

Thursday 11 April 2024

Dear Friends,

Walking along a familiar path in Kew Gardens I stopped and breathed in the air around me, my senses suddenly becoming awakened by the newness of the spring day. I realised how thankful I was that God had carried me through the dark and dreary winter months. My ears tuned into the chorus of singing birds; my eyes dazzled with the soft golden splendour of bulbs starting to unfold after pushing themselves through the hard winter surface, their glory for all to see. The long cold winter months will soon become a distant memory to us all, as the days grow longer and we can feel a touch of warmth in the air around us.

I was reminded of the C.S. Lewis story *The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe* and the prophecy of Aslan's return:

“Wrong will be right, when Aslan comes in sight,
At the sound of his roar, sorrows will be no more,
When he bares his teeth, winter meets its death,
And when he shakes his mane, we shall have spring again.”

Throughout the unfolding events in the Narnia books, when Aslan steps on the scene, peoples' hearts are changed, even if the circumstances don't change immediately. And often, that is how God meets us in our own trials first. Changing our hearts by His presence, even if our circumstances don't look different yet.

The Song of Songs (2.11-13) says “Look, the winter is past, and the rains are over and gone. The flowers are springing up, the season of singing birds has come, and the cooing of turtledoves fills the air. The fig trees are forming young fruit, and the fragrant grapevines are blossoming. Rise up, my darling! Come away with me, my fair one!” Let us each thank the Lord for this new season that is unfolding around us.

Let us notice the signs of fresh life and dance with abundant joy in our hearts that God is with us, beckoning us to follow him on our Eastertide adventure.

Lord, we thank you for being a beacon of light and keeping us safe during times of darkness. Help us to leave the winter behind us and step forward with you. This is a season full of hope, as new life emerges from the natural world around us. Let us fall deeper in love with you, as we draw closer to your heart and keep our focus on you alone. Let us take hold of each new day with open eyes and hearts. Help us to be fruitful and grow stronger in our faith, embracing all that is ahead. Even though we may still have challenges and times of difficulties this spring, let us look to you, our keeper, for guidance through the mist. Amen.

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

This week the letter has been written by 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

... those preparing for baptism, including **Clementine Brandwood-Swann**, to be baptised coming Sunday at St Mary Magdalene

...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 - Dr James Andrew Wyatt, Liz Carran

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:

UPDATE: Glasses, Specs and Sunglasses

Many thanks to everyone who donated their old glasses and sunglasses. We will be sending around 150 off to the Lions Club who use them to improve the sight of children and adults living in other less developed countries!

Electoral roll revision

We have begun revising our Church electoral roll and will continue to do this up to and including Sunday 28th 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)

NEW: Annual Church Meeting and Annual Parochial Church Meeting, Sunday 19 May

Soon it is time for our annual meetings at which Church Wardens, members of Church Committee and PCC, and Deanery Synod are elected. Do think about how you can serve your church and the Team in one of these roles. Lists for nominations will soon be in the churches. Do remember that in order to vote or stand for office, you do need to be on the Electoral Roll!

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

Eaglets restarts on Tuesday. This term we're exploring all things Weather! Do come and join in the fun.

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.

NEW: Upcoming meetings and special events

15 April Property and Finance Committee
24 April PCC
9 May Team service for Ascension Day @ St Mary Magdalene, 8pm

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 (26th May 2024) - St Matthias at 4pm
- Exploring Pilgrimage (22nd June 2024) - Pilgrimage day to St Albans (more details in a note from Anne below)
- Exploring Wild Church (14th 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 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

Reflective Art Afternoons – 'One hour of quiet creativity.'

The First Reflective Art Afternoon – 28 April 2024 3pm in St John's Hall.

Our first prompt is *Sanctuary*.

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

Song of Songs - Bible Studies 2024

We will be reading the Song of Songs together on 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 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're also looking to borrow a tombola roller drum! If anyone has access to one please could they contact Charlie Middleton.

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 Choral and Organ Scholars will be showcasing their talents in the coming months. Do come to support them. All recitals are on Saturday and start at 12.30pm.

4 May	Holly Fry	Soprano
18 May	Toby Wright	Organ/Countertenor
1 June	Elliot Randall	Organ
15 June	Daisy Rushton	Tenor
6 July	St Mary Magdalene Scholars' Showcase	

NEW: Auditions for St Mary Magdalene Choral and Organ Scholars 2024-2025

We have received a good number of applications and auditions will take place in St Mary's on Saturday 20 April.

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.

NEW: Litter Pick after church 28th April - St Mary's

Please do stay for half an hour after church and help clean up the churchyard - all litter picking equipment will be provided! World Earth Day is the beginning of the week so we have signed up to the GREAT GLOBAL CLEAN UP as part of our commitment to looking after God's planet.

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:

NEW: Children's Service at St Mary Magdalene

The next Children's service will be on Saturday 4 May at 4pm. The service will have an Ascension theme.

Patronal Festival at St John the Divine

St John the Divine will keep its Patronal Festival on Sunday 5th May. All are welcome to come to our Sung Eucharist at 11am followed by fizz and a Bring & Share lunch. We are delighted that The Rev'd Neil Summers, former Vicar at St John's, will be our Guest Preacher on this special day.

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

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

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Richmond Team Ministry
St Mary Magdalene • St Matthias • St John the Divine
www.richmondteamministry.org
Registered Charity No 1130018

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