

Thursday 23 September 2021

Dear Friends,

After more than a year's delay because of Covid the Chelsea Flower Show has finally burst on to the autumn gardening scene with all the usual exuberance and floriferous beauty. One of the show gardens I am most looking forward to seeing is the Psalm 23 Garden, created for the Bible Society by award winning designer Sarah Eberle. At a time when the media is eager to proclaim at every opportunity that we live in a secular society and that faith has no relevance for people in this country anymore, it's a hopeful sign to those of us who feel differently, that this garden above all others is the one attracting the most attention.

The designer took the wilds of Dartmoor as her inspiration for this garden. Sarah grew up in this part of Devon, she has experienced the healing nature of the landscape here, this is a place where she finds peace and where she feels at home. This wild and spacious landscape restores her soul, the huge granite tors provide a sense of ageless continuity, the meandering streams and torrents of water which rush down the hillsides speak to her of God's everlasting love, a love which washes over all life and brings restoration and refreshment.

Psalm 23 is the nation's favourite psalm. It's a song of faith and trust and tailor made for the times we are living through now. It rejoices in the good things we enjoy and is honest about the things which frighten and bewilder us. Most of all it offers hope for the future, it speaks of going through the dark valley, but of coming out the other side, of fearing no evil because God is always with us. The garden at Chelsea is designed to stop visitors in their tracks, to recognise their own journey through the ups and downs of life, the landscape portraying that ultimate destination that makes the troubles of life's journey worthwhile.

Chelsea Pensioner Roy Palmer has been inspired to write a reflection on this beautiful garden, a poem which speaks of hope that all is not lost, and that our beautiful, mysterious Christian faith has much to say to us today as we search for healing and peace in an anxious world.

*At the Chelsea Flower Show, lies a garden, Psalm 23.  
A place for solace and thinking, a place especially for me.  
Today they say, "The word of the Lord has little sway".  
But the crowds I witness here those words betray.  
This garden is created with so much love in mind.  
Love from the Lord above, love of a different kind.  
The Lord is my Shepherd, here these words ring true.  
The green pastures, depicted by this wondrous view.  
Here on earth, it is a pleasure to see  
That time spent here will be happy and free.  
The plants, trees and water make God's own earth.  
The wonders of nature which together create rebirth  
My beloved wife and son lie in a green burial site.  
A place like this, which the sense delight.  
I wish she were here this garden to see.  
But together in God's love, she waits for me.'*

As we look forward to our Eco Day at St Matthias on Saturday 2 October, I can think of no better preparation and encouragement than to reflect on Psalm 23, and contemplate the sheer gift of living on this vast garden of a planet with Christ our beautiful Shepherd restoring our souls and sharing his peace.

With our prayers and blessings,

Anne, Charlie, Neil, and Wilma

*This week the letter has been written by Revd Anne Crawford*

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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

... **Amelia Mellem**, to be baptised at St Mary Magdalene on Sunday, and for her parents Rockkyoung and Tim

...**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** – Revd Chris Griffiths (Team Vicar, Christ Church, East Sheen)

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### **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. The 9.30am service will also be live-streamed via their [Facebook page](#). This Sunday, 26 September, we welcome Ven Simon Gates, Archdeacon of Lambeth, who will preach and baptise. 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

Topic: RTM Morning Prayer in September

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85014691745?pwd=UEdSQWhESkIIZFZRcWxWaUMwbXQ5UT09>

Meeting ID: 850 1469 1745

Passcode: RTMSept

### **Children's Services at St Mary Magdalene – the next one is a Pet Service 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. Please note that **there will be no Evening Prayer between Monday 4 October and Monday 18 October inclusive.**

### **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.

### **Gardening at St Mary Magdalene**

There will be another gardening party on Saturday 25 September between 10.30am and 12.30pm. If you have time, even an hour, just join us as we continue to make the green space around St Mary Magdalene more attractive to the local community. The hard work done so far is really paying off! Bring gloves and gardening tools – we'll provide coffee and pastries.

### **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 Oratorio Arias by Handel.

The following recital will be on 6 November – further details to come.

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](http://www.glassdoor.org.uk) or get in touch with [sleepout@glassdoor.org.uk](mailto: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](http://www.jri.org.uk)) will come to St Matthias and share their expertise and learning with us, offering hope and advice as we address the challenges of climate change. **Our aim is for all three churches to be awarded 'Eco Church' status**, and this day will help us to begin our journey together in a positive and practical way. The day will start with coffee at 9.30am and will be finished by 4.00pm. Please feel free to come and go as you want/need to – an outline of the day is provided on the Team's website: <https://www.richmondteamministry.org/eco-day-2021>. Please note that unfortunately there will be no activities available for children as originally planned.

### **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](mailto:music.stmarys@richmondteamministry.org)

### **Harvest Thanksgiving on Sunday 3 October**

On 3 October we take time to thank God for all the good gifts of the earth, for food and for those who grow it. You are invited to bring your harvest gifts (most needed items are: tinned meat, tinned fish, long life milk, long life juices, chocolate, crisps, toiletries (e.g. deodorant, shower gel, shampoos), household cleaners (e.g. spray, bleach), toilet paper) to any of the services in all our churches. Most will go to the Foodbank and some will be kept for distribution throughout the year.

### **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.

Ever thought about being a **local trustee**? If you're interested in finding out more please join an online Trustee Recruitment Event on Thursday 14 October 2021, 6.30-8.00pm and hear about the difference you could make. To find out more and to register, go to [www.richmondcvcs.org.uk](http://www.richmondcvcs.org.uk)

### **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](mailto: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.

### **Can you help?**

The Riverbank Trust is looking to fill two posts working with young single mums and vulnerable families, one in Richmond and one in Ham. To read more please see their website:

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

### **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

Mobile: 07521 299109

Working in the Office on Wednesdays and Thursdays, 9.00am – 5.00pm

Parish Office, The Vicarage, Ormond Road, Richmond TW10 6TH

020 8940 0362

Richmond Team Ministry

St Mary Magdalene • St Matthias • St John the Divine

[www.richmondteamministry.org](http://www.richmondteamministry.org)

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