

Thursday 29 August 2024

Dear Friends,

An end-of-summer greeting to you all!

Autumn will soon be upon us. As the nights start to draw in, we will begin to feel a chill in the air, the leaves on the trees will drop and jumpers and jackets will soon be needed again!

I must confess that as much as I love the summer sun, the beauty and colour of summer flowers, BBQs, alfresco dining and a glass or two of Pimm's, autumn is actually my favourite season.

In so many ways Autumn is about "endings". It is a season, as Keats so evocatively expressed, of mists and mellow fruitfulness. If you are a gardener (I am not!) then autumn, marks the time when you begin 'to put the garden to bed'. Fruit and vegetables are harvested. Flower bushes are dead headed or cut back. Autumn reminds us year after year what we all know but often forget which is that endings mark new beginnings. As we wrap up the old, we prepare for the new. The way in which we end, shapes the way in which we will begin again.

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted; a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance...

– Ecclesiastes 3:1-3

This reading from Ecclesiastes reminds us that God guides the events of our lives, and that there is a gift from God in every season, or time, that we live in. The very temporariness of the time we live and the transitions we undergo are a reminder of the timelessness of God and the longing for the eternal that God has put in our hearts. The seasons of nature can be reflected in our spiritual life. Sometimes, when a great deal is going on in our lives, an "easy in" to reflecting on what is happening interiorly is to look at our spiritual life in this light of what season we are living. Perhaps as you read this—or another time—you can take a few moments to reflect on what spiritual "season" or "moment" from Ecclesiastes 3 you most identify with at this time in your life.

Recently, I was reminded of how helpful that can be by the last few pages of Parker Palmer's lovely book on vocation, *Let Your Life Speak*. Palmer talks about failure as an important part of discernment: how failure can be a clear indication from God that we are meant to turn in another direction—or to see what has been in front of us all along. Quoting Thomas Merton about "the hidden wholeness" in all visible things, Palmer speaks of autumn's metaphor for our spiritual lives:

In the visible world of nature, a great truth is concealed in plain sight: diminishment and beauty, darkness and light, death and life are not opposites. They are held together in the paradox of "hidden wholeness." ...Autumn constantly reminds me that my daily dyings are necessary precursors to new life.

– Parker Palmer, *Let Your Life Speak*

Autumn – that season of mists and mellow fruitfulness – is the perfect time to take stock and to ask ourselves what the fruits of our existence are. Mary Oliver in her poem *The Summer Day* asks poignantly and powerfully 'Tell me, what is it you plan to do with your one wild and precious life?' Autumn is surely a great time to ask ourselves whether the plans of summer for our wild and precious lives have indeed turned into the fruits of autumn. Whatever answer we give can rest with us through the hibernation of winter and as it rests we can find strength and hope ready to begin the growing process once more.

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

This letter was written by The Revd Joe Moore

Please pray for:

... **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**, and other schools in the parish, for peace and safety during the summer holidays

... **the sick and those in need** - Gill Doling, Liz Velluet, Marc Cranfield-Adams, Barbara Adamson

... **the departed, may they rest in peace** - Ann Voller

*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: Icon Sale at St John's

A range of icons depicting Christ, the Saints and biblical scenes are available to buy at St John's, with money going to the Church Restoration Fund. They range from £5-£20 depending on size. The icons can be purchased from church on Saturday 31 August between 10am and 12 Noon and on Sunday 1 September before and after the 11am Eucharist. Please bring cash.

NEW: Climate Pilgrimage for the Planet

Saturday 21 September from Hammersmith Bridge to Teddington Lock
Starting 10.30am Holy Trinity, Castelnau Road and finishing Teddington Lock 4.00pm. Following the Thames Path upstream from Hammersmith Bridge. The path is rough but easy to walk on. Well behaved dogs on leads are welcome. Wear comfortable shoes, and pack a waterproof, sun cream and sun hat, water and a packed lunch. For more information contact Judith at ccawestlondon@gmail.com. "Let justice flow on like a river..." Amos 5:24

NEW: Ageing with Grace Study Day

10am-3:30pm, Saturday 19th October at St Peter's Petersham. A day for reflection, prayer and practicalities around the new challenges growing older brings. To reserve a place contact st.peters.petersham@googlemail.com

Zero Waste Week

As part of our commitment to Zero Waste Week – we will be supporting Workaid. We will be collecting all haberdashery items - dress making material, wool, knitting needles, cotton, scissors, buttons, zips, elastic, sewing machines and so on.....the charity then send this to Africa and also train young people to use the items in order to have a trade and be able to make a living. Please leave all contributions in the boxes at the back of all three churches. The boxes will be out for the first three weeks of September. <https://workaid.org>

Team Talk

The latest edition of Team Talk is now available online by clicking [here](#).

Pre-teens events

We're really looking forward to **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.

Nearly new BOOK and CD sale at St Mary Magdalene

Saturday 7 September from 11am to 3pm - proceeds to the Richmond Soup Kitchen. Do come along and support, tell your friends and neighbours - there will be flyers to take away at the back of church. If you have some time on the day to help please sign up on the rota at the back of church. We need extra hands to give our leaflets on the corner next to Tesco too!

Amazing Antarctica

Monday 9 September, 7:30pm at St Mary Magdalene

Jutta Raftery will be sharing some of her experiences and adventures in Antarctica. There will be a presentation and opportunity to ask questions. All are welcome!

For more information charlie.middleton@richmondteamministry.org

Reflective walks with Rev'd Anne – next one on Friday 20 September

The next walk takes place on Friday 20 September, starting at 10am and ending with coffee. The route will be finalised nearer the time – if you would like to join and haven't walked with the group before, please email Anne and she will send you the information you need anne.crawford@richmondteamministry.org The walks are gentle and last around an hour and half. New walkers always welcome. More walks planned for Fri 18 Oct and Fri 15 November.

Eucharist for Healing and Wholeness on the last Tuesday of the Month at St John the Divine at 7pm

From September, on the last Tuesday of the month our regular Said Eucharist at 7pm at St John's will be a Eucharist for Healing and Wholeness. There will be the opportunity to receive the Ministry of Laying on of Hands with Prayer and Anointing for yourself or to receive it on someone else's behalf. All are welcome.

Christian Aid Richmond Riverside Sponsored Walk - Saturday 28 September

This sponsored walk will start 10.30am at St Matthias. The route is the same as in previous years, i.e. via St Richard's Ham, then back along the river to Kew and finishing at St Anne's.

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/get-involved/events/walking>

Harvest Barn Dance

At Raleigh Road United Church, TW9 2DX Saturday 28 September 2024, 7pm. Dancing to the Craigievar Ceilidh Band. Tickets £10 each including light supper and unlimited soft drinks (you are welcome to bring your own alcohol!)

For tickets, contact Jane from Raleigh Road United Church on 0208 948 7851

Unite for the night: Sleep Out to end homelessness

Glass Door's annual Sleep Out will be taking place on Friday 4 October. Participants give up their bed for one night to give someone a chance to find a pathway out of homelessness. Find out more and sign up at www.glassdoor.org.uk/sleep-out

This year, Glass Door Homeless Charity is encouraging people either to join them at Duke of York Square in Chelsea or to take part remotely. Registration is free, but participants are asked to fundraise for Glass Door Homeless Charity. All funds raised go directly to the charity to help someone find safe shelter and support to get off the streets in London for good.

Next Bible Study: Hebrews (23, 30 Oct, 6, 13 Nov)

Ever wondered what the letter to the Hebrews is about? Who wrote it, who was and is it for? A four week bible study on this letter will take place on 23 and 30 October, and 6 and 13 November. It will be at 11am at St Mary's, and 7:30pm in the Parish Office and on Zoom. Please contact Charlie with any questions or to get the Zoom link:

charlie.middleton@richmondteamministry.org

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.

NEW: Children's Services – 7 September, 4pm

The monthly Children's Services at St Mary Magdalene are restarting on Saturday 7 September at 4pm. There will be stories, songs, craft activities and prayers. All children and the adults who look after them are welcome!

Children's choir! Launching Thursday 26 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 5.15-6.00pm, 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

Upcoming meetings and special events

4 September 7.30pm	SMM Church Committee
28 September 10am	St Matthias Church Committee
30 September 7pm	Property and Finance Committee
30 September 7.30pm	Deanery Synod
2 October, 7.30pm	PCC

Recitals at St Mary Magdalene Autumn 2024

Sat 14 September, 12.30pm	Seb Gillot, organ
Sat 5 Oct, 12.30pm	Rachel Smith, flute, and Emilie Capulet, piano
Sat 2 Nov, 12.30pm	Pavlos Triantaris, organ, and Marily Kritikou, mezzo-soprano

All recitals are free entry, with a retiring collection for the St Mary Magdalene Choral Foundation.

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, 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 (no Morning Prayer on Mon 26 August)**

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

Our Privacy Notice can be viewed at: <https://richmondteamministry.org/gdpr/>

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