

Thursday 4 April 2024

Dear Friends,

This coming Sunday is traditionally known as 'Low Sunday', partly I think because after a long and solemn Lent, the busy-ness of Holy Week with all the thoughtful daily acts of worship and a devotional and emotional Good Friday, followed finally by a jubilant and joyous Easter Day, most Christians naturally feel a little low by the second Sunday of Easter: this week has been a week to reflect, take stock and rest, and I for one am glad of a slower pace.

Part of my resting has included a little bit of TV. One programme in particular has been an interesting if rather challenging watch. Pilgrimage: The road to Wild Wales (BBC 2) follows a group of seven celebrities of different faiths and non, walking across an ancient Celtic pilgrim way in North Wales, starting at St Winefride's Chapel in Holy Well and ending at Bardsey Island off the coast of the Llyn Peninsula. The search for meaning and purpose is a driving force for most of the pilgrims, and all of them are open to exploring new ideas and experiences, but by the time we enter the second week of walking when tiredness is beginning to set in, it becomes apparent that there is a need for healing - from the pain of separation in particular - and a longing to find closure on issues which have held pilgrims back from living more fully and joyfully.

And so it's a relief that as we approach the end of the journey the pilgrims are offered an experience which speaks of Easter and a rolling away of issues which have become a barrier and barred the way for them to new life. The final programme sees the pilgrims arrive at the mediaeval church of St Hywyn's Church in Aberdaron, on the shores of the Irish Sea, where the poet RS Thomas was one time parish priest. Unable to continue to Bardsey Island due to bad weather, the pilgrims settle in the church and are met by the present day parish priest, who invites them to choose a stone from the beach to add to the prayer cairn which sits at the entrance to the churchyard. He kindly and gently prays with them and acknowledges their pain. He explains that the cairn is dismantled at the end of each month and the stones are returned to the sea, a washing away of all that is left behind. And so each pilgrim prayerfully and carefully chooses a stone and symbolically attaches to it all the pain they have been carrying, before finally laying their burden down amongst the great weight which has been left here by other weary pilgrims who have also rested here and found healing and peace. Stones rolled away, burdens laid down, new life taken hold of.

Alleluia. Christ is risen. He is risen indeed, Alleluia!

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

*This week the letter has been written by Revd Anne Crawford*

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**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 11<sup>th</sup> 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.*

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## **Church, Community and other news:**

### **Children's Service at St Mary Magdalene, 6 April 4pm**

We continue to celebrate Easter this coming Saturday and you are invited! Revd Joe will lead this service for children from all the churches in the Team. Do come and bring friends, grandparents. Dogs are also welcome!

### **UPDATED: Electoral roll revision**

We have begun revising our Church electoral roll and will continue to do this up to and including Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> April. 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](mailto:margot.gallie@gmail.com))

### **NEW: Thank you!**

Holy Week and Easter services in the Richmond Team could not have happened without the many people who gave their time and energy so freely. We would like to thank all the musicians (directors of music, organists and choir members) for their contributions, especially for the team services. The music was wonderful and enhanced the meaning of the liturgy.

The flowers in all 3 churches were absolutely amazing and it was great to see so many wonderful pictures of the displays doing the rounds on the various Facebook and Twitter accounts.

Thanks also to those who worked behind the scenes, helping prepare the churches by cleaning, setting up and working in the parish office.

A special thank you to everyone who took part in the Dawn service, which this year was very, very early because of the clock change. It was lovely to have servers from the three churches, and breakfast together afterwards, generously prepared by Jill and Nicky.

Thank you everyone! May the joy of Easter continue to be in our hearts and in our churches.

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

We're still currently on break - looking forward to being back on 16<sup>th</sup> April.

### **NEW: A message from Heidi**

I am delighted to announce that, subject to the successful completion of my training and preliminaries, I will be serving my curacy at the Benefice of Saint Thomas Norbury in Chester Diocese. Norbury Church is close to Stockport, just south of Manchester. We have been planning a family move to this part of the country for some time, as my husband's parents live in the area. But we will miss all our friends in London. I will particularly miss everyone at Richmond Team Ministry: my last Sunday with you all will be on 2 June. I have learnt so much since you welcomed me into your family in October 2022. Thank you for your kindness and patience as my appreciation for all things sacramental has deepened and my understanding of the Holy Trinity has

enlarged. It has been a truly blessed time for me, which I know God will greatly use as I move to pastures new. God-willing my ordination to deacon will take place at 10.30am on Sunday 30 June at Chester Cathedral. I would be grateful for your prayers as I follow God's call. The service will be broadcast on the Cathedral's YouTube Channel, and there are also a limited number of places for people to attend the service in person. If you would like to come, please complete [this](#) form by 30 April and I'll get back to you.

### **Summer Club (Advance call out)**

We're looking ahead to the Summer Holidays. We're really keen to offer some holiday activities for children in the local community. We're unsure of exactly what it will consist of, but we're currently looking at whether anyone would be able to support us. Depending on how much support we have, we could either offer a week full of activities or a slot once a week (a little like Eaglets but for all ages). If you have any free time over the Summer and could lend a hand, please do reach out and let us know. The summer dates are usually middle of July until end of September.

### **Exploring Together (Dates for the Diary)**

After an amazing service exploring Lent together, we have a couple more coming up for you to put in your diary:

- Exploring the Life of the Spirit (26<sup>th</sup> May 2024) - St Matthias at 4pm
- Exploring Pilgrimage (22<sup>nd</sup> June 2024) - Pilgrimage day to St Albans (more details in a note from Anne below)
- Exploring Wild Church (14<sup>th</sup> July 2024) - St Matthias at 4pm

If you could help at either - please do let Emma or Anne know.

### **Alban Pilgrimage Saturday 22 June 2024**

Revd Anne will once again be leading a parish pilgrimage to St Albans on Sat 22<sup>nd</sup> 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](mailto:anne.crawford@richmondteamministry.org)

### **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](mailto:charlie.middleton@richmondteamministry.org)

### **UPDATE: Song of Songs - Bible Studies 2024**

Starting next week! 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)

### **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](mailto:admin@richmondteamministry.org) Thank you.

### **Donations for May Fair Saturday 11th May**

There will be a number of May Fair stalls and entertainments in and around St Mary's, raising money for the Richmond Soup Kitchen and we need your donations and your baking skills! From this Sunday - please bring to church:

- Any books in good condition - hard and paperback
- Unwanted gifts (new) for tombola prizes
- Unopened bottles of any description - wine, spirits, bubble bath, fancy oils and vinegar again for tombola prizes

There will be boxes at the back of St Mary's ready to be filled! We also need volunteers to provide baked goods on the day. We will also be seeking helpers to run the stalls on the 11 May from 10am till 3pm and there will be a rota to complete on the boards at the back of St Mary's. Thank you.

### **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>

### **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.

### **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.

### **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.

### **Church Services:**

### **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.

#### **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

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Richmond Team Ministry

St Mary Magdalene • St Matthias • St John the Divine

[www.richmondteamministry.org](http://www.richmondteamministry.org)

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