

Thursday 18 November 2021

Dear Friends,

I would like to begin this week's newsletter with a heartfelt thank you: thank you for the support and love you have showered on Allan and me this last fortnight following the death of my father. It's been a sad time, but receiving cards and messages of condolence has been such a comfort; that you took time to express solidarity with our grief and to let us know that we are held in thought and prayer has been much appreciated.

One of the cards we received had a striking image on the front, and it has given me much to ponder and reflect on as it sits on the shelf in our sitting room. The front of the card is covered in tiny little stars, each one cut from an old buff-coloured atlas and stuck down, layer upon layer across the page, overlapping in a way which seems haphazard and chaotic. It's hard to read the place names, so many of them are partly obscured by other stars and other names. But weaving through it all are even tinier golden shiny stars, glinting every now and then as they catch the light.

These last few months have seen much sadness and loss across our faith community, and the artwork on this card seems to me to express that sense of disconnection from the familiar which people experience when they lose a loved one or when life takes a sudden unexpected turn and we feel ourselves cut adrift in unfamiliar surroundings. Life feels chaotic and unsettled, the future no longer mapped out as we'd thought, and we need to re-route and find a different way. And yet those little golden stars which thread their way through my card remind me that even in times of loss and sadness heaven's light breaks through to illuminate the darkness and encourage us to put our trust in the God who in Christ has been this way before us. Our friends and loved ones are like little flecks of star dust, they shine the light of God's love on and around us, and when they put pen to paper and share our sadness and offer words to comfort and to guide us, they shower us with blessings and reassure us that we are not alone. Thank you.

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

...**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** – 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](#) (not on 21 November (Team service at St John's, so for live stream go to the St John the Divine Facebook page) nor on 28 November). 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.

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

This Sunday there will be a Team Service for the Feast of Christ the King when we come together at St John the Divine at 10.30am. It means **there are no 9.30am services 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 **Advent I, 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. In the evening you are invited to a service at St Mary Magdalene marking the beginning of Advent, through readings and music. The Advent Procession begins at 6.30pm.

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=ejVpVnB4d3VGdkFtVWl2c2tTOC9XUT09>

Meeting ID: 819 8334 3470

Passcode: FriPrayer

Please note that there will be **no Evening Prayer** at St John the Divine next week, Monday 22 November – Friday 26 November inclusive.

## 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=aWlYK3NpOTFRQWJPOlgwbzh3T09NQT09>

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.**

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

## 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**
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 has started a take-away soup and sandwich offering two days a week. It's not a warm place to sleep, but it is warm food and human connection. The service runs from St John the Divine Church in Richmond and takes place on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 5-6pm. 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.

## **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.

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  
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  
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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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