

Thursday 22 August 2024

Dear Friends,

August is a good time to do jobs one otherwise might not have time for. My hope this month was that I would finally have some time to reorganise my library. To be honest I haven't got very far, partly due to Covid and partly because I discovered books I had completely forgotten about or never even read.

One of these books, long since out of print, is early 20<sup>th</sup> century collection of writings by lesser-known saints and wise people, which I once found at a church book fair. It's got me completely hooked. Poetry, prose, reflections, instructions all on prayer and spirituality. It is a treasure-trove! This week, instead of writing an original clergy letter, may I share with you something from this rediscovered book? It's a from a chapter about prayer and is written by Theophan the Recluse, a nineteenth century bishop in the Eastern Orthodox Church.

*“There are various degrees of prayer. The first degree is bodily prayer, consisting for the most part in reading, in standing and in making prostrations. In all this there must be patience, labour and sweat; for the attention runs away, the heart feels nothing and has no desire to pray. Yet, in spite of this, give yourself a moderate rule and keep to it. Such is active prayer.*

*The second degree is prayer with attention: the intellect becomes accustomed to collecting itself in the hour of prayer, and prays consciously throughout, without distraction. The intellect is focussed on the written word to the point of speaking them as if they were its own.*

*The third degree is prayer feeling: the heart has been warmed by concentration, so that what hitherto has only been thought now becomes feeling. What first was a contrite phase now it is contrition itself; and what was one petition in words is transformed into a sensation of entire necessity. Whoever has passed through action and thought to true feeling all pray without words, for God is God of the heart. When the feeling of prayer reaches the point where it becomes continuous, then spiritual prayer may be said to begin. This is the gift of the Holy Spirit praying for us, the last degree of prayer that our intellect can grasp.*

*But there is, they say, yet another kind of prayer which cannot be comprehended by the intellect, and which goes beyond the limits of consciousness.*

*What then is prayer? Prayer is the raising of the mind and heart to God in praise and thanksgiving to him and in supplication for the good things that we need, both spiritual and physical. The essence of prayer is, therefore, the spiritual lifting of the heart toward God. The principal thing is to stand before God with the intellect in the heart, and to go on standing before him unceasingly day and night until the end of life.”*

I'm so glad to have found again some of the old, forgotten books in my library, with wisdom which was simply waiting to be read again. What might you have in your home, in the books you have possessed for many years, which may give you renewed inspiration? We don't always have to reinvent, to create; sometimes we may simply rediscover what already is.

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

*This letter was written by The Revd Canon Wilma Roest*

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**Please pray for:**

... **those to be married**, including Gwen Archer and Nigel Davis on Thursday 29 August  
... **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**, and other schools in the parish, for peace and safety during the summer holidays  
... **the sick and those in need** - Gill Doling, Liz Velluet, Marc Cranfield-Adams, Barbara Adamson  
... **the departed, may they rest in peace**

*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:**

### **NEW: Parish Office**

The parish office will be closed Monday 26 August (Bank Holiday).

### **NEW: Harvest Barn Dance**

At Raleigh Road United Church, TW9 2DX Saturday 28 September 2024, 7pm. Dancing to the Craigievar Ceilidh Band. Tickets £10 each including light supper and unlimited soft drinks (you are welcome to bring your own alcohol!)

For tickets, contact Jane from Raleigh Road United Church on 0208 948 7851

### **NEW: Lancelot Andrewes Medal Awarded to Gill Gregorowski**

Last Sunday at St John the Divine, Gill Gregorowski was presented with the Bishop of Southwark's Lancelot Andrewes Medal for 'Zeal for the Gospel and Godly service'. Gill has shown incredible faithfulness to the life of St John's over a number of decades and served the church in so many ways and continues to do so. Congratulations Gill!

### **NEW: Eucharist for Healing and Wholeness on the last Tuesday of the Month at St John the Divine at 7pm**

From September, on the last Tuesday of the month our regular Said Eucharist at 7pm at St John's will be a Eucharist for Healing and Wholeness. There will be the opportunity to receive the Ministry of Laying on of Hands with Prayer and Anointing for yourself or to receive it on someone else's behalf. All are welcome.

### **NEW: Unite for the night: Sleep Out to end homelessness**

Glass Door's annual Sleep Out will be taking place on Friday 4 October. Participants give up their bed for one night to give someone a chance to find a pathway out of homelessness. Find out more and sign up at [www.glassdoor.org.uk/sleep-out](http://www.glassdoor.org.uk/sleep-out)

This year, Glass Door Homeless Charity is encouraging people either to join them at Duke of York Square in Chelsea or to take part remotely. Registration is free, but participants are asked to fundraise for Glass Door Homeless Charity. All funds raised go directly to the charity to help someone find safe shelter and support to get off the streets in London for good.

### **Zero Waste Week**

As part of our commitment to Zero Waste Week – we will be supporting Workaid. We will be collecting all haberdashery items - dress making material, wool, knitting needles, cotton, scissors, buttons, zips, elastic, sewing machines and so on.....the charity then send this to Africa and also train young people to use the items in order to have a trade and be able to make a living. Please leave all contributions in the boxes at the back of all three churches. The boxes will be out for the first three weeks of September. <https://workaid.org>

### **Team Talk**

The latest edition of Team Talk is now available at the back of church or online by clicking [here](#)

## **Christian Aid Richmond Riverside Sponsored Walk - Saturday 28 September**

This sponsored walk will start 10.30am at St Matthias. The route is the same as in previous years, i.e. via St Richard's Ham, then back along the river to Kew and finishing at St Anne's.

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/get-involved/events/walking>

## **Amazing Antarctica**

Monday 9 September, 7:30pm at St Mary Magdalene

Jutta Raftery will be sharing some of her experiences and adventures in Antarctica. There will be a presentation and opportunity to ask questions. All are welcome!

For more information [charlie.middleton@richmondteamministry.org](mailto:charlie.middleton@richmondteamministry.org)

## **Next Bible Study: Hebrews (23, 30 Oct, 6, 13 Nov)**

I am afraid that we have had to change the dates of our next bible study, from those previously advertised. The Hebrews bible study will now take place on 23 and 30 October, and 6 and 13 November. It will be at 11am at St Mary's, and 7:30pm in the Parish Office and on Zoom. Please contact Charlie with any questions or to get the Zoom link:

[charlie.middleton@richmondteamministry.org](mailto:charlie.middleton@richmondteamministry.org)

## **Nearly new BOOK and CD sale at St Mary Magdalene**

Saturday 7 September from 11am to 3pm - proceeds to the Richmond Soup Kitchen. Do come along and support, tell your friends and neighbours - there will be flyers to take away at the back of church. If you have some time on the day to help please sign up on the rota at the back of church. We need extra hands to give our leaflets on the corner next to Tesco too!

## **Parish Rooms update**

We now have a rough timeline for the works on the Parish Rooms. The next big step is to appoint the contractors who will do the actual work, which will start in early 2025, with completion in March 2026. Before that we have still quite a lot to do, including clearing the parish rooms of everything that is currently stored there. If you have things hidden away somewhere in parish rooms, do start planning how to retrieve it. The building needs to be completely empty by the end of November.

## **Pre-teens events for Summer**

We're really looking forward to **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.

## **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 began 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.

## **Walk with Rev'd Anne – next one on Friday 20 September**

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 next one will be on Friday 20 September, 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](mailto:anne.crawford@richmondteamministry.org)

More walks planned for Fri 18 Oct and Fri 15 November.

### **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](mailto:music.stmarys@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](mailto:jackieharrison456@gmail.com)

### **Upcoming meetings and special events**

4 September 7.30pm	SMM Church Committee
30 September 7pm	Property and Finance Committee
30 September 7.30pm	Deanery Synod
2 October, 7.30pm	PCC

### **NEW: Recitals at St Mary Magdalene Autumn 2024**

Sat 14 September, 12.30pm Seb Gillot, organ  
Sat 5 Oct, 12.30pm Rachel Smith, flute, and Emilie Capulet, piano  
Sat 2 Nov, 12.30pm Pavlos Triantaris, organ, and Marily Kritikou, mezzo-soprano  
All recitals are free entry, with a retiring collection for the St Mary Magdalene Choral Foundation.

### **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 taxpayer. 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 (no Morning Prayer on Mon 26 August)**

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

Registered Charity No 1130018

Our Privacy Notice can be viewed at: <https://richmondteamministry.org/gdpr/>

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