

Thursday 9 January 2025

Dear Friends,

Bitterly cold, isn't it?

I have had a couple of conversations recently with people who do enjoy the crispness and harshness of this time of year. At least it is clear cut: and at times the skies are clear and bright blue, or black and pierced with stars (as many as we are permitted to see in London).

But it also painfully cold if you are out in it too long, or miserably cold if you can't afford to turn the heating on. The nights are long and the days short. The merriment of Christmas is put away, and the spring seems some way off.

The dark and cold can be some comfort to those who grieve, as in the Auden poem 'Funeral Blues,' where the speaker wants all the world to stop and mourn with them:

The stars are not wanted now; put out every one,
Pack up the moon and dismantle the sun,
Pour away the ocean and sweep up the wood;
For nothing now can ever come to any good.

In our own community, we have lost two dear friends: Sara Cunningham and Gill Doling. Each of them, brilliant women who will be deeply, deeply missed. I hope that it is some small comfort that we grieve together.

The January weather, darkness, and general mood may echo or exacerbate our own losses and sadnesses. Our hope in Jesus is, at once, hope for the coming Spring, of new life and light out of darkness; and of companionship on the journey through the dark.

'A saviour who weeps with us. What comfort is that?' I wondered, when I was younger. But we are so deeply and fundamentally not alone. We are not left to scrabble and stumble our way to Easter through the dark. We are not left comfortless. We have a saviour who walked through death before us, and who walks with us now by his Spirit.

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

This letter was written by The Revd Charlie Middleton

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

...**Richmond Soup Kitchen**, for all guests and volunteers

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

... **the departed, may they rest in peace** - Alfred Davies, Terence Abel, Joan Figg, Sara Cunningham, Gill Doling, Isabelle Szmigin

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: Job vacancies at The Vineyard Community Centre

The Vineyard Community Centre & Richmond Foodbank has a vacancy for a full time (or possibly part time) Business Manager as well as a part time Community Nurse, both of which need to be Christians. If you sense a calling for either roles, or know someone who might be interested, please see their website for more details: <https://www.vineyardcommunity.org/>

NEW: Joint services in February

As is our tradition we will be celebrating Candlemas together as a team. This year, that service will be hosted by St Mary Magdalene's.

As a team, we have made a decision to begin celebrating our patronal festivals together: St Matthias on 23 February, St John the Divine on 1 June, and St Mary Magdalene on 20 July.

So, we will enjoy two joint services together in February:

2nd February, 10:30am, Candlemas at St Mary Magdalene's.

23rd February, 10:30am, St Matthias' Patronal Festival at St Matthias'.

NEW: Week of Prayer for Christian Unity – Ecumenical Service 2025

Sunday 26th January, 6:30pm

Raleigh Road United Church

Taizé service of music and prayer

All are welcome to come to this ecumenical service on the theme “Do you believe this?” (John 11:26) and marking the 1700th anniversary of the Council of Nicaea.

There will also be an opportunity after the service for fellowship and developing bonds of friendship among the people of God! We hope to see you there.

Please note that there will be no service of Evensong at St Mary's on 26th January, so that all are free to attend the ecumenical service.

NEW: Repairs Update at St Mary Magdalene

Good news! And not so good news! The good news is that the Chancellor has given the go-ahead for the repairs to be carried out to the damaged beam in the Nave at St Mary's, which is currently shrouded in scaffolding. However, this was subject to approval of the scheme of works by Richmond Council and Heritage England. The Council have given their approval, but, and here is the not so good news, Heritage England have objected. Meetings will be held shortly between structural engineers to hopefully agree how the repair should be carried out and with what materials, but unfortunately this will lead to a delay to the start of the works.

Holocaust Memorial Day

Richmond Synagogue and Richmond Council proudly invite you to their Holocaust Memorial Day event at 7pm on Sunday 26 January 2025 at Richmond Synagogue, Lichfield Gardens, TW9 1AP.

Please register early to be assured of a seat - <https://myus.theus.org.uk/events/117018/annual-holocaust-memorial-day-2025/>

The doors will be open 6.45pm for a 7pm start. The event concludes at 9pm, followed by refreshments and conversation. Please note that the small car park is open only to blue badge holders, but there is plenty of street parking available near to the Synagogue and a car park in Paradise Road.

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. The last Tuesday of the month our regular Said Eucharist at 7pm is a Eucharist for Healing and Wholeness, with 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.

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 Teams. We meet at St Matthias on Mondays and Fridays, at St John the Divine on Tuesdays, and at St Mary Magdalene on Wednesdays and Thursdays.

We have now moved from Zoom to Microsoft Teams.

Morning prayer will be here every day:

[Join the meeting now](#)

Meeting ID: 331 749 912 278

Passcode: 96s9Aa

You may already have Teams downloaded on a Microsoft computer. However, if you are joining from an iPad or other device, you may need to download the App.

Please contact Charlie if you have any concerns about this or need a hand with the tech.

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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