

Thursday 28 March 2024

Dear Friends,

My journey of Lent, up to the Triduum, has been bookended by two films. On the afternoon of Ash Wednesday, I went and watched *Zone of Interest*, which focuses on the life of Nazi commandant Rudolf Höss and his wife Hedwig, who live with their family in a home next to the Auschwitz concentration camp. Their garden wall is the wall of the camp. The towers and chimneys are visible above it. Throughout the film the quiet, churning background noise of the death and agony next door is ignored by the characters. At night the sky is red. And yet, they carry on their lives: playing in the pool, tending to the garden. At one point Hedwig calls their home 'paradise'.

And, yesterday, I watched *The Passion of the Christ* for the first time. An imperfect film, but what struck me was the way that individual sin and corporate sin are mixed up together. As in *Zone of Interest*, individual selfishness (as of Rudolf or Hedwig, Judas or Pilate) is a tiny cog in a great machine of collective sin which grinds and destroys. Empires which oppress, grand systems of injustice, in which all are complicit.

For the most part, we have a handle on what individual sin looks like. However, we tend to think less often about collective sin.

We were all made startlingly aware during the pandemic of how completely our lives are entwined, and how much we rely on great unseen and unacknowledged systems which enable our lives to function. And again, when we think about Climate Change: as a society we have developed systems which benefit oil companies, which reward shipping trees across the world in order to burn them. In the book which our Lent Groups read, Selina Stone writes about generational trauma and systems of injustice: how we inherit and perpetuate systems which oppress and exclude based on race, poverty, class, gender, sexuality, age... We all buy into and benefit from these systems (even if we also suffer from them) in ways that it is easier to ignore, like the chimneys in the background, the groaning of the machine. We live within them.

If this reflection feels overwhelming, unfair, unbearable, unjust – I can completely understand that. That is how I feel too. I want to push off those corporate sins, to disown them. But I recognise that I participate in them and benefit from them, as well as suffering from them. I even use the vast darkness of them to shade my own sin: what does it matter, if I don't recycle this bottle, if I buy something I know was made in a sweatshop, if I say nothing about unjust healthcare, if I don't protest international arms sales? It's just a drop in a vast ocean of sin.

As we reflect on the cross, over the next three days, we remember that it is not just our individual sins which Jesus bears there, but the overwhelming weight of collective sin. "It is for freedom that Christ has set us free," not just as individuals but collectively. The Kingdom of God, is free from systems of oppression and violence. That is the Kingdom which we seek and strive for. That is the hope which is won for us on the cross. Though our sin is overwhelming, God's love overwhelms it.

With every blessing for Holy Week from the Richmond 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** – The King & Princess of Wales, Gill Doling, Liz Velluet, Marc Cranfield-Adams, Mark and Susie Cox, Rose Nagawa, Jim Cross
...**the departed, may they rest in peace** - June Shopland, Pat Mygind, Carol Fulljames and Mary de Hoedt

Upcoming Memorials

Pat Mygind – Thursday 11th April, 12 noon, St Mary Magdalene. Condolences for her son Christopher, can be sent to 3 Church Walk, TW9 1SN. There will also be a short service and vigil to receive Pat into church, at 4pm on Wednesday 10 April.

*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:

Please remember that the clocks change this weekend!

NEW: Parish Office

The parish office will be closed Monday 1 April.

NEW: Electoral roll revision

On Sunday, 31 March, we will start the revision of our Church Electoral Roll which will run for the next four weeks. It is necessary to be on the roll if you wish to attend the Annual General Meetings and vote for church officers and representatives. If you are already on the roll and have had no changes to your contact details, you need do nothing. If you wish to be added to the roll, had any changes to your contact details or wish to be taken off the roll then please complete one of the forms at the back of church and leave it in the electoral roll 'letterbox' at the back of church or post it/drop it into the Parish Office (address below). If you have any questions, please talk to your Church Wardens or the Electoral Roll Officer (Margot Gallie - 020 8948 2775 / margot.gallie@gmail.com).

NEW: Preparing for Easter at St Mary Magdalene

On Holy Saturday, 30 March, the church remains closed, just like the tomb. But there will be lots going on inside. If you would like to help with cleaning, setting up – we'd love you to come between 10am and 1pm. Entry via the choir vestry. And of course, coffee and hot cross buns will be provided!

St Mary's church building

Further investigation into the damage to the round pillar at the back of church (nearest the prayer board) and the beam above it have revealed more extensive damage. Significant work is required to make the necessary repairs. This will involve scaffolding to allow further investigation before a solution for repair can be suggested. We aim to sheet the area off whilst this is in place. The church wardens are continuing to work with the RTM Property Manager; the architect; and the diocese, to ensure that these repairs can take place as soon as possible. The church is safe and will remain open.

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

This week we celebrated Easter with our Eaglets. We looked at the wonders of new life and different parts of Holy Week. We then read the Easter Story together. Heidi wrote her own

Easter song which both the adults and children loved. We are taking a break for Easter, and we will be back on 16th April.

Reflective Art Afternoons – ‘One hour of quiet creativity.’

Thank you to all who have been in touch to show an interest in the possibility of a space to be reflective and creative.

Reflective Art Afternoons will be taking place on the last Sunday of the month, 3pm in St John's Hall, beginning in April. It will be a monthly opportunity to respond creatively to a prompt.

Some art materials will be provided, or you are welcome to bring your own. All are welcome. Do feel free to invite friends who don't usually come to church, but would appreciate a space for peace, reflection, and creativity.

Contact Revd Charlie Middleton for more information

charlie.middleton@richmondteamministry.org

Glasses, Specs and Sunglasses

As part of our Green efforts we are collecting all your old prescription (or otherwise) glasses and sunglasses. We will be sending them off to the Lions Club who use them to improve the sight of children and adults living in other less developed countries. All donations are washed and regraded then sent directly to those in need throughout the world. There will be boxes from now until the end of March in all three churches - please hunt through those desk drawers and bring all those unwanted spectacles to church.

NEW: Song of Songs - Bible Studies 2024

We will be reading the Song of Songs together on 10, 17, 24 April, 1 May. All are welcome – no prior bible knowledge or reading required. Do bring your own bible along if you can.

There are two opportunities to attend each Wednesday: 11am (in the All Soul's Chapel at St Mary's) and 7:30pm (in the Parish Office)

Giving, one off, regular and planned

At the end of each service you will find a plate at the back of church for your cash offering. Gift aid envelopes are available if you are a UK tax payer. You can also give by using the card machine.

If you can, would you consider making a regular gift to the Richmond Team, for the upkeep of our churches and the work of the Team?

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.

RTM Stewardship Campaign

As we start to think about an RTM Stewardship Campaign, we would love to hear from those in our congregations across the Team who work in or have a background in PR or Fundraising to help us think strategically about this. Please email the Parish Office –

admin@richmondteamministry.org Thank you.

Richmond MayFair Saturday 11 May 2024

A date for your diary! There will of course be the big event on the Green, but also around and in St Mary Magdalene. The Friends of St Matthias will again be providing their popular BBQ on the Green. Keep an eye out for more notices in the newsletter.

Alban Pilgrimage Saturday 22 June 2024

Revd Anne will once again be leading a parish pilgrimage to St Albans on Sat 22nd June, leaving Richmond Station at approx. 8.30am. The Preacher and President this year will be the Bishop of Chelmsford and former St Matthias family member Guili Frances-Dehqani. I am hoping that a good many pilgrims from Richmond will want to come along and experience the spectacular pilgrimage

procession, the Eucharist in the ancient Cathedral and Abbey Church, and the beautiful Festal Evensong with rose strewn procession to Alban's Shrine at the end of the afternoon. I know that Bishop Guili will be thrilled to meet up with friends old and new, and I can guarantee that the day will not disappoint. If enough people sign up then it may be possible to travel by coach, otherwise it's an easy hour long journey by train. More information available from Anne anne.crawford@richmondteamministry.org

Music @ St Mary Magdalene

The next recital is Saturday 4 May, 12:30pm – Holly Fry (Soprano)

Choral and Organ Scholars 2024-2025

We are beginning to look for Scholars for the next academic year. If you are interested or know someone who might be, here is more information: <https://richmondteamministry.org/smm-choral-foundation>

NEW: Good News!

We are very pleased to share with you that, finally, planning permission for the work on the Parish Rooms has been granted! Now we are working with the architect and others to make all the final prep.

Church Services:

UPDATED: Holy Week and Easter 2024

Thursday 28 March - Maundy Thursday

8:00pm Eucharist of the Last Supper at **St Matthias**
with footwashing. Followed by a Vigil till Midnight.

Friday 29 March - Good Friday

9:00am Stations of the Cross at **St John the Divine**
10:00am Stations of the Cross at **St Matthias**
10:30am Children's Stations of the Cross at **St Mary Magdalene**
followed by squash and hot cross buns
12:00noon Good Friday Meditations at **St John the Divine**
2:00-3:00pm Good Friday Liturgy at **St John the Divine**
7:00pm Music for Good Friday at **St Mary Magdalene**

Sunday 31 March - Easter Day

5:30am Dawn Liturgy at **St Mary Magdalene**
and First Eucharist of Easter followed by breakfast
8:00am Holy Communion at **St Mary Magdalene**
from the Book of Common Prayer
9:30am All Age Eucharist at **St Mary Magdalene**
with Easter Egg Hunt
9:30am Sung Eucharist at **St Matthias**
with Easter Egg Hunt
11:00am Sung Eucharist at **St John the Divine**
with Easter Egg Hunt
6:30pm Choral Evensong at **St Mary Magdalene**

Children's Service at St Mary Magdalene

The next Children's service will be on Saturday 6 April at 4pm. We will continue to celebrate Easter together. All children, from all churches, are welcome together with their grownups.

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 via [St Mary Magdalene Facebook page](#). You can watch the service live as it happens, or once it is uploaded. 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 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.

NOTE: On Holy Saturday, 30 March, the church – like the tomb – will be closed, but there will be lots of activity inside. Please enter via choir vestry if you are coming to help with cleaning and preparing the church for Easter. All help welcome!

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

There will be no Morning Prayer on Monday 1 April and no Zoom on Tuesday 2 April.

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

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

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