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Goodbye to the Vicarage



The house and the garden bathed in sunlight as we said goodbye - Elspeth Fearn

This year RTM has said goodbye to the vicarage and parish office at Ormond Lodge which is being sold by the Diocese. Instead, a new smaller vicarage will be acquired for the next incumbent. The Parish Office, which is now temporarily at St Matthias, will relocate to the Parish Rooms once the latter have been refurbished, which will not be completed until 2026.

Earlier in the summer a special service was held in the vicarage on a Saturday morning at midday to commemorate the ending of St Mary's and RTM's association with Ormond Lodge. The service began with prayers in the front garden and included thanks for the wide variety of activities that had taken place over the years in the vicarage and its basement meeting room.

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All sorts of flowers, fruit and vegetables grew in the garden over the years

Goodbye to the Vicarage - continued



Sue and the cake - Adam Harrison

The service concluded with those who wished to, chalking the word 'Amen' on the steps leading up to the front door as a sort of coda. Everyone then retired into the back garden which was by now fittingly bathed in sunlight, a great place to enjoy refreshments including a special cake representing the vicarage. There was a distinct feeling of sadness that the vicarage building would no longer be part of the story of St Mary's and RTM but also a great sense of thanksgiving for all that it had given us over the years.



Amens chalked on the front step -

Thankyou Prayers

For this home, and the people who have lived here. For the service of the vicars who dwelt here. For the shelter and warmth provided here. Thanks be to God

For the hospitality provided here. For the people who, of need and necessity, stayed here For the comfort and safety provided here. Thanks be to God

For all the staff who have worked here. For the administrators, vergers, caretakers, and youth workers.

For all who offered help, guidance and service. Thanks be to God

For the meetings which took place here, For the wise decisions which were made here. For collaboration and conversation here. Thanks be to God

For Church Committees, PCCs, For May Fair Planning meetings, For Away Giving, and warden meetings. Thanks be to God

For the discipleship which happened here. For the Bible studies, courses, and learning. For the baptism, wedding, and funeral preparations. Thanks be to God

For Poetry and Meditation here. For gardening and growing here. For Christians at Work, and lectures together Thanks be to God

For damsons for jam makers, For the joy of friendly foxes, For the gift of holly, and firs, and daffodils. Thanks be to God

For socials and get togethers, For country dancing and receptions, For food and laughter, and flowing wine. Thanks be to God

For picnics and firepits, For Junior church and choir parties. For our final cake and fellowship here. Thanks be to God

For all that this place has been for us For all that it will be for others For one another as we go on from here Thanks be to God

History of Ormond Lodge

Ormond Lodge has been a constant part of most of our lives at St Mary's as worshippers and as part of RTM. However It only became St Mary's vicarage when the original vicarage, which was on Richmond Green, closed after the Second World War. This was a solid late such as Mothers Union Victorian house which stood on the site of what is now Portland Terrace. The vicarage then moved to Ormond Lodge. But the building was already associated with St Mary's because of a man called William Sandover, 1856 -1921, a businessman and local politician and Mayor of Richmond from 1905-1906. Born in Australia he had founded an ironmongers business Sandover of Freemantle and Perth, and made a great deal of money. In 1893 he was engaged to and later married Constance Atherton and they emigrated to the UK and specifically Richmond where Constance had connections. The couple purchased Ormond Lodge sadly, the hall burnt down a large, originally Georgian property. Sandover became very involved in the affairs of St of the hall.

Mary's and was also a leading light in the Diocesan and South London Church Fund. He was a member of Surrey County Council and of Richmond Borough Council. Sandover opened his house to host activities meetings, the Church Lads Brigade and other organisations and built a gymnasium and later a hall all of which were available for the parish and community events. He still kept in touch with Australia and it was whilst returning from a trip there that he died at sea in 1921. The Sandover Trust continued to administer the house, the gymnasium and the hall (although the latter was commandeered at the beginning of the Second World War). In the years afterwards the hall continued to function and included concerts by the Rolling Stones who had begun in the Crawdaddy Club in Richmond, Finally, shortly after and the Sandover House block of flats today covers the site



Exterior View of Ormond Lodge showing portion of land and wall given to the Town Council 1902 - LCF / 9384 Richmond Upon Thames Local Studies Library



So many gatherings - Elspeth Fearn

Talking about Death Seminar

by Charlie Middleton, Maia Rushby and Nicky Holt

For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 8: 38-39)

Death is one of those topics we usually prefer to push to the back of our mind and to dwell on only when strictly necessary. Even in church, we rarely tackle it head-on. Yet it is one of the few certainties in life - a natural fact of life and absolutely central to our whole spiritual understanding. How can we as a church provide a context to help people think more clearly about death? And how can we better support those who are facing death themselves or mourning the loss of a loved one?

A few weeks ago, we held an informal event at St Mary Magdalene aimed at removing some of the fear of thinking and talking about this sensitive topic. It was a chance to come together for a couple of hours to reflect on the practical and spiritual aspects of death all interspersed with music, conversation, and plenty of cake. The afternoon included several short talks arranged around different themes:

Anne Crawford gave a presentation on the

theology of death in which she shared her experience of working as a part-time chaplain at Great Ormond Street Hospital and offered us the powerful image of a dragonfly emerging from its chrysalis to help us picture the rise to eternal life.

- Rosemary Burch, Cicely Saunders' goddaughter, spoke movingly about palliative care and explained the support available in a hospice, or at home, to try to make the last few weeks of life as peaceful and individual as possible baby elephants and all!
- Sue Eastaugh bravely tackled the moment of death. She shared her experience of losing her mum just a few months ago and described the power and symbolism of anointing and other forms of support that priests can offer in and around the moment of death. It was emphasised we should not hesitate to ring Charlie, Joe or Anne any time if we would like a priest to attend a loved one who is dying.
- Ann Hanna from T. H. Sanders spoke about the

practical aspects of planning a funeral — whether recording what you would like for your own funeral or preparing a service for a loved one who has died. She highlighted the breadth of options available and encouraged us to pop in and talk to our local undertaker and to not be afraid of asking awkward questions.

- Charlie Middleton reflected on the importance of marking a death . She spoke about the nature and meaning of funerals, burials, memorial services etc and described other ways of continuing to remember a loved one e.g. through lighting a candle in church or saying prayers at the annual All Souls' service.
- Natalie Nesbitt talked and generously answered questions about wills and probate and touched on related issues such as expressions of wishes, living wills and lasting powers of attorney. Penny Carleton-Smith closed the afternoon with a deeply thoughtful reflection on loss, mourning and grief in which she spoke about the nature of loss, what grief is, its many stages and idiosyncrasies, and



the help and support on offer. A copy of Penny's reflection is available for anyone who would like

We are hugely grateful to all our speakers for their heartfelt and highly informative contributions and to Andreana for her beautiful organ-playing. Packs are available at the back of St Mary Magdalene with booklets on readings and choosing music for funerals, and there is also a little green form on which you could record your wishes for your own funeral, for safekeeping with your other important documents.

We hope to run a similar event on this topic in the future. In the meantime, please feel free to contact us if you would like more information about what was discussed or if you have ideas of your own about how we as a community might continue to "talk about death"



Speakers and the audience at the event - Revd Charlie Middleton

Sea Sunday



Naval Crest of TS Goodwin

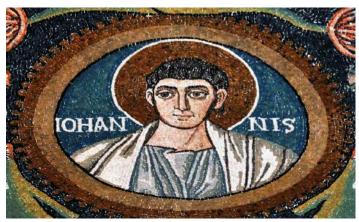
On the morning of Sunday 13 July, the officers and cadets of Training Ship Goodwin, Richmond Sea Cadet Unit 284 came to St Mary Magdalene on their annual visit to commemorate Sea Sunday. The readings and hymns were very appropriate - for example the hymn 'I the Lord of Sea and Sky' and the Gospel reading from St Mark 4.35-41 where Jesus calmed the gales and the waters. One of the officers read the Naval Prayer and a cadet read the Sea Cadets Prayer which goes:

'Lord, bless this Ship and her Company and all Units of the Sea Cadet Corps throughout the Commonwealth. Guide Charles our King and protect all those who go down to the sea in ships. Teach us to serve you as our Master on our early voyage, so that, at the last, we may come to the peace and safety of your eternal haven. Through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen'



After the Sea Sunday service

Patronal Festivals at St John the Divine & St Mary Magdalene



John the Apostle detail from mosaic in the Basilica of San Vitale, Ravenna, Italy - Richard Martel, Creative Commons Wiki

Patronal Festival services are now Team Services enabling other members of the Team Ministry congregations to join the celebrating church on their special day. Following St Matthias Patronal Festival in February (reported on in the Spring 2025 edition of Team Talk) St John the Divine celebrated its festival in June with the St Mary Magdalene festival taking place the following month in July. St John the Divine is a

title given to the author of the Book of Revelations and he is traditionally identified with John the Apostle also known as John the Evangelist . 'Divine' in this context means that he was a theologian. John was apparently exiled to the Aegean island of Patmos off the coast of Roman Asia, under anti-Christian persecution by the Emperor Domitian so sometimes John is known as John of Patmos. The island was where he was

supposed to have received the visions recorded in Revelations. The guest preacher at the patronal service in St John's was the Venerable Moira Astin, Archdeacon of Reigate whose appointment as the Bishop of Crediton had been announced shortly before and who was

held at St Mary Magdalene on 20 July with the Bishop of Southwark, the Rt Revd Christopher Chessun presiding. The service also included the confirmation of six RTM candidates - Matthew, Apolo. Jerry, Florence, Christopher and Sarah. We congratulate them on this important stage in



Patmos - View from the Monastery of St John the Theologian, Patmos - simonjenkins' photos Creative Commons Wiki

Bishop at Exeter Cathedral on 6 July. The readings in the St John's service were from the book of Exodus 33 18-23, from the First Letter of John I I-9 and the Gospel reading was from John's Gospel 21 19-24. After the service a joyful Patronal Bring and Share Lunch was held in St John's Hall at which worshippers from all three churches chatted to old friends and made new

subsequently installed as

The last of the Patronal Festival services was

ones.

their journey of faith. St Mary Magdalene was thought to have originally encountered Jesus through being healed by him. She was from the port of Magdala which lay on the eastern shore of the Sea of Galilee in what is now northern Israel. Mary became a prominent follower of Jesus travelling with him and the disciples and witnessed with others his crucifixion. Uniquely Mary was the first to witness Jesus' resurrection, and to spread the news to the disciples. The Gospel



Bishop Christopher and those confirmed that day

reading at the service was of course recounting these events (John 20 1-2 and II-18 }. Because of her role, Mary is often known as the Apostle to the Apostles. After the service everyone shared in refreshments. The

Patronal Festival weekend also included a community day with the Church **Court Community** Festival, a recital by the St Mary's Choral Scholars and on Sunday evening Pimms and Hymns in the Churchyard, always a popular event.

Close up of icon of St Mary Magdalene - Revd Charlie Middleton Detail from the icon of St Mary Magdalene which as part of the St Mary's 800 th anniversary in 2019 was commissioned from one of the leading iconographers or iconwriters in the UK - Peter Murphy. It is installed on a wall on the south side of the chancel and depicts the moment when Mary encounters Jesus in the garden and realises that he is not dead.



VE Day and VJ Day by Penny Carleton -Smith

I am writing this on 15th August, Victory over Japan Day. Japan had at last capitulated but only after the apocalyptic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The horrific war in the Far East had come to an end and our men and women could come home. At last, 80 years ago the most destructive war of all time had come to an end: 60 million lay dead.

On the 4th May this year, at St Mary Magdelene's morning service, we commemorated the 80th Anniversary of Victory in Europe, VE day, 8th May. During the service, conducted by Canon Nick Derby, five members of our congregation gave us

their personal remembrances of that day eighty years ago. Their contributions were most diverse reflecting the make-up of our congregation at St. Mary Magdelene.

Jean Harris, Nurse at Guy's Hospital. (100 years old this 7th August, 2025).

"When the war started I was 14... There was bombing every night in Southampton, and our house was completely destroyed by a direct hit in 1942. In 1944, when I was 19, I applied to train at Guy's Hospital as a nurse. On VE Day we were off duty for the evening, still in our

uniforms. I was with my friends, Phyllis, Jean and lanet and we came over London Bridge onto the Strand. Crowds were shoulder to shoulder. Someone wanted to go to the loo and we went into the Savoy! We went in and up to the top floor looking out over a sea of people. Everyone shouting and screaming, waving flags and dancing. I looked out over the Thames and it was full too. We went along to Trafalgar Square and the celebrations continued into the night...."

Liz Lanyon, schoolgirl in Devon and Hampshire. (95 years young!). "I was nine years old

when the war broke out

in 1939 and fifteen when VE Day arrived in 1945. My twin sister Priscilla and I were evacuated from our family home where there was nightly German bombing to Pembrokeshire. Occasionally enemy aircraft prowled overhead making for Milford Haven oil refinery. We dived under our desks and the teacher gave us tiny bits of tyre rubber to chew to take our minds off what might happen to us. By 1941 we went to boarding school and we were at St. Michael's School, near Liss, when VE Day was declared. I don't remember any great festivities, but we were given the day off with a picnic lunch. At our home

in Epping we had to make a rush to the cellar when we heard the ominous sound of approaching doodle bugs or V2s.
When out riding we had to steer our ponies clear of bomb craters."

Michael Carleton-Smith, schoolboy at Radley. (94 in May, 2025)

"VE Day was three days after my fourteenth birthday. I was a boarder at Radley College. Our Leicestershire home had been requisitioned to become a German Prisoner of War Camp. Until then we had had two evacuee mothers and their small children from the East End of London staying in our house and the wife and children of an army friend who had lived next to us in Cairo. The house became smelly and noisy!

We had a Thanksgiving Service in the Chapel on VE day and uniquely the day off. I set off to explore the local countryside. In a deserted anti-aircraft gun site, I found a metal armchair. which I loaded on my bike to walk back to school and finish my study. Only three months after VE Day the atomic bomb ended the war. We were staying in Malahide Castle near Dublin. The boat going out had been packed with Irishmen in British uniforms. We attended a crowded VI Day Thanksgiving Service in the village church in that Neutral Country."

Jutta Raftery. German Toddler 3 ½ years old. Hessen Germany.

"I have no recollections of VE day, I was too young, 3 ½ years old to realise the importance to the whole world of that momentous day. In fact, I together with my twin brother, older sister and our mother, was living in a paradise of peace, which was my grandfather's country house in Hessen, Germany.

And yet, our family, like endless others was badly

hit by this horrendous war. Five weeks after my brother and I were born we lost our father as his submarine was hit and sunk with the whole crew in the Mediterranean, leaving my mother with a toddler of I ½ years and us twins, five weeks old. She struggled on bravely but took her own life in 1977.

With all of you, I still give thanks for VE Day".

Heather Montford. Quaker Schoolgirl, 13 years old. (93 years young!)

"8th May, VE Day has always been a special day for me to celebrate. It's also my birthday! But that day in 1945 was not for me one entirely of celebration. My father was still a civilian prisoner of war of the Japanese in Singapore so for my family the war was not yet over. VJ Day is not generally celebrated, perhaps because it marks the beginning of nuclear war. My father returned home

by ship and I was allowed a week off from school to get to know him. I was 13 and had not seen him for eight years.

I was born a Quaker and was at a Quaker Boarding School in York. Quakers are not much given to celebrations particularly to do with wars and there was not much happening at school. But I remember going to a wonderful commemoration service in York Minster, which led me to join the Church of England in my twenties so that now I am a Quanglican! My father's tenet in life before making a decision, was what might be best in the public interest, rather than what one wanted oneself. Yes, God might show us the way but perhaps this is what we should think about in the commemoration of war and in this turbulent world today".



Those who gave personal remembrances of VE Day - Anthony Rell

From left to right Michael (and wife Penny who organised the remembrances), Jean, Liz and Jutta. (Heather who is not in the picture also gave her personal remembrances of this amazing day)

Reconciliation

Elspeth Fearn

In the late 1990s I was a civil servant working in Central London in an office in the Strand and regularly attended the midweek lunchtime communion service in the crypt at St Clement Danes Church. a few minutes walk away. The church's architect was Sir Christopher Wren, and it was one of the 51 London churches he designed, replacing those that had perished in the Great Fire of London in 1666. In a second great fire of London on 10 May 1941 St Clement Danes was bombed by the Luftwaffe, flames shooting up the tower and spire and the interior completely destroyed. 10 May was the last major raid of the London Blitz but had the highest number of casualties on any single night of bombing, some 1.436 deaths. Large areas of London were destroyed including the House of Commons, parts of Buckingham Palace, of the Tower of London and of the British Museum together with extensive sections of the East End and the London Docks.

After the war and at the request of the RAF Benevolent Fund the Diocese of London arranged that St Clement Danes would become the Central Church of the Royal Air Force as a living

memorial to RAF personnel who had given their lives in the conflict. It was restored by the architect W. A. S. Lloyd following Wren's original designs so that it is still very much a Christopher Wren interior. Interestingly, St Clement is the patron saint of blacksmiths, metalworkers, marble workers and stone cutters, all skills vital in the restoration of the damaged church. Set into the floor are over 1000 RAF squadron and other unit badges all made of Welsh slate. The church was reconsecrated in 1958 and its priests are always RAF chaplains. Across Europe during the war countless towns and cities were equally badly damaged. One of them, Bochum. is a large city in the Ruhr district of Germany, a major industrial centre particularly important in war time, so a prime target for numerous allied bombing raids. The worst raid was on November 4 1944 when 749 aircraft from RAF Bomber Command bomb-carpeted the city destroying 4000 buildings and killing nearly 1000 people. By the end of the war some 83% of the buildings had been destroyed Following on from one of the weekly midday

communion services I



Bomb Damage to the interior of St Marien Church, Bochum - Bundesarchiv Bild 146-2008-0032/cc-BY-SA30

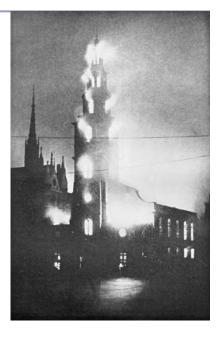
attended at St Clement Danes, a concert was held upstairs in the main body of the church. The concert was being given by a visiting choir from -Bochum. As they filed into the church and stood in front of the altar ready to sing, they looked quite apprehensive. Although this was now some considerable time after the end of the war there were still tensions. From the choir's point of view they were singing in a church that the Luftwaffe had previously destroyed, all around them were symbols of the RAF and outside the church was a statue of Sir Arthur Harris, head of RAF Bomber Command from 1942 and responsible for the large scale strategic bombing of Germany. He is still amongst some people regarded as a

controversial figure. Many in the choir would have had relatives who had been in Bochum during the raids by the RAF and whose lives and homes had been badly affected. Some indeed may have lived through those times themselves.

The choir began to sing and the beautiful notes of a piece by J S Bach rang through the church. The singers began to notice the warm reception and welcoming faces in the audience and they very visibly relaxed. The concert went from strength to strength and at the end the choir received prolonged and very enthusiastic applause. Everyone was smiling. In the past St Clement Danes and the cities of London and Bochum had suffered badly but those times were gone and now

we were friends. For several years I have been a member of the Friends of St Clement Danes and visit there regularly. As I step into the church I often think of that concert and the impact it had on me. That day I saw in a small, modest but very meaningful way what

reconciliation can mean. We pray for all who suffer in war.



The burning tower and spire of St Clement Danes Church 10 May 1941 -Denis Richards HMSO In public domain

Visit to the Poppy Factory Anna Baghiani

I was delighted to be trusted to organise a visit for interested SID congregation members to the Poppy Factory in Richmond. So after several arrangements of dates and times it was agreed a group of us would go. Unfortunately, last minute, I was told my first cataract operation had been brought forward - to exactly the same date and time as the planned visit. I was so

disappointed.

The group went without me, and were given a guided tour and met Stephen and Sue Ward, regular members of our congregation who have been working at the Poppy Factory for many years. I was told the visit was a great success and very informative, and reports back were very positive of all the hard work, dedication and

enthusiasm that was clearly visible. You can only imagine my joy to be asked to visit separately on V.E.Day by Stephen and Sue. With one eye fully recovered from the op, I could see reasonably well now, the beauty of the poppies and the displays. I was one of many who were attending that day. We were offered an insight to the history of the factory, the role it played in the life of veterans and how their hard work has benefited others. It seemed to me like a supportive family, spanning several generations, growing in relation to demand and its services. One of the highlights of the visit was being taught or should I say, challenged by Sue how to make a traditional poppy using only a shaped block of wood and paper and plastic parts? We were told to tuck our strong hand behind us and

then make a poppy completely with only the weaker hand. This made me realise that a number of the workers had sustained war injuries and disabilities, be it blindness, or having a limb missing. Another highlight was seeing a short film by the entrance on the Berlin Butterflies. These unusual pictures were made just after the war by Berlin survivors using shards of broken pottery and glass left after the Allied bombing raids on the city. A series of these survive and one is in the Poppy Factory collection. Having seen it in the film, I asked cheekly if I could see and touch the original. I looked at it close up. Little specks of colour made from the detritus of war. The hatred between nations - the tragedy of lost lives, and when I touched it, I felt all the pain and suffering, not just in Berlin, but in all



The group with Stephen and Sue at the Poppy Factory

countries, damaged by war. It was such a moving experience, certainly one I will never forget. I urge anyone reading this to look at the Poppy Factory website and support the work it does by paying it a visit. On behalf of everyone who went along, myself included, I extend our

gratitude to all of the staff and volunteers at the Poppy Factory, especially Sue and Stephen - we really do appreciate all the hard work you do!"



Berlin Butterfly

Poem by Sylvia Browning

Summer

Red roses round the doorway, Birds skim across the sky, Sunlight filters through Lush foliage, West wind is warm and kind.

Gold shoes on the staircase, Footsteps in the hall, Reflections of a chandelier At a summer ball.

Midnight by the seashore, Dancing in the dunes, Watching gentle waves Wash in Beneath a crescent moon.

Walking by the water Slowly, Hand in hand, Soon a dawn will break again Over the sleeping land.

Subtle sounds of summer And timeless energy, Captured in a fleeting moment -In Eternity.

Sylvia Browning 11 June 2025

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A Prayer by the Church of England for VJ Day 2025

God of the nations our refuge and our dwelling place we remember with thanksgiving those whose service achieved Allied victory in the Pacific and hold before you all those who suffered from the devastating trauma of war May their memory inspire us to learn from the atrocities of the past and to pursue peace, justice and reconciliation in our own generation Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

The forces of Japan had invaded many countries in the Far East and the Pacific including China, Korea, Taiwan, the Philippines, what are now Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos (formerly French Indo-China), Burma, Malaya, Singapore and the many Pacific islands. All the civilian peoples of these nations suffered under harsh occupation and VJ Day meant the end of that suffering and brought them liberation. We also remember however the great price paid by Japan itself when 260,000 people died at Hiroshima and Nagasaki. May all the victims of war rest in peace. May we do all we can to prevent war.

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Our Churches

