

Thursday 5 September 2024

Dear Friends,

Walking into St Matthias this morning for the midweek Eucharist, I was struck by how dark the interior was, the scaffolding on the outside of the building preventing the light from coming in, and on a dark and rainy day like this, the lack of light on the south side was quite pronounced. But without the scaffolding the builders wouldn't be able to repair our roof, and the rain running down the outside of the building this morning would soon be finding its way inside.

Scaffolding may look ugly and at the moment obscuring the light, but it's necessary so that work can be carried out safely, it makes the inaccessible accessible, it lifts us up so that we can see more clearly and closely, it allows us to see things we may never have seen before, it reveals the rot and exposes decay so that steps can be taken to repair and replace. Scaffolding enables us to build stronger and safer, keeping the foundations and fabric healthy. And it's not just builders who use scaffolding, an artist or sculptor would need to use scaffolding to help create spectacular works of art – it would have been impossible for Michaelangelo to paint the Sistine Chapel in Rome without the aid of scaffolding; the Normans couldn't have built our magnificent cathedrals without scaffolding in place. Stanley Spencer, speaking about his great picture of the resurrection of the soldiers, painted in the chapel at Burghclere, called the masses of crosses from the battlefield which are piled high across the central part of the piece, a “sort of scaffolding” – the risen Christ, the Master-Builder, taking each one from men's hands as they reached him and received peace at last.

Scaffolding is a great symbol for us as we consider the ways in which we build up our spiritual life. We need structural support if we are to build a faith which is worth having, which lifts us closer to God, a faith which strengthens and sustains and supports our lives, especially through the challenges and tough times. We construct scaffolding all the time to enable us to see things more clearly and to build up the 'house not made with hands', the temple of the Holy Spirit. We use all sorts of things as scaffolding material – scripture, prayer, liturgy, poetry and literature, art, music, life's experiences – all help to build us up in faith and grow in hope.

So what of our own spiritual scaffolding? How do our religious practices, ie our prayer life, our worship, our learning, our being together as a community, our outreach etc, build up faith in ourselves, in the Church, in our community? Does the scaffolding we have in place lift us to new heights, and show us where we need to heal and mend and repair? Does it provide opportunities to see God more clearly and perhaps allow for changes to be made and even some new building to take place?

I hope your ponderings lead you to some interesting discoveries and pray that the light of the Spirit will shine through and inspire, challenge and comfort us as we grow, learn, mend and build together.

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

This letter was written by The Revd Anne Crawford

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, Shelagh Johnstone

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: September Holiday arrangements

The Parish Office will be closed from 16 September till 30 September. If you urgently need to get hold of someone, please contact a member of the clergy.

There will be no Zoom Morning Prayer on 16 – 18 September, however in church as normal.

St Mary Magdalene may be closed on Monday 23 September and Friday 27 September. Please check with Churchwardens for further info.

NEW: Harvest Supper Ceilidh

Raleigh Rd United Church are having a Harvest Supper Ceilidh on Saturday 28 September at 7pm, to which we are all invited.

NEW: Vineyard School Music

The Vineyard School is opening a small music school on site, giving hundreds more children the opportunity to learn a musical instrument. However, being a state school we have no budget! Do you have an orchestral instrument you could donate to our instrument library, or a music-themed picture for our bare walls? Or would you like to sponsor a child in financial difficulty to receive lessons? Please email music@vineyard.richmond.sch.uk for more information.

NEW: Piano Concert – Saturday 28 September, 7.30pm

Anthony Adkins will be performing Mozart & Chopin in aid of St Richard's Church restoration appeal. St Richard's CE Primary School. Ashburnham Road, Ham, TW10 7NL. Tickets are £25 including interval refreshments and are available on Eventbrite (search Anthony Adkins) or on the door. Enquiries – aadkinsconcerts@aol.com

NEW: Confirmations 2024

Richmond Team Ministry will be presenting candidates for Confirmation at Southwark Cathedral on Saturday 23 November. If you are considering taking this step on your faith journey, speak to your vicar about the possibility of confirmation this year. Preparation classes will take place over 4 sessions in October and November: dates to be confirmed.

NEW: Eaglets is back!

We open our doors next Tuesday 10 September 9:30-11:30am to explore the world with our little people. We're so excited to start again. Do invite anyone that you think might be interested.

NEW: London Open House Festival

St Peter's Church in Petersham will open their doors on Sunday 22 September from 2-5pm, as part of the annual London Open House Festival. A team of very knowledgeable volunteer historians will be on hand to celebrate over 1350 years of architecture at St Peter's. No need to book – please just pop along. For more information please contact st.peters.petersham@googlemail.com

UPDATED: 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. We will take cash payments (please bring change) and cards as well as payment via QR code.

It would be wonderful to have no books left at the end of the day. Volunteers are still very welcome too. We also need extra hands to give out leaflets on the corner next to Tesco!

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>

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!

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

Recitals at St Mary Magdalene Autumn 2024

Sat 14 September, 12.30pm Seb Gillot, organ: a programme of music by J.S. Bach

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.

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.

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*

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.

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

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.

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

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.

Upcoming meetings and special events

16 September, 7pm	St John the Divine Church Committee
23 September, 7.30pm	RTM Standing 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

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.

NEW: There will be no Morning Prayer on Zoom on Monday 16 – Wednesday 18 September and on Monday 23 September.

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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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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