

Thursday 13 August 2020

Dear Friends,

Today many young people will have received their A level results. This includes students at Christ's School, our local CofE school and young people in our congregations. What a strange time it has been for them and for those receiving GCSE results next week. For several years they will have been preparing for their exams, only then not to be able to take them. We remember those we know in our prayers as they prepare for the next steps in life and ask for God's blessing on them.

On Saturday, 15 August, we quietly mark the 75th anniversary of VJ Day. Whilst VE Day marked the end of the war in Europe in May 1945, many thousands of Armed Forces personnel were still involved in bitter fighting in the Far East. Victory over Japan would come at a heavy price, and Victory over Japan Day (VJ Day) marks the day Japan surrendered on the 15 August 1945, which in effect ended the Second World War. A Two Minute Silence will take place at 11.00am and will be the focal point of the commemorative service at the National Memorial Arboretum. At 11.10am many churches, including St Mary Magdalene, will ring one single bell 75 times. A short reflection by Michael Carleton-Smith can be found on the RTM website: <https://www.richmondteamministry.org/sermons/article-for-75th-anniversary-of-vj-day>. In a world ever changing and ever more complex, let us not forget to pray for peace and understanding.

Also on 15 August the Church remembers the Dormition of Mary, the Mother of God. It is a Great Feast of the Eastern Orthodox, Oriental Orthodox and Eastern Catholic Churches which commemorates the "falling asleep" or death of Mary, the Theotokos (God-bearer), and her bodily resurrection before being taken up into heaven. Within Anglican doctrine the Assumption of Mary is either rejected or regarded indifferent; it therefore disappeared from Anglican worship in 1549, partially returning during the 20th century under different names. 15 August is celebrated by the Church of England as a non-specific feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary, which give us at least the opportunity to give thanks for this remarkable woman who dared to say 'yes' to God, even though this would come at enormous cost. She remained faithful, even to the end. Hence she remains an inspiration for all of us.

The Sunday service this week, 16 August, will be at 9.30am at St Matthias and St Mary Magdalene, and 11.00am at St John the Divine. In addition there will also be a Eucharist on Wednesday morning at St Mary Magdalene at 10.00am. Although there will be paper copies of the Sunday Order of Service available for those who would like one (these paper copies will 'belong' to you alone – please take it home with you), you will now be able to download a copy of the order of service on to your phone or tablet before coming to church – please go to <https://www.richmondteamministry.org/orders-of-service-readings> and download it - don't forget to bring your device with you. Do remember to wear a face covering in church, unless you are exempt from doing so.

Our churches continue to be open on specific days and times **for private prayer**, when you will be able to light a candle and reflect or meditate:

St John the Divine will be open on Saturdays, 10.00am – 12noon and Tuesdays, 9.30am – 12.30pm

St Mary Magdalene will be open on Saturdays, 10.00am – 12noon

As you will know, we have been advertising for a **Children and Young People Ministry Leader** to join the Richmond Team and build on the wonderful work done by Helen in the past 4 years. Although we received a reasonable number of applications and interviewed 3 candidates, we were, sadly, unable to appoint. We will start the process again soon. Please pray for the right person to come forward.

As churches and places of worship have been closed to visitors for several months this year **Open House London 2020** have asked us to take part by having our church buildings open. We would like to take part on Saturday 19 September. St Matthias and St John the Divine will be open between 10.00am and 12noon, St Mary Magdalene between 10.00am and 4.00pm. If you are able to help by welcoming visitors and ensuring spatial distancing, we'd love to hear from you. An hour or two of your time would be much appreciated!

You are welcome to come to **Morning Prayer via Zoom** from Monday till Thursday, 8.30am.
Zoom details: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86533609294?pwd=MDhPRXNkT2M2a1c4czRiYzUrd3BsZz09>
Meeting ID: 865 3360 9294

Passcode: RTMAugust

Do make sure you are signed in just before 8.30am as we start on time. If you have access to Daily Prayer, that helps, but even without a book or the app you can still join in prayer!

A prayer for VJ Day

God our Father,
in the dying and rising of your Son Jesus Christ,
you have brought life and salvation out of cruelty and death.
We mark Victory in Japan
in gratitude for the courage of the Allied forces
who suffered for freedom in the Far East campaign
and in sorrow for all that hinders the coming of your kingdom of peace.
Give us wisdom to learn from the bitter memories of war,
and hearts that long for the unity of all nations.
We ask all this in the name of Jesus,
in whom there is no east or west, no north or south,
but one fellowship of love across the whole earth.
Amen.

A Prayer for 15 August

Mighty One,
whose power does not reside in fleshless lonely purity,
whose word is enwombed at the heart of creation:
we praise you for Mary,
whose hospitable Yes made a place for love;
whose song of transformation makes thrones and rulers tremble;
whose prayer is heard because she is one of us;
through Jesus Christ, Mary's Child.
Amen.

We continue to pray for you and your loved ones.

With every blessing for this coming week,
Anne, Neil and Wilma

Please pray for:

- ...**Fr. Jamil Khadir and the Anglican congregations in Nablus** in the West Bank and the Anglican Church in Beirut.
 - ... **Christ's School**, for all those who received A level results this week and for those receiving GCSE results in the coming week
 - ...**Glass Door** guests, especially those who are sleeping rough again
 - ...**all those who work for the NHS**, for carers and key workers
 - ...**the sick and those in need** - Hermione Lockyer, Ron Bond, Madge Thorns, Molly Lambert, John Roberts, Sarah Swanson, Joy Clarke
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Church, Community and other news:

Glassdoor Winter Night Shelter Update

At the beginning of lockdown, as our churches were required to close, we were unable to continue to offer accommodation in our buildings as part of Glass Door's Winter Night Shelter. Thankfully the government stepped in to work with homeless charities to provide accommodation to protect these most vulnerable people and keep them safe as the crisis deepened. Sadly, this government aided assistance came to an end as lockdown began to ease and as you will be aware the numbers of homeless sleeping rough on our streets is increasing by the day. This desperate situation will only continue to worsen as we move towards the winter and we obviously are eager to continue to support Glass Door in appropriate ways so that both guests and volunteers stay safe. At the moment – and the situation constantly changes – it seems very unlikely that night shelters as we have offered them in our churches over the last three years will be able to open, but there will be opportunities to support the homeless by working with Glass Door in other ways. Our coordinators are keeping in regular contact with the directors at Glass Door so that when the time is right we can step up and offer the help which is needed. I know that each of our church coordinators will be in touch with those of you who have volunteered in the past so that you can register your intention to continue to help, but if you would like more information then please do get in touch.

With grateful thanks for all you have done over recent years to support our coordinators and the night shelter project. If you would like to know more about Glass Door then please see their website at www.glassdoor.org.uk

Rev'd Anne

Give A Little

We are hugely grateful to so many who continue to make their weekly or monthly contribution to the finances of the Team, by standing order or direct debit. Contributions can also be made electronically in church and there will also be a plate for cash collections at the back of each church.

However if anyone would like to make an additional donation to the work of our churches this can be done at <https://givealittle.co/campaigns/5260a080-4ee0-49b6-a1c3-d552ef9a0700> Whilst this is a challenging time for many, financially as well as emotionally, I hope we can continue to count on your support for the work of our 3 churches.

Things for our Children and Youth:

Our children and youth Zoom meetings are now taking a summer break!

YouTube:

Through the summer there are a series of **Junior Church** videos available on our YouTube Channel in the form of Diddy Disciples. You can then select a combination of these to make your own worship time. (For the Story time - I suggest you access the Podcasts of the stories of Moses, available on the Diddy Disciples website – the link will be on the YouTube Video Notes accompanying each video) OR you could choose a Bible Reading/Story from your Bible to look at.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCAx9IJyEAnl1tITcZ8SehA>

Ideas and support for Faith at Home:

'Messy Church' ideas are available on this website:

<https://www.messychurch.org.uk/resources/messy-church-home-ideas> It is full of creative ways to explore faith and worship using household items, available for you to do independently. Well worth a look!

Diddy Disciples have a new extra page on their website, to support church / faith at home:

<https://www.diddydisciples.org/thechurchathome>

'**Together at Home - Church Resources**' has lots of ideas - you can find them on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/613930636117980/>

You'll find some more suggestions and links to living out your faith at home, particularly if you have young people with you: http://www.going4growth.com/growth_in_faith_and_worship/faith-in-the-home

Please continue to **join us in praying** for our schools, nurseries, all who care for children and for the children and young people themselves.

Where to watch church services or access resources while church buildings remain closed:

The Church of England have a special page for you to light a virtual candle and make time to pray which you can view here: <https://www.churchofengland.org/our-faith/light-candle>

You can also access more online services produced by the Church of England here: <https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/church-online>

With best wishes,
Tina

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