

Thursday 19 January 2023

Dear Friends,

This letter comes to you in the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, which is traditionally observed from the 18th to the 25th January, ending with the Feast of the Conversion of St Paul. This year the Week of Prayer explores how the work of Christian unity can contribute to the promotion of racial justice across all levels of society. The work of restoring hope through justice continues to inspire and change lives for the better. With other Christians around the world during this Week of Prayer we pray that our hearts will be open to see and hear the many ways in which racism continues to destroy lives, and to discern the steps we can take as individuals and communities to heal the hurts and build a better future for everyone.

Sadly, in Richmond we no longer have a network of Christian Churches who come together to pray, worship or work. So maybe this year, we can pray for the churches in our own team, especially for St John the Divine during the vacancy, which is a time of change and also challenge.

Prayer for all at St John's:

*Lord Jesus Christ, Head of the Church, the work of the church of St John the Divine is yours.
In this time of waiting, strengthen all who worship at St John's through your strength and with patience they may
faithfully serve you and grow in knowing you and your will in their lives.
Amen.*

For the past few weeks an advert for a new Team Vicar at St John the Divine has been in the Church Times, both in the hard copy and on-line (<https://jobs.churchtimes.co.uk/jobs/Team-Vicar-in-London-and-Home-Counties-jn10799>). This has already sparked quite some interest and it has been very encouraging to talk to priests who are considering whether St John's is the place God is calling them to.

The process of appointment is not like a regular job interview, but very much a discernment process for all involved. The question both the candidates and the church need to ask themselves is "Is this what God wants for me, for us? Can we together serve God and community?" The closing date for applications is at the end of this month. Then shortlisting will take place on 9 February, chaired by the Archdeacon of Wandsworth. 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. Representatives of St John's and of the Team, together with the Archdeacon and the Dean of King's College, Cambridge, will form the interview panel.

Prayer for those reading the advert:

*Shepherd of souls, give to us for the leadership of your Church
in St John the Divine and the Richmond Team
a person after your own heart:
one of faith and prayer, filled with the Spirit;
one of vision, wisdom and sound judgment;
one with a pastoral heart and a true love for people.*

*Prepare the person of your choice for their ministry among us, and prepare us for their coming;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

Amen.

Prayer for God's guidance for all involved in the appointment process:

*Heavenly Father, guide with your wisdom all involved in selecting a faithful pastor for our parish,
that, at the end of the process, we will receive the one who will speak your word, lead, foster
and serve your people according to your will, through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

Amen.

Some people have asked me how this post is funded as for a number of years it was a half time post and now we hope to appoint a full time priest. The Diocese will provide the house, on Old Deer Park Gardens, and the Richmond Team will pay the stipend, the money coming from the investment of the sale proceeds of St John's Hall on Church Road. We are blessed to have these resources at our disposal for the mission of God's Church.

With prayers and blessings from the clergy team,

Anne, Charlie, and Wilma

This week the letter has been written by Revd Canon Wilma Roest

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, Jo Carroll, Susan Koehler Gross

...**the departed, may they rest in peace** – Anne Matthews, Revd John Hambidge

*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.

From Sunday 12 February, services will be live-streamed on YouTube. This is to make our services accessible to everyone without requiring a login. You will be able to watch services here https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCGztGtj9x_Vm5tQw2kwPFfA from 12 February onwards. You can subscribe to the YouTube Channel if you wish to but there is no requirement for you to do so. The link to YouTube will be posted on Facebook on Sunday mornings.

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:

Join Zoom Meeting:

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

Meeting ID: 819 8334 3470

Passcode: FriPrayer

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 (there will be 8.00am Holy Communion and 6.30pm Choral Evensong as normal).

Church, Community and other news:

Really urgent: We need a Bookings Administrator

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).

Lent Lectures 2023: Doing justice, loving kindness, walking humbly with God

On Wednesday evenings (7.30pm at St Mary Magdalene) during Lent we will have the opportunity to listen to a series of talks about social justice, theology, and hope. Nelly Misenga, The Revd Dr Tina Beardsley, Ash Brockwell, Jack Edwards, and The Revd Canon Tim Goode will be coming to speak to us about racism, poverty, gender identity, ecology, and disability. All are welcome! We'll listen, ask questions, and pray Compline together.

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.

A message....

We have been notified of the death of **Revd John Hambidge** who was priest at St John's in 1960s and 70s. There may still be people there who remember him. He died on 23rd December in Riversway Nursing Home, Bristol. His funeral is on 6th February at 2pm at St. Anne's Church, Bristol BS5 6JN. For further information his son, Crispin Hambidge's email address is slidehambidge@yahoo.com

St Mary Magdalene Choir on tour

The choir from SMM will be joining forces with the choir of Queens' College Cambridge on Sunday 12 February, in the college chapel. A coach will leave Richmond at 1.00pm and there is space for around 10 – 15 people who would like to come along without singing. The cost of the coach will be £20pp. There may be the opportunity to stay for formal dinner after Evensong, which will cost around £20pp. If you are interested, please let Wilma or Alex know as soon as possible. We will be back in Richmond at around 11.00pm. There will be no Choral Evensong at St Mary Magdalene that day, but Evening Prayer will be said.

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.

Richmond Team Ministry Away Weekend 20-22 October 2023 at Wychcroft Retreat Centre.

There will be opportunities for worship, bible study, prayer and reflection, as well as socialising and getting to know one another better. We will be reflecting on the Psalms. Wychcroft is situated in the countryside and provides everything which we will need including a chapel, delicious food, and 23 bedrooms. There are 36 places available. Costs are £200 for the whole weekend, with a £50 deposit required to hold your place. If you would like to join us, please [complete the booking form available here](#) and return it to [Charlie via email](#) or in person. Places will be allocated on a first come, first served basis. So, please submit your form and pay your deposit asap. Sadly, on this occasion, we are unable to offer a children's program. Please contact Charlie with any questions.

Upcoming meetings

Property and Finance meeting: Monday 23 January, The Vicarage

PCC: Wednesday 25 January 7.30pm, St Matthias

PCC Mission Action Planning Day: Saturday 28 January 10.00am – 3.00pm at St Matthias

May Fair is back! On Saturday 13 May 2023

After being absent for a few years, it is good to hear that the May Fair will be back on Richmond Green and that local charities will be once again at the heart of the fair. It will be a community event, for one day only. There will be a satellite venue in and around St Mary Magdalene, where the May Fair started originally. We are looking for a small group of people who are willing to coordinate the event at St Mary Magdalene. The plans are that there will be music in church (organists, soloists, small groups – a sort of open mic event), a book stall, a plant and produce stall and simple refreshments with tables and chairs outside. Can you help? [Do let Wilma know!](#)

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.

Bishop Martin will be coming to Richmond on **Sunday 5 March**, when we will welcome him in a Team Service at St Mary Magdalene. The service will be at 10.30am (instead of 9.30am).

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 or 07747 111525.

With best wishes,
Tina

Tina Roberts
Parish Administrator
Working remotely on Mondays and Tuesdays, 9.00am – 5.00pm
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Working in the Office on Wednesdays and Thursdays, 9.00am – 5.00pm
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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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