

Thursday 13 June 2024

Dear Friends,

Being custodians of historic church buildings is a huge privilege; it's a joy to worship in a beautiful building which is well loved and cared for, and we very much appreciate the blessings they offer to us and to our ministry and outreach. Of course caring for older buildings and ensuring that they are safe, easily accessible and comfortable often means we face unforeseen repairs alongside ongoing planned restoration, and this summer we will see quite a lot of work taking place across the Team. St Matthias is soon to have scaffolding erected on its south side to enable the roof to be replaced along with much needed repairs to stonework and ironwork, while St Mary's is about to embark on urgent investigation work of the nave ceiling and adjacent pillar, which will also require some scaffolding for the work to be undertaken safely.

It's only natural for us to be concerned about the impact of all this work on the appearance of our churches, but their beauty isn't just physical and external, it doesn't just come from the architecture, and all that we have inherited in stained glass, fonts, pulpits, altars, painted reredos and ceilings, stone carvings, historic memorials and monuments, organs and pipework. Our church buildings are more than their outward appearance, they have a deeper internal presence, an ethereal beauty which speaks to us of the age-long presence and sacred mystery of the living God, their very stones soaked in the prayer and worship of generations of people, people like us who are seeking God and finding our church buildings to be places of peace, a sanctuary where hope and comfort are more easily found, and where life and love is celebrated regardless of appearance.

This sacred atmosphere which we sense when we enter a church is built on the foundation of the faith it witnesses to, in the life and love shared within its walls. We are not just church-goers, we *are* the Church, each one of us a vital part of Christ's body on earth, and our faith in him is like invisible scaffolding, it supports and holds us as we build our relationship with God, with each other and with the world around us and beyond us. The scaffolding of prayer, of worship, of bible reading and study, of great music, literature, art and poetry, is vital if we are to grow and build on all that has been entrusted to us by those who have gone before us in faith and trust. All this 'invisible' scaffolding brings us closer to God, strengthens the Church, keeps our spiritual life in good shape and provides support when we need shoring up and putting back together again.

So, as we prepare to meet the demands of caring for our beautiful historic buildings this summer, perhaps we can see the scaffolding as a prompt to nurture and continually build up our inner life so that we become a dwelling-place for God. And may Jesus, who is the corner stone of the Church's life, lift us up into the light of his love and keep us safe in his eternal presence. For as St Paul reminds us, (2 Cor 5:1), if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

With prayers and blessings from the Richmond clergy team,
Anne, Charlie, Joe and Wilma

This week the letter has been written by Revd Anne Crawford

Please pray for:

... **Heidi, and her family**, as she prepares to move and be ordained deacon on 30 June at Chester Cathedral.

... **Fr. Jamil Khadir and the Anglican congregations in Nablus** in the West Bank; for the peace of Jerusalem, release of hostages and for an end to conflict

... **Christ Church**, the Anglican Church in Kyiv, and the people of Ukraine

... **Christ's School**, staff and students, and other schools in the parish

... the work of Christian Aid

... **Richmond Soup Kitchen** with thanks for all the volunteers and praying for all guests now the Soup Kitchen has closed for the spring and summer season

... **the sick and those in need** – The King & Princess of Wales, Gill Doling, Liz Velluet, Marc Cranfield-Adams, Mark and Susie Cox, Rose Nagawa, Brenda Gill

... **the departed, may they rest in peace** - Jennifer Eaton (sister of Jim Cross), Ronald Sullivan, Barry May

Please note that the **Prayer List is renewed at the beginning of each month.**

If you would like your own name added, simply [email the parish office](#).

If you would like to add someone's name, please ensure you have their agreement, if at all possible.

Church, Community and other news:

NEW: Racial Injustice

The Richmond Team Ministry has been asked by the Diocese of Southwark to use the pilot Anti-Racism Charter Parish study resource. We will then offer our feedback.

In July we will have an opportunity to explore how we might actively counter, disrupt, and oppose racial injustice wherever we find it in our churches, workplaces and communities.

Joe will lead these four sessions on Wednesdays after the 10am Eucharist at St Mary Magdalene, beginning at 11am and finishing at 12:15pm. These sessions will offer an opportunity to reflect deeply on our own views and assumptions and explore our calling as disciples of Christ.

Session 1: In Christ and as Christ - Wednesday 3rd July

Session 2: Rebuilding the city - Wednesday 10th July

Session 3: The trees that we have to climb - Wednesday 17th July

Session 4: Putting it all together and into action - Wednesday 24th July

You would be very welcome to attend these sessions as we pilot this important resource for the parishes in our Diocese. If you would like more information, please email Rev'd Joe Moore:

joe.moore@richmondteamministry.org

NEW: Concert at St Mary Magdalene, Saturday 13 July 2024 at 7.30pm.

"A Celebration of Summer", with music and readings by The Saint Martin Singers. Free admission with a retiring collection in aid of St Mary Magdalene Choral Foundation.

NEW: Understanding Islam with Dr Chris Hewer, 'The Basics'

Tuesday 25 June, 10am – 4pm, Parish Rooms, Church Walk.

Help set the agenda, bring questions, come and learn.

Refreshments are provided but please bring your own lunch. The course is free, but donations are welcome to help cover the cost.

Please email dianamills31@gmail.com or phone 07804866349.

NEW: Eaglets @ St John the Divine (Tuesdays, 9.30-11.30am) – a message from Emma, Children and Young People Ministry Leader

We had a lovely week exploring the wind, with feathers, paper airplanes and lots more.

Our final session will be 9th July. Please do invite families along.

UPDATE: Baptism Card Competition – the results are in!

Thank you to all the amazing entries to the Baptism Card Competition. The team were really impressed by everyone's artistic skill. The winners of each category are as follows:

Children's Baptism: Freya (from St Mary's)

Adult's Baptism: Sylvia (from St John's)

Anniversary of Baptism: Emma (from St Matthias)

NEW: Pre-teens events for Summer

We are holding two events for our Pre-teens over the summer holidays. On the 7th August and 1st September, our pre-teens will be coming together for food, fellowship and fun. If you would like any more information, or know anyone who would like to join us, please email cypml@richmondteamministry.org.

NEW: Walk with Rev'd Anne!

For those of you who enjoyed the themed Lent Walks or missed them and would like another opportunity to come along, Rev'd Anne will be leading some more over the summer and into the autumn. The first will be on Friday 19 July, starting at 10am and ending with coffee. The routes are yet to be finalised, and some walks may be weather dependent, but if you would like to join a walk (they will be gentle and last about an hour and half), let Anne know and she will send you confirmation of meeting place nearer the time anne.crawford@richmondteamministry.org
More walks planned for Fri 16 August, Fri 20 Sept, Fri 18 Oct, and Fri 15 November.

Bike Week 10-16 June

Leave your car at home and cycle (or walk) to church - it is Bike Week. Cycling saves the planet as well as saving money and impacts on our health and wellbeing. Please take pictures of yourselves riding to church and send them into the office. Let's see how many of us can get on our bike! <https://www.cyclinguk.org/bikeweek>

Diocesan Synod Elections

Please do take time to read the leaflets available in our churches giving information about the forthcoming elections to Diocesan Synod and consider whether this may be a role you might be able and willing to take up. Nomination forms need to be returned by Friday 14th June.

Upcoming meetings and special events

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| 19 June | PCC @ St Mary Magdalene
Please pray for the PCC members as they work together.
Members are: all licensed clergy; all 6 church wardens; PCC Secretary and Treasurer; 4 elected members: Stephen Brown, Bella Hobson, Helen Kelsey and Catherine Kozeluh; Deanery Synod members: Martin Brecknell, Renee Fletcher, Fay Johnstone, Tom Kelsey and David Powell; Parish Reader: Ruth Martin. |
| 25 June | St Mary Magdalene Church Committee (now the correct date – apologies for the incorrect one!) |
| 15 July | Property and Finance Committee |

Music @ St Mary Magdalene

The Choral and Organ Scholars will be showcasing their talents in the coming months. Do come to support them. All recitals are on Saturday and start at 12.30pm.

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| 15 June | Daisy Rushton, Tenor, with Seb Gillott on organ and piano
Music by Britten, Schubert and more. |
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| 6 July | St Mary Magdalene Scholars' Showcase |
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These recitals are free entry, although there will be a retiring collection to keep the Choral Foundation going. All donations, small and large are welcome. If you would like to sponsor a scholar next year, 2024-2025, please get in touch with Wilma.

Diocesan Festival of Choirs, 16 June 3pm

On Sunday 16 June the choir of St Mary Magdalene will be singing Evensong at Southwark Cathedral, together with more than 200 choir members from other churches in the Diocese. Everyone is invited to this special service.

There will be no Choral Evensong that evening at St Mary Magdalene, but a simple service of Evening Prayer.

Exploring Together (Dates for the Diary)

After an amazing service exploring Lent together, we have a couple more coming up for you to put in your diary:

- Exploring Pilgrimage (22nd June 2024) - Pilgrimage day to St Albans (more details in a note from Anne below)
- Exploring Wild Church (14th July 2024) - St Matthias at 4pm

Alban Pilgrimage Saturday 22 June 2024

Revd Anne will once again be leading a parish pilgrimage to St Albans on Sat 22 June, leaving Richmond Station at approx. 8.30am. The Preacher and President this year will be the Bishop of Chelmsford and former St Matthias family member Guili Frances-Dehqani. I am hoping that a good many pilgrims from Richmond will want to come along and experience the spectacular pilgrimage procession, the Eucharist in the ancient Cathedral and Abbey Church, and the beautiful Festal Evensong with rose strewn procession to Alban's Shrine at the end of the afternoon. I know that Bishop Guili will be thrilled to meet up with friends old and new, and I can guarantee that the day will not disappoint. If enough people sign up then it may be possible to travel by coach, otherwise it's an easy hour long journey by train. More information available from Anne anne.crawford@richmondteamministry.org

Wednesday 26 June, Concert at St John the Divine

Join us for an enchanting evening of "Russian Piano Music of the Early 20th Century, Famous and Forgotten", a mesmerizing Piano Solo concert, starting at 6:30 PM. From the soaring heights of Rachmaninoff's virtuosic compositions, including his famous Preludes in C# minor and G minor, to the introspective mystical depths of Scriabin's Preludes and Sonata No. 5, this is also a unique opportunity to discover the forgotten yet equally captivating musical gems by composers such as Sergei Bortkiewicz, Nikolai Medtner, Sergei Taneyev, Anatoly Lyadov, and Alexei Stanchinsky. Free donation based admission.

UPDATE: A visit to Christ's School – 27 June, 11am – 12.30pm

Have you ever been inside our Church School? Do you know what a modern secondary Church of England school looks like?

The head of Christ's School, Helen Dixon, has invited parishioners to come and visit the school on Thursday 27 June. The visit will begin with a short liturgy in the school chapel, followed by a tour of the school and will end with coffee and cake and a time to talk with Helen.

If you would like to come, please book a place with Wilma (rector@richmondteamministry.org). We can only take 15 people, so first come, first served, but at the moment we only have a small select group going – in other words, there is still space, please do join us!

Richmond Team Ministry Away Weekend 8-10 November at Wychcroft Retreat Centre.

For the second year in a row, we are taking a weekend away at Wychcroft Retreat House. This year's theme is 'Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.'

There will be opportunities for worship, bible study, prayer and reflection, as well as socialising and enjoying one another's company.

Wychcroft is a large country house in the countryside and provides everything which we will need, including a chapel, delicious food, and 23 bedrooms. Costs are £200 for the whole weekend, with a £50 deposit required to hold your place.

If you would like to join us, please complete the booking form available on our website - <https://richmondteamministry.org/news/> and return it to Charlie via email or in person. Places will be allocated on a first come, first served basis. Please contact Charlie with any questions.

Shakespeare's Twelfth Night at The Orange Tree Theatre

Runs from 23 November 2024 - 25 January 2025, directed by their Artistic Director, Tom Littler. It would be lovely for a group from RTM churches to go together. I wondered if there would be any interest in this if I enquired about negotiating a deal on tickets? Please do email me to express your interest: joe.moore@richmondteamministry.org

Giving, one off, regular and planned

At the end of each service you will find a plate at the back of church for your cash offering. Gift aid envelopes are available if you are a UK tax payer. You can also give by using the card machine. If you can, would you consider making a regular gift to the Richmond Team, for the upkeep of our churches and the work of the Team?

Last year we introduced the Parish Giving Scheme (PGS). Many thanks to those of you have joined the scheme. If you are still making regular donations by standing order, envelope or GiveALittle, please do switch to PGS if you are able to. This will help us enormously by reducing the amount of administration and significantly improving our cashflow. If you have any questions, please [contact Jackie Harrison](#) or 07747 111525.

Praying for the General Election

A message from the archbishops of Canterbury and York:

The coming General Election is a critical moment in the life of our nation, which will shape our future. This is a time for us all to ask important questions about what kind of country we want to build.

The world and our nation face deep challenges – from questions of war and peace, poverty and injustice to the very future of the earth God has given to us.

Faced with such huge questions, our calling as Christians is to turn first to God in prayer. We are therefore inviting everyone who is willing to dedicate the next few weeks as a time not just to think about the big questions, but also to pray for our nation and our world. We want to invite everyone to think about how we can all play our part both as voters and, more broadly, as citizens.

In the Lord's Prayer, Jesus teaches us to pray each day, 'Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven'. This simple and profound prayer is our starting point during the days leading up to the General Election.

May God's will be done in our nation and in God's world.

Church Services:

Children's Service at St Mary Magdalene

The next Children's service will be on Saturday 6 July at 4pm at The Vicarage. This service is for all children from the Richmond Team! It will take the form of a picnic, with games, songs. Bring a small amount of food to share, if you can.

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 half an hour of quiet contemplation focused on the Blessed Sacrament at 6.30pm, followed by the Said Eucharist at 7.00pm.

St Mary Magdalene's Sunday services are at 8.00am, 9.30am, 11.30am (third Sunday only) and 6.30pm. Our 9.30am service will be live-streamed via [St Mary Magdalene Facebook page](#).

You can watch the service live as it happens, or once it is uploaded.

There is a Said Eucharist at 10.00am every Wednesday, followed by coffee.

St Matthias' 9.30am Sunday service is an in-person service. The midweek Eucharist at St Matthias is held on Thursdays at 10.00am and is followed by coffee and biscuits. Everyone is very welcome to join us.

Orders of service / readings for all three churches can be found on the News page of our website – here: <https://richmondteamministry.org/news/>

Private Prayer:

St Mary Magdalene is normally open on Saturdays between 10.00am and 12.00noon, when you can light a candle and reflect or meditate.

The church is also open Monday – Friday, from 8.00am until 3.00pm.

Morning Prayer, Monday – Fridays, at 8.30am:

Morning Prayer takes place in church and on Zoom. We meet at St Mary Magdalene on Mondays, at St John the Divine on Tuesdays, at St Mary Magdalene on Wednesdays and Thursdays, and at St Matthias on Fridays.

On Zoom, **Monday – Thursday**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88554825313?pwd=cVVLdFkrUy95MFU4OTVld3hNNi9tUT09>

Meeting ID: 885 5482 5313

Passcode: 410548

and on **Fridays**

Join Zoom Meeting:

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

Meeting ID: 819 8334 3470

Passcode: FriPrayer

With best wishes,

John

Parish Administrator

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

Registered Charity No 1130018

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