

Thursday 11 July 2024

Dear Friends,

*“For the LORD is the great God, the great King above all gods. In his hands are the depths of the earth, and the mountain peaks belong to him. The sea is his, for he made it, and his hands formed the dry land.”  
– Psalm 95:3-5*

Did you know that 90% of everything we import arrives by sea? I thought that these days much more came by plane, or by road, but no, most of the goods we receive come by ship. And if by ship, then through the work of seafarers.

Being a seafarer is tough. Crews can spend months away working long hours with little respite or contact with home. On top of the daily pressures, the threat of piracy, shipwreck and abandonment are ever present for the men and women who serve at sea. This challenging job has become even harder. Increased restrictions and lockdowns implemented during the COVID-19 pandemic saw many seafarers working beyond their contract end, and unfortunately, these restrictions continue to impact shore leave today. Most recently, attacks and threats to ships traversing the Red Sea have added to the plight of seafarers.

To be a seafarer is to work typically out of sight and out of mind. Even when a large container ship comes into port, it is hidden away behind security gates, high fences and warning signs. A seafarer might get time ashore, but only as a stranger in a strange land where maybe no-one speaks your language and you do not speak theirs. For the 1.89 million seafarers across the world, life can be lonely, dangerous, and uncertain.

Maybe we have all made the quiet assumption that the seas have been tamed. They no longer pose a danger to those who work on them. Ships sail safely everywhere all the time, so they and the sea are no longer a source of interest or concern.

Yet, that is far from being the case. Seafarers sail safely through a combination of physical abilities (it is hard work), training (it takes years of study and work to qualify), experience (there is no substitute for years at sea) and trust in others (a crew must work together). One cannot just set off to sea, it takes all this to sail safely. With all this in place, you can do your job, but nevertheless, you sail across a sea that belongs to God, who made it and who made us and all seafarers. The sea has not been tamed, but God has given people the ability to sail across it.

You may have heard of the Mission to Seafarers, which supports those who work the seas by visiting ships and crew, by creating safe places where people can meet in ports and ensuring that there is a Christian welcome. There are teams in over 200 ports across the world, providing practical and spiritual support.

As a parish we have supported the work of the Mission to Seafarers with an annual financial contribution for a number of years. However, this year, as we mark Sea Sunday on 14 July, we also commit ourselves also to pray for their work and for all who work on the seas.

*Eternal Lord God, ruler of earth and sky,  
be pleased to receive into your protection all who go down to the sea in ships and work upon the waters.  
Preserve them in body and soul; prosper their labours with good success;  
in times of danger be their help and defence  
and bring them safely into port, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen*

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

*This letter was written by The Revd Canon Wilma Roest*

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**Please pray for:**

... **those to be married**, including Lukas Hinz & Maria Haq who are to be married at St Matthias on Wednesday 17 July

... **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 sick and those in need**

... **the departed, may they rest in peace** - David Shaw, Christopher Hutchins, William Collis

*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.*

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**Church, Community and other news:**

**NOTE: Service at St Mary Magdalene this Sunday is at 10.30am instead of 9.30am!**

We look forward to welcoming Richmond Sea Cadets and family and friends to this service.

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

Eaglets has now stopped for the Summer. We will be back Tuesday 10 September. A massive thank you to our fabulous volunteers who have worked so diligently to create a caring environment.

**NEW: Junior Church this week**

This Sunday, we will be keeping Sea Sunday at St Mary's (at 10.30am!), and it will be our last Junior Church for the academic year at St John the Divine. Join us to learn more about the sea or have a celebration of community.

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

Dreaming of summer? Come and join us for a free concert of music and readings about that wonderful time of year!

St Martin's Singers will be at St Mary Magdalene on Saturday evening, 13 July, 7.30pm, with their director Charles Talbot and with readers and actors Karen Archer and Craig Crosbie.

Free entry, refreshments in the interval and a retiring collection for the St Mary Magdalene Choral Foundation.

**Exploring Wild Church – Sunday 14 July**

St Matthias at 4pm. We will meet at the Cambrian Gate entrance to the Park and this afternoon's Wild Church worship will include an introduction to the Japanese practice of Shinrin-Yoku, or 'Forest Bathing'. Suitable for adults and children alike. Please come suitably dressed for the weather. Sturdy footwear recommended. More information from Rev'd Anne or Emma.

**NEW: The Elizabeth Twining Almshouses in Richmond**

The Richmond Charities is opening a new block of Almshouses in Richmond at the end of this year, for the elderly in our borough who are in need of housing, living on a limited income and who are wheelchair users or have mobility issues for which they need specially adapted accommodation. The almshouses will be named after Elizabeth Twining and are located on St Mary's Grove. As well as working closely with the council to identify those in need, Richmond Charities are keen to spread the word more widely across the borough, in order to reach all those who might fit the criteria and be in housing need. They need interested potential applicants

to come forward soon as it does take time to get applicants through the application process.  
<https://www.richmondcharities.org.uk/>

### **NEW: Trip to the National Gallery – finding St Mary Magdalene**

On the feast day of St Mary Magdalene, Monday 22 July, you are invited to come to the National Gallery to see paintings of the patron saint. We will leave Richmond Station at 1.30pm. Or you could join us at the National Gallery, entrance to Sainsbury Wing, at 2.30pm. Contact Wilma or Charlie for more info.

### **UPDATED: Children's choir! Launching September**

We're so excited to be launching our children's choir in September. This will be an extension to the St Mary Magdalene Choral Foundation. The choir will meet on Thursdays after school, and we would love to welcome children between the ages of 7-13. If you are interested or you would like more information please email [music.stmarys@richmondteamministry.org](mailto:music.stmarys@richmondteamministry.org)

### **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 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](mailto:joe.moore@richmondteamministry.org)

### **Upcoming meetings and special events**

14 July            Sea Sunday Service at St Mary's will be with Sea Cadets and begin at 10.30am.  
15 July            Property and Finance Committee  
21 July            6.30pm Hymns and Pimms, around the War Memorial at St Mary's.

### **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](mailto:anne.crawford@richmondteamministry.org)  
More walks planned for Fri 16 August, Fri 20 Sept, Fri 18 Oct, and Fri 15 November.

### **Pre-teens events for Summer**

We are holding two events for our Pre-teens over the summer holidays. On the Wednesday 7 August and Sunday 1 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](mailto:cypml@richmondteamministry.org).

### **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](mailto: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.

## **Church Services:**

**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

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Richmond Team Ministry  
St Mary Magdalene • St Matthias • St John the Divine  
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