

Thursday 21 November 2024

Dear Friends,

On Sunday we will celebrate the Feast of Christ the King with a Team service at St John the Divine at 10.30am. It will be good to be together as a team, as a church family, to mark together the end of the liturgical calendar and the Kingship of Jesus Christ our Saviour. The end of the liturgical year means we will leave behind year B, the year of the Gospel of Mark, and move to year C, the year of the Gospel of Luke. For me this Sunday is also a reminder that Christ holds our past, our present and our future safe in his care as he is King of All. I find this is huge source of comfort in a time of change.

The last Sunday of the church year is also known as Stir up Sunday, so called because the Book of Common Prayer Collect for the day opens with "Stir up we beseech Thee, O Lord, the wills of thy faithful people". It is traditionally the day on which people make their Christmas Puddings. And then Advent begins....

On Sunday 24 November at 6.30pm, I will say farewell to all of you and prepare for new adventures and opportunities. The week following the leaving service, I will be finishing off my handover document for the Churchwardens, attend a last few meetings, deal with out of office messages and such like.

Then begins the job of clearing the vicarage, with a moving date set for 17 December. Leaving behind a 5-bedroom house and moving to a much smaller townhouse in Littlehampton is going to be a challenge! Having a beach hut, not far from the house, will probably become my safe place for rest and reflection. Maybe a bit chilly in the winter months, but there are always warm blankets to wrap myself in and I can make a cup of tea (or coffee) to warm up. Not sure I'm ready for sea swimming yet! I look forward to finally be able to share a house with Ann, who has been my rock for the past 23 years.

From 1 January 2025 I will officially be a retired vicar. Whilst I have some plans for the coming months, I am also aware of the need to process what it means to have time and not always having to rush. One thing I really look forward to is being able to go to The Netherlands regularly to be with my dad, and spend time with my siblings and the rest of the family. Although they have always understood that my calling has been to be here, to serve God in the church, they look forward to seeing a bit more of me.

This will also be a time of change for you. Please know that your Churchwardens and your clergy will continue to care for you and support you. If you have questions or concerns, do speak to them. Will you also keep them in your prayers?

It has been privilege of be part of this Team and the community of Richmond for the past 8 years. Thank you for the love you have freely shared, for everything you have been willing to be involved in, for your commitment to God and to God's Church in this place.

Sunday is an end in one way but is also a new beginning for all of us. Whatever the new will hold, of one thing I am certain: God will be with you, as God will also be with me.

May the God of surprises bless you richly.  
With my love and thanks,  
Wilma

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:**

... **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  
... **Richmond Soup Kitchen**, for all guests and volunteers  
... **the sick and those in need** - Gill Doling, Liz Velluet, Marc Cranfield-Adams, Barbara Adamson  
... **the departed, may they rest in peace** – Piers Eley, Joan Skeats (funeral on 9 Dec, 12 noon at Hickey's Chapel), Brigitte Heyne

*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: "Wounded I sing" Advent Group (Wednesdays at 11am on 4th, 11th, 18th December or Thursdays at 7:30pm, 5th, 12th, 19th December, and 9th January)**

'A new book for Advent has recently been published, 'Wounded I sing', a reflection on 24 of George Herbert's poems, especially chosen for Advent. It is written by Richard Harries, formerly Bishop of Oxford. Should you wish to use these next few weeks in Advent to prepare for the coming of Christ as a human babe in the company of George Herbert, this book is a daily treasure and structured for a poem each day and a reflection by Richard Harries.

Sue Eastaugh and Ruth Martin are offering some times in Advent to come together, read and reflect and discuss these poems.

Sue is going to host a group at St Mary's on Wednesdays, at 11am, on 4th, 11th, and 18th December with a fourth and final session in January at a date to be finalised. Please contact Sue at [sue@eastaugh.net](mailto:sue@eastaugh.net) Ruth is offering to host an evening equivalent at her flat in Kew which is a two minute walk from Kew Gardens station or a 5 minute walk from a 110 bus stop (or easy parking outside). She can offer Thursdays, at 7.30 on Thursday 5th, Thursday 12, Thursday 19th and then in January a final session on Thursday 9 January. Please contact her on [ruthtea304@hotmail.com](mailto:ruthtea304@hotmail.com) if you would like to attend.

'Wounded I sing', published by SPCK, is very widely available at prices from £8.99-£10.99 (RRP) and also is offered on a Kindle. Please let Ruth know if you would like us to obtain a book for you as she is going to explore a sale or return bulk purchase.

Whether you are already a devotee of George Herbert or this will be your first dip into this 17th century poet who continues to have huge appeal in our own times, you will be very welcome to join a group if you are able.

**NEW: Eaglets Update**

We had a lovely time exploring Antarctica, including penguins, snowflakes and much more.

We only have two more sessions left, as we will be celebrating Christmas on 3rd December.

**NEW: A Thank you from Huw**

Huw Morgan (from St John the Divine) would like to thank everyone who sponsored him for the firewalking event he took part in to raise money for Skylarks, a local charity which supports families who have children with additional needs. He very bravely walked barefoot over hot coals not once but 4 times! He raised the huge sum of £490, contributing to the amazing total of £4,500 raised by all the fire (and Lego!) walkers! It's not too late to sponsor Huw, which you can do here: <https://skylarks.enthuse.com/pf/huw-morgan>

## **Team Service for The Feast of Christ the King – Sunday 24 November at 10:30am at St John the Divine**

On Sunday 24 November we mark the end of the Church Year with the Feast of Christ the King! Our Team Service will be at St John the Divine at 10:30am. We are very pleased that our Guest Preacher for this service will be the CEO of The Children's Society, Canon Mark Russell. Please do bring cash for a retiring collection to support the extraordinary work of The Children's Society.

**Please note there will be no 9.30am service at St Matthias, nor at St Mary Magdalene.** The 8am Holy Communion Service will be as normal.

## **Saying a fond farewell to Wilma**

As you will know, Wilma's last Sunday with Richmond Team Ministry is 24 November. To celebrate Wilma's eight years as Vicar of St Mary's and Team Rector we are having a farewell service of Choral Evensong followed by a party to send Wilma on her way in true RTM fashion! The farewell service of Choral Evensong will take place at St Mary Magdalene Church at 6.30pm on the evening of Sunday 24 November.

After the service, there will be a bring and share supper. Drinks will be provided. There will be cake!

In order for us to be able to plan sufficient seating and to help with catering, if you have not already done so, please would you RSVP to Emma Meredith ([emeredith@ctpa.org.uk](mailto:emeredith@ctpa.org.uk)) if you are intending to attend. Could you also please let Emma know if you are offering to bring some food, and what you are planning to bring. Please note, we are not able to heat food. Thank you.

## **The Bridge**

The November edition of The Bridge is live! As always, this edition is packed full of stories and features from across the Diocese - [southwark.anglican.org/thebridge](http://southwark.anglican.org/thebridge)

## **Changes at Morning Prayer**

There will be two changes to our pattern of Morning Prayer, in the next couple of weeks.

From Monday 25 November, we are moving from Zoom to Microsoft Teams.

Morning prayer will be here every day:

[Join the meeting now](#)

Meeting ID: 331 749 912 278

Passcode: 96s9Aa

You may already have Teams downloaded on a Microsoft computer. However, if you are joining from an iPad or other device, you may need to download the App.

Please contact Charlie if you have any concerns about this or need a hand with the tech.

Second: from Monday 2nd December, Monday Morning Prayer will be at St Matthias.

So, the weekly pattern will look like:

Monday – St Matthias'

Tuesday – St John's

Wednesday – St Mary's

Thursday – St Mary's

Friday – St Matthias'

## **Junior Choir**

We're preparing for a showcase sometime in December after the 9:30 Eucharist at St Mary Magdalene. Please do invite anyone that you think would like to come and sing with us for 45 minutes on Thursdays from 5:15pm.

## **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)  
For all the latest bell ringer news, visit <https://richmondteamministry.org/bell-ringing-news/>

### **Recitals and Concerts at St Mary Magdalene Autumn 2024**

All recitals are free entry, with a retiring collection for the St Mary Magdalene Choral Foundation.  
**Sat 7 Dec, 2.30pm** Honourable Artillery Company Band, the annual Christmas singalong! Christmas jumpers optional.

### **London Tango at Christmas, Saturday 30 November, 7-9pm**

Listen to much loved Piazzola's tango music, pieces from The Romano Viazzani Ensemble's album London Tango and many more. Immerse yourself in the world of passionate music whilst enjoying a glass of wine at St John the Divine. For a 20% discount, visit - [www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1033386576067/?discount=KRISTYNA20](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1033386576067/?discount=KRISTYNA20)

### **Advent Reflection Groups**

During Advent this year we will be reading the Archbishop of York's Advent Book 2024, Rachel Mann's "Do Not Be Afraid: The Joy of Waiting in a Time of Fear."

This is a book of daily reflections on waiting well, which we will read individually throughout advent and then discuss together.

After the service on Sunday mornings (9:30am at St Matthias, 9:30am at St Mary's, 11am at St John's) each Sunday of Advent (1, 8, 15, 22 December), there will be an opportunity to discuss the readings from that week and reflect together. Do get hold of a copy, and join with us in reading and reflecting!

### **Electronic ADVENT Calendar**

Rev'd Anne will be creating an electronic advent calendar again this year, with a daily image, reflection and prayer arriving in your inbox each morning throughout Advent. If you have received the calendar in previous years then you will automatically receive again this year (unless you have changed your email address since the end of Dec 2023!). If you haven't received the calendar before and would like to, or would prefer not to receive it this year, then please contact Anne at [anne.crawford@richmondteamministry.org](mailto:anne.crawford@richmondteamministry.org)

### **Pre-teens meet Underground Our new Pre-teens group**

We're looking forward to our Christmas Film night Sunday 8 December. If you know anyone 7-13, who would like to come and spend an evening with us, please do let Emma know. ([cypml@richmondteamministry.org](mailto:cypml@richmondteamministry.org))

### **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 retrieve it now! The building needs to be completely empty by the end of November.

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

24 Nov	10.30am	Christ the King, Team Service at St John the Divine
24 Nov	6.30pm	Choral Evensong with Farewell to Wilma
25 Nov	7pm	Property and Finance Committee

## **Holocaust Memorial Day**

Richmond Synagogue and Richmond Council proudly invite you to their Holocaust Memorial Day event at 7pm on Sunday 26th January 2025 at Richmond Synagogue, Lichfield Gardens, TW9 1AP. Please register early to be assured of a seat - <https://myus.theus.org.uk/events/117018/annual-holocaust-memorial-day-2025/>

The doors will be open 6.45pm for a 7pm start. The event concludes at 9pm, followed by refreshments and conversation. Please note that the small car park is open only to blue badge holders, but there is plenty of street parking available near to the Synagogue and a car park in Paradise Road.

## **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. The last Tuesday of the month our regular Said Eucharist at 7pm is a Eucharist for Healing and Wholeness, with 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.

**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

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Passcode: 96s9Aa

You may already have Teams downloaded on a Microsoft computer. However, if you are joining from an iPad or other device, you may need to download the App.

Please contact Charlie if you have any concerns about this or need a hand with the tech.

With best wishes,  
John  
Parish Administrator

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020 8940 0362  
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St Mary Magdalene • St Matthias • St John the Divine  
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