



Richmond Team Ministry

TEAMtalk Late Autumn/Early Winter 2025

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Goodbye to Charlie

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Charlie at the Lectern - Sisi Burn

On 27 June 2021, having been ordained deacon at Southwark Cathedral the day before, the Revd Charlie Middleton was welcomed to St Mary Magdalene and RTM to begin her life here as a curate. We were still at that time deep in the travails of Covid and so an initial 'greet and know you' meeting with people in the parish had to be carried out on Zoom rather than in person.

Charlie settled in and soon a year went by as she was ordained priest by the Bishop of Southwark on 2 July 2022 at All Saints Kingston. She celebrated the eucharist for the first time the following day at St Mary's on the Feast of St Thomas. (Fortuitously the Church of England's ban on wine being given in communion because of Covid, was also lifted in July.)

Charlie was involved with the parish children from early on with the monthly Children's Service and other children's activities including themes such as Going Back to School, Pets in Church (on the Feast of St Francis), Waiting for Advent and many others. There were also summer parties for children to enjoy.

... continued on page 2

Goodbye to Charlie - continued



Charlie and Joe at the Nativity in St John the Divine - Reverend Joe Moore

Charlie says 'It was a privilege and a joy to be curate of RTM for more than 4 years. I am so grateful to you all for your kindness and your brilliance! (With thanks also for your gifts and such a wonderful farewell!) I will always think of you with great fondness, and pray for you often God bless, Charlie.'

For the adults Charlie ran Bible study classes including on Life, Love and Light. Two Parish Weekends at Wychcroft Retreat Centre were led by Charlie, the first reflecting on the Psalms and the second on 'Speak Lord for Your Servant is Coming' from the the First Book of Samuel. Charlie's love of art resulted in a visit to the National Gallery with her guiding participants on works representing Mary Magdalene and there were also practical art sessions back in Richmond on various themes. Curates as part of their training are encouraged to spend a month learning about ministry in a

different context and in Charlie's case this was a placement with the Revd Dr Mary Kells, the Chaplain of Kings College, Cambridge the college being RTM's patron. Looking further abroad Charlie attempted the Camino, the pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela but had to withdraw because of injury. We had to admire her courage in later walking the route a second time and on this occasion completing it successfully. Thank you Charlie for your service in Richmond - including for the way in which because of Wilma's retirement and the interregnum you were asked to defer the move on to the next stage of working as a priest. You

lead us with assurance, conviction, innovation and great spiritual grace during these times at St Mary Magdalene and it was very comforting that you were there.'

Some Reflections by Charlie on her time in RTM are to be found in the article following this one.



Charlie lighting the new fire at the Easter Dawn - Fiona Morgan

Charlie's Reflections after leaving Richmond *In discussion with Elspeth, the editor of Team Talk*

E You arrived at St Mary Magdalene in June 2021 in those difficult times of the coronavirus epidemic and endless lockdowns and restrictions so not normal parish life - a situation faced by churches across the Church of England. We look back on those days with sadness because of not being able to worship as we would have liked and for quite a time. Although it must have been difficult beginning your role as a curate in those circumstances, what were the positives arising out of the situation and did you learn things that you did not expect to learn?

C It was a strange time indeed: At my first visit to SMM, the pews were socially distanced and the congregation couldn't sing. And, such was the back and forth of lockdowns, my first meeting with Wilma was inside, in her office, and the second was in a pub

garden wrapped up in jumpers, after which I went to peer at SMT and SJD from the outside! At my ordination, the other ordinands and I were pressed shoulder to shoulder kneeling before the Bishop, squashed in because there were so many of us. That in itself was an intense experience, having not had prolonged periods of physical contact with strangers for over a year. There was a very visceral feeling of camaraderie in it though: going through something extraordinary *together*. And that felt like a microcosm of the whole emergence of the Pandemic for me: I emerged from the crucible of theological training (and the pandemic) rather more fragile and aware of my own vulnerability than when I went in. It was unpleasant at the time, but I think that it has made me a kinder, more patient, more



How to wear a medical mask safely - WHO ad Creative Commons

compassionate person and priest.

The other gift was that the gradual release from lockdowns also meant that I could get to know people slowly: There were fewer people to meet and get to know in the beginning, and over time the numbers and my familiarity grew. Everything was new to me, but to some extent it was new to all of us: It was a process of unfolding and cautious reacclimatising. For me, it was an oddly gentle introduction to church life in Richmond, for which I was very grateful.

E Discipleship and helping people learn about their faith and seeking to follow Jesus is very important. You ran an impressive range of activities whilst in Richmond to encourage different aspects of faith

including bible reading and study. What does discipleship and the role of members of our congregation mean to you?

C When I was a teenager, I was part of an Evangelical church which really emphasised conversion and it wasn't clear to me what comes next. Was it simply that I was safely in the sheep pen, and now I must persuade others to come and join me? Eventually, I discovered discipleship as a lifelong adventure, and realised that the journey of faith is less about hemming in and more about broadening horizons. One of my favourite aspects of ministry is enabling discipleship. I love leading Bible Studies, and small groups, and art groups, and preparing people for life events.

For me the process of discipleship is one of trust: trust that God is good, and will still be good if we question and interrogate and think about things deeply and for a long time; trust that we are known and loved and so we can explore who we are without fear; trust that our faith is



Discipleship - familyradio315.com

not a fragile tower perched on a sand foundation which will crumble if subject to robust enquiry. So, with all that understanding hanging in the balance, discipleship is best undertaken together and joyfully! Discipleship should be fun. Jesus disciples weren't just trudging along after their master taking notes, they were living alongside him, partying and questioning and making mistakes. Discipleship is the work of intentionally learning and growing and following Jesus. There is always more to see and experience and understand.

E Art is obviously a very important factor in your life and RTM has benefited from this. Amongst art related events was the trip you led to the National Gallery to see paintings of Mary Magdalene, watching an icon writer varnishing an icon of again Mary Magdalene and

the Reflective Art Afternoons you ran once a month with participants having the space to create art based on a theme. What does Art whether sacred or secular mean to you ?

C For me, art is important for expanding my understanding, for encountering other ways of seeing the world, for prompting questions, for revelling in beauty, for mourning humanity. I love to encounter art and to make it. There's this interesting book called "The Art of Theological Reflection" by Killen and de Beer and, in that, they recommend making art about it. By creating art we learn about ourselves - Why did I draw it like that? Why did I pick that image? Why is that still on my mind? Killen and de Beer think that creating art leads

to revelation, and I agree with them. While I was in Richmond, I took part in a project for LGBTQ+ Christians where we were asked to keep art journals, to help us to reflect on who we are and who God is and the circumstances in which we found ourselves. I was really surprised by the levels of self-awareness which emerged from that project for me. Partly, I think, you have to sit with an image or an issue for an amount of time, possibly in quiet, concentrating, not preoccupied with conscious thought, using your body, bringing something into being. Whether it's storytelling or painting or music making or sculpture or baking or poetry or or or or we are created to be creative. It's a kind of spiritual rebellion in societies where we are told that our only value is as consumers. No - we were made to create.

E You have prepared people for baptism or their children's baptism, for confirmation and couples for marriage. It must be a great privilege to be such a central part of these major and happy steps in their lives - for couples to learn

how to live and grow together, for children to take the first steps on their journey of faith

C It is the greatest joy to get to know people, and to meet them at significant moments in their lives is a real gift. There's no way to prepare people for baptism and confirmation which doesn't go straight to the heart of who they are, so it requires gentleness and integrity. To be entrusted with that is a great privilege. I love preparing wedding couples because you accompany them through the 18 months or so before their wedding, which is almost always a time of great excitement and phenomenal stress: Money and family and future, sometimes moving, sometimes children, sometimes the other stuff of life, it all accompanies preparing for your wedding day So, as you meet them over the course of that time, you get to know them, you can support them, and pray for them. Funerals too - you arrive in people's lives at a time of loss and admin and sadness. I can't keep using the word privilege, but it is! To accompany people through the early (and sometimes later) stages of grief, when their life has been



Mary Magdalene by Giovanni Girolamo Savolda
c1480-1548 National Gallery and Google Art Project

changed forever, or to care for a mourner who feels guilty that their heart isn't broken. We are all complex and human and in need of love and community. And I am blessed that my job is to show people something of

God's love in



The Cross of Santiago, traditionally coloured in red and white, the red representing the blood of Christ and the white purity - Wiki Creative Commons

significant circumstances. It is the best job in the world (in my humble opinion).

E You completed the Camino Pilgrimage to Santiago di Compostela this year. What insights to your faith and life did this give you and what were the highlights of this challenging but fulfilling journey?

C I made two attempts to walk to Santiago while I was in Richmond. The first (ill fated) journey, I undertook from Saint-Jean-Pied-de-Port (stopping at Burgos, with a broken phone and an injured knee). The second, all the way to Santiago from my own front door. What surprised me was how

much I enjoyed the English stretch of the second journey. I had thought of the Camino as a primarily Spanish (and certainly continental) adventure, but pilgrimaging from home and across familiar landscapes was amazing. It was an entirely different way to experience this country, and to think about this land, as sacred. Sacred, not because I believe Jesus travelled to this isle with Joseph of Arimathea, but because Christ is incarnate, because we are embodied, because we are called to holiness, because we inherit a land which has known of Jesus' love and grace for over 1500 and people have

walked Christ's way all over it.

A couple of weeks after I left Richmond, my wife and I walked a pilgrimage from London to Canterbury (often called the Pilgrim's Way, or the Becket Way in honour of Saint Thomas Becket, who was martyred there). While we walked, we prayed for the Archbishop Designate of Canterbury (the ABCD) who will make her own journey from London to Canterbury, and whose designation had just been announced, and we appreciated the physical toil and the beauty of the English countryside. We're hoping to undertake the pilgrimage along St Cuthbert's Way (from Melrose to Lindisfarne) next year.

Reconciliation in Rome



Meeting of The King and The Pope - Vatican Media

Recently a seismic event occurred which seemed not to have quite the attention that it might have had although it was featured widely on news bulletins and in the press as a major story. The world is very distracted currently with even more tensions, conflicts, crises and instability than usual. However the event, which took place at the Vatican on 23 October with the visit of the King and Queen to Pope Leo and the Holy See was unique, a

landmark, and a source of great encouragement for the future and for interfaith relations.

King Charles' predecessor Henry VIII had been awarded the title of Defender of the Faith by Pope Leo X in 1521 to reward him for a pamphlet he had written – 'Assertio septem sacramentorum adversus Martinum Lutherum' criticising Martin Luther, the German theologian and religious reformer who instigated the Protestant Revolution. Yet only 15 years later in

1536 and because of Henry's wish to divorce Catherine of Aragon and marry Anne Boleyn, Henry broke with Rome and established the Anglican Church, appointing himself as Supreme Governor of the Church of England. This was a massive shock to Christendom at the time – monarchs although immensely powerful always had a higher loyalty to God and obedience to the Pope. Henry's Defender of the Faith title was subsequently removed by the Pope as punishment but the English Parliament reinstated the title and it remains one of the monarch's titles today.

As part of the King's visit a special ecumenical service was held in the



At the Service - Vatican Media

Sistine Chapel, the themes of which were Care for the Creation and the Environment and Christian unity. The music was provided by the combined choirs of the Sistine Chapel, the Children of the Chapel Royal, St James Palace and also the choir of St George's Chapel, Windsor. The service was the first time that a British monarch had prayed publicly with the leader of the Catholic Church since the break with Rome - some 489 years before. The service and the public display of togetherness would also have been unthinkable only a few years ago. It was as late as 1980 that the late Queen Elizabeth II became the first British monarch to visit the Vatican. There

is, however, a great desire in these times for unity between the two churches and the King has always been interested in inter-faith dialogue.

The King and Queen were accompanied by the Archbishop of York, the Rt Revd Stephen Cottrell and the Foreign Secretary Yvette Cooper who read a lesson from Romans 8 v 22-27 in which the whole of creation is described as waiting for redemption. The words of the opening hymn were written by St Ambrose (339-397) Bishop of Milan. They had been translated by John Henry Newman who had been an Anglican priest but converted to Catholicism, and later became a Cardinal. The King had attended the canonisation service for

Newman in 2019 and had also visited the Birmingham Oratory which had been founded by Newman in 1849. The service ended with the Pope and the Archbishop of York offering the closing prayer, speaking together.

After the service the Pope and the King walked together in harmony out of the Sistine Chapel. Later, the King visited the Papal Basilica and Abbey of St Paul's without the Walls which was built over the site of the tomb of St Paul. From 597 onwards English Saxon kings like King Offa and Aethelwulf contributed to the maintenance and upkeep of St Paul's tomb and later medieval English kings were recognised formally as protectors of the basilica. The King was

given the title of Royal Confrater and presented with a specially commissioned new chair with the royal arms on it and the motto Ut Unum

Sint (That they may be One) taken from John 17 v 21-25. This chair will be kept permanently in the Basilica so that it can be used when the King or his

successors visit in the future. The visit by the King and Queen and the joint service was a deeply moving and significant

event and mark a new era in the relationship of the Anglican Church and the Roman Catholic Church

Repair Work at St Mary Magdalene

During the course of 29 and 30 October the scaffolding which had been erected to deal with damage to a pillar and overhead beam at St Mary Magdalene finally came down, ending 18 months of investigation and repair. For a considerable time plastic sheeting had concealed the works but reducing the number of seats available for

worshippers. Back in February 2024 some loose wood chips had been seen at the foot of the round pillar by the prayer board. Initial investigation revealed that both the pillar and the overhead beam were affected. Further examination and investigations showed that the repairs necessary were more serious than

originally thought. Before work could start a faculty (a legal document granting permission to carry out work in a church) had to be approved by the Chancellor of Southwark Diocese. Richmond Council and English Heritage also had to be consulted and their approval given. This all took time and remedial work finally commenced

on 12 August 2025 consisting of heavy structural work, then re-plastering. In due course this will be followed by redecoration early in 2026 once the new plasterwork has dried fully.



The temporary plastic sheeting concealing the scaffold - Anthony Bell



The scaffolding coming down at last - Anthony Bell

The Nativity - Engraved by Gwen Raverat

Elsbeth Fearn

An occasional series in which members of our congregations explain which bible reading, hymn, piece of religious music or art has real meaning for them and their faith

I have chosen a Nativity scene by Gwen Raverat 1885-1937, an English wood engraver and founder member of the Society of Wood Engravers. There was a revival in wood engraving at the end of the 19th century. Gwen was the granddaughter of Charles Darwin and was married to the French artist Jacques Raverat. They were both active in the Bloomsbury Group. In wood engraving the artist carves an image on a block of hard wood, inks the block then prints from it. The image is created by many fine lines and most wood engravings are in black and white which enables a really effective use of light and shadow. In this picture the focal point is the child Jesus in the lower right corner, lying with not much below him on the cold stable floor. But his father Joseph is bringing in a

pitch fork of fresh hay which will be put with the child Jesus in the manger and also will feed the donkey and the cattle at the back of the picture. It is a time of quiet in which the two parents look lovingly on with delight at their precious baby son, their figures in their simple white robes, bending in his direction. They are becoming used to his presence and his needs and to their important new roles as mother and father, The child Jesus is so tiny and yet so powerful will be his destiny.

It had been an exhausting and difficult journey to Bethlehem and ahead of them in the future were more difficulties. As Joseph had been warned in a dream that Herod intended to kill the child Jesus the family fled into Egypt where they stayed until Herod had died and the danger was over. Finally they reached



The Nativity

Nazareth and a safe childhood for Jesus. I first became aware of this engraving a while ago when I sent it as my Christmas card one year. Over time I've sent many different Nativity cards for Christmas but this one

is an image that often returns to my mind. It depicts most powerfully the joy and love around the coming of the Christ Child, the Saviour of the World and what it is to be a parent for the first time.

Autumn Leaves Are Falling

A Poem by Sylvia Browning

Autumn leaves are falling
From an opalescent sky,
Red and yellow, green and gold,
Silently they fly,
Drifting past the Chapter House,
Past ancient walls of grey,
Until the sky shows crimson
At the ending of the day.

And watching, we remember
All those who went before,
Who sacrificed their lives for us
In conflicts and in wars -
They fought for king and country,
Giving all they had to give,
So that we would have a future -
And so that we could live.

Sylvia Browning
30 October 2025
Copyright
Sylvia Browning 2025



Autumn Leaves by Sylvia Browning
Copyright Sylvia Browning 2025



Remembrance Poppies - Elspeth Fearn

From 1-15 November the town centre was transformed into a living tribute with hundreds of poppies blooming in planters across Richmond, this tribute being organised by BE Richmond'

Revd Canon Julian Reindorp RIP

Julian died unexpectedly on Sunday 14 September, a great shock to all. The sad news which was so very difficult to take in was broken gently to many people by telephone. The following Tuesday, during the weekly bell-ringers' practice at St Mary Magdalene, bells were rung half muffled as a tribute to Julian. Next day on the Wednesday the regular weekly service at 10.00 am was changed into a wider service of reflection and memories of Julian. A book of

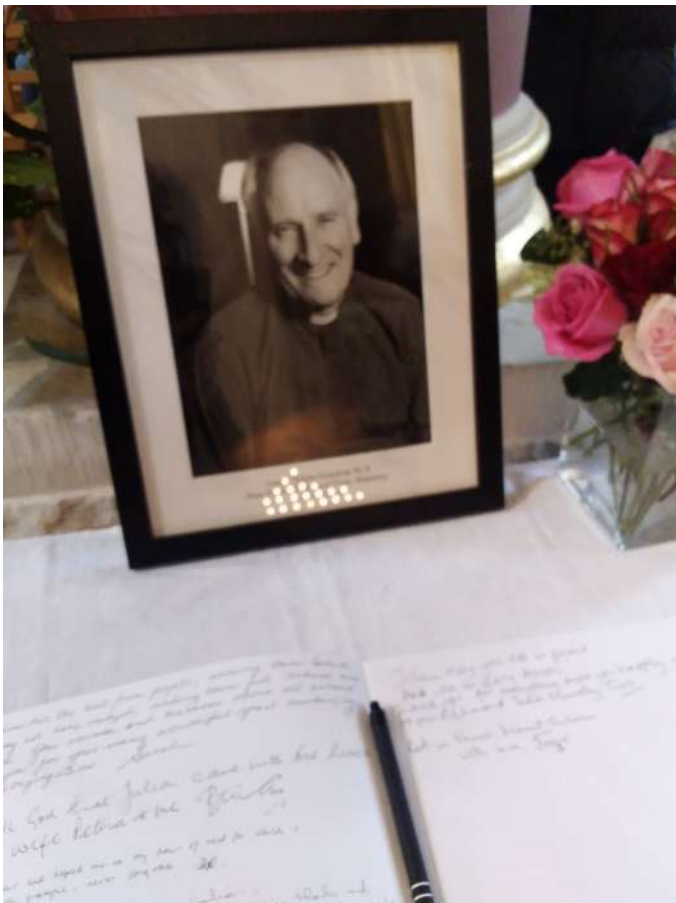
condolences was opened in St Mary's and the comments showed the great love and admiration in which Julian was held by so many, both inside our churches in RTM and across the town of Richmond and beyond. Julian was the son of George Reindorp, (later the 5th Bishop of Guildford and subsequently the 75th Bishop of Salisbury) and Alex, a South African doctor, and they were living in South Africa when Julian was born. Like his father Julian



Our friend Julian - St James' Hampton Hill

became a priest. His first post as a curate was in Poplar in East London before he and his family moved to Chatham then to Milton Keynes and finally to Richmond in 1991. He retired in 2009 after 40 years as a parish priest but typically for him that was only the beginning of another story

of faith and service as he became an assistant priest at St James's Hampton Hill and was still serving at the church at the time of his death. We send our love and condolences to the clergy and congregation of St James's in their loss.



Book of Condolences - Elspeth Fearn

Christians at Work

Julian all his working life had a great interest in industrial chaplaincy or workplace chaplaincy as it is more commonly known today. Before being formally selected for training as a priest the selection committee suggested that he gained pastoral experience in the north of England. So Julian spent the next two summers in Stockton on Tees watching the work of Bill Wright the leader of the Teeside Mission and seeing how connections were made between work and faith. As part of Julian's training and funded by a World Council of Churches' scholarship he also went to Bangalore to interview key trade union leaders in the city. Following ordination he continued to study the

relationship between Christianity and the workplace. This always remained an important concern for him. Whilst in Milton Keynes he set up a formal group, meeting regularly over 7 years, of workers which discussed the challenge of being a Christian where they worked and the lessons that could be drawn. When Julian came to Richmond he set up a similar group - Christians at Work - which ran for many years. It was also known as the In and Out of Work Group because it was important not just to have the perspective of those who were employees or business owners, but also those who did not work, those who were retired and those who were volunteers, the latter a very important group in our society where there are so many demands which far outweigh the resources available.

The group met in the Vicarage basement meeting room every other Saturday morning between 9.15 am and 10.15 am and after an initial coffee a person would speak for 10 minutes about their job/ occupation or voluntary work and the role of Christianity in these settings both for themselves and for others they worked with. Discussions within the group would then follow and often the initial talk would throw up difficult situations and problems that benefited from sharing with the group and listening to their advice and suggestions. Dealing with the intense pressure of many jobs was also often discussed. It was recognised that the world of work unfortunately often produces structures that can result in conflict. But at the same time, the good and positive things

that had happened in a person's working life were also talked about and the speakers benefited from this perspective and where they could take pride in their work, Details of the speaker for each meeting and what they would be talking about were sent out in advance. The Spring 2007 meetings, for example, covered a wide variety of topics:

30 September - The challenge of growing a business

11 October - South Africa and the world – especially from the economic view point

14 October - A sabbatical from portfolio working

11 November - Reflections on Faith and Challenge in a Public Sector Career

2 December - The work of a Clinical Psychologist

Coming up in the next term were talks on the challenge of being a TV producer and also a barrister and their working life. Every year there would be a longer all-morning session, usually with a guest speaker, and the one to be held in February would cover Stress and Work Life Balance by an Immigration Judge. Thank you to Julian for setting up a Christians at Work Group and the benefits that it brought.



WORKPLACE CHAPLAINCY

Sermon Writing With Julian

One of the many articles that Julian wrote both for Ministry Today and other publications was one in which he outlined the practicalities of how he prepared his sermons. Preparation and research were conducted starting on Monday when he looked up the readings for the following Sunday

giving occasional thoughts to the theme during the days that followed and also consulting the commentaries. But it was on Saturday evening when he finally got down to the actual writing because as he said 'No one wants to see their vicar on Saturday evening'. The text was usually finished

by about 9 pm. As he was taking several services on the Sunday he would review the sermon and its reception in between each of them. It was also important that the sermons needed to be clear, verbally visual and memorable enough for the listener to take home for possible discussion

over Sunday lunch. As for relevance Julian told the tale of his first vicar's wife in East London who said to him 'Julian your material is ok but you must be prepared for a small boy to want to go to the toilet at least three times during your sermon'.



Memories of Julian

Jackie Harrison

One of the things that I remember (as a churchwarden) is that Julian kept a diary for the full year before he retired in 2009 documenting the key tasks to be done each month. He said that he wasn't worried about the services during the

interregnum once he had left - these were all planned and would take care of themselves. What he was worried about was pastoral care and whether anyone would notice if others were missing from church on Sunday morning. Even before his retirement was planned in

this way we had lots of people who we were supposed to look out for.

Cidalia Araujo

I met Julian through Louise and he welcomed me to St Mary Magdalene many years ago. He made me feel part of the church community straight away.

From the very beginning Julian put me through my paces. He had a unique way to get you involved in the various aspects of the church. I started as a welcomer, and a bell ringer. Then I was introduced to the amazing ladies (sacristans) and became another one of

this charming group of friends. Later on, Julian asked me if I would like to become a server. I had no idea what was involved but I said Yes'. He introduced me to Elspeth who trained me as one of the team of servers. On a personal level, when I went through a very difficult time in my life, dear Julian was there supporting myself and my two sons. He was there not only as a priest but as

a friend that we could reach out to at any time. His support was so great and I will be forever grateful. Julian was a caring, wonderful human, who made a difference not only to me and my sons, but to so many people. I will miss him a lot.

Elspeth Fearn

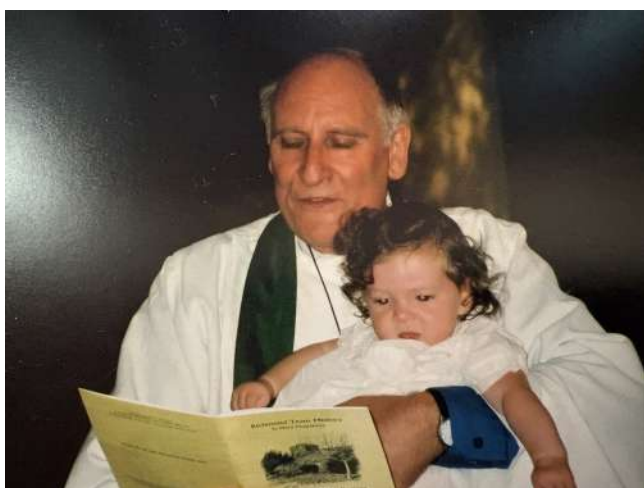
I thought it very special when Julian, not that long after he arrived in Richmond ,gave the

communion wafer to every one using their name. Apart from his memory feat it made receiving the communion wafer extra special. He was always so concerned with the individual and their well being. I once said to him that he was like my own personal chaplain but of course when I think about it he was other people's personal chaplain too. That was his great gift.

Julian also regarded people beyond the church congregation as needing his care and love as a good priest would. My husband Neil rarely comes to church but he and Julian would have interesting discussions on the phone about politics and he always regarded himself as one of Julian's flock.

Carole and Peter Cregeen
Julian was just Julian and that was everything!

Baptism



Julian and Baby after the Baptism - Carole Cregeen



The Baptism Service - Carole Cregeen

Julian was always very good at baptisms holding the baby very confidently and carefully. After a baby had been baptised he carried the baby slowly down the nave to the heart of the congregation so that they could see the child close up and really welcome him or her.

Revd Canon Julian Reindorp Memorial Service

On 29 November at 3 pm the church of St Mary Magdalene was completely packed with at least 500 people who had travelled from far and wide to honour and remember our special

friend and priest Julian, his life and ministry. The service was also livestreamed so that many more people could take part. The service was conducted by the Revd

Canon Rachel Carnegie who had served with Julian in St Mary Magdalene as a curate and was now Chaplain of All Souls College , Oxford. Ruth Martin, our Reader, also took part and had

worked very hard organising the service which reflected the journey of Julian's life. The hymns all chosen by Julian himself were Praise My Soul the King of Heaven, Tell Out My Soul

the Greatness of the Lord, Dear Lord and Father of Mankind and Guide Me O Thou Great Jehovah. In between were many tributes from family, friends, former colleagues and those who had known and loved Julian from his ministry in Milton Keynes and Richmond. There were even memories of Julian at school and his running prowess,, Recollections of Julian's ministry in Richmond were given by Bleddyn Phillips and Judy Wright and these are printed following this article. Despite the sadness of the occasion there was a lot of laughter and happy memories. Included in the prayers was Psalm 23 sung in Hebrew by Rabbi Guy Hall, a friend of Julian for many years and who came once a year to preach in one of the RTM churches reflecting on the Gospel reading of the day, from a Jewish perspective.

A new set of vestments for St Mary's Is being dedicated to Julian's memory and at the end of the service Rachel blessed the cope. The stole, chasuble, altar frontal and pulpit fold will be blessed in due course when they are received from Watts the ecclesiastical supplier The final blessing was given by the Rt Revd Guli Francis-Dehqani, Bishop of Chelmsford. Guli and her husband Revd Canon Lee Francis-Dehqani had lived in Richmond during Julian's ministry when Lee had been the vicar at St Matthias. After the service was a chance for everyone to catch up with each other and reminisce about Julian over light refreshments. There were people there from all stages of Julian's life who attended the service to honour him. We will so miss Julian in the future. Our thoughts are with Louise and all the family.



The Procession at the Beginning of the service - Jo Kitson



Family Tribute - Anthony Bell



Standing Room Only - Anthony Bell

The Richmond Years

Tribute given by Bleddyn Phillips at the service

In 1991, as the Parish Warden of this church, I was closely involved with the appointment of the new Vicar. During the invitation to all members of this parish to attend a meeting to greet and assess all four shortlisted candidates, I was left in no doubt as to who our number one choice was. To ensure I kept to the script I was despatched for the final interview at King's Cambridge with Sue Sabbagh. Although the final decision lay with the then Bishop of Kingston, Peter Selby and Hal

Dixon representing King's as our Patron, they made our decision very easy by saying that as this was to be our Vicar, the decision should rest with us which they would fully support. As we had been told by the congregation not to bother coming back to Richmond unless it was with Julian, we were relieved to get home.

This led to a long standing tenure of almost 18 years. The longest since an appointment in 1867. Which speaks volumes for the highest regard in which Julian was held - not only by this church and Team Ministry but throughout the wider

Richmond community and beyond. The fact that Julian may have officially stepped down from his role as Vicar and Team Rector in 2009 did not mean for a moment that he had stepped away from his close support and care for so many of us. Hampton was far too close for that. Indeed he remained in close contact with a number of us just a few days before he passed away and was due to take the 9:30 service here just a few weeks ago. So you could justifiably say that he was a core spiritual presence here for around 33 years. That puts him in the same longevity bracket as only one other Vicar since 1696. Truly a man for all seasons, decades and centuries.

And also a man for all creeds, races, abilities and backgrounds. He introduced our first female curates - Ruth Scott and Rachel - presiding today - as well as celebrating one of the first blessings of female partnerships in the Church of England. His outreach and mission embraced the wider Christian community as well as Islam, Judaism and indeed all faiths and beliefs - whether religious



Julian on his motor bike - Jackie Harrison

or secular. On the secular front he chaired political hustings in church as objectively as any self respecting card carrying member of the Labour Party might. He actively led and encouraged November talks with the likes of Richard Holloway, James Naughtie and Alan Rusbridger and was an enthusiastic supporter of the May Fair and other local, highly respectable of course, institutions.

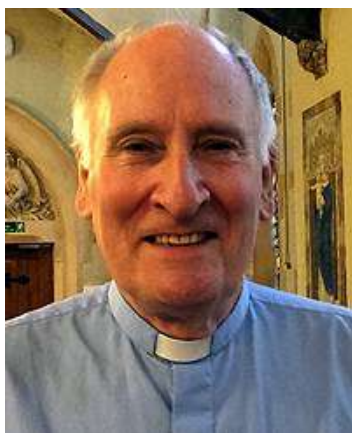
Julian for me was a man of four H's - Honesty, Humility, Humour and Huggability - even if it was at times difficult to get your arms around him to give him a good hug over all that heavy biking clobber before he'd step on his beloved red moped. He was a Peanuts blanket for so many of us - someone warm and

wonderfully comforting. Someone who was always a friend with whom to share a coffee or a bite - so long as you kept him away from the kitchen and any electrical appliances. Being both sons of men of the cloth we understood the sacrifices that entailed for our immediate families and often talked about it - so a very special thank you today to Julian's family for sharing him with us over so many years and of course to Louise whom we are so pleased and grateful for being with us today.

Julian - you are sorely missed though you are not gone and will forever live within a part of each of us. May we all remain true to yourself and your spirit.

The Richmond Years

Tribute given by Judy Wright at the service



Julian - St James's Hampton Hill

He made an impact in Richmond'. 'A real Parish Priest.' 'He changed lives.' 'He was Inspiring – and made me laugh' These are the words I've heard from local people as I've walked around since Julian died.

Nelson Mandela said, "A Good Head and a Good Heart is a formidable combination" and Julian was a wonderful mix of head and heart --one of his gifts was to laugh with us and cry with us whether it was at a time of personal loss or national tragedy, and sometimes it was both. His thoughtful pastoral care was exceptional - he visited so many homes to put 'the wallpaper with the face', he was interested in our personal stories and because he was God Centred, he reached out to find the unique part in each of us that needed comfort and strength, he enriched our spiritual lives & encouraged us to gossip the gospel.

When he gave us

communion, he called us each by our name. Julian also shared his vulnerabilities with us and there could be times when we failed to keep up with his thoughts and he bewildered us – I think Jenny referred to this as speaking in hieroglyphics! The Christians at Work group where we shared "the day in the life of" -- a teacher, solicitor, banker, civil servant, etc enabled us to reflect on our working lives in the light of our faith, how we split our time on our physical emotional and spiritual needs. I think it linked back to his time as an industrial chaplain and because many of the parables were about working lives.

He used his South African roots to good effect when he agreed to become patron to the Rainbow Fund for South Africa, offering guidance and

wisdom when I chaired this charity that supported a homework school in Guguletu on Cape Flats. He was good friends with Margaret Legum who worshiped at St Mary's having been exiled here during the apartheid years. I helped Julian with one of the aspects of Parish life he found difficult without Susie - marriage preparation. Together we prepared about 200 couples using the format that she had devised with 5-6 couples in three sessions. They were thought provoking, often surprising, and always with laughter & fun (try describing your last row a week after it happened!) - we finished the final evening with a bottle of wine. Julian felt he had earned the privilege to marry people once he knew them – he also concluded that

'Richmond's' were more willing to share their financial details than any problems in their sex lives! There was no overt Christian teaching in the groups - but we talked a lot about conflict and saying sorry and he was clear there is no future in a relationship without forgiveness. I still meet



Bluedyn and Judy giving their tributes on the Richmond Years - Anthony Bell



Julian preaching at his goodbye service at St Mary Magdalene - Jackie Harrison

many of you who came to these groups & several are here today.

Julian often quoted Dag Hammarskjöld - Sec Gen of UN

For all that has been - thanks

For all that shall be – YES I'm sure, like you, I can hear Julian saying that Emphatic YES

A final word for Julian's family – "Thank you for sharing him with us, his Extended Family – he was Very Special".