

Thursday 11 November 2021

Dear Friends,

***We will remember them.....***

Some of you will be aware that Peter Moore, a former member of St John the Divine, who sadly died last February, undertook substantial research into the names on our First World War Memorial in the church. Thanks to his efforts, we now have considerably more information about the 82 men of St John's parish who lost their lives, including their ages, regiments, dates of death, burial locations, etc. The intention was to work towards the compilation of a proper memorial book, including more individual biographical detail. It was still a work in progress when Peter departed, so I'm delighted that Ruth, Peter's wife, has passed on his paperwork and that Anna Baghiani, Peter's colleague in our choir, has volunteered to continue the task in his honour.

We are also very fortunate to have the field cross of one of these men, Norman Blows, who was killed in action on the first day of the Battle of the Somme at the age of just 21. Norman was born in Richmond and baptised at St John's. Field crosses were temporary wooden grave markers of World War One. They were replaced in the 1920s by the standard Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstones whose serried ranks make the Commonwealth cemeteries so emotive. The wooden crosses were sometimes returned to the families who wished and were enabled to repatriate them, and most were entrusted to their relative's local church. However, they are comparatively rare, as many families couldn't afford the costs involved. The Blows family moved to Westgate in Kent, but they returned to Richmond immediately after the war, and so we are privileged to have Norman's cross, which is still in remarkably good condition, in our church.

When people die in such large numbers, it is too easy for them to become mere statistics. War routinely depersonalises, but by naming the dead, we are restoring to them their humanity, their identity as individuals – people who were once the children of this parish. Each one was a unique person, precious in the sight of God. We will remember them.

With our prayers and blessings,

Anne, Charlie, Neil, and Wilma

*This week the letter has been written by Revd Neil Summers*

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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

**...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, Pat Mygind, Veronica Huci, Penny and Michael Carleton-Smith, Megan Vaughan-Jones, Claire and Peter Day, Charles Stiller, Keith Hogan, baby Peter, Suzie and Mark Cox

**...the departed, may they rest in peace** – Revd Alan Sykes, David Graystone, Tony Bromham, Robert Bailey, Angela Carpenter, Claudia Boulton, Harold Gill, Marion West

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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 currently 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.

From the beginning of the new Church year in Advent, we will revert to the pre-pandemic pattern of Tuesday evening services. So, from Tuesday 30 November, there will be half an hour of silent contemplation at 6.30pm, followed by the Said Eucharist at 7.00pm.

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 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.

### **Remembrance Sunday 14 November**

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

### **Christ the King, Sunday 21 November**

There will be a Team Service for the Feast of Christ the King on 21 November. We come together at St John the Divine at 10.30am. It means there are no 9.30am service at St Matthias and at St Mary Magdalene that day. The 8.00am service at St Mary's will be a service of Matins rather than the usual BCP service, Evensong will be as normal.

On **Sunday 28 November** the 8.00am and 9.30am services at St Mary Magdalene will be services of Communion by Extension taken by Ruth Martin.

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 November, **Monday – Thursday**

Join Zoom Meeting

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

Meeting ID: 889 7169 6192

Passcode: RTMPrayer

### **And on Fridays:**

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81983343470?pwd=ejVpVnB4d3VGdkFtVWjl2c2tTOC9XUT09>

Meeting ID: 819 8334 3470

Passcode: FriPrayer

### **Information about funerals**

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 Requiem Mass for Dr 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.

Please note that the **Bookings Administrator** is now on annual leave until Wednesday 1 December.

## Advent course 'The Family of Jesus'

There will be a team Advent Course this year, on Zoom, just as we did last year. There will be four sessions, each with a reflection and followed by Compline. Here are the dates and the log in details:

- Dec 1, 2021 07:30 PM on Jesus' uncle Zechariah
- Dec 8, 2021 07:30 PM on Jesus' aunt Elizabeth
- Dec 15, 2021 07:30 PM on Jesus' earthly father Joseph
- Dec 22, 2021 07:30 PM on Jesus' mother Mary

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86913030418?pwd=aWlYK3NpOTFRQWJpQlIgwzbh3T09NQT09>

Meeting ID: 869 1303 0418

Passcode: RTMAdvent

**Away Giving for Financial Year 2021** – at the beginning of each year, we set aside a proportion of the previous year's income to donate to Charities and Organisations. We place particular focus on Church-based Charities and give careful consideration as to how much is donated abroad, as opposed to locally. We are also keen to support Charities that members of our congregations are either involved with, or have benefitted from. If you would like to nominate a charity/organisation for consideration for our charitable giving, contact Mary Ricketts ([mary.ricketts@btinternet.com](mailto:mary.ricketts@btinternet.com)) **by Sunday 28 November please.**

## Church, Community and other news:

### 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**
2. **Identity**
3. **Relationships**
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

### GlassDoor

Just over a month ago we were told that there would be a delay to opening the GlassDoor night shelters for this coming winter. As the temperature drops this week it brings home how important support is for those who struggle to keep warm and healthy. There is no change as yet to the GlassDoor situation, but the good news is that our local team in Richmond is starting a take-away soup and sandwich offering two days a week from 17 November. It's not a warm place to sleep, but it is warm food and human connection. The service will run from St John the Divine Church in Richmond and would take place on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 5-6pm **starting next Wednesday**, 17 November. If you are interested in being part of our baking and soup rota please contact Sarah Percival: [sarahpercival52@gmail.com](mailto:sarahpercival52@gmail.com) And for volunteering and donations please contact Isabelle Swann: [swannisabelle@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:swannisabelle@hotmail.co.uk) Many thanks.

## **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**

The Surrey Association District ringing practice will take place from 10.30am to 12.00noon on Saturday 20 November.

### **Recital at St Mary Magdalene**

On 4 December we will welcome the organist David Thomas, from Llandaff Cathedral. David was the organ teacher of Alex Knight, Director of Music at St Mary Magdalene.

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

The Canbury Singers will be joined by the choir of St Mary Magdalene and the Treble Chops 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](https://ticketsource.co.uk/canburysingers).

**Weekend Retreat Saturday 20 - Sunday 21 November** at The Royal Foundation of St Katherine, Limehouse. This short retreat will be going ahead and Anne will be in touch with all those who have booked in the next couple of days.

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

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