

Thursday 20 June 2024

Dear Friends,

'You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour.'
Read Exodus 20:1-16

Who do you believe when you want to know what is going on in the world? How do you know what is real, what is truth, what is fake, what is deliberate misrepresentation? These are questions I have been struggling with more deeply since 7 October 2023 and before going to Israel at the beginning of June to meet with some of the forgotten and minority groups there. Who is representing whom, in that complex situation in Gaza, on the West Bank and in Israel? Closer to home, we could of course ask ourselves the same questions in the lead up of the General Election on 4 July. Who is speaking truth?

Because truth matters. We want to be reassured that the media can be trusted as they, literally, mediate news and events for us.

Truth is often in short supply. Any many people now get their news and comment via social media, where the algorithms tend to serve up more of what we like rather than providing a balance of perspectives.

In this fast-changing digital world, it's more important than ever that we become 'media literate' – understanding that what is reported is never neutral and always partial. So this means that we must love the truth, honour one another, and spot what is happening when individuals are misrepresented in any media. It is vital to afford those whose views are opposed to mine the same respect I would expect from them. And this means speaking and writing what we know to be accurate – and not indulging in condemning or vilifying people who sometimes cannot defend themselves.

As we pray that our public media (online, broadcast and print) might become more truthful and more worthy of trust, let's reflect too, on our role as consumers of such media, and commit ourselves to telling the truth about – and loving – our neighbour.

*Give wisdom, courage and insight to the media,
defend us from deception;
and help us all to engage with truth and kindness.
Hear us, good Lord.*

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

This letter was written by The Revd Canon Wilma Roest, with thanks to the Archbishops of Canterbury and York.

Please pray for:

... **Heidi, and her family**, as she prepares to move and be ordained deacon on 30 June at Chester Cathedral.

... **Fr. Jamil Khadir and the Anglican congregations in Nablus** in the West Bank; for the peace of Jerusalem, release of hostages 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

... **the sick and those in need** – The King & Princess of Wales, Gill Doling, Liz Velluet, Marc Cranfield-Adams, Mark and Susie Cox, Rose Nagawa, Brenda Gill

... the departed, may they rest in peace - Jennifer Eaton (sister of Jim Cross), Ronald Sullivan, Barry May

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:

NEW: The next Reflective Art Afternoon – Sunday 30 June 3pm in St John's Hall.

This session we will be reflecting on the theme of Growth. Come and spend some time in quiet, creatively reflecting on the theme of growth. There will be a still life and art materials available, but you are welcome to come and make anything you like and interpret the theme in any way you like: regrowth, growing things, personal growth, overgrowth, and so on! 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

Praying for the General Election

A message from the archbishops of Canterbury and York:

The coming General Election is a critical moment in the life of our nation, which will shape our future. This is a time for us all to ask important questions about what kind of country we want to build.

The world and our nation face deep challenges – from questions of war and peace, poverty and injustice to the very future of the earth God has given to us.

Faced with such huge questions, our calling as Christians is to turn first to God in prayer. We are therefore inviting everyone who is willing to dedicate the next few weeks as a time not just to think about the big questions, but also to pray for our nation and our world. We want to invite everyone to think about how we can all play our part both as voters and, more broadly, as citizens.

In the Lord's Prayer, Jesus teaches us to pray each day, 'Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven'. This simple and profound prayer is our starting point during the days leading up to the General Election.

May God's will be done in our nation and in God's world.

NEW: Eaglets @ St John the Divine (Tuesdays, 9.30-11.30am) – a message from Emma, Children and Young People Ministry Leader

We're heading into the final weeks of Eaglets before our summer break. We had a great time exploring storms. Our final week before Summer is Tuesday 9 July. Please encourage people to come along before we break for summer.

NEW: Junior Church this week

From our meeting with CYP working group, it was suggested that each week, we tell you about the theme for the week, so you can encourage people to come along. This week's Gospel reading is a really exciting one. We will be exploring Jesus and the storm at St Mary's and St John's.

Through craft and games, we will think about this story. Look forward to seeing you very soon.

NEW: Memorial Service for Barry May, Tuesday 25 June, 2pm at St Mary Magdalene

You are invited to this service of thanksgiving for Barry's life, by Dolly and the family.

Pre-teens events for Summer

We are holding two events for our Pre-teens over the summer holidays. On the 7th August and 1st September, our pre-teens will be coming together for food, fellowship and fun. If you would

like any more information, or know anyone who would like to join us, please email cypml@richmondteamministry.org.

Understanding Islam with Dr Chris Hewer, 'The Basics'

Tuesday 25 June, 10am – 4pm, Parish Rooms, Church Walk.

Help set the agenda, bring questions, come and learn.

Refreshments are provided but please bring your own lunch. The course is free, but donations are welcome to help cover the cost.

Please email dianamills31@gmail.com or phone 07804866349.

Racial Injustice

The Richmond Team Ministry has been asked by the Diocese of Southwark to use the pilot Anti-Racism Charter Parish study resource. We will then offer our feedback.

In July we will have an opportunity to explore how we might actively counter, disrupt, and oppose racial injustice wherever we find it in our churches, workplaces and communities.

Joe will lead these four sessions on Wednesdays after the 10am Eucharist at St Mary Magdalene, beginning at 11am and finishing at 12:15pm. These sessions will offer an opportunity to reflect deeply on our own views and assumptions and explore our calling as disciples of Christ.

Session 1: In Christ and as Christ - Wednesday 3rd July

Session 2: Rebuilding the city - Wednesday 10th July

Session 3: The trees that we have to climb - Wednesday 17th July

Session 4: Putting it all together and into action - Wednesday 24th July

You would be very welcome to attend these sessions as we pilot this important resource for the parishes in our Diocese. If you would like more information, please email Rev'd Joe Moore:

joe.moore@richmondteamministry.org

Wednesday 26 June, Concert at St John the Divine

Join us for an enchanting evening of "Russian Piano Music of the Early 20th Century, Famous and Forgotten", a mesmerizing Piano Solo concert, starting at 6:30 PM. From the soaring heights of Rachmaninoff's virtuosic compositions, including his famous Preludes in C# minor and G minor, to the introspective mystical depths of Scriabin's Preludes and Sonata No. 5, this is also a unique opportunity to discover the forgotten yet equally captivating musical gems by composers such as Sergei Bortkiewicz, Nikolai Medtner, Sergei Taneyev, Anatoly Lyadov, and Alexei Stanchinsky. Free donation based admission.

FINAL CALL: A visit to Christ's School – 27 June, 11am – 12.30pm

Have you ever been inside our Church School? Do you know what a modern secondary Church of England school looks like? The head of Christ's School, Helen Dixon, has invited parishioners to come and visit the school on Thursday 27 June. The visit will begin with a short liturgy in the school chapel, followed by a tour of the school and will end with coffee and cake and a time to talk with Helen.

If you would like to come, please book a place with Wilma (rector@richmondteamministry.org).

We can only take 15 people, so first come, first served, but at the moment we only have a small select group going, i.e. 4 people – in other words, there is still space, please do join us!

Concert at St Mary Magdalene, Saturday 13 July 2024 at 7.30pm.

"A Celebration of Summer", with music and readings by The Saint Martin Singers. Free admission with a retiring collection in aid of St Mary Magdalene Choral Foundation.

Walk with Rev'd Anne!

For those of you who enjoyed the themed Lent Walks or missed them and would like another opportunity to come along, Rev'd Anne will be leading some more over the summer and into the autumn. The first will be on Friday 19 July, starting at 10am and ending with coffee. The routes are

yet to be finalised, and some walks may be weather dependent, but if you would like to join a walk (they will be gentle and last about an hour and half), let Anne know and she will send you confirmation of meeting place nearer the time anne.crawford@richmondteamministry.org
More walks planned for Fri 16 August, Fri 20 Sept, Fri 18 Oct, and Fri 15 November.

Upcoming meetings and special events

25 June St Mary Magdalene Church Committee
27 June Extraordinary PCC meeting re Parish Rooms Project
14 July Sea Sunday Service at St Mary's will be with Sea Cadets and begin at 10.30am.
15 July Property and Finance Committee

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.

6 July St Mary Magdalene Scholars' Showcase

These recitals are free entry, although there will be a retiring collection to keep the Choral Foundation going. All donations, small and large are welcome. If you would like to sponsor a scholar next year, 2024-2025, please get in touch with Wilma.

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 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

Alban Pilgrimage Saturday 22 June 2024

Revd Anne will once again be leading a parish pilgrimage to St Albans on Sat 22 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

Richmond Team Ministry Away Weekend 8-10 November at Wychcroft Retreat Centre.

For the second year in a row, we are taking a weekend away at Wychcroft Retreat House. This year's theme is 'Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.'

There will be opportunities for worship, bible study, prayer and reflection, as well as socialising and enjoying one another's company.

Wychcroft is a large country house in the countryside and provides everything which we will need, including a chapel, delicious food, and 23 bedrooms. Costs are £200 for the whole weekend, with a £50 deposit required to hold your place.

If you would like to join us, please complete the booking form available on our website - <https://richmondteamministry.org/news/> and return it to Charlie via email or in person. Places will be allocated on a first come, first served basis. Please contact Charlie with any questions.

Shakespeare's Twelfth Night at The Orange Tree Theatre

Runs from 23 November 2024 - 25 January 2025, directed by their Artistic Director, Tom Littler. It would be lovely for a group from RTM churches to go together. I wondered if there would be

any interest in this if I enquired about negotiating a deal on tickets? Please do email me to express your interest: joe.moore@richmondteamministry.org

Bells for your birthday?

Church bells are the most historic things that many of us ever hear. The bells ring to call us to worship on Sundays and also as a joyful celebration of weddings and more sadly when tolling for funerals. Here at St Mary's we offer you the opportunity for a unique gift for those special people in your lives. We will ring to celebrate birthdays, anniversaries, births of children and grandchildren and any other special occasions you can think of. We can also offer a personal tower tour as part of the gift. Contact Jackie Harrison, Tower Captain for more information and an indication of proposed donation jackieharrison456@gmail.com

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 July at 4pm at The Vicarage. This service is for all children from the Richmond Team! It will take the form of a picnic, with games, songs. Bring a small amount of food to share, if you can.

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

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

Registered Charity No 1130018

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