

Thursday 16 September 2021

Dear Friends,

The middle week of September remains a resonant time for me, even though my teaching career ended quite a few years ago. It was the week when the fresh intake of students arrived in college, entailing the learning of a hundred or so new names. At the same time, I was thinking of the 'old' names – those who were moving on to the next stage of their education at university, many leaving home for the first time, and about to experience Freshers' Week. For those of you with students in the family departing for higher education, it might be a case of 'parting is such sweet sorrow'. But don't worry: they will be back, probably many times over. They still need you.

Here's what one student, Paul Behain, wrote to his widowed mother in Nuremberg in 1574:

'Dear Mother, I have used the money from the sale of my horse to have the simplest coarse green clothing made for myself – a doublet with modest trim, pleatless hose and hooded coat. Lest you think things are cheap here, all this has cost me approximately 17 or 18 crowns, even though it was as plain and simple as it could be. I could not have been more amazed when I saw the bill than you will be when I send it to you.'

We might well wonder what the boy did with the money from the horse, if his tailor's bill remained unpaid! Ah, well, life could be sweet at eighteen in the 16th century – as well as expensive. And not much changes. What's a parent for if not to pick up the bill?

Another worry that sometimes happens is a person's sudden change of career course. Just when you thought you'd all agreed on a lucrative and safe career in law, they announce they'd like to go on the stage! Mr and Mrs Zebedee must have wondered what their sons, James and John, were thinking of when one day they threw up their secure future in the family fishing business to follow that young preacher from Nazareth. Their story in the Gospel narrative is tantalisingly sketchy, but it gives us just enough detail to glimpse the support given by their families to those young men, including the one from Nazareth, as they followed the dream which led them to Jerusalem and the redemption of the human race. The women who provided for them while they were on the road 'out of their resources' (Luke 8:1-3) – who were they, if not their mothers, aunts and older sisters?

A cynic might have something to say about the comparison: young Mr Behain's tailor's bill is hardly the same as the cost to their parents of the disciples' vocation. But who knows? The feckless youth may have grown up to be like his father, a successful merchant and worthy citizen of Nuremberg: the stylishly sheer cheek of his letter boded well for his future. His mother paid the bill, but had no way of knowing how he would turn out. He may have come good, or he may have grown up a charming rogue, even a prodigal son – but, we might hope, a son with a patient and forgiving parent like the father in the parable.

As we all know, the past eighteen months have been exceptionally challenging and disruptive for everyone in the education sector. Please remember in your prayers all who teach and all who learn as this new academic year finds its feet.

With our prayers and blessings,

Anne, Charlie, 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; also for the peace of Jerusalem

...**Christ's School**, for all staff, students and governors

...**Glass Door staff** and for all volunteers as we plan for the next winter season and our involvement

...**the sick and those in need** – Hermione Lockyer, Ron Bond, Madge Thorns, Molly Lambert, Joy Clarke, Harold Gill, Alan Sykes, Pat Mygind, Veronica Huci, Penny and Michael Carleton-Smith, Megan Vaughan-Jones, Claire and Peter Day

...**the departed, may they rest in peace** – Kenneth Yard, Revd Chris Griffiths (Team Vicar, Christ Church, East Sheen)

Church Services:

At St John the Divine this Sunday, the 11.00am service will be both in-person and live-streamed via their [Facebook page](#).

St John's midweek service is an hour of contemplation, between 6.30-7.30pm on Tuesdays, with the Blessed Sacrament as the focus. If you would value a time of quietness, thought and prayer, you are welcome to drop in for as long as you like during the hour.

St Mary Magdalene will be holding in-person Sunday services at 8.00am, 9.30am, 11.30am (third Sunday only) and 6.30pm (Compline). The 9.30am service will also be live-streamed via their [Facebook page](#). (There will be no livestream this Sunday, 19 September). During the week St Mary Magdalene will be holding an in-person service at 10.00am on Wednesdays.

St Matthias' 9.30am Sunday service will be both in-person and online via Zoom (please [contact Revd Anne Crawford](#) for log-in details). The midweek Eucharist at St Matthias is held on Thursdays at 10.00am.

Orders of service and readings can be found here <https://www.richmondteamministry.org/orders-of-service-readings>

Private Prayer:

St Mary Magdalene will be open for private prayer on Saturdays between 10.00am and 12.00noon when you will be able to light a candle, and reflect or meditate.

St John the Divine is normally open on Tuesdays between 9.30am and 12.30pm, Saturday mornings between 10.00am-12.00noon, and at various other times when Fr Neil is working in the office.

Morning Prayer, Monday – Fridays, at 8.30am:

Morning Prayer is now taking place in church and via Zoom. We will meet at St Mary Magdalene on Mondays, on Tuesdays we will be at St John the Divine, Wednesdays and Thursdays are at St Mary Magdalene and Fridays at St Matthias.

From 1 September, Monday – Friday

(NB: No Zoom on 20 September)

Topic: RTM Morning Prayer in September

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85014691745?pwd=UEdSQWhESklIZFZRcWxWaUMwbXQ5UT09>

Meeting ID: 850 1469 1745

Passcode: RTMSept

Children's Services at St Mary Magdalene – next one is on 2 October!

On 2 October we welcome pets into church for a real Pet Service as we are close to the Feast of St Francis of Assisi, which is on 4 October. Bring your dog, your tortoise, your stick insect and other well behaved animals. Talk to Charlie or Wilma for more info.

Evening Prayer, in person, takes place in St John's on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 4.30pm. All welcome.

Church, Community and other news:

The latest edition of **Team Talk** is now available to read online (go to:

<https://www.richmondteamministry.org/wp-content/uploads/2021-09-Autumn-Edition-web.pdf>) – there will also be a few paper copies available at the back of each church.

Confirmation? Admission to Holy Communion?

What is the next step on your journey of faith? Is it baptism, if you have not yet been baptised? Is it being Admitted to Holy Communion, particularly for young people? Or would you like to be confirmed?

Whatever your next step is, we want to help you and provide preparation classes. Do talk to a member of the clergy for more information.

Recitals at St Mary Magdalene

Here are some dates for your diary of lovely music at St Mary Magdalene on the first Saturday of each month at 12.30pm.

On 2 October Alex Ledsham, tenor and Choral Scholar at SMM, will provide a programme of songs and arias.

On 6 November Simon Gregory, organist, will be with us.

All are free entry, with a retiring collection for the St Mary Magdalene Choral Foundation.

Glass Door:

Glass Door's annual Sleep Out will be taking place on Friday, 1 October 2021. Participants give up their bed for one night to give someone a chance to leave homelessness behind. This year, Glass Door is encouraging people either to take part remotely or to sign up for one of the limited spaces available at Duke of York Square in Chelsea. Either way, you will be helping someone find a route off the streets.

The charity is expecting more demand on their services as the furlough scheme ends and evictions begin. Glass Door has ambitious plans in place to support people in need this winter, and the funds raised through the Sleep Out will help to ensure they can open their doors to the large number of people expected to need shelter and support. Registration is FREE and to find out more about Glass Door's plans and how to get involved at www.glassdoor.org.uk or get in touch with sleepout@glassdoor.org.uk

On **Saturday 2 October** Dr Martin Hodson and Revd Margot Hodson from the **John Ray Initiative** in Oxford (www.jri.org.uk) will come to St Matthias and share their expertise and learning with us through a day of free workshops, lectures and hands-on experiences to help us learn more about conservation and how we might play our part to reverse the negative impact of climate change on our environment and on those least able to cope. The day will have something for adults and children alike, and **our aim is for all three churches to be awarded 'Eco Church' status**. The day will start with coffee at 9.30am and finish at 4.00pm – feel free to come and go as you want/need to. Please bring a packed lunch with you (or visit one of the local cafes), tea / coffee / squash will be provided. You can read more about this on the poster at the back of church and on our website: <https://www.richmondteamministry.org/eco-day-2021>

There is space in the choir stalls.....

The Choir of St Mary Magdalene is looking for new Choristers to join the church choir. If your child is aged 8+, then joining the choir is a wonderful opportunity to learn to read music, develop classical vocal technique, build confidence and socialise with other musicians. Choristers have the opportunity to sing at both of the Sunday services (Eucharist and Evensong), with choir practice on Thursday evenings. Choristers also receive a small payment based on attendance, competence (e.g. most improved singer) and ability.

There is of course also space for adult choristers in all voices!

If you'd like to know more, please contact the Director of Music, Alex Knight via email

music.stmarys@richmondteamministry.org

7pm Monday 4 October - "Young Voices from Israel-Palestine" online event.

Richmond Inter Faith Forum invites people from Richmond, Kingston, Hounslow, Wandsworth, Merton and neighbouring areas, from every religion or belief background - including the non-religious - to join us for "Young Voices from Israel-Palestine".

This rare opportunity to hear and interact directly with young people in the region from Palestinian and Israeli backgrounds will be led by "[Solutions not Sides](#)", a charity aiming to tackle antisemitism, anti-Muslim prejudice and polarisation around the issue of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in the UK.

Register at <https://riff-young-voices-israel-palestine.eventbrite.co.uk>. Registrants will receive the Zoom link at least 24 hours before the event.

Memorial Service

The family of Byron Criddle, who died in February 2021, would like to invite you to a memorial service to celebrate Byron's life on Tuesday 19 October, 11.30am at St Mary Magdalene.

Trip to Watford Hindu Temple

This is a call for expressions of interest in a whole day trip to Watford Hindu Temple (no date for the trip is yet arranged). The trip would leave in the morning around 9.30 - 10.00am and would involve a tour, a talk and a bite to eat, probably finishing late afternoon or early evening. There is no cost to the trip. Pick up point would be outside the gates of York House. If anyone is interested they should contact Ravi Arora: ravi@multiculturalrichmond.org.uk

Weekend Retreat Saturday 20 - Sunday 21 November at The Royal Foundation of St Katherine, Limehouse. This short retreat will focus on preparation for Advent, and we will be helped by a retreat conductor who will guide us prayerfully through the peace and stillness of this extraordinary place. More information will follow shortly, but it's not too early to register your interest with [Revd Anne Crawford](#) as places for overnight accommodation will be limited.

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.

With best wishes,
Tina

Tina Roberts
Parish Administrator
Working remotely on Mondays and Tuesdays, 9.00am – 5.00pm
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Working in the Office on Wednesdays and Thursdays, 9.00am – 5.00pm
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Richmond Team Ministry
St Mary Magdalene • St Matthias • St John the Divine
www.richmondteamministry.org

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