

Thursday 12 November 2020

Dear Friends,

What an exciting development for the United States and, indeed, for the wider world, as Americans anticipate their first female vice-president! From what I have heard and read, it seems Kamala Harris will bring an impressive range of professional, political and personal skills to her new role.

This week the Church calendar celebrates three notable women from history. On Monday, we – not least those resident in St Margaret's! – give thanks for **Margaret, Queen of Scotland**, 1046-1093. Margaret was the daughter of the Anglo-Saxon royal house of England, but educated in Hungary, where her family lived in exile during the reign of Danish kings in England. After the Norman invasion in 1066, when her royal status was still a threat to the new monarchy, she was welcomed in the royal court of Malcolm III of Scotland, and married him in 1069. It was apparently a happy and fruitful union and Margaret proved to be both a civilizing and a holy presence, instituting many Church reforms and founding numerous monasteries, churches and pilgrim hostels – a woman of prayer as well as good works and generosity.

Another philanthropist, **Elizabeth of Hungary** (1207-1231) is commemorated on Wednesday. She was the daughter of a king of Hungary, and was given in marriage to Louis IV, Landgrave of Thuringia, with whom she had three children. It was a happy, though brief, marriage, as he died of the plague after just four years. Elizabeth was driven from the court and settled in Marburg, where her confessor was Conrad of Marburg, a domineering, even sadistic character and, unsurprisingly, a successful inquisitor of heretics....

Elizabeth suffered mental and physical abuse from him, in the name of religious austerity, but by all accounts bore it all with humility. She became a member of the Franciscan Third Order, which reflected her life of caring for the poor, including cooking and cleaning for them. Because of the severe treatment she endured, her badly weakened body gave way under the pressure, and she died aged just 24.

Then on Thursday we honour **Hilda, Abbess of Whitby** (614-680). Born of the royal house of Northumbria, baptised in York at the age of 12, she became a Religious when she was 33, encouraged by Aidan of Lindisfarne. Hilda established monasteries, first at Hartlepool and, two years later, at Whitby. Whitby became an important centre of learning, and was the meeting place for the significant Synod in 664 which decided to adopt Roman tradition in preference to Celtic customs. Although herself a Celt in religious formation, Hilda played a crucial role in reconciling others of that tradition to the decision of the Synod, and is also celebrated as a great educator.

I don't have space to include all three Collects in their entirety, but here's just a few extracts from them:

*God...who called your servant **Margaret**...and gave her zeal for your Church and love for your people....mercifully grant that we who commemorate her example may be fruitful in good works and attain to the glorious crown of your saints....*

*Lord God, who taught **Elizabeth**...to recognise and reverence Christ in the poor of this world: by her example strengthen us to love and serve the afflicted and the needy and so to honour your Son, the servant king.....*

*Eternal God, who....[through **Hilda's**] holiness and leadership blessed your Church with new life and unity, help us, like her, to reconcile those who are divided.....*

Amen, and thanks be to God for these women of faith and their rich legacies in which we continue to share centuries later.

The second lockdown continues and, while less restrictive than the first one in some ways, it still remains a challenging time and prevents us from gathering together for public services in church. Do note, however, the times when our buildings are open for private prayer (see later in this e-newsletter).

But some more positive news: progress, and cautious optimism, on the vaccine front ...

We continue our prayers for all of you, and the community we seek to serve here in Richmond.

Anne, Neil and Wilma

This week the letter has been written by Revd Neil Summers

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, Sarah Swanson, Joy Clarke, Chris O'Toole, Patricia Doling, Dolly May, Simon Baynes, Harold Gill

...**the departed, may they rest in peace** – Chris Bartlett, John Roberts, Susan Harvey-Taylor

Church, Community and other news:

Sadly there won't be live services in our churches now until at least the beginning of December.

There will be live-streamed services from St John the Divine and St Mary Magdalene on Facebook (please see the bottom of this page for links to our Facebook pages) and they can be watched live if you have a Facebook account. If you don't have access to Facebook, you will be able to view the services from our website once the links have been uploaded, usually on Monday morning:

<https://www.richmondteamministry.org/messages>

There will be copies of the Sunday readings/orders of service on our website – please go to <https://www.richmondteamministry.org/orders-of-service-readings> to download or view them.

Our churches will 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:

Tuesdays, 9.30am – 12.30pm

Saturdays, 10.00am – 12.00noon and

Sundays, 9.30am – 10.30am

St Mary Magdalene will be open on:

Wednesdays, 9.30am – 11.00am

Saturdays, 10.00am – 12.00noon

Sunday 15 November 8.00am – 9.30am.

St Matthias will be open on:

Saturdays, 10.00am – 12.00noon.

Morning Prayer begins again next week (Monday 16 November) via Zoom with the following info:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86352038524?pwd=amllMzQlRStHQnpzMUZVYWwhKzZzd09>

Meeting ID: 863 5203 8524

Passcode: RTMNov

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!

Emily Christian was due to give a recital at St Mary Magdalene on Saturday, 7 November 2020. Due to lockdown the church was only permitted to be open for Private Prayer. However, here is a recording from last week's rehearsal – click on the link to listen. Thank you to Emily, Amy and Karl for the recording. <https://www.facebook.com/StMaryMagdaleneRTM/videos/281095566550326>

There will be an **Open Meeting with Lucy Abraham from Glass Door on Thursday, 26 November at 6.30pm via Zoom**. Lucy will be talking about the current situation for rough sleepers locally, Glass Door's intended response in line with the Covid related restrictions and the support that churches and individuals can give to Glass Door. The session will last for an hour with an opportunity for questions. Zoom log-in details to come – please book the date in your diary.

Sadly, because of the second lockdown, we weren't able to attend the annual Service of Remembrance at the Richmond Synagogue. However Rabbi Schindler has created a short video message which you can watch here: <https://youtu.be/hDTQ8yAZI5s>

PLEASE NOTE that there have been several **fake emails** purporting to come from 'Rev (or Revd) Wilma Roest' saying that she's got something urgent for you to do and asking you to get in touch with her by email and not to phone her. They're coming from various gmail accounts. **THESE ARE NOT COMING** from Wilma – she will never ask you not to phone her and her emails will come from her correct email address – rector@richmondteamministry.org It's a scam and if you reply they will ask you to buy gift cards – please delete these emails if you receive one.

A campaign called **FORK** (Feed our Richmond Kids) has been set up to raise funds for those under-fives at risk of food poverty this Christmas. It is working closely with Richmond Council and with The Vineyard Community charity to make sure it can deliver help directly to these otherwise hard to reach families. We know this is a time when everyone is asking for money for good causes and Richmond doesn't scream poverty, however 2,600 of our Richmond children are on free school meals and there are 400 pre-school children in need of help. Although the government has U-turned on offering help to children on free school meals, it doesn't seem as though it includes funding for pre-school children. These are very tough times and our Richmond pre-schoolers still need our help this Christmas: these are our Richmond Kids. Could you help by making a donation to feed pre-school children over the Christmas period: <https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/FORK>

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.

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 for the foreseeable future – please do send me an email if you want to get in contact.

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
Richmond Team Ministry
The Vicarage
Ormond Road
Richmond
Surrey
TW10 6TH
020 8940 0362
admin@richmondteamministry.org
www.richmondteamministry.org
Charity Number: 1130018

Our Privacy Notice can be viewed at: <https://www.richmondteamministry.org/wp-content/uploads/Privacy-Notice.pdf>



[Click here for St John the Divine's Facebook page](#)



[Click here for St Mary Magdalene's Facebook page](#)



[Click here for St Matthias's Facebook page](#)



[Click here for the Team Rector's Twitter feed](#)