

Thursday 25 July 2024

Dear Friends,

School children are finally on their much needed summer break and, here on Richmond Hill anyway, there is a sense that life has taken on a slower pace as people drift away on holiday or to visit family. Resting, and re-charging batteries is much needed at this time of year, and warm summer weather encourages us to slow down a little and take time to appreciate the glories of living in such a beautiful place. August is traditionally a quieter month for ministry too, and a good opportunity to use freed up space to refresh our spiritual journey and deepen our relationship with God.

The rhythm of work and rest is a wisdom of which the Bible speaks quite clearly: the story of creation in Genesis speaks of God resting too from all the work he had done (Gen 2:2-3). And if God needs to rest how much more do we!!! A traditional Sabbath rest was ordained not as a means of restricting our freedom, but quite the opposite, it was an opportunity to be present to the God who gives life, and time to remember that the world is not held in being by our activity but by the loving embrace of God.

Human beings flourish when we have a good work/life balance: time to work levelled out with time to rest and recover. But we are slowly losing the ability to create for ourselves any space in which to be still and quiet, and our mental and spiritual wellbeing is suffering. We sadly equate resting with lazy-ness and we feel guilty when we simply stand and stare. So it was good to use some of the time on our recent guided walk to explore the Japanese practice of Shinrin-Yoku, or Forest Bathing. Gathering under the cool shade of the trees in the Park, switching off our phones, taking a deep breath in and being conscious of the damp scent of the forest floor under our feet, we set off. Walking slowly and silently, stopping now and again to listen more intently to the bird song, the noise of insects, sensing the change in temperature underneath the canopy of trees, noticing the different patterns of tree bark, the moss and lichens, finding hidden pools of water we'd never come across before, and being captivated by the way the sunlight streamed through tree branches like a mystical stairway to heaven... all this made for a tranquil reset of body and soul, a sabbath rest on a Friday morning in Richmond Park. And as we settled in to this new way of appreciating God's beautiful creation, I couldn't help but recall some wise words of Isaiah, as relevant to us today as they were to the ancient people of God who had lost their way so long ago:

*'In returning and rest you shall be saved; in quietness and in trust shall be your strength'.  
Isaiah 30:15*

I pray that we will all make time for quiet, refreshing sabbath rest this summer, and that God will bless us with a renewed sense of his stilling, peaceful presence as we journey on.

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

*This letter was written by The Revd Anne Crawford*

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**Please pray for:**

... **for those to be married on Saturday:** Nadia Powell and Joshua Hetherington  
... **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** - Gill Doling, Liz Velluet, Marc Cranfield-Adams, Stephen Ward

... the departed, may they rest in peace - David Shaw, Christopher Hutchins, Derrick Fletcher.

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:**

### **NEW: WORKS at St Mary Magdalene**

The Church of St Mary Magdalene will be closed for private prayer, services and visits on Wednesday 31 July till Friday 2 August, as scaffolding is being put in, for investigative work on the poorly pillar and beam. PLEASE DO NOT ENTER on those dates. *We want to keep you safe!* For clarity: the Eucharist on Wednesday 31 July at 10am is therefore cancelled. Morning Prayer on Wednesday and Thursday will be on Zoom only.

### **NEW: Thank you!**

A big thank you to everyone who took part in the Patronal celebrations at St Mary Magdalene over the weekend. It was a busy weekend, culminating in a very enjoyable Hymns and Pimms on Sunday evening. A special shout out to the Team from the Angel and Crown pub, who provided the Pimms.

### **NEW: Parish Rooms update**

We now have a rough timeline for the works on the Parish Rooms. The next big step is to appoint the contractors who will do the actual work, which will start in early 2025, with completion in March 2026. Before that we have still quite a lot to do, including clearing the parish rooms of everything that is currently stored there. If you have things hidden away somewhere in parish rooms, do start planning how to retrieve it. The building needs to be completely empty by the end of November.

### **Job Vacancy**

We are looking for a new Permanent Organist/ Director of Music at St John the Divine. Full details can be found here - <https://richmondteamministry.org/news/>  
Deadline for applications is Friday 16 August, 5.00pm.

### **Junior Church**

There will be no formal junior church between now and the first week of September. However, Emma will be leaving activities for you to do. There will be some activities themed to each week.

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

We've taken the decision to cancel the BBQ planned for Wednesday 7 August due to lack of numbers.

We're really looking forward to the **Sunday 1 September**, where our pre-teens will be coming together for food, fellowship and fun. If you have or know any young people between 8-12, please do see if they're interested. It promises to be a lovely evening. Get in contact with Emma or Charlie for more information.

### **AGEUK Richmond Job Vacancy**

AGEUK Richmond currently have an excellent opportunity for a new Chair of Trustees to join their charity. They are looking for a dynamic Chair who is committed to improving the lives of vulnerable and isolated older people across Richmond upon Thames.

The Chair of Trustees leads the board, ensuring that it governs Age UK Richmond effectively, in service of the charity's vision and mission. The Chair leads in an inclusive way, supporting the board to work together well, and providing support and challenge to the Chief Executive. The

Chair is also an ambassador for the charity. You can find out more details about the role at <https://www.ageuk.org.uk/richmonduponthames/>

### **Re-roofing Project at St Matthias**

The re-roofing of the South Aisle and Organ chamber roof, along with some stonework repairs to the north and south clerestory are due to begin on Monday 22 July, with work continuing through the autumn and in to winter. Scaffolding and hoarding will be erected around the north, south and east side of the church with security in place to protect both people and building. Access to church for worship will be via the main door at the west end, and the Kings Road porch door will be open and available for those who need level access. If you have any concerns then please do contact Rev'd Anne or one of the St Matthias wardens.

### **Shakespeare's Twelfth Night at The Orange Tree Theatre**

Thank you to all those who have responded. Revd Joe is looking at possible dates in January. There's still time to express your interest: [joe.moore@richmondteamministry.org](mailto:joe.moore@richmondteamministry.org)

### **Walk with Rev'd Anne – next one on Friday 16 August**

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 next one will be on Friday 16 August, 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 20 Sept, Fri 18 Oct, and Fri 15 November.

### **The next Reflective Art Afternoon – Sunday 28 July 3pm in St John's Hall**

This session we will be reflecting on the theme of Dreams. Come and spend some time in quiet, creatively reflecting on the theme of Dreams. There will be a still life and art materials available, but you are welcome to come and make anything you like and interpret the theme in any way you like: hopes and dreams, sleeping dreams, dreamlike qualities, biblical dreams! All are welcome! Do feel free to invite friends who don't usually come to church, but would appreciate a space for peace, reflection, and creativity.

Contact Revd Charlie Middleton for more information  
[charlie.middleton@richmondteamministry.org](mailto:charlie.middleton@richmondteamministry.org)

### **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.

### **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)

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

27 July	1pm at St Mary Magdalene, wedding of Nadia and Joshua
30 July	10am at St Matthias, funeral of Chris Hutchins
7 August	12 noon at St Mary Magdalene, funeral of David Shaw
4 September	7.30pm SMM Church Committee

### **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 taxpayer. 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 (but not on 31 July!), 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

On Wed 31 July and Thursday 1 August, Morning Prayer will be on Zoom only, as work is taking place at St Mary's.

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

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

Registered Charity No 1130018

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