

Thursday 28 October 2021

Dear Friends,

This weekend the clocks change. We get an extra hour in bed, which is really kind for people who get up early on Sunday mornings, for instance to go to the 8.00am Communion Service.

The colder days and darker nights also means a change from British Summer Time (BST), sometimes called Daylight Saving Time, to Greenwich Mean Time (GMT). As I'm getting older I don't find that change easy. I enjoy the light of the day in spring and summer, often getting up very early to go for a walk or a run in the park. Who doesn't love being able to sit out in summer evenings, hearing the birds and smelling the jasmine, which is always stronger as the day comes to an end.

Clocks changing means shorter days, longer nights, more darkness. It's the time of year when we like to start lighting candles in the evenings and begin to think about decorating our homes with greenery and lights. It's also the time of year, maybe because of the darkness, when we are more aware of the past, of mortality, and we miss more acutely loved ones who have died, people no longer in our lives. We become more reflective and look back to remember.

The coming month is the Season of Remembrance, which begins with the Feast of All Saints and then moves through All Souls' to Remembrance Sunday and ends on the Feast of Christ the King.

Remembering is more than nostalgia. We learn about ourselves from the people we honour, the saints, the war heroes, the ones we love, and we encourage their values in our own lives. We learn where we have come from, a former age of persecution, violent plotting and heavy retribution, so that we can appreciate, affirm and work for the religious tolerance of today. We learn, and from our learning we build a vision of where our nation and our community might be heading.

In the church, this vision is not ours alone, but held and shaped within God's vision which we call the Kingdom of Heaven. This vision, too, is based on remembering. 'Do this', said Jesus at the Last Supper, 'in remembrance of me'. In our national days of remembering and in our church days of remembrance, whether festive or sombre, let us always remember that our true identity, across all nations and denominations, is in God. May this be the real guide and inspiration of our lives.

You may like to use the simple prayer below at some point in this Season of Remembrance. All you need for this simple prayer is a poppy.

**Look at your poppy:** *Poppies are bright and cheerful flowers: give thanks to God for the lives of those who have died in war or at other times, remembering all the joy they brought to families and friends, and all the good things they did.*

**Then look at the red petals:** *red reminds us of danger and harm.*

*Ask God to be close to those who are still facing danger each day, to give courage and compassion to all who help others.*

**Place your whole hand over the poppy:** *poppies are also fragile and need to be handled gently.*

*God cares for those who are hurting and those who are sad.*

*Ask God to comfort all who are grieving the loss of someone they love.*

**Finally place a finger on the centre of the poppy:** *ask God to help you play your part in working for peace in the world.*

With our prayers and blessings,

Anne, Charlie, Neil, and Wilma

*This week the letter has been written by Revd Canon Wilma Roest*

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Please pray for:

...**COP26**, for world leaders and a willingness to change and care for our planet

...**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, Joy Clarke, Harold Gill, Pat Mygind, Veronica Huci, Penny and Michael Carleton-Smith, Megan Vaughan-Jones, Claire and Peter Day, Jenny Powell-Smith, Charles Stiller, Keith Hogan, baby Peter

...**the departed, may they rest in peace** – Molly Lambert, Paul Bunnage, Revd Alan Sykes, David Graystone, Tony Bromham, Robert Bailey, Angela Carpenter

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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](#). 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 Morning Prayer for the feast of All Saints. 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. The church is also open Monday – Friday, from 8am till lunchtime.

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.

During October, **Monday – Thursday**

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82668051680?pwd=ZXkwSmNmMkNsdjNXWEhvdGhTeVg3QT09>

Meeting ID: 826 6805 1680

Passcode: RTMPrayer

### And on Fridays:

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81983343470?pwd=ejVpVnB4d3VGdkFtWjl2c2tTOC9XUT09>

Meeting ID: 819 8334 3470

Passcode: FriPrayer

**From Monday 1 November, Mondays to Thursdays** the login is as follows:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88971696192?pwd=R25LVk4lRUg4T09oOWIuYlNCYjRUQT09>

Meeting ID: 889 7169 6192

Passcode: RTMPrayer

On **Sunday 31 October** we will mark **All Souls' Day** with a Sung Eucharist at 6.30pm at St John the Divine. Please write the names of departed loved ones on the lists at the back of church so that their names may be read out during the service, and come to the service to commemorate and give thanks for them. **Please note there will be no Evensong at St Mary Magdalene on 31 October.**

### Information about funerals

The funeral of Molly Lambert will take place on Monday 8 November, 11am at St John the Divine.

The funeral of Paul Bunnage will take place on Wednesday 10 November, 10am at St John the Divine

The funeral of Revd Alan Sykes will be on Friday 12 November, 11.30am at St Mary Magdalene (we kindly request people to wear a mask as this will be a busy service).

The funeral of Tony Bromham will be on Tuesday 16 November, 2pm at St John the Divine.

May all those who have died rest in peace and rise in glory.

### Children's Services at St Mary Magdalene – the next one is on 6 November!

On 6 November we will think about God's creation and do some digging! Wear wellies and bring a trowel with you. Sensible adults very welcome to accompany their children. Talk to Charlie or Wilma for more info.

### Remembrance Sunday 14 November

Acts of Remembrance will happen in each of our churches and also at 11.00am at the War Memorial on Whittaker Avenue (Riverside).

### Church, Community and other news:

**PLEASE NOTE** that the Parish Office is now closed and will re-open on Monday 8 November. There will be no newsletter next week.

### Living in Love and Faith

*How do questions about identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage fit within the bigger picture of the good news of Jesus Christ?*

*What does it mean to live in love and faith together as a Church?*

The Living in Love and Faith project is the Church of England's national process asking individuals, parishes, deaneries and communities to reflect on matters related to sexuality, gender and relationships. The Church of England have produced an introductory video (click [here](#)) and a podcast (click [here](#)) if you want to find out more.

The Richmond and Barnes Deanery is running the Living in Love and Faith course which aims to help us think more deeply about what it means to be human and about how to live in love and faith. This five week course covers the following topics and is available via Zoom or in person at St Mary Magdalene, Church Walk, Richmond:

1. **Learning Together**

What does it mean to *learn together* as followers of Jesus Christ?

**2:30 - 4pm, Sunday 24th October** at St Mary Magdalene, Richmond.

**7:30 - 9pm, Wednesday 27th October** via Zoom

2. **Identity**

How does our *identity* in Christ relate to sex and gender?

**2:30 - 4pm, Sunday 31st October** at St Mary Magdalene, Richmond.

**7:30 - 9pm, Wednesday 3rd November** via Zoom

3. **Relationships**

What kinds of *relationships* does God call us to?

**2:30 - 4pm, Sunday 7th November** at St Mary Magdalene, Richmond.

**7:30 - 9pm, Wednesday 10th November** via Zoom

4. **Sex**

Where do our bodies and sex fit in to all of this?

**2:30 - 4pm, Sunday 14th November** at St Mary Magdalene, Richmond.

**7:30 - 9pm, Wednesday 17th November** via Zoom

5. **Life together**

How do diversity and difference affect our *life together* as a church?

**2:30 - 4pm, Sunday 21st November** at St Mary Magdalene, Richmond.

**7:30 - 9pm, Wednesday 24th November** via Zoom

To join the Zoom meeting the details are:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87585449850?pwd=cTdXWXNESjN4djB5eXdGYWZFYWxuUT09>

**Meeting ID:** 875 8544 9850

**Passcode:** 792773

## **COP26**

As world leaders prepare to meet in Glasgow for the United Nations Climate Change Conference, COP26, from 31 October to 12 November, Bishop Christopher has asked us to share this information with you and hopes that you will find it helpful.

### **COP and us: What is it and how is the Anglican Communion responding?**

This post, written by Diocesan Environment Officer, Jack Edwards, provides information about what COP is, what the Church hopes will result from it, and how you can engage with the process.

<https://southwark.anglican.org/cop-and-us-what-is-it-and-how-is-the-anglican-communion-responding/>

There will be more information over the coming days and weeks on the Diocesan website and social media pages. Please look out for it.

## **Bell Ringing at St Mary Magdalene**

This Saturday, 30 October, the University of London Society of Change Ringers (ULSCR) will be visiting St Mary Magdalene and ringing the bells from 10.00 to 11.15am. Also the Surrey Association District ringing practice will take place from 10.30am to 12.00noon on Saturday 20 November.

## **Need something for the children to do over half term?**

Why not get them to enter the Arts Richmond Young Writers Competition.

Arts Richmond Young Writers' Festival is open to all young people who either live or attend school/clubs in the Borough of Richmond upon Thames. It is a chance to demonstrate writing skills of any form: stories, descriptive writing, poems, playlets, lyrics for songs-whatever the imagination can devise.

Entries are judged in four age groups with prizes for all winning entries. In addition, Arts Richmond appoints a Junior and Senior Laureate who will be given opportunities during the following year to write about events taking place in the borough, for possible publication. All shortlisted entrants will be invited to a gala awards event in a prestigious venue Spring 2022. At which the children's work will come alive, by being performed by our talented young actors. For full details of how to enter, [www.artsrichmond.org.uk](http://www.artsrichmond.org.uk)  
This is a wonderful inspiring event and completely free to enter.

## **Recital at St Mary Magdalene**

The next recital will be on Saturday 6 November at 12.30pm. Free entry, with a retiring collection for the St Mary Magdalene Choral Foundation. We look forward to welcoming the organist Alban Clarke, who will bring an interesting programme of French and improvised music. He has asked us to provide a theme for him to improvise on – do you have any suggestions?

On 4 December we will welcome the organist David Thomas, from Llandaff Cathedral.

## **A Concert of Remembrance, 13 November 2021, 7pm**

The Canbury Singers will be joined by the choir of St Mary Magdalene and the Treble Chefs for an evening of music for Remembrance, including the Faure Requiem. Tickets are £10 and can be bought in advance via [ticketsource.co.uk/canburysingers](http://ticketsource.co.uk/canburysingers).

**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 will be led by Rev'd Anne Crawford who will guide us prayerfully through the peace and stillness of this extraordinary place. The cost of the retreat, including meals and overnight accommodation in very comfortable, modern en-suite bedrooms, will be £190. For more information and to book one of the few remaining places please email [Revd Anne Crawford](mailto:Revd Anne Crawford).

The **Children's Book Project** – has your child / children out-grown some of their books? The Children's Book Project would very much like to clean, sort and distribute those books via teachers and schools to children in the UK who are 'book poor' and do not have any (or many) books at home. When books are available at home children spend more time reading thereby helping with their literacy. To donate books please send an [email to the Parish Office](mailto:email to the Parish Office) and, if possible, drop them off at St Mary Magdalene which is now a drop-off point.

## 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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