

Thursday 18 July 2024

Dear Friends,

This week I had the joy of spending three days in Brussels visiting some friends. I enjoyed some beer, some churches, some chocolate, and a lot of art. I delighted in Magritte ("Ceci n'est pas une pipe"); enjoyed (and was unnerved by) 100 years of Surrealism; appreciated the cluttered and festering still-lives of the Dutch School; wondered around the Old Masters' Gallery, spotting a Hieronymus Bosch at 10 paces and seeking out depictions of Mary Magdalene.

This weekend, St Mary Magdalene's marks our patronal festival, with three celebratory services in the morning (8am, 9:30, 11:30) and the ever-popular Hymns and Pimms at 6:30pm. In the run up to this feast I have been thinking a lot about depictions of Mary Magdalene (and other saints) in art.

Walking around the Old Masters' gallery, after the sometimes jarring disconnection of the surrealists, felt a little formulaic at first. The faces and expressions of the saints seemed the same in painting after painting. But then I saw a depiction of the disciples (men and women) tending to Christ's body, all in a row reminiscent of the Last Supper. And one of Mary Magdalene prostrate at the foot of the cross. And I looked more closely at the works which I assumed I knew.

And, during a second lap, at the people I assumed I knew. I had entirely ignored the other visitors in the galleries until this thought occurred to me, but on this walk around I noticed them and wondered about their lives. Each person, in their full depth and complexity, known and loved by God.

I came back to Blighty, thinking about how God has made us for creativity and connection. At the entrance to the Surrealism exhibition were a series of rooms which encouraged visitors to create. There were random household objects which could be combined into sculptures, a galaxy of stars ready to be joined into story-telling constellations, brasses and crayons to encourage playfulness with shape and colour. They were activities which everyone could engage with.

When I started the Art Afternoon reflections a number of people told me that they'd like to come but they're not artistic. That's as may be, but you are creative. You can make something new. Something which has never existed before. You just need the right materials.

On Monday, a number of us will be taking a trip to the National Gallery, to hunt down depictions of Mary Magdalene on her feast day. You are very welcome to come with us. And even if you don't, perhaps make some time this summer for a trip to a gallery. See what resonates with you; what challenges or rankles; in whom do you see yourself; with whom do you feel a sense of connection.

And perhaps you could create something. Something which didn't exist before you made it. Something which comes out of the depth and complexity of who you are, known and loved by God.

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:

... **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** - Gill Doling, Liz Velluet,
... **the departed, may they rest in peace** - David Shaw, Christopher Hutchins, William Collis, Derrick Fletcher. We remember Neville Jaimongal on the anniversary of his death.

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: Church Court Community Day, Saturday 20 July, outside St Mary Magdalene

Businesses on Church Court, all independent, are joining forces on Saturday with a fun filled community day, from 12noon onwards. There will be stalls, food, drinks, vouchers, games, massages and more. We are pleased to support this event by offering space and also tours up the St Mary's tower. Come and support if you can.

NEW: Funeral for David Shaw RIP

No date is yet known for David's funeral. Once it has been agreed, we will let you know via the newsletter.

NEW: Job Vacancy

We are looking for a new Permanent Organist/ Director of Music at St John the Divine. Full details can be found here - <https://richmondteamministry.org/news/>

Deadline for applications is Friday 16 August, 5.00pm.

NEW: Junior Church

There will be no formal junior church between now and the first week of September. However, Emma will be leaving activities for you to do. There will be some activities themed to each week.

UPDATED: Pre-teens events for Summer

We've taken the decision to cancel the BBQ planned for Wednesday 7 August due to lack of numbers.

We're really looking forward to the Sunday 1 September, where our pre-teens will be coming together for food, fellowship and fun. If you have or know any young people between 8-12, please do see if they're interested. It promises to be a lovely evening. Get in contact with Emma or Charlie for more information.

UPDATED: Parish Rooms

At a recent extraordinary meeting the PCC approved the final floor plans (for which Richmond Council have given planning permission), the project management and the estimated costs of the Parish Rooms redevelopment. This means we are finally able to proceed with this!

NEW: AGEUK Richmond Job Vacancy

AGEUK Richmond currently have an excellent opportunity for a new Chair of Trustees to join their charity. They are looking for a dynamic Chair who is committed to improving the lives of vulnerable and isolated older people across Richmond upon Thames.

The Chair of Trustees leads the board, ensuring that it governs Age UK Richmond effectively, in service of the charity's vision and mission. The Chair leads in an inclusive way, supporting the board to work together well, and providing support and challenge to the Chief Executive. The Chair is also an ambassador for the charity. You can find out more details about the role at

<https://www.ageuk.org.uk/richmonduponthames/>

NEW: Re-roofing Project at St Matthias

The re-roofing of the South Aisle and Organ chamber roof, along with some stonework repairs to the north and south clerestory are due to begin on Monday 22 July, with work continuing through the autumn and in to winter. Scaffolding and hoarding will be erected around the north, south and east side of the church with security in place to protect both people and building. Access to church for worship will be via the main door at the west end, and the Kings Road porch door will be open and available for those who need level access. If you have any concerns then please do contact Rev'd Anne or one of the St Matthias wardens.

UPDATED: Shakespeare's Twelfth Night at The Orange Tree Theatre

Thank you to all those who have responded. Revd Joe is looking at possible dates in January. There's still time to express your interest: joe.moore@richmondteamministry.org

Walk with Rev'd Anne – starts Friday 19 July

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: Trip to the National Gallery – finding St Mary Magdalene

On the feast day of St Mary Magdalene, Monday 22 July, you are invited to come to the National Gallery to see paintings of the patron saint. We will leave Richmond Station at 1.30pm. Or you could join us at the National Gallery, in front of the main entrance (not the Sainsbury Wing which is currently closed), at 2.30pm. Contact Wilma or Charlie for more info.

NEW: The next Reflective Art Afternoon – Sunday 28 July 3pm in St John's Hall

This session we will be reflecting on the theme of Dreams. Come and spend some time in quiet, creatively reflecting on the theme of Dreams. 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: hopes and dreams, sleeping dreams, dreamlike qualities, biblical dreams! 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

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

Eaglets has now stopped for the Summer. We will be back Tuesday 10 September. A massive thank you to our fabulous volunteers who have worked so diligently to create a caring environment.

Children's choir! Launching September

We're so excited to be launching our children's choir in September. This will be an extension to the St Mary Magdalene Choral Foundation. The choir will meet on Thursdays after school, and 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

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

21 July 6.30pm Hymns and Pimms, around the War Memorial at St Mary's

25 July 12noon at St Mary Magdalene, funeral of William Collis

30 July 10am at St Matthias, funeral of Chris Hutchins

The Elizabeth Twining Almshouses in Richmond

The Richmond Charities is opening a new block of Almshouses in Richmond at the end of this year, for the elderly in our borough who are in need of housing, living on a limited income and who are wheelchair users or have mobility issues for which they need specially adapted accommodation. The almshouses will be named after Elizabeth Twining and are located on St Mary's Grove. As well as working closely with the council to identify those in need, Richmond Charities are keen to spread the word more widely across the borough, in order to reach all those who might fit the criteria and be in housing need. They need interested potential applicants to come forward soon as it does take time to get applicants through the application process.

<https://www.richmondcharities.org.uk/>

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:

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
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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