What makes it worthwhile? The words of the liturgy? The music? The eucharist? The blessing? The coffee afterwards with the opportunity to catch up with friends?

Look around you at a service. What do you see? Someone welcoming you at the door. Anne or Wilma or Charlie presiding? Flowers. Clean silver, linens, candles. Music – an organist and choir. Servers assisting. Someone to read the lesson. Prayers offered.

It all comes together as a harmonious whole. What is your role in this?

We all know the words of the Christmas carol – What can I give him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would give a lamb. If I were a wise man, I would do my part. But what can I give?



Ringing the bells

to offer their wisdom on a committee, to lead Junior Church, to organise a lunch, to support our EcoChurch initiative as part of the Green Team, and so much more.



Doing some gardening

Revd Canon Wilma Roest

Servers Festival at Southwark Cathedral

by Elspeth Fearn

On Saturday 21 January after a three year gap because of Covid, the Southwark Diocesan Guild of Servers Festival, an all-day event, returned to Southwark Cathedral. The Festival is a chance for those who are servers in the Diocese's churches to celebrate and give thanks for the ministry of serving at the altar. The cathedral staff, when setting up the Festival thought that not so many people would attend this first year back, so were therefore very pleasantly surprised at the considerable number of servers who came to the services and took part in the discussions.

The day began at 11.30 am with the Festival Eucharist Service presided over by the Bishop of Southwark, The Rt Revd Christopher Chessun. The sermon was given by the Very Revd Andrew Nunn, Dean of Southwark, who took the lesson from 1 Samuel 3.1-10 about Samuel and Eli and linked it to the Gospel reading from John 2.1-11 about the miracle of water into wine at the wedding in Canaan. The chief steward at the wedding feast is not named in the Gospel but he could well have been a Samuel and Andrew Nunn referred to the service which both the child Samuel and the adult Samuel gave - watching and waiting and seeing things run smoothly, just like servers do.

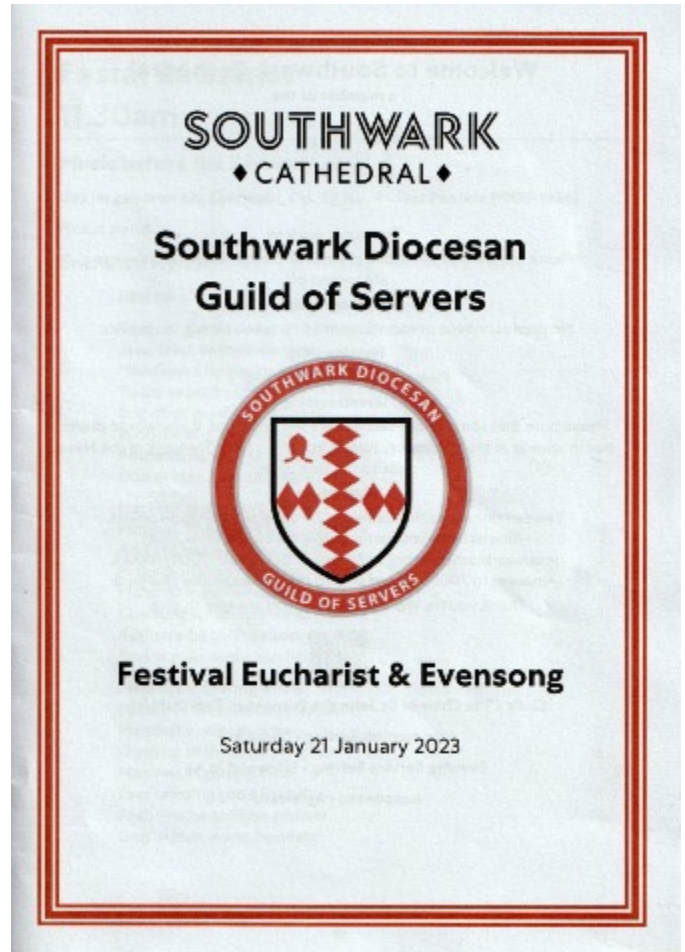
During the Offertory Hymn, I espied Hodge, the cathedral cat, walking confidently up the North

Aisle. Some of you may recall his predecessor Doorkins Magnificat, the little female cat from the streets who lived in the Cathedral from 2008. Doorkins sadly died in September 2020 but the cat rescue charity Catcuddles then gifted the Cathedral Hodge, a black and white cat. He had been rescued from a Woolwich street and when found had a disfiguring growth on his face. Hodge was brought back to full health by the charity's vets and is named after Dr Samuel Johnson's famous cat. You can see a statue of the original Hodge in Gough Square off Fleet Street.

There followed a lunch break which could be a packed lunch, or something from the cathedral refectory, or from one of the many food outlets in Borough Market on the doorstep. At 1.30 pm we re-assembled in the Cathedral Library to hear a panel discussion on 'The Theology and Spirituality of Serving' with Andrew Nunn and Canon Angela Ghebikan and chaired by Revd Dr Thomas Sharp, Succentor at the Cathedral. The role of servers enables others to take part in the holiness of worship. Theirs is a silent but vital and attentive ministry and the clergy are indeed blessed to be supported in the sanctuary by the servers.

The meeting then moved on to discussing the future of the Southwark Diocesan Guild of Servers and of the annual Festival. It was overwhelmingly agreed that both should continue with the Festival service to be held every year rather than as someone suggested, every two years. We had all split up into smaller groups to discuss these issues, but this also very helpfully enabled us to catch up with other people's experiences during the pandemic. Matters had been difficult in many churches, with servers leaving and not returning and the ability to field full serving teams much diminished. But everyone was now looking to the future to rebuild and to re-energise their serving teams. The recruitment and training of young servers was particularly to be encouraged.

Finally, the day ended with Choral Evensong and Eucharistic Devotions. Thanks to all involved in the Festival Day and also the guest choir from St John the Evangelist, East Dulwich who provided beautiful music at both services.



Festival Service Booklet

Elspeth Fearn

Holocaust Memorial Day

On 27 January, on the 78th anniversary of the liberation of the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp, Holocaust Memorial Day, the annual sombre commemoration across the world took place. The word 'genocide' is a combination of the Greek word for 'race' with the Latin word for 'killing'. On this day we remembered the genocide of the 6 million Jews killed by the Nazi regime, and also the fate of further millions put to death by them – Roma gypsies, those with physical and mental disabilities, gay people, political opponents, dissidents, beggars and the homeless. We also mourned on this day the victims of later genocides in Rwanda, Bosnia, Congo and Cambodia and others.

There is a new and chilling factor this year – the brutal invasion of Ukraine by Russia bringing scenes that we had thought never to see again in Europe. We look with horror on cities pulverised, the killing of civilians including children and older people, their mass displacement, compulsorily to Russia or voluntarily into asylum abroad, cruel torture and many other war crimes. The last of the Holocaust survivors are now very few in number because of the passage of time. It must grieve them greatly to see the horrendous scenes from their past being recreated anew in the 21st Century. We pray for all who have suffered. And in words from a prayer by the Council of Christians and Jews for the 2023 commemoration: 'Help us to turn away from hatred and division and to build a world where genocide is no more'.



The yellow butterfly is often used as a symbol of the Holocaust showing all that is good and positive in life whilst recognising that that life is also fragile and can be taken away at any time. It is from the poem 'I never saw another butterfly' by the Jewish Czech poet Pavel Friedmann who died in Auschwitz, aged only 23. He had written the poem earlier whilst in the concentration camp at Theresienstadt and the manuscript was found after that camp was liberated. The yellow butterfly is also viewed as a reference to the yellow stars that Jewish people were forced to wear and another interpretation is that it represents the 1.5 million children lost in the Holocaust.

Clouded Yellow Colias Crocuss Butterfly
Charles J Sharp, Sharp Photography

Lambeth Palace Library

Lambeth Palace, the London home of the Archbishop of Canterbury, is closed until spring 2024 for an extensive programme of refurbishment. However, there is one building which is open and that is the new red brick archive building whose entrance is at 15 Lambeth Palace Road SE1 7JJ and which was erected in 2020 and designed by the architects Wright & Wright. The Bibliotheca Lambethana or The National Library and Archive for the Church of England to give its full name, was founded in 1610 under the will of Archbishop Richard Bancroft. The Library contains many priceless manuscripts and objects so a state of the art archive will help preserve them for future generations. The vision of the library is to collect, preserve and make available the memory of the Church of England with its great history. Regular exhibitions are held and the current one 'Enslavement : Voices from the Archive' runs until 31 March. The exhibition accompanies the Church Commissioners' June 2022 public report on historic links between Queen Anne's Bounty (one of the predecessors of the Commissioners) and the transatlantic slave trade. Queen Anne's Bounty was established in 1704 and was set up to supplement the salaries of impoverished clergy in poor livings. Although laudable in purpose, the Bounty's funds included investment in the slave trade especially in the South Sea Company and other similar ventures. The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby has apologised for these links with slavery and the Church of England is to launch a fund, as part of a £100 million programme of investment, grant making research and advocacy to address historic issues on the slave trade.

Individual items include an anonymous petition written by a slave in Virginia in 1723 to the 'Lord arch Bishop of London' asking for freedom for enslaved people and also a letter from the Reverend Morgan Godwin, an Anglican Minister also from Virginia who in 1680 appealed to the Archbishop of Canterbury to allow him to baptise slaves. Particularly chilling are plans showing how slaves were packed tightly into slave ships - in this case the ship Brookes. The exhibition is open Monday-Friday from 9.30 am to 5 pm but if you are unable to visit in person you can look online at a selection of items at [Enslavement: Voices from the Archives – Lambeth Palace Library](#)



Lambeth Palace Library

Wright & Wright

Posada - The travelling crib travels again!

After a gap because of Covid it was welcome that Advent 2022 saw the reintroduction of Posada in which knitted figures of Mary, Joseph and the donkey visit a different home in the parish each night. This year Posada was run on a Team basis rather than by individual churches and there was a focus on connecting with those who find it physically difficult to get to services. The Posada figures received a tender refurbishment first as they had not been used for a while. Sue Eastaugh facilitated the Posada journey from 27 November to 10 December and the Revd Anne Crawford from 11 December to Christmas Eve. In all the figures were welcomed in 27 homes during Advent (i.e. every night through the season) including Greville House residential care home. The journey came to an end on Christmas Eve when the figures were brought to St Matthias during the Christingle service. Baby Jesus was born safely and laid in the little knitted manger for all to see.

Reintroducing the Travelling Crib was hugely successful and had a wondrous effect on the people who invited the figures in to their homes and shared hospitality with friends and strangers who shared the journey with them. The Journal which accompanied the Holy Family is full of incredibly moving and poignant reflections: one

couple wrote 'Having the Holy Family to stay helped to focus our minds on what Christmas is all about' and this sentiment was echoed by others. Still others wrote about the family bringing a sense of peace and comfort to them, and one host wrote from the heart 'from three simple, knitted figures comes powerful emotion, pondering and prayer'. For the housebound the Holy Family provided an opportunity to share their faith with carers, many of them not knowing the Christmas story. For older residents the figures triggered memories of childhood long ago, with one 93 year old resident of Greville House remembering with delight his role as King Herod in the school nativity play. Children decorated the pages of the Journal with pictures and some even wrote their own prayers. A beautiful sacred record of a very special journey, and an inspiration to all Richmond pilgrims as we journey on in to a new year.



Mary, Joseph and the donkey

Penny Francis

Christmas Lights in Richmond 2022



The reindeer

Elspeth Fearn

The Christmas lights were quite striking this year. The beribboned box representing a wrapped Christmas present that had stood in front of Richmond Station each Christmas for several years, was replaced by a very attractive reindeer, lit up by lots of small white lights and with a full set of antlers. The photograph shows the reindeer at night but even on grey December days when he continued to be lit up, he was very distinctive and people seemed to regard him with affection, with lots of photographs being taken. Opposite the station and across the road was a large and attractive Christmas tree bauble in gold and silver. Further down the Quadrant and along George Street were beautiful overhead decorations. Congratulations to Richmond Council for lifting our spirits at these difficult times.



The gold and silver bauble

Elspeth Fearn



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St John the Divine



St Mary Magdalene



St Matthias

Our Churches