

Thursday 2 February 2023

Dear Friends,

Ordinary Time: the rather endearing name for the periods between the festivals and fasts of the Church Calendar. It rather reminds me of my dad's habitual phone greeting: "Hello, it's only me."

I once worked with a priest who declined to call it 'ordinary time,' but, instead called it, 'growing time,' because she couldn't stand to think of any of our time as unproductive.

While I appreciate the sentiment, I have been reflecting this week on the joy of the ordinary. After the Team Service on Sunday, several people remarked on how they're enjoying everything being back to normal. There is a gift in the rhythm of the everyday which we miss if we are focused on striving for the next thing.

When I was discerning the call to ordained ministry, I read a book by Emma Percy called "What Clergy Do: especially when it looks like nothing." In it, Emma compares ministry to motherhood: the daily pattern of cooking and cleaning; washing your way through endless laundry; dropping children off only to pick them up again. By the end of the day, you've done so much and yet nothing seems to be different. But, says Emma, it is in the ordinary things of everyday life that we live and build relationships and become intimately acquainted with one another.

When it seems like there's no progress, actually, the ordinary patterns of life create an environment in which we grow.

Bishop Paul Bayes tells a story which warns against living next to an orchard. He says that you can barely catch a wink of sleep because it's so noisy: the night air is full of the sound of the apples groaning as they strain to grow! His point, of course, is that we needn't strain but just stay connected to the tree (that is, Jesus) and in the patterns of ordinary daily life, we will grow.

So, "Hello, it's only Ordinary Time." May your ordinary life be a place of growth.

(And, if I may recommend to you a favourite film of mine, about the beauty of ordinary life: *About Time* is available on Netflix, if you're looking for a warm, cosy, British couple of hours!)

With prayers and blessings from the clergy team,

Anne, Charlie, and Wilma

This week the letter has been written by Revd Charlie Smith

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** –

...**the departed, may they rest in peace** – Revd John Hambidge, Rick Savagen, Sally Patricia Collins

Please note that the **Prayer List is renewed at the beginning of each month.**

If you would like your own name added, simply [email the parish office](#). 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. 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

Church, Community and other news:

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!

The next **recital at St Mary Magdalene will be this Saturday, 4 February at 12.30pm**. Alex Knight, 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).

Children's Service at St Mary Magdalene – Saturday 4 February at 4.00pm. We look forward to welcoming youngsters and parents, grandparents and friends to the next Children's Service this coming Saturday. We will be thinking about love, about God's love and who we are to love each other. The service lasts about 40 minutes and is pretty informal. Everyone is welcome!

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 £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.

Alex Knight is playing two further recitals:

Wednesday 15th February, 1pm - Brentwood Cathedral

Friday 17th February, 6pm - Royal College of Music (<https://www.rcm.ac.uk/events/details/?id=2608142>)

Ash Wednesday 22 February

There will be two Ash Wednesday services, both at St Mary Magdalene this year. At 10am and at 8pm, both with Imposition of Ashes. In order to make ashes, we need Palm Crosses – please return them to your church in good time for ash making on Tuesday 21 February.

Preparing for First Communion

We are planning an Admission to Holy Communion course 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. The first three weeks will be at St Matthias, with the final session taking place in the candidate's own churches.

On 25 February we will talk about baptism.

On 4 March we will focus on the Bible.

On 11 March we'll explore Prayer and Worship.

And 18 March will be about the Eucharist and receiving Communion.

Do speak to a member of the clergy for more information or if you want to confirm a place.

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 (1 March), poverty (8 March), gender identity (15 March), ecology (22 March), and disability (29 March). All are welcome! We'll listen, ask questions, and pray Compline together.

World Day of Prayer, Friday 3 March 3 at 2.30pm (A Women Led, Global, Ecumenical Movement)

The Richmond/Kew group of the World Day of Prayer invite you to join them to celebrate the service prepared by the women of Taiwan. The service will be held at Raleigh Road United Church, Richmond, TW9 2DX. The church is fully accessible. After the service tea and cake will be offered. The Day of Prayer is celebrated in over 120 countries. It begins in Samoa and prayer in native languages travels throughout the world before finishing in American Samoa some 38 hours later. The theme this year is "I have heard about your faith". Let us join with the women of Taiwan to give thanks for the beautiful island and people and encourage one another in our faith just as Apostle Paul did in his letters.

Understanding Islam

Dr Chris Hewer has kindly agreed to give an 'Understanding Islam - the Basics' one day course on Saturday the 11 February 10.00am to 4.00pm at The Parish Rooms, 6 Church Walk, Paradise Road, Richmond TW9 1SN. The course is free but donations will be welcome to help cover costs. Tea/coffee/biscuits will be available but please bring your own lunch. If you are interested please [register with Diana Mills](#), or phone/text 07804 866349.

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

SMM Church Committee: Monday 20 February, 7.30pm

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, consecrated as Bishop of Kingston today 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).

Embracing Age, a Christian charity based in East Twickenham are recruiting. Do you share our heart to see a world where older people are valued, connected and full of hope? If so, you could be the person we're looking for to co-ordinate Care Home Friends across the Borough of Richmond. It's part time, 15 hours a week, flexible working. All details on their website www.embracingage.org.uk/jobs

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 be reducing the amount of administration and significantly improving our cashflow. If you have any questions, please [contact Jackie Harrison](#) 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
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Richmond Team Ministry
St Mary Magdalene • St Matthias • St John the Divine
www.richmondteamministry.org

Registered Charity No 1130018

Our Privacy Notice can be viewed at: <https://richmondteamministry.org/gdpr/>



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