

Thursday 27 February 2025

Dear Friends,

Today the Church remembers George Herbert, one of England's foremost Christian priest-poets. George was born in Montgomeryshire, Wales in 1593 to a wealthy and influential family. He spent most of his growing up years in England, and after a successful academic career at Cambridge, and a spell sitting as the member of parliament for Montgomery, he was ordained into the Church of England and was priested in 1629. He first held the living at Leighton Bromswold, near his friend Nicholas Ferrar's community at Little Gidding in Lincoln Diocese, and then in 1630 he moved to be parish priest at Bemerton, near Salisbury. It was at Bemerton that he found inspiration to write his notable guide to rural ministry, 'The Country Parson', a description of the pattern of life and ministry to which he aspired (and which sadly is now but a pipe dream for parish priests working in a very different world). George believed that fundamentally a priest's good conduct, loving service and kindness of heart preached the most powerful sermon and would draw his parishioners to God far better than any clever use of words from the pulpit. But it has to be said that it's for poetry that George is best remembered, and his carefully crafted words continue to inspire and sustain faith today. As I've pondered his life and ministry I've been struck by just how influential his ideal of priesthood has been on the Church and on priestly formation in the Church of England, despite his early death at the age of 39, after only three years of active ministry. How many of us will be remembered for our spiritual guidance and insight 400 years after our death?!!

One of George Herbert's best-loved poems explores Christ's invitation to the Eucharist, and today seems the perfect day to offer it in preparation for our own worship this coming weekend:

### **Love**

Love bade me welcome; yet my soul drew back,  
    guilty of dust and sinne.  
But quick-eye'd Love, observing me grow slack  
    from my first entrance in,  
drew near to me, sweetly questioning  
    If I lack'd any thing.

A guest, I answer'd, worthy to be here:  
    Love said, You shall be he.  
I, the unkinde, ungrateful? Ah my deare,  
    I cannot look on thee.  
Love took my hand, and smiling did reply,  
    who made the eyes but I?

Truth Lord, but I have marr'd them: let my shame  
    go where it doth deserve.  
And know you not, says Love, who bore the blame?  
    My deare, then I will serve.  
You must sit down, says Love, and taste my meat:  
    So I did sit and eat.

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

*This letter was written by The Revd Anne Crawford*

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**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, Sarah Pryce, Jo Ryeland

... **the departed, may they rest in peace** - Alfred Davies, Valerie Llewellyn, June Smith, Phil Crowther (condolences to Shirley Crowther – 25, Connaught Avenue, London, SW14 7RH)

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.

*Prayer needs: Is anything weighing on your heart at present that you would like us to hold in prayer for you? The St MM prayer group meets regularly to pray in complete confidence over specific prayer needs made known to us. Please feel free to send us your prayer requests*

*at: [richmondprayer.request@gmail.com](mailto:richmondprayer.request@gmail.com) or post a request anonymously on the prayer board at the back of church in St Mary Magdalene.*

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**Church, Community and other news:**

**NEW: PALM CROSSES**

Please remember to bring last year's palm crosses to church on Sunday – we need them to make the ash for next week's Ash Wednesday services. Many thanks.

**NEW: Parish Office**

Our Parish Administrator John is on annual leave next week, so there will be no newsletter.

**NEW: The Chalice at the Eucharist**

In order to keep our congregations safe please continue to receive the Eucharist in one kind only, ie the wafer, if you are unwell. And please do not, under any circumstances, dip the wafer in to the chalice as this increases the risk of infection for everyone. Thank you.

**NEW: Choral Evensong at St Peter's Petersham**

Our current team of Choral Scholars will be joined by guests from the Elysian Singers to sing Charles Stanford's settings of the evening canticles *Magnificat* and *Nunc Dimittis* at a special service of Choral Evensong for the third Sunday of Lent, on **Sunday 23 March at 4pm**, accompanied by Barnaby Silverstone, Senior Organ Scholar at the Chapel Royal, Hampton Court Palace. They will open the service with a lush eight-part setting of the prayer *God be in my head*, and this service of reflection will come to a close with the hymn *Glory to Thee, my God, this night*, Tallis's famous Canon, a musical 'round' for the congregation to get stuck into! It will be a wonderful opportunity to celebrate our beautiful church at the close of the day, it's entirely free, and **all are welcome!**

**NEW: Petersham Passion**

Jeremy Summerly, conductor, musicologist, and broadcaster, returns to St Peter's church to direct a talented team of singers and players in a one hour charity concert on **Sunday 6 April 2025 at 5pm**. They will perform music from JS Bach's St John Passion and St Matthew Passion, with words read from the King James Bible by Stuart Turnbull, and all proceeds will go to supporting St Peter's & local community projects.

Suggested donation £15

Tickets: [tinyurl.com/PetershamPassion](http://tinyurl.com/PetershamPassion)

Enquiries: [events.stpeterspetersham@gmail.com](mailto:events.stpeterspetersham@gmail.com)

### **Ash Wednesday - 5th March**

The 5th of March is Ash Wednesday, marking the beginning of the penitential season of Lent. There will be 3 opportunities to receive the imposition of ashes that day:

1. 'Ashes to go' at Richmond Station - Joe and Charlie will be offering this ministry between 7:30am-8:15am for those on their way to work or passing by
2. Said Eucharist at St Mary Magdalene at 10am
3. Team Eucharist for Ash Wednesday at 7:30pm at St John the Divine

Please do make this day a priority in your diaries.

### **GreenTips**

Issue 6 is now available. Some copies can be found at the back of church, or you can read it on our website - <https://richmondteamministry.org/get-involved/>

### **Glasses, specs and sunglasses**

As part of our Green efforts we are collecting all your old prescription (or otherwise) glasses and sunglasses. We will be sending them off to the Lions Club who use them to improve the sight of children and adults living in other less developed countries. All donations are washed and regraded then sent directly to those in need throughout the world. There will be boxes from now until the end of March in all three churches - please hunt through those desk drawers and bring all those unwanted spectacles to church.

### **Appointment process for new RTM Team Rector and Vicar of SMM**

Please do make use of the Suggestion Boxes which have been placed in each of the churches across the Team. Everyone is encouraged to have their say on the appointment of a new priest: what might be the qualities and gifts which we'd like our new priest to share with us. You may leave your suggestions and comments anonymously if you wish. Please do continue to pray for God's guidance and the discernment of the Holy Spirit as we work through the vacancy towards an appointment. If you have any questions, comments or concerns about the appointment process then please do speak with one of the Churchwardens, or with a member of the clergy. Thank you.

### **Reflective Walks 2025**

Rev'd Anne's next reflective walk is on Friday 28 February. If you have walked with Anne and the group before then you will automatically receive information to confirm meeting time and place, but if this is your first time joining the walk, or you would like some more information, then please email Anne [anne.crawford@richmondteamministry.org](mailto:anne.crawford@richmondteamministry.org)

### **World Day of Prayer – Friday 7 March**

2:30pm at Our Lady of Loreto & St Winefride Catholic Church, Kew TW9 3HB

"Our sisters in The Cook Islands welcome us and lead us for the Day of Prayer 2025. This group of 15 islands in the South Pacific Ocean has a rich and colourful Māori heritage and a deep connection to nature. Join with us as we pray together and reflect on the theme 'I made you wonderful'."

### **Calling all teenagers!**

We have started a new Dinner and Discussion group for teens. Our next session will be on Sunday 16 March, at 6pm.

We will be cooking and eating together – and chatting about all manner of things (big and small). Nicky Holt and Charlie will be leading the group, together with a different host in a different house each month.

Please contact Charlie for more details: [charlie.middleton@richmondteamministry.org](mailto:charlie.middleton@richmondteamministry.org)  
07746 695637

## **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](http://www.richmondteamministry.org)  
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