

Thursday 12 January 2023

Dear Friends,

January can be a dreary month: the decorations come down, the food is finished or thrown away, I haven't even received a new Christmas card in the last few days, and although the days are getting longer everything feels darker after the excitement of Christmas.

Of course, in church, the crib sets remain and there are still things to celebrate. January is a month of feasts and festivals in the Christian calendar: Epiphany, the Baptism of Christ, and Candlemas. Because, of course, Christ isn't just for Christmas!

In January we look forward: to the fulfilment of the prophetic gifts of the Magi, to the realisation of the prophecy of Simeon and Anna, to the earthly ministry of Christ which begins at his baptism. I think that it is a graceful thing, that the calendar offers us so many beginnings.

Every year I find that on the 1st January, I am still reeling from Christmas. I scramble for ends and begins on New Year's Eve and find that my self-knowledge is lacking, among the party poppers and fireworks, in the presence of Jules Holland. Really, I cannot get to grips with the new year until we're already two weeks in. In the church January is a month of refreshment and fresh starts, of beginnings and hope and promise.

So, if you forgot to make a New Year's Resolution or failed within a week, if you keep writing '2022', or haven't put the boxes back in the loft yet, worry not! There is grace to begin again! Let the calendar gently ease you into the New Year. Enjoy each feast as a chance to take stock and ask God where God is leading you. Our prayer is that this year is gentle, joyful, exciting part of that journey.

With prayers and blessings from the clergy team,

Anne, Charlie, and Wilma

*This week the letter has been written by Revd Charlie Smith*

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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**, for all staff and students

...**the sick and those in need** – Charles Stiller, Cedric Lee, Suzie Cox, Liz Velluet, Marc Cranfield-Adams, Duncan Ogilvy, Peter O'Toole, Hermione Lockyer, Cath Cook

...**the departed, may they rest in peace** – Heike Doolan, Anne Matthews, Tim Mygind

*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.*

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### **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 / readings for all three churches 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.

**During the vacancy period**, St John the Divine will be open for the regular services on Sunday morning and Tuesday evening, as well as for Morning Prayer at 8.30am on Tuesdays, and Evening Prayer at 4.30pm on Wednesdays. It is also normally open to visitors on Saturday mornings between 10.00am-12.00noon.

### **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:**

**(Morning Prayer on Friday 13 January will be in-person only – there will be no Zoom)**

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81983343470?pwd=ejVpVnB4d3VGdkFtWjl2c2tTOC9XUT09>

Meeting ID: 819 8334 3470

Passcode: FriPrayer

**Evening Prayer** is said in-person at St John the Divine on Wednesdays at 4.30pm.

On Sunday 29 January there will be a **Team Candlemas Service** at St Matthias at 10.30am, all are welcome. There will be no 11.00am service at St John the Divine or 9.30am service at St Mary Magdalene.

### **Church, Community and other news:**

#### **Are you the next Bookings Administrator for the Richmond Team?**

We are looking for a Bookings Administrator who will help us with booking enquiries for our churches and halls. The post is for two days per week (around 10 – 12 hours) and requires good computer skills, a willingness to deal with many enquiries and an understanding of the life of the church. If you are interested or would like to know more, please get in touch with either [Tina](#) or [Wilma](#). [The Job description and Application form can be found here](#). If this is not for you, you may know someone who is looking for work? Please pass on the information!

#### **Foundation Governor at Christ's School**

Following a recent resignation there is a space for a foundation governor, appointed by the Richmond Team Ministry PCC, on the Governing Body of Christ's School. Do you have a passion for education, young people and a school in our local community? Could you give some time and your own expertise? Please get in touch with Wilma for more info.

The next **recital at St Mary Magdalene will be on Saturday 4 February at 12.30pm**. Alex Knight, our Director of Music at St Mary Magdalene, will play Johann Sebastian Bach's Fantasia and Fugue in G minor (BWV 542), César Franck's Fantaisie in A major and Jean Langlais' Triptyque (1. Melody, 2. Trio, 3. Final).

**Helen Williams** (former RTM Children & Families worker) has been in contact to ask that we share the news that she and Kevin have got engaged and plan to marry this summer. More details to follow in due course.

### **Preparing for First Communion**

We are planning an Admission to Holy Communion course in the new year and would love to hear of young people, age 7 and over, who are interested. There will be 4 sessions with Admission on Mothering Sunday, 19 March 2023. The course will take place on 4 Saturday afternoons at 4.00pm, on 25 February, 4 March, 11 March and 18 March. Do speak to a member of the clergy for more information or if you would like to put your name down.

### **Vacancy at St John's**

Now the Parish Profile has been completed, the advert for a new Team Vicar will be in the Church Times in January. Shortlisting will take place on 9 February. Then on Saturday 25 February the shortlisted candidates will have the opportunity to look around the churches and meet representatives before formal interviews take place on 1 March. If you have any questions about this process, do not hesitate to talk to the churchwardens or to Wilma.

### **A Christmas card for 2023....**

Have you taken any photos recently of the snow? Do you have any wonderful high-quality photos of our churches? Are you planning to take some photos in the coming Christmas services? We'd like to create a Parish Christmas card next for printing and selling and would love to have some new photos. Can you help? Please email the parish office or the clergy if you have something that can be used.

### **Date for the Diary: Parish Retreat**

The Parish Retreat will, this year, take us to Wychcroft Retreat and Resource Centre from 20-22 October 2023. Places will cost £200 for the weekend and information about booking a place will be coming soon.

### **Upcoming meetings**

Standing Committee: Monday 16 January

St John the Divine Church Committee: Wednesday 18 January

Property and Finance meeting: Monday 23 January

PCC: Wednesday 25 January 7.30pm, St Matthias

PCC Planning Day: Saturday 28 January 10.00am – 3.00pm

### **Prayer for Martin Gainsborough, Bishop designate of Kingston to be consecrated on Thursday 2 February at Canterbury Cathedral:**

Heavenly Father, our Shepherd and Guide  
We thank you for the appointment  
of your servant, Martin Gainsborough,  
as bishop designate of Kingston.

May your Holy Spirit give him  
your gifts of wisdom and strength,  
gentleness and compassion,  
as he prepares to take up his role as our pastor and teacher.  
May he be a shepherd after your own heart,  
who will love you, walk with Jesus and be filled with the Spirit.  
May he be a leader of vision and a teacher of your truth,  
Christ centred and outward focussed.

As Bishop designate Martin gets ready to make his home among us,  
may we welcome him joyfully into our Diocesan community,  
and together bear witness to Christ  
and the building up of your kingdom.

We ask this through your Son Jesus Christ,  
Amen.

### **Planned Giving**

Last year we introduced 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](mailto:jackieharrison456@gmail.com) or 07747 111525.

With best wishes,  
Tina

Tina Roberts  
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Richmond Team Ministry  
St Mary Magdalene • St Matthias • St John the Divine  
[www.richmondteamministry.org](http://www.richmondteamministry.org)

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