

Thursday 6 January 2022

Dear Friends,

Happy New Year to you and your loved ones! And happy Epiphany!

In our churches we have welcomed those travellers from the east on Sunday, but the official day is today, 6 January. Now Christmas decorations will be taken down, trees will lie abandoned in the streets, and no doubt someone will contact me about the 'graffiti' on St Mary Magdalene Church. I'm sure you know that it isn't graffiti: it's simply a blessing for the coming year on each home or place of worship, which reads 20+C+M+B+22 (Casper, Melchior, Balthazar – the three wise men, 2022 the new year, ++ May God bless this house).

For most people Christmas is over for another year. Unless of course you celebrate the continuation of Christmas, Epiphany-tide, with great joy and keep it going until the Feast of Candlemas, which we will celebrate in a Team Service on Sunday 30 January. At home I will keep all Christmas cards up till then – they are so beautiful and the messages inside them much appreciated, it seems a shame to let the cards go too soon. And we do have something to celebrate!

The Season of Epiphany starts with the visit of the Magi, the first foreign visitors to recognise and welcome the new born King, and then continues with more stories of Jesus made manifest to the world. From the account of the Baptism of Jesus by John the Baptist, the first miracle at the wedding of Cana in Galilee, to Jesus beginning to teach in the synagogue and making his mission known. During the days of Epiphany-tide we may recognise the Word made Flesh and we are invited to share that good news with the people around us. You can just imagine those Magi arriving back in their own homes telling their families and friends about their experiences in Bethlehem or the wedding guests talking about the amazing wine they had at their friends' wedding. Good news should be shared and not put away in a box like a Christmas decoration which has been taken down.

For the coming of Jesus is still good news, it is hope in a dark and complex world. Will you help share it?

*For those who seek a Saviour  
we lead them to the Stable  
To the One who was born  
To bring freedom  
Forgiveness  
Liberty*

*For those who seek Assurance  
we lead them to the Light  
To the One who opens eyes  
to understanding  
God's Word  
Truth*

*For those who seek Forgiveness  
We lead them to a Grace  
beyond comprehension  
To wholeness  
Healing  
Peace.*

With our prayers and Epiphany 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:

...**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**, and for all schools in the Richmond Team

...**Glass Door staff** and for all volunteers, especially those who are working to provide hot soup and sandwiches

...**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, Suzie and Mark Cox, Margaret Myatt, Fiona Bartlett

...**the departed, may they rest in peace**

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The Richmond Team Ministry **email addresses** will be moving to a new server at some point over the next 2-3 weeks (our email addresses will remain the same). It is likely that there will be some interruption to our email service during this time. Therefore, if you send us an email and don't get a response (if a response is required) within 48 hours, please re-send your email. Thank you.

### **Church Services:**

**You are advised to wear a mask in church, unless you are exempt.**

St John the Divine's Sunday service at 11.00am is both in-person and live-streamed via their [Facebook page](#).

St John's midweek service takes place on Tuesday evenings with a half an hour of silent contemplation at 6.30pm, followed by the Said Eucharist at 7.00pm.

St Mary Magdalene is 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 is holding an in-person service at 10.00am on Wednesdays.

St Matthias' 9.30am Sunday service is 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. The church is also open Monday – Friday, from 8.00am till 2.00pm.

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.

#### **On Zoom, Monday - Thursday:**

Join Zoom meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86999464069?pwd=QkFpVDBSZIN3ck5MSTIxR0FkSIQzZz09>

Meeting ID: 869 9946 4069

Passcode: RTMPrayer

#### **And on Fridays:**

Join Zoom Meeting:

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

Meeting ID: 819 8334 3470

Passcode: FriPrayer

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

### **Children's Services at St Mary Magdalene**

The next Children's Service will be this Saturday, 8 January 2022 at 4.00pm. All are very welcome to a celebration with some very special gifts.

After January, the children's services will be on the first Saturday of the month again.

Sunday 30 January will be **Candlemas** and there will be a Team Service at St Mary Magdalene at 10.30am, all are welcome. There will be no 11.00am service at St John the Divine or 9.30am service at St Matthias.

### **Church, Community and other news:**

#### **UPDATE: From Parish Rooms to RTM Centre**

On **Sunday 23 January** each church will receive an update on the work that has been happening on the architect's plans. In the afternoon you are invited to visit the Parish Rooms to have a look around and to see the proposed plans in more detail. A leaflet with an update on the work the Working Group has done will also be available from that date.

#### **Recitals at St Mary Magdalene**

The next recital will be on Saturday 5 February, 12.30pm. We look forward to welcoming the pianist and composer Mateusz Rettner, who will bring a programme of music by Schubert and Messiaen.

#### **Glass Door**

It is with a heavy heart that Glass Door has taken the decision **not to open communal night shelters this winter**. Unfortunately, despite all their best efforts over many months to provide a COVID-safe environment, staff and trustees felt the risks are too great. The transmissibility of the new Omicron variant and the related changes to self-isolation rules were important factors in their decision.

However our local team in Richmond is offering take-away soup and sandwiches 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.

#### **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  
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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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