

Thursday 9 November 2023

Dear Friends,

All change!

So many things have changed since the last time the newsletter was headed up by a clergy letter! The Team here at RTM has several wonderful new faces! Bake Off and Strictly are back on the telly! The leaves are yellow and gold, red and brown, or branches are bare. It's colder and wetter, as we pass through the season of mists and mellow fruitfulness. Crispy and cosy, crunchy and squelchy.

The world looks very different to how it was in July: there have been new horrors and fresh joys.

Autumn is a lovely season to think about change. Less bombastic than spring, it seems to me, mellower and more pondering. It gives us an opportunity to reflect before the rush and chaos of Christmas. This is a remembering season: with All Saints and All Souls; Bonfire Night; Remembrance Day. As communities and as individuals, we reflect on what has already passed, and we look ahead. It is important to mourn what has passed away, and to see where we are now. Then, we are ready to look forward to new things.

And so, I have been thinking about Ecclesiastes 3 and to Shakespeare's autumnal Sonnet 73. Ecclesiastes chapter 3 begins with that famous reflection "To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven. A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted..." There is a sense of the rhythms of life which happen within Divine Eternity. Everything in creation has a beginning and an end. That finitude serves to make some things all the more precious to us. Shakespeare's seventy-third sonnet ends with the couplet:

This thou perceiv'st which makes thy love more strong,
To love that well which thou must leave ere long.

Autumn reminds us of our mortality and of a greater hope. It is a time of ending and of new beginning. It is at once sad and exciting. We know that to make room for fresh, new growth, we have to let go of what has already ended. For me, this is a season of seeking wisdom: what should I remember with fondness and gently let go, and what is perennial?

I hope that we can also look ahead with joy and hope as new things blossom into life in our community, and continue to walk together into the wholeness of life which God has for us.

With prayers and blessings from the clergy team,

Anne, Charlie, Joe and Wilma

This week the letter has been written by Revd Charlie Middleton

Please pray for:

...**Fr. Jamil Khadir and the Anglican congregations in Nablus** in the West Bank; for the peace of Jerusalem, and for an end to conflict

...**Christ Church**, the Anglican Church in Kyiv, and the people of Ukraine

...**Christ's School**, staff and students, and other schools in the parish

... **Richmond Soup Kitchen** and all guests and volunteers

...**the sick and those in need** – Gill Doling, Liz Velluet, Marc Cranfield-Adams, Mark and Susie Cox, Hermione Lockyer

...**the departed, may they rest in peace**, including David Fry

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](mailto:parish@rtm.org).

If you would like to add someone's name, please ensure you have their agreement, if at all possible.

Church, Community and other news:

We are now **sending out this e-Newsletter from an Outlook circulation list** (as opposed to MailChimp) because we're hoping that it will arrive in more people's Inbox rather than going into junk! If you'd like to Unsubscribe you'll find a link at the bottom of the email; If this newsletter has been forwarded to you (and you've not been sent it directly) or you've read it on our website and you would like to Subscribe, [please click here](#).

NEW: News from the Parish Office

The post of Property and Facilities Manager has been advertised for four weeks and we have received several applications. The interviews are taking place today. Hopefully there will be good news soon.

NEW: Upcoming meetings within RTM

Monday 13 November: St John the Divine Church Committee

Monday 27 November: Property and Finance Committee

NEW: Eaglets @ St John the Divine – a message from Emma, Children and Young People Ministry Leader

This week we explored the Savannah as we went on Safari. It was a lovely morning. Next week, we head to the Arctic!

We love that each Eaglets session allows us to share a story together and sing some silly songs. If anyone has any children's books, they would be willing to lend or donate to us for our Eaglets sessions, that would be really helpful. Please try and catch me either on a Sunday or drop them off to the Parish office. We would ask these to be secular in content, but it would be important to have Christian themes, such as kindness and sharing.

As always, these events couldn't happen without my lovely team of volunteers. If you have Tuesday mornings free and could lend a hand, please do let me know. We have lots of exciting ideas for Children's Ministry, but unfortunately a lot of them won't be able to happen if we can't get volunteers.

It's (almost) the most wonderful time of the year ... time for Las Posadas!

It's nearly time for the Travelling Crib to set off on its travels again. If you would like to be involved in hosting the crib for one evening, please email me at cypml@richmondteamministry.org or send me a text on 07712481372. Please also send me an email if you would like more details.

NEW: The Real Advent Calendar 2023

Each year, the Meaningful Chocolate company put together an Advent Calendar with the Christmas story at its centre. This Advent Calendar is around £5. It comes with a 24-page Christmas Story activity book and is filled with fairtrade chocolate. A percentage of the funds also support charity work in Africa with mums and their new babies. More information can be found here: <https://meaningfulchocolate.co.uk/pages/real-advent-calendar>

If you are interested in purchasing one, I (Emma) can place an order so you could pick them up on the first week of Advent. If you are interested in purchasing one for your children or family, please do send me an email or a text. (cypml@richmondteamministry.org or 07712481372).

WhatsApp Group for Church Families

We're setting up a WhatsApp group for all the families in each church. If you are a family and come to any of the churches and would like to be added to these chats, please send an email to cypml@richmondteamministry.org with your phone number and I will add you.

NEW: Richmond Soup Kitchen update

Many, many thanks to everyone at our churches who has responded to our plea for help with the Richmond Soup Kitchen. There was already a queue when the RSK opened up for its third season on 1 November, and despite miserable rain the volunteers were kept busy both nights offering a warm meal and a friendly ear to some of the most vulnerable people in Richmond.

So many of you have offered to bake or make soup and we are truly grateful. This service cannot run without volunteers.

It also needs funding, and it is wonderful that donations of more than £2,200 have been received in the past few weeks. This is over half of the target we set on our first attempt with JustGiving. Thank you.

If you know anyone who would like to make a donation they can be made at our JustGiving page <https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/richmondsoupkitchen>.

If you would like to know more about volunteering please do get in touch at richmondsoupkitchen@gmail.com or take a look at www.richmondsoupkitchen.org. We can always use your talents!

Ways you can help:

- Baking or making soup at home
- Shopping for ingredients (RSK pays)
- Cooking or serving on-site
- Helping with fundraising
- Donations

Remembrance Sunday, I I am at Whittaker Avenue

With so much conflict in our world, it is important that we commit ourselves to working for peace and remember those who have given their lives for our peace. The annual Richmond Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial, on Whittaker Avenue near the Thames is a time for the local community, including many of the uniformed organisations, to come together. You are invited too.

Organ Recital by Alexander Knight (former Director of Music at St Mary Magdalene)

Sunday 12th November 2023, 4:30pm at St Paul's Cathedral.

Programme:

Lamentation from *Pièces dans différents styles* (Op. 45, No 1) - Alexandre Guilmant

Eventide from *Seven Chorale Preludes* (Set 2, No 5) - C. Hubert H. Parry

Wenn wir in höchsten Nöten (BWV 668a) - Johann Sebastian Bach

Cortège et Litanie from *4 Pièces* (Op. 19, No 2) - Marcel Dupré

You are invited!

NEW: Christ the King, 26 November – Team service at St Mary Magdalene at 10.30am

All are invited as we end the liturgical year together with the Feast of Christ who is our King. There will be a joint choir that morning.

NB: no 9.30am service at St Matthias or St Mary's that day, nor I I am service at St John the Divine.

Over Coffee: Join us after the Joint Service at St Marys on 26th November when we host Cllr Julia Neden-Watts who will be with us for coffee. Julia is deputy leader of the council as well as Chair of the Environment, Sustainability, Culture and Sports Committee. This is the committee responsible for services that relate to the Borough's physical environment such as planning policy, parks and sports services. The Committee is also responsible for areas such as arts, culture, waste and recycling, registration services and consumer protection. As part of our commitment to being an EcoChurch we are keen to engage with Julia as a representative of the borough so see what ideas she might have and how we might work together to look after God's planet.

Understanding Islam

Dr Chris Hewer is returning to do a week of courses next month, I wondered if you would be kind enough advertise them in your news letters or pew sheets. I also have posters if that would be more convenient. Below is the program for the week.

(1)- Tuesday 21st to 23rd, November a 3 day course on "Understanding Islam-the basics" this will take place in a home in Kew from 10am to 4pm and is limited to 5 places. Due to limited numbers anyone interested should contact me on 07804866349 or my email address below.

(2)- Friday 24th November 10am to 4pm "Talking about Christianity with Muslim Friends" at St Anne's Church Hall Kew. It would help to know numbers.

(3)- Saturday 25th November, 10am to 4pm. A study day "Women in the life of the Prophet". The Parish Rooms, 6 Church Walk, Richmond TW9 1SN.

All the courses are free but donations are welcome to help cover costs. Refreshments will be available during the day but participants are asked to bring their own lunch. For further information please contact me at 07804 866349 or dianamills31@gmail.com

News from Charlie

The best laid plans of curates and chaplains...

Unfortunately, there was a complication with my accommodation in Cambridge, so I am now going on placement to King's College Cambridge 19-26th November. In the meantime, I am visiting other churches and experiencing how some of our Christian siblings worship together. So, you may see me around in the next couple of weeks!

Reflective Art Group

Are you interested in reflecting on your life in creative ways? Charlie is considering starting a monthly art and reflection group and would like to hear from anyone who would be interested in coming along. The group would offer an hour and a half, or so, of space and quiet to create art on a particular theme or prompt.

Themes might include: hope, embodiment, worship, water.

Get in touch with Charlie if this is something which you might be interested in:

charlie.middleton@richmondteamministry.org , 07746695637.

NEW: The Bridge – the newspaper of the Diocese of Southwark

The November edition of The Bridge is live! As always, it is packed full of stories and features from across the Diocese, which we hope you will enjoy and be encouraged by. Please feel free to share it with your friends, family and wider community. You can also re-use individual stories for your parish magazines, newsletters and pew sheets (crediting The Bridge, please).

The Bridge is also available in print and copies have been distributed directly to each parish.

Thank you to those of you who have got in touch and shared your stories with us for the next edition.

Remember this is your newspaper, so please do send us your stories, high-res photographs and What's On for the December/January issue.

Don't forget that you can also advertise in The Bridge – contact us for more information and charge rates.

Email: bridge@southwark.anglican.org

Read and download The Bridge from: southwark.anglican.org/thebridge

NEW: Advent 2023

- If you are considering a book for Advent, with daily reflections, may we suggest to you 'Stick with love' by Arun Arora? It is the Archbishop of York's Advent Book 2023 and comes highly recommended. There is even a chapter on someone you may know! The book is published by SPCK and can be purchased from Open Book in Richmond or other retailers.
- Revd Anne Crawford will once again prepare a virtual Advent calendar, which drops into your email inbox each morning during Advent. Each email will contain an image and a reflection. If you would like to receive the daily email, please sign up by letting Anne know: anne.crawford@richmondteamministry.org
- The Team clergy are offering you three meditations on Advent art via Zoom, on Wednesday 6, 13 and 20 December, 8pm – 8.45pm. After each meditation we will say Compline together. The zoom link will be available in two weeks' time.
- Blue Christmas, 11 December, 7pm at St John the Divine. Not everyone finds this time of year easy. It may be because of grief or loss, because life is difficult, because of challenging relationships. If you recognise yourself here, then this service is for you. Nothing will be expected, just come as you are.

NEW: Bronze Eco Award

Congratulations to St Mary Magdalene for receiving their Bronze Eco Award. All three churches have now received bronze and will work towards silver. We're also excited to launch our quarterly GreenTips newsletter. The first edition can be found here - <https://richmondteamministry.org/uncategorized/greentips/>

Recitals at St Mary Magdalene

2 December 2.30pm, Honourable Artillery Company Band

9 Dec 12.30pm, Rachel Smith, flute

Next Children's Service at St Mary Magdalene – 2 Dec at 4pm

Advent is about waiting and preparing. Will you come and help?

NEW: Embracing Age Classical Music Concert

Friday 1st December, St Stephen's Twickenham

Doors open at 7:30pm for 8pm start. Bar and light refreshments available.

Free entry, but booking is essential. There will be a collection at the concert and donations made on the night will be match funded through The Big Give.

To book visit embracingage.org.uk/concert or phone 07735 332584

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](#) or 07747 111525.

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. Our 9.30am service will be live-streamed on [Facebook](#), for a little while longer. **Thank you to all those who have signed up as subscribers to [St Mary Magdalene YouTube channel](#). We will be moving over to YouTube On Advent Sunday, 3 December.**

NB: There will be no live stream on Sunday 19 November – we are very sorry.

There is a Said Eucharist at 10.00am every Wednesday, followed by coffee.

St Matthias' 9.30am Sunday service is an in-person service. The midweek Eucharist at St Matthias is held on Thursdays at 10.00am and is followed by coffee and biscuits. Everyone is very welcome to join us.

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 normally 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.

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.

NB: There will be no zoom Morning Prayer on 17 and 20 November. Back on 21 November.

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

With best wishes,
John
Parish Administrator

Parish Office, The Vicarage, Ormond Road, Richmond TW10 6TH
020 8940 0362
Richmond Team Ministry
St Mary Magdalene • St Matthias • St John the Divine
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