



Revd Joe's Licensing Service



The evening of Wednesday 19 July saw a packed church at St John the Divine as the congregations of RTM and many guests came together for the Licensing Service of the Revd Joseph Moore as Team Vicar, conducted by the Rt Revd Dr Martin Gainsborough, Bishop of Kingston. Before the service began, the Declaration of Assent, the Oath of Allegiance and the Oath of Canonical Obedience had been administered by the Bishop. The Declaration of Assent is made by priests on each occasion when they take up a new appointment. Under the Oath of Allegiance the priest swears allegiance to King

The Bishop of Kingston, Revd Joe and the St John the Divine Churchwardens Wilma Roest

Charles III and his heirs and successors reflecting the history of the Church of England. Finally, an oath of Canonical Obedience is sworn to the bishop of the diocese by whom the priest is to be licensed.

The service began with the processional hymn 'The Church's One Foundation is Jesus Christ O Lord' with the procession including many visiting clergy for this special evening. The Bishop of Kingston gave the sermon relating the past at St John's with its future now that Joe had arrived. He asked the St John's congregation to tell Joe what matters to people and is significant and also their hopes for the years ahead at St John's and what God was calling this church to do.

Following the sermon, a representative of RTM's patron, Kings College Cambridge, presented Joe to the Bishop to be licensed as a Team Vicar within RTM. This presentation was followed by Joe reaffirming his ordination vows and the congregation

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Revd Joe's Licensing Service - continued



The Bishop, Revd Joe, RTM Clergy and St John the Divine Churchwardens

Huw Morgan

committing themselves in the service of God and neighbours. The Bishop then read out the Licence and blessed Joe as he formally took on the responsibility of Team Vicar.

Joe led his first prayers at St John's as Team Vicar thanking God for all the work and support that had been carried out by the churchwardens, members of the congregation and the team clergy during the interregnum. He asked for Grace when he made a mistake or misunderstood, for Patience as he got to know everyone and, finally, Trust for the upcoming journey and the steps ahead together.

The new Team Vicar of St John the Divine was then welcomed by the congregation, the

St John's churchwardens and representatives of the community of Richmond including the Mayor, Cllr Suzette Nicholson, Anna Khan, Chief Executive of Welcare on behalf of local charities, Dr Ann Nickson on behalf of Richmond and Barnes Deanery and Pastor Stephen Lewis of Raleigh Road United Reform Church on behalf of local churches. (Our MP Sarah Olney was sadly unable to attend because of important Parliamentary business.)

The music at the service sung by the combined choirs included the Mass Setting St Anne by James MacMillan, and the Gloria from Thorne's Mass of St Thomas and during Communion the anthem 'Make a Joyful Noise' by Andrew Lloyd Webber. Before the beginning of the service the Fantasia in C Minor by J S Bach was played on the organ and at the end the stirring Jeremiah Clarke's Trumpet Voluntary. Photographs were taken outside the West Door and then everyone repaired to the Hall to partake of the feast that had been set out. The most striking element was a magnificent cake baked by Huw Morgan and which, apart from colourful decorations was topped appropriately by a model figure of a corgi dog representing Joe's rescue dog Revel. (A guest corgi rescue dog, Rupert, who was on occasion a little vocal also attended the service!)

The interregnum at St John's is finally over and a new chapter has begun for the church, for the Team Ministry, for St Mary Magdalene and St Matthias and not least for Joe. We wish him all the best as begins his ministry as Team Vicar.



Guest corgi Rupert during the service

Huw Morgan



Celebratory cake made by Huw Morgan

Huw Morgan

Away Giving to the USPG

Each year RTM gives 10% of its direct giving income to a variety of charities - church, secular, local and overseas. The largest donation is always given to the USPG, and under the 2022 Away Giving programme it received £7,000. Founded by Royal Charter 323 years ago in 1701 as the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts, the charity is the official missionary arm of the Church of England and the Archbishop of Canterbury is its President. In 1965 the society was renamed as the United Society for the Propagation of the

USPG⁺

Gospel and again in 2016 when it became the United Society Partners in the Gospel. The latter reflects the great changes in mission in the world which moved from missionaries attempting to change people's culture and direct the way they worshipped to an equal partnership in which Anglican churches across the world work together to deepen faith and improve their own communities. Mission has been rethought, refreshed and energised. The world faces many challenges but the USPG enables people to deal with them, to be responsible for their own destiny and to live a better life.

More about the work of the USPG can be found at <https://www.uspg.org.uk>



Original Seal of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts 1701 Wikki Comms

KING'S MESSENGERS

In many Church of England parishes there have always been meetings to hear about SPG's (now USPG's) work. So, for example, in the 1950s the combined parish of St Mary Magdalene and St Matthias, through monthly meetings of the SPG Fellowship, were informed about the Society's work in Natal, Chota Nagpur, Papua, Singapore, Borneo and Gambia, to name a few places. Funds were raised for the Society by activities such as fairs and sales of work and importantly through collection boxes in people's homes.

It was important that children should also be involved and as far back as 1891 an SPG organisation had been set up for them. This was given the name of the King's Messengers. In the 1951 Annual Parochial Church Meeting reports for St Mary's and St Matthias, it was said that the parish branch of the King's Messengers had met regularly throughout the year, furthering the interests of the churches in the work of the Church overseas and that 'We are proud to have a branch in this parish'. The branch flourished. For example, in January 1953 a service was held at St Mary's at which 10 children were admitted as King's Messengers and a further 2 at a later service in St Matthias. A party of the children went to visit SPG House in London on 14 February to see a film on the West Indies and had tea and a tour. The issue of the Parish magazine describing this trip also asked for gifts of material to enable the children to make more goods for their sale of work in aid of SPG funds. It was common for branches of the King's Messengers to provide funding and sponsorship for children living in Africa or the Far East. By the 1960s however, and despite a change of name to 'Adventurers', the activities of the King's Messengers countrywide were winding down and the organisation finally ceased to exist, but many children had benefited by working for others in this way.

The Prayer of St Columba 521-597

Be a bright flame before me O God
A guiding star above me
Be a smooth path below me
A kindly shepherd behind me
Today, tonight and for ever
Alone with none but you my God
I journey on my way
What need I fear when you are near



St Martin's High Cross, just outside St Columba's shrine at Iona Abbey, includes an image of Daniel in the lions' den. The cross was sculpted from a single slab of stone imported from the Argyll mainland sometime between AD 750 and 800

Elsbeth Fearn

Sea Sunday



Badge of TS Goodwin Richmond showing Richmond Bridge, the Thames and a swan

On 9 July after a break of several years because of covid, the service of Sea Sunday was once again held at St Mary Magdalene with the sea cadets and officers of Training Ship Goodwin, Richmond Sea Cadet Unit 284 and in front of honoured guests, including the Mayor of Richmond. Sea Sunday is a day on which we remember all who work at sea, whether in the navy, the merchant service, fishermen and commercial vessels such as liners and container ships. Equally, because of the danger of the elements and the unpredictability of the sea, Sea Sunday also marks the work of the RNLI lifeboats, the H.M. Coastguard, helicopter rescue pilots and all who put their lives at risk to aid others. And here in Richmond, with the Thames flowing through the town and a long history of all sorts of craft plying the waters, we are conscious of the dangers that rivers too can pose.

The origins of the Sea Cadets are from 1914 when the Navy League Sea Cadet Corps was founded. In the Second World War the League set up a programme to train boys as telegraphers and signallers, ultimately to go into the Royal Navy. After the war the Richmond unit was housed on an old motor torpedo boat in Petersham Reach which was not very satisfactory, so two local councillors, Percy Goodwin and John Bedford, obtained land off Parkshot and built a permanent HQ building. The name of the unit was changed from TS Richmond to TS Goodwin in acknowledgement of this support and it still meets weekly in this building with these days both boy and girl cadets.

the elements. The Naval Prayer and the Sea Cadet Prayer were also read out and the hymns included 'Jesus Calls Us O'er the Tumult' and 'I the Lord of Sea and Sky'. At the beginning of the service, the colours of TS Goodwin had been piped aboard St Mary's in traditional naval style and were piped out again when the colours left the church at the end of the service. In between those colours were placed in front of the high altar. It was uplifting that Sea Sunday could be commemorated in person again in church.

The Gospel reading was from Matthew 8 v24-27, where Jesus calms the gales, the wind and the sea as his disciples look on in fear from

Children's Service Summer Picnic

by Revd Charlie Middleton

We've just finished our second year of Children's Services and, in place of the last service of the year, we had a celebratory summer picnic. On the first Saturday in July, children and their grown-ups came to Wilma's garden for food and games and fun.

We played with bubbles and made ourselves comfortable on the blankets on the grass. We moved on to decorating squares of white fabric with fabric pens. Both grown ups and children coloured and drew pictures. Some wrote their names, others created abstract art. We took as long or as little time as we wanted, many of us soon ready for the next thing! This meant that those who wanted to sit quietly for longer had the opportunity to do so: one of the adults said that it was the sort of meditative activity which she rarely had the chance to do.

Meanwhile, we got out the big multicoloured parachute and played parachute games! We tossed balls around on it, hid under it, flapped and waved it! When we were all worn out it was time for tea. Everyone had brought along food and drink to share and there was plenty for everyone. We said grace and then all tucked in. After tea, we played with musical bells and sang some songs.

It was a wonderful opportunity to get to know one another better and to celebrate all the fun which we share as the Children's Service congregation. Here's to next year!



Party Balloons

Wikki Comms

Patience School 2023

by Sue O'Toole

It has been an exciting year so far with the building of a girls' dormitory completed this February, ready for the start of the first term of this academic year. As a result of your generosity we have built the dormitory and also installed 3 triple bunk beds to house the growing population of boarders.

In July, I received a phone call from Annet, the head teacher, very excited because they were taking students from Patience School to play in a sports tournament for the very first time – the girls playing netball and the boys competing at football. The girls did very well. They defeated the strongest girls team in the tournament. The boys, however, were far



New dormitories

Patience School

less successful. Annet explained that they buy local balls which are cheap imports from China and the footballs only last about a week or so before bursting. The boy's team remained with only one ball before the competition so their practice sessions were limited in effectiveness.



The boys' football team, July 2023

Patience School



Players in action in the netball competition

Patience School



The girls' netball team

Patience School

Annet requested that I sourced better quality balls from the UK. I decided to visit a local sports shop, Teddington Sports Ltd to enquire about prices and see the quality of the balls for myself. The owner, David, listened to my story of the challenges facing the football and netball teams at Patience School. We identified the right balls for the job. The cost of 5 footballs and 4 netballs at current retail prices amounted to £106. David sold them to me for £75. He also donated a pump and valve so the balls could be re-inflated when they arrived in Uganda.

We live in times when the news is generally dreadful. I find it humbling to experience first-hand the spontaneous acts of kindness demonstrated by so many people. There is so much unreported love around, God's blessings are everywhere. Thank you all for being part of that.

Mother Julian of Norwich 1342-1430

by Elspeth Fearn



Statue of Mother Julian at Norwich Cathedral by the sculptor David Heygate 1939-2014 Wikki Comms

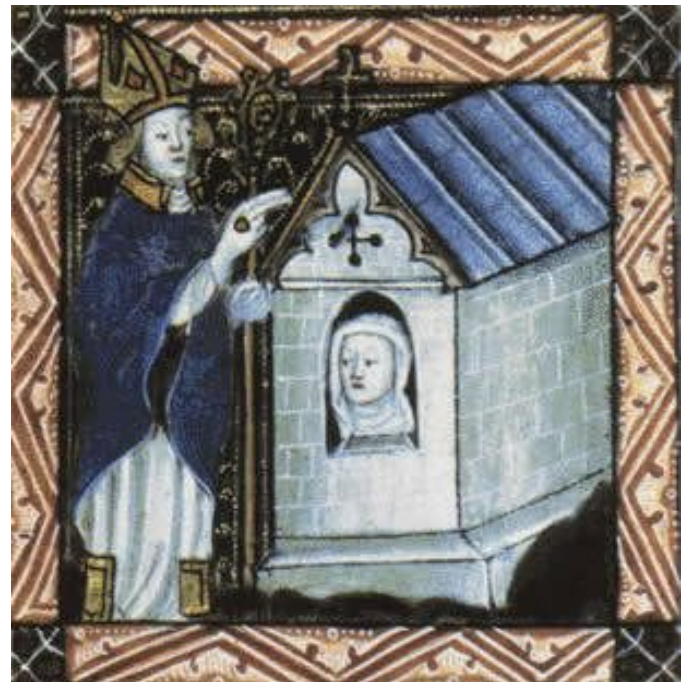
2023 is the 650th anniversary year of Mother Julian of Norwich's 'shewings' and there have been a range of events in Norwich to commemorate this. When Julian was aged 30 she became very ill and was on the point of dying. Holding a crucifix before her eyes she suddenly experienced sixteen visions or 'shewings' which all revealed different aspects of God's love. Julian miraculously recovered and devoted the rest of her life to considering the meanings of the visions and writing about them in her book 'Revelations of Divine Love,' the first known book written by a woman in English. She became an anchoress – someone who for religious reasons withdrew from secular society and lived in seclusion. (The male equivalent is an anchorite). In the 14th century there were about 200 people in the country living such a life, with the majority being female.

Anchorites and anchoresses lived in a cell about 12 feet square and attached to a church. Before taking up residence you had to apply to the bishop for permission and show that you could support yourself. The cell had three windows, one opening out to a parlour where food could be brought in for you to eat. A second and quite small window opened into the interior of the church so you could hear Mass. The last window faced the secular world and ordinary people were able to come to speak to the anchoress through it for advice. Anchoresses were much respected for their wisdom and spirituality.

The Summer 2022 edition of Team Talk included an article on Margery Kempe the English mystic (1373 - 1438) from Kings Lynn who had had a similar

experience of visions, this time following childbirth when, whilst suffering great distress, she was much comforted by a vision of Christ forgiving her her sins. The Book of Margery Kempe which she dictated to a priest and reflects her life and travels contains an account of actually meeting Mother Julian, a fellow East Anglian, in person and seeking her advice. This would be around 1413. Mother Julian was much older than Margery Kempe so would have considerable experience of life and belief with which to advise Margery. The Book says *'Then she was charged by our Lord to go to an anchoress in the same city who was called Dame Julian. And so she did and showed her the grace that God had put in her soul...and many full speeches and conversations that our Lord spoke to her soul, and many wonderful revelations which. she revealed to the anchoress who was an expert in such things and could give good counsel on the matter.'* It is amazing to think of these two mystics, independent women, both authors which was highly unusual, meeting and giving spiritual counsel to each other. This at a time when most women were frankly of very little status and importance whether in the religious life or wider society. Their legacy to us of their writings is a special one.

You can visit Julian's shrine and visitor centre at the church of St Julian in Norwich and which contains a reconstruction of Julian's cell. There is a small chapel for private reflection and prayer. Finally, the best known of Julian's sayings is 'All shall be well and all manner of things shall be well' . Although we have heard these words many many times they are always a source of comfort to us and reassuring no matter what we have to encounter.



A Bishop blessing an anchoress in her cell from a manuscript at Corpus Christi College Cambridge

A Wedding in Devon

Helen Williams was our much loved Children and Youth Ministry Leader for four years until summer 2020, when the call of her native Devon became too strong and she moved back there becoming the Diocese of Exeter's 5-11s Children's Adviser. When we said goodbye to Helen it was in the early days of the pandemic, so her farewell drinks party had to be a virtual one. It was so nice therefore, that on 29 July this year, a party of friends from Richmond was able to attend, in person, Helen and her fiancé Kevin's wedding in Devon. A special day. Then, a week later on Sunday 6 August, in a surprise visit, Helen and Kevin came to Richmond and to the 9.30am service at St Mary Magdalene. Afterwards it was a joy for everyone to catch up with the happy couple, to whom we wish all the very best in the future.



A special day

Huw Morgan

The Bishop of Huddersfield



After the consecration of Smitha Prasadam as the Bishop of Huddersfield

For one member of the congregation at St Matthias and also at St John the Divine, the Revd Jemima Prasadam, 23 June was a very special day, for her daughter Smitha was consecrated Bishop of Huddersfield in the Diocese of Leeds by the Archbishop of York. The service in York Minster also saw the consecration of the new bishops of Ripon, Rt Revd Anne Eltringham and of Bolton, the Rt Revd Matthew Porter

Following posts in the Birmingham area, Bishop Smitha had been a Chaplain at St Albans in Copenhagen in the Diocese of Europe so it was fitting that her consecration took place upon the feast day of St Alban. The Diocese of Europe serves Anglican

communities in Europe, Turkey and Morocco, with 250 congregations spread in 140 chaplaincies across over 30 countries. Bishop Smitha had been The Bishop's Racial Justice Adviser and Chair of the House of Clergy. At the consecration service the sermon was given by the Rt Revd David Hamid, the Suffragan Bishop in Europe and the longest serving bishop in the Church of England. Bishop Smitha welcomed her return to Yorkshire where she had been a student at the College of Ripon and York St John.

Bishop Smitha is the first Indian woman to become a bishop in the Church of England and follows the illustrious example of her mother the Revd Jemima who back in 1994 became the first Indian woman priest to be ordained in the Church of England.



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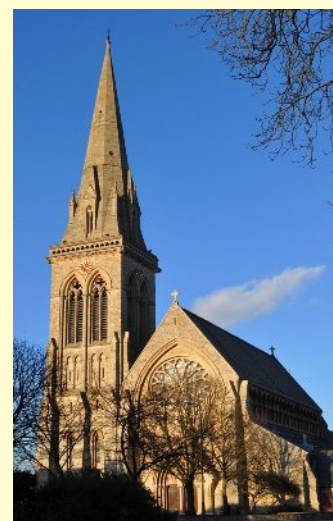
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St John the Divine



St Mary Magdalene



St Matthias