

Thursday 29 October 2020

Dear Friends,

As the days get shorter and the nights longer we become aware of the need for light, both physical and spiritual light. It's not surprising that lighting a candle is even more poignant when the world outside is dark. We light candles as prayers or as a way of remembering a loved one.

The Church keeps November as a month of remembering. This Sunday we begin by celebrating all the saints, living and departed. I always find All Saints and All Souls, both marked on the same day in this parish, a bitter-sweet day, rejoicing in the example of the saints who show God's light and remembering those whose have completed their earthly journey.

This year those who have died as a consequence of the pandemic or as a result of injustice will be much in our thoughts too. Whether or not we have been bereaved ourselves, we have in our congregations those who have. We too are experiencing, to a greater or lesser degree, some sense of loss for those things we took for granted – handshakes, closeness, touch.

We will all have our own ways of dealing with loss and remembering and bereavement. As I have had to acknowledge my own feelings of sadness this year, I found the following short liturgy comforting. Maybe it is of help to you too:

A candle is lit

Gracious God:

**you are the love that created the world;
you are the light which shines in the dark;
you are the one who is here with me now.**

A brief silence is kept

Holy God:

**there are times when we cannot feel your love;
times when we struggle to see your light,
times when you seem absent and we feel empty.**

The candle is extinguished: we watch the smoke dissipate

Loving God:

**where the pain is raw, send relief;
when fear paralyses, pour out peace;
where anger festers, have mercy;
when doubts overwhelm, hold us fast.
Amen.**

The All Souls' service on Sunday will be a Requiem Mass at **St John the Divine** at **6.30pm**. This is a Team service. There are lists in each church for you to add the names of departed loved ones you would like to be read out during the service. You can also email names to the clergy if you can't get into church yourself. Please ensure you have done so by Sunday lunchtime.

Information about Wild Church on 1 November and times for private prayer can be found further down this newsletter.

On Sunday 8 November we mark Remembrance Sunday, honouring those who have given their lives for our freedom and praying for justice and peace in our time. The corporate civic Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial on Whittaker Avenue cannot take place this year; in the Borough of Richmond there are no official planned events this year. However, the mayor will be placing a wreath at each war memorial. The

council says it will be filming these to share with residents, but stressed that these events are private as they do not want crowds to gather. The restriction should not stop of us from ensuring we remember and pray. We will do that in our own churches or at home.

In other years some of us would have gone to Richmond Synagogue on the Saturday before Remembrance Sunday for an Act of Remembrance with our Jewish brothers and sisters. Sadly this can't take place this year, however we have been asked to join in prayer with them on Saturday 7 November, 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.

This season of Remembrance is not only about the dead but about the living. With much on the news about child poverty and free school meals, we may be misled to think that poverty is elsewhere and not here in Richmond. However, even here in this prosperous part of London there are people struggling to feed their children or themselves. If you are aware of someone for whom things are tough, if you are that person going hungry, please know that we can help in various ways. Any contact with your clergy is always confidential, so do not hesitate to get in touch.

And finally... a personal thank you from me for the gift of a wonderful new canon's cassock which safely arrived this week. It has been expertly made by J&M Sewing, traditional clerical outfitters in Newcastle. I am really pleased with it and will wear it when appropriate. Thank you again for your incredible kindness and generosity.

We continue our prayers for you, as together we remember in hope and faith.

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 praying for Tom Rutter, chaplain

...**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** – Ian Kelly, John Lewis

Church, Community and other news:

The Sunday services **this** week, 1 November, will be at 9.30am and 11.00am (see paragraph below about the 'Wild Church' service) at St Matthias, and at 11.00am and 6.30pm (the All Souls' Team service) at St John the Divine. At St Mary Magdalene, services will be at 8.00am and 9.30am. Please note there will be **no Evensong** at St Mary Magdalene this Sunday.

Wild Church @ St Matthias, 11.00am, Sunday 1st November. We meet in the church garden for this outdoor act of worship. The theme this month will be 'Living Stones' with an opportunity to be creative in our worship as we focus on the natural beauty of the world around us. Wild Church is for all ages, and is especially suitable for children. To enable a safe Covid-secure worship space places must be booked in advance by emailing Rev'd Anne anne.crawford@richmondteamministry.org Thank you.

Although there will be paper copies of the Order of Services 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.

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.

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 November:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86352038524?pwd=amllMzQlRStHQnpzMUZVYWwhKzZzdz09>

Meeting ID: 863 5203 8524

Passcode: RTMNov

About APCMs and Church Meetings.....

It has been a strange year so far and not one in which many meetings have been able to take place in person. Normally in April we have an Annual Parochial Church Meeting, when we agree the accounts for the previous year and elect new Church Wardens and PCC members. That has not happened this year and we had hoped to be able to come together in October. However we have now been granted permission by the Bishop of Southwark to move the APCM for 2020 to 2021. This means that on 23 May 2021 we will hold two APCMs, in one go. In the meantime we are most grateful to all our Church Wardens and PCC members who are continuing to serve the Richmond Team. Church Committee, PCC and Property & Finance meetings will continue to take place via Zoom.

Seeking a room to rent: Quiet, clean, Christian, mature, professional female, and fully home-trained friendly cat aged 8 in need of garden access. Available for immediate move, in or around Richmond area, and 30 minutes driving radius. Please contact Linda Hall - 07770 976415 / linda2020x@gmail.com Warmest blessings and many thanks.

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>

Recitals at St Mary Magdalene:

Saturday 7 November, 12.30pm Emily Christian, soprano. Emily is Choral Scholar at St Mary Magdalene.

The recital will include music by Purcell, Michael Head, Clara Schumann, Liszt, Rimsky Korsakov and Lehar.

Saturday 5 December, 12.30pm Rachel Smith, flute

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

Flat available to rent in one of RTM's properties

A very spacious ground floor one double bedroom flat, with hardwood floors, off street parking and direct access to large lawned garden. Quietly located in the heart of Richmond, moments from the Town Centre shops and riverside. Available for long let. Contact letting agent Major Son and Phipps for more info.

<https://www.majorsonhipps.com/properties/9468919/lettings>

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.

Children and Youth activities:

Eaglets with story time and songs for young children, parents and carers, is currently pausing to re-consider its timing. We'll let you know when a new slot is fixed.

Mary's Little Lambs is now taking a little break. We will be back soon!

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
Working Mondays & Tuesdays remotely 9.00am – 5.00pm, and
Wednesdays & Thursdays in the office, 9.00am – 5.00pm
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