

Thursday 8 October 2020

Dear Friends,

We missed singing Harvest hymns together last week, but still we celebrated God's amazing generosity in Creation and gave thanks for food and food producers. Thank you to everyone who contributed to the harvest gift for Richmond Foodbank. The total amount of money is not yet available but will certainly help in getting the Foodbank a new delivery van. Thank you!

The next significant church festivals we encounter in a few weeks' time are All Saints' and All Souls' on Sunday 1 November. The Feast of All Saints will be celebrated in each of our churches in the morning services but in the evening we come together at St John the Divine to remember our loved ones who have died. If you would like someone's name to be read out, do [email the parish office](#) or write the name on a list in church. Many people will have encountered loss and may not have been able to attend funerals in these past 7 months. The All Souls' service will be an opportunity to come together with our grief and loss and be supported through the liturgy.

Then we come to another day of remembering, on Remembrance Sunday, 8 November. At the moment it looks unlikely that we will be able to hold the usual big Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial on Whittaker Avenue, but we will mark the day in our own churches and keep the 2 minutes silence at 11.00am.

For the past 4 years I have attended, on the day before Remembrance Sunday, a service of Remembrance at Richmond Synagogue, together with other members of our congregations. I received the following letter from our friends at the Synagogue:

Sadly the Richmond Remembrance Service, for which we're responsible has, despite the consideration of all kinds of alternative possibilities, ultimately proved impossible to arrange in the shadow of Covid-19, and particularly in light of the latest restrictions just announced.

We very much regret that we have no alternative this year to our suspending our service, which had been scheduled for November 7th. Should you wish to commemorate the event on your own we suggest taking a few minutes to read Psalms 23 and 130. These are two prayers which have been read for thousands of years in times of war, famines and pandemics, and amid periods of personal hardship and loss.

We will miss seeing you this year, but look forward to welcoming you in good health in 2021.

I'm sure we can each find a few minutes on 7 November to read these psalms in solidarity with our Jewish friends.

Most months the Diocese of Southwark produces a newspaper, The Bridge, with news from all around the Diocese. You may want to have a look at the latest on line edition as you will spot some familiar faces! <https://southwark.anglican.org/news/the-bridge/2020/> Louis, a member of the congregation of St Mary Magdalene, who is now at Manchester University, was head student at Christ's School. He has been a great ambassador for the school. Other ambassadors for the school are the governors who support the head teacher, Helen Dixon, in the care for all students and staff. Phil Rushby believed very strongly in the school's ethos and was a fantastic chair of governors. We continue to miss Phil very much. Whilst we are not asking for anyone to step into his shoes, we are looking for someone who would want to join the Governing Body and maintain the Church of England link with Christ's School. Could it be you? Do get in touch if you would like to talk it through or explore.

A personal note: may I take this opportunity to thank you for the amazing gift I have received from you on the occasion of my installation as Honorary Canon at Southwark Cathedral. I was really taken aback by your kind generosity. A canon's cassock is now on order, complete with red buttons and cincture. If you haven't seen evidence of the event last Sunday, you might like to watch the short video which Charles put together, in part for my father and siblings as of course they were unable to be present.

<https://www.richmondteamministry.org/stmary/revd-wilma-roests-institution-and-installation-as-honorary-canon-of-southwark-cathedral>

The Sunday services on **11 October** will be at 9.30am at St Matthias, and 11.00am at St John the Divine. At St Mary Magdalene services will be at 8.00am and 9.30am, and at 6.30pm as Choral Evensong returns, sung by the Choral Scholars. Although there will be paper copies of the Order of Services (including Evensong) available for those who would like one (these paper copies will 'belong' to you alone – please take them home with you), you will 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! Please remember to wear a face covering in church, unless you are exempt from doing so.

We continue our prayers for all members of our congregations and the community we seek to serve, and send blessings for the coming week.

Anne, Neil and Wilma

This week the letter has been written by Revd Wilma Roest

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**, especially for the Governing Body

...**Glass Door Staff**, and for guests, especially those who are currently sleeping on the streets

...**the sick and those in need** – Hermione Lockyer, Ron Bond, Madge Thorns, Valerie Llewellyn, Bob Smith, Molly Lambert, John Roberts, Sarah Swanson, Joy Clarke, Chris O'Toole, Patricia Doling, Dolly May

...**the departed, may they rest in peace** – Richard Windred (former RTM PCC Secretary)

Church, Community and other news:

Our churches continue to be open at specific 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 and St Matthias will be open on Saturdays, 10.00am – 12noon.

The latest edition of **Team Talk** is now available on our website - <https://www.richmondteamministry.org/wp-content/uploads/2020-09-Autumn-Edition-web.pdf> Paper copies are not being produced this time.

You are welcome to come to **Morning Prayer via Zoom** on Mondays to Thursdays, 8.30am. 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!

Zoom details for October:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89255710188?pwd=eVBVTGk0Rm5aeWxTckYzMDRYWk5WZz09>

Meeting ID: 892 5571 0188

Passcode: RTMOctober

Volunteers needed:

It has been wonderful that so many people have been able to help neighbours and friends during these past months. Now your church needs to ask for some volunteering help. Can you offer time and skill? We are looking for people who might be able to help with the following:

- be a Foundation Governor at Christ's School (i.e. appointed by the PCC), ideally with business or finance background
- be the Richmond Team Ministry PCC Secretary, supporting the Team Rector in preparing for PCC meetings and providing a link to the Diocese.

All these roles need filling and all are important. Of course you would receive support and guidance as you serve the church in a unique way. Do talk to a member of the clergy, if you are interested or would like to learn more.

We are very pleased that Jackie Harrison will take over from Graham Hunton as Gift Aid Officer. We thank Graham for all his excellent work for the Team. Sarah Percival has offered to be the PCC Minute Taker and this has been gratefully accepted.

Christian Aid Autumn Appeal:

Due to Covid-19 restrictions we were unable this year to carry out street and church collections during Christian Aid Week in May. But the needs still remain. Christian Aid works with many vulnerable communities around the world helping them support each other. One such group is a farming community in Nicaragua whose coffee farms are threatened by climate change. With your support, Christian Aid can provide tools and community training so that they can continue to farm.

Please use the link below to donate:

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/richmondchristianaid>

Go to Christian Aid's website to find out more:

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/key-appeals/global-neighbours-autumn-appeal>

Understanding Islam

Under the auspices of Faithful Friends, Chris Hewer, who is an outstanding speaker on Islam, has kindly agreed to do a zoom study on 'Husayn and the struggle for Justice Today' Wednesday 21 October, 7.00pm to 8pm.

Here is the link:-

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81419336844?pwd=Sit2Slc4SFVFUGYlRyt3ZnhCQjZidz09>

Meeting ID: 814 1933 6844

Passcode: 263520

Warmly recommended!

Recitals at St Mary Magdalene:

Saturday 7 November, 12.30pm Emily Christian, soprano. Emily is Choral Scholar at St Mary Magdalene. More info about her programme next week.

Saturday 5 December, 12.30pm Rachel Smith, flute

Recitals are free with a retiring collection for the Choral Foundation.

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.

Patience School, Uganda

A **big thank you** to all who have helped with the support of Patience School in Uganda with which we have been involved with since 2012. A video has been made showing all the works that have been done (you can view that here: <https://vimeo.com/464552149>). Provided the Ugandan Government agree, we are now ready to re-open Patience Nursery and Junior School in January 2021. Thank you, you have made a tremendous difference to the lives of the staff, pupils and their families. God bless you, Sue O'Toole

The Riverbank Trust is looking for a Fundraising, PR & Marketing Manager – details can be found here:

<http://riverbanktrust.org/recruitment/>

Children and Youth activities:

Eaglets with story time and songs for young children, parents and carers, has now re-started, and is still currently meeting on Zoom on **Tuesdays from 3.30-3.50pm**. Please contact Fr Neil for more details.

Mary's Little Lambs meets on Zoom on Thursdays at 2.30pm, in more or less the same format we had before the summer holidays. There will be a short Diddy Disciple service with a story, a few songs, prayers and a bit of catch up time.

Here are the Zoom log in details you need:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84871971852?pwd=cmEwZmNyY0toLlEwYTthoSGtCdDliQT09>

Meeting ID: 848 7197 1852

Passcode: SMM MLL

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>

Please note that I am now working remotely on Mondays and Tuesdays and in the Parish Office (which will be open to visitors) on Wednesdays and Thursdays. This is for the foreseeable future.

With best wishes,

Tina

Tina Roberts
Parish Administrator (Mon – Thurs, 9.00am – 5.00pm)
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[Click here for the Team Rector's Twitter feed](#)