

Thursday 27 June 2024

Dear Friends,

GSCE exams are over, A Level exams complete, university terms finished a month ago! Schools only have one month remaining before the summer break. I find that this season has a feeling of completion and of new possibilities! Soon enough, the 'Back to School' aisles will be back in the supermarkets and the summer will begin in earnest!

When I was still in education, I liked to use that last little burst of adrenaline and endorphins to book in new things to learn in September. This year, that memory of an impulse has prompted me to book in a week of learning to write Icons in the new academic year! And prompted me to wonder about what it is that you would like to learn.

Today, I had thought of writing to you about Cyril (whose 'harsh, loud, and lengthy' defence of theological orthodoxy is commemorated today) or Irenaeus (only 2 handshakes removed from St John, who defended the Church from the threat of Gnosticism and is remembered by the church tomorrow) but they didn't really have the 'end of the year' vibe that I was looking for.

But it did occur to me, while I read about them, that those among you who enjoy the clergy letters with a church history theme (as well as theological, biblical, discipleship, and discernment) might be interested in the [Bishop's Certificate](#). The Bishop's Certificate is a one-year course, run by the Diocese of Southwark, for anybody "who wants to be more confident about what they believe, read the Bible with more understanding, and reflect on their journey as a Christian."

Or, if you're eager to learn something new now, perhaps you'll be joining the Anti-Racism Charter Parish study sessions, with Joe on Wednesday mornings (see below!). Or pop the next set of Bible Studies (Hebrews, 2, 9, 16, 23 Oct) in the diary!

I am always impressed by the joy which people in RTM derive from continuing to learn, and the investments which you make in challenging and stretching yourselves. So, the twilight of this academic year might be the time to plan in something new, and perhaps treat yourself to a new pencil case!

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

This letter was written by The Revd Charlie Middleton.

Please pray for:

... **those to be married**, including Daniel Hooper and Qian Zhang who are to be married at St Matthias on Saturday 29 June

... **Heidi, and her family**, to 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** - Julie Scott

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: Parish Office

Please note that the Parish Office is now closed and will re-open on Monday 8 July. There will be no newsletter next week.

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

Despite it being one of the hottest days of the year so far, we decided to play with the theme of snow. It was great fun for everyone. We're coming up to our final weeks of the year for Eaglets. Please do consider inviting people along or offering to come along and chat to the carers and parents. We will be finish on 9th July.

NEW: Junior Church this week

This week, the theme is healing as we hear about the raising of Jarius' daughter and the healing of the woman in Mark 5.21-end. We are going to making puppets. Do encourage people to come. St Matthias will be looking at David's lamentation over Saul and Jonathan (Thank you to Sarah who is leading this week's junior church)

NEW: Fake emails

It has been brought to our attention that fake emails, claiming to be coming from members of the clergy are doing the rounds again, asking for gift vouchers to be bought or to make contact via Whatsapp. Please check the email address, before doing anything. The email may look like it is coming from, for instance, Revd Canon Wilma Roest, but the email address says officechurch489@gmail.com, which is nothing to do with the Richmond Team. Please be vigilant!

NEW: Children's choir! Launching September

We're so excited to be launching our children's choir in September. Meeting on Thursdays after school, we would love to welcome children between the ages of 7-13. If you are interested or you would like more information please email music.stmarys@richmondteamministry.org

Cancelled - Richmond Team Ministry Away Weekend 8-10 November

Due to low levels of interest and take up we have had to make the decision to withdraw our booking with Wychcroft and cancel the weekend away. We will be considering an alternative which suits the parish better.

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 4 July

A message from the archbishops of Canterbury and York:

There is no such thing as a perfect government. Whoever wins the General Election on 4 July will doubtless be elated. But the months and years ahead will be challenging. It is wisely said that politicians campaign in poetry but govern in prose. Our government is led by real people – let us pray for them and care for them.

God grant to the living grace, to the departed rest, to the Church, the King, the Commonwealth and all people, unity, peace and concord, and to us and all God's servants, life everlasting. Amen.

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

Upcoming meetings and special events

1 July St John the Divine 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

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.

UPDATED: 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 - Sacred and Profane

St Mary's scholars are joined by Emma Smellie (our Children and Young Persons' Lead who happens to be an excellent Alto) and Director of Music, Seb Gillot, in a fun and eclectic mix of music across all styles and ages. Free entry with a retiring collection towards the Choral Foundation.

Next year we are expanding the Choral Foundation to establish a children's choir, and to provide additional mentoring opportunities for some of the scholars. As a result we are looking to ramp up and encourage further donations to make this happen, so please come along and show your support for the wonderful music we have here at St Mary's.

Exploring Together (Dates for the Diary)

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

- Exploring Wild Church (Sunday 14 July 2024) - St Matthias at 4pm. We will meet at the Cambrian Gate entrance to the Park and this afternoon's Wild Church worship will include an introduction to the Japanese practice of Shinrin-Yoku, or 'Forest Bathing'. Suitable for adults and children alike. Please come suitably dressed for the weather. Sturdy footwear recommended. More information from Rev'd Anne or Emma.

Pre-teens events for Summer

We are holding two events for our Pre-teens over the summer holidays. On the Wednesday 7 August and Sunday 1 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.

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

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. **Please note there will be no Eucharist on Thursday 4 July, as the church is being used as a polling station for the general election.**

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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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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