

Thursday 16 November 2023

Dear Friends,

It has been about four months since I was licensed to the Richmond Team Ministry, with special responsibility for St John the Divine. Four months since I moved house and I am still getting to know Richmond, the community here at St John's, as well as at St Mary's and St Matthias. Thank you for your prayers, your encouragement and support during this time. I am looking forward to leading the morning services at St Mary's on Sunday 19th November and preaching at St Matthias on the First Sunday of Advent. 'Change' was the theme of Charlie's letter last week, and it's a theme which encapsulates the last few months for me and indeed for RTM.

There are several well-known idioms about 'change' such as 'Nobody likes change' or 'The only constant is change'. Change is something that we tend to fear or become anxious about because we do not feel in control of life. Familiarity and sticking to what we know is comforting and change is tricky. To venture into the unknown can be disorientating, it can challenge what we thought we knew, our perceptions and how we understand our place in the world. I wonder if it is change itself that is so discombobulating, or rather being changed? Being changed, being formed more and more into the likeness of Christ is at the heart of what it means to be a Christian. I am reminded of St Augustine's plea: 'Lord, make me pure but not yet!'

Change can be uncomfortable; it can hurt, and it can disrupt. But being changed into the likeness of Jesus is one of the most challenging and exciting things about journeying as a community of Christians together. As I look to the Advent and the Christmas season, I hope I can be open to what the Spirit of God is working in me to change.

'O thou who changest not, abide with me.'

With prayers and blessings from the clergy team, Anne, Charlie, Joe and Wilma.

This week the letter has been written by The Revd Joe Moore

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, Evelyn Hussey

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, 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](#).

Team Service 26 November Christ the King, 10.30am St Mary Magdalene

See notice further in the newsletter – we just want to make sure you know when and where everyone will be on the morning of Sunday 26 November!

NEW: News from the Parish Office

Sadly we have been unable to appoint a Property and Facilities Manager, so will try again in the New Year. We are now looking for someone to help us on a temporary basis, to support the Parish Office and ensure that all maintenance on our church buildings is kept up to a good standard.

NEW: Upcoming meetings within RTM

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 Arctic with lots of snow and polar bears. Everyone there, adults and children alike, had a super morning. There were lots of laughs along the way. Next week, we explore meadows and the farm.

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.

A big, big thank you to my lovely team of volunteers! Unfortunately, the morning of the 28th November, due to a lack of volunteers, we're looking at having to cancel Eaglets. If anyone is able to give some time on that day, please contact me. (cypml@richmondteamministry.org)

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.

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).

An order will be placed on 23/11/23, if you would like to order one, please get in touch by then.

Safeguarding Sunday 19/11/23

This Sunday, the Church of England observe Safeguarding Sunday, an opportunity for us all to reflect on the actions we are all taking, to make sure everyone in our community is safe. We thank Judy Wright, our Parish Safeguarding Officer for all the work she does in our Parish to keep us safe. However, safeguarding is everyone's responsibility, and we encourage you to spend some time this week to reflect on your knowledge of our processes.

Below is a link to a video outlining Safeguarding and the thirtyoneeight's website (a charity set up to support safeguarding in churches) for perusal.

Video: <https://vimeo.com/686686839https://vimeo.com/686686839>

Website: <https://thirtyoneeight.org/>

Below is a prayer from the diocese which asks for God's support in Safeguarding:

Loving God,
you hold the most vulnerable in your embrace,
you reach out to those with greatest need
and strengthen us in our weakness.

May we build a safe church
for the youngest and the oldest,
the weakest and the most vulnerable,
the needy and the excluded.
Empower us to act with wisdom,
compassion and love
that our community may be safe for all,
a reflection of all we see
in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

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.

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

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 11am 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.

NEW: Book swap table:

There will be a book table, on 25 and 26 November. Just bring any books (good quality appearance and content) and swap for other books. No money needed! If you have a favourite book you wish to swap, why not include a little note explaining why you enjoyed it.

Understanding Islam

Dr Chris Hewer is returning to do a week of courses this month. 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

I am now heading off to King's College Cambridge for a week's placement, 19-26th November. I will think of you all as you celebrate Christ the King together at the Team Service!

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.

Musical news from St Mary Magdalene

We are pleased to tell you that from 1 January Seb Gillot will join us as Director of Music, following interviews and auditions. It was a blessing to have several talented candidates, although it made coming to a decision rather difficult!

As Seb can't be with us till January, conductor and organist Anita Datta will be helping out in the coming two months, particularly with key services such as Advent Procession on 3 December, Nine Lessons and Carols on 17 December and the Christmas Services.

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
If you received the virtual Advent calendar last year, you will already have received an email from Anne.
- 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.
- RTM Christmas invitations are being printed at the moment and will be ready for distribution from 25 November. If you can deliver cards to a road in the Parish, please collect cards from your church. GoodGym Richmond will also help deliver some of the cards.

Green Tips Newsletter

Have you seen 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

Music for Christmas, with Carol singing. Christmas jumpers optional! Bring everyone – this is a wonderful, joyful yearly event.

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?

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

NEW: Job Opportunity

The role of PA to the Archdeacons of Wandsworth and Lambeth is being advertised on Pathways -

<https://pathways.churchofengland.org/job/pathways/4821/pa-to-the-archdeacons-kingston>

The closing date is midnight on 3 December 2023.

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

www.richmondteamministry.org

Registered Charity No 1130018

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