

Thursday 20 March 2025

Dear Friends,

Today, as the Church of England remembers St Cuthbert, we remember a man who, despite his best efforts to seek a quiet life of prayer, kept finding himself called back into the thick of things. He longed for the solitude of the Farne Islands, but the Church had other ideas—making him Bishop of Lindisfarne, much to his reluctance. One rather suspects he knew the familiar refrain of many a church volunteer: “I only said I’d help for a little while...”

But that is the nature of God’s call—it rarely leaves us where we are. When Christ calls, we are drawn beyond ourselves—sometimes with enthusiasm, sometimes with quiet reluctance, and often only after a strong cup of coffee or a well-mixed gin and tonic! Dietrich Bonhoeffer puts it starkly: “When Christ calls a man, he bids him come and die” (The Cost of Discipleship). That might sound dramatic, but most of the time, the call is not to grand heroics but to steady faithfulness—offering our time, our presence, and sometimes even our patience when the PCC meeting overruns.

Cuthbert understood this deeply. Though drawn to a life of contemplation, he knew that holiness is never an entirely private matter. As St Augustine reminds us, “You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they find their rest in you” (Confessions). But this rest is not one of passivity; it is an active abiding in God’s love, shaping how we live and serve. Cuthbert wandered the Northumbrian hills, teaching, healing, and praying with the people. He waded into the freezing waters of the North Sea, not for show, but because his entire being was caught up in the love of God.

Rowan Williams expresses this beautifully: “To be holy is to be drawn into the life of God so that God’s life flows through us into the world” (Being Disciples). And St John Chrysostom reminds us that such holiness is practical: “If you cannot find Christ in the beggar at the church door, you will not find him in the chalice”. Cuthbert lived this out—his faith was not confined to a monastic cell but found expression in love and service.

Mission, then, is not about elaborate strategies but about love in action—the love that listens, that welcomes, that prays, that turns up faithfully, Sunday by Sunday, even amidst challenge. Even the smallest acts—like making the tea and coffee after the service (which some might argue is almost a sacramental act)—are part of this holy calling.

So today, as we give thanks for St Cuthbert, let’s ask: where is God calling us? To serve in a new way? To deepen our prayer life? To be a steady, loving presence in our community? And if, like Cuthbert, you ever find yourself unexpectedly roped into something you hadn’t planned or imagined—take heart, you’re in excellent company!

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

*This letter was written by The Revd Joe Moore*

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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

... **Christians of Congo**

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

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

The celebration of Phil Crowther's life will be held at Christchurch in East Sheen (SW14 7AW) on Wednesday 2 April 2025 at 2.30pm. Dress smart, or as you wish, with colour. Family flowers only. Donations to Princess Alice Hospice or Cancer Research.

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: The Fairy Queen**

The Raven Opera Company (the student opera company based at Royal Holloway of which Holly Fry is President) are performing Purcell's 'The Fairy Queen' at St. Mary Magdalene Friday 21 March at 7:30pm.

Tickets can be purchased

here: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1227933625529?aff=oddtcreator> or on the door (although booking in advance is preferable where possible).

### **NEW: RTM Green Team needs YOU!**

As you will hopefully be aware, RTM has a Green Team, created to help us all on our sustainability journey, in particular with our aims under [Eco Church](#). The group is small but perfectly formed, representing the three churches but we are always looking for new and enthusiastic congregation members - young and not-so-young - to help with our current plans and of course to bring any new ideas. We meet three-four times a year, in person but also online - which is very green as no transport is required at all! If you would like to talk about joining us for one off projects or coming onto the Team, we would love to hear from you. Please contact Emma Meredith ([emeredith@ctpa.org.uk](mailto:emeredith@ctpa.org.uk)). Many thanks.

### **NEW: Servers and Sacristans at St John the Divine**

St John's is looking for those who might be willing to act as servers on Sundays at the I am Eucharist. There are various roles that all contribute to the worship, including acolytes, thurifer and crucifer. This could be as often or as little as you're available. If you would like to find out what these roles entail, please do contact Rev'd Joe: [joe.moore@richmondteamministry.org](mailto:joe.moore@richmondteamministry.org) We are also looking for Sacristans, those who might be willing to help prepare the church for worship before Sunday services, including laying out the silver plate and vessels for Holy Communion and lighting candles. We are also looking for those who might be willing to clear away after the service too. Training and guidance will be offered. Again, please contact Rev'd Joe on the email address above. Thank you!

### **NEW: Welcoming at St Mary's**

St Mary's is open each weekday until 15:00 and on Saturday mornings between 10:00-12:00. Two people are present to welcome for two hours during these times. The lovely Welcomers are a quiet presence in church, and are very much appreciated by those who enjoy popping into St Mary's, whether by design or happy chance. It is an extremely important ministry.

If you feel moved to welcome for two hours during the week or on a Saturday morning, please contact Emma Meredith ([emeredith@ctpa.org.uk](mailto:emeredith@ctpa.org.uk)).

There is also the opportunity to welcome at Choral Evensong on Sunday evenings at St Mary's, 18:30-19:30. Evensong is a beautiful service of quiet contemplative words and exquisite music. If

you would be interested in welcoming at the service, again please contact Emma ([emeredith@ctpa.org.uk](mailto:emeredith@ctpa.org.uk)). Thank you.

### **NEW: Earth Hour**

Since 2007, Earth Hour has been known for the “lights off” moment, with individuals from around the globe switching off their lights to show symbolic support for the planet and to raise awareness of the environmental issues affecting it. So please join us at 8.30pm on the 22 March and switch off ALL your lights. We can use the time to do something positive for our planet – to pray, to think about the impact of our actions, to look for books to donate for the May Fair.....Here are some more ideas for giving your hour <https://www.earthhour.org/take-part/give-an-hour>  
All our churches will be in darkness with all lights off for the hour.

### **NEW: Faith In Ageing Poetry Competition**

Embracing Age’s poetry competition is back and open to anyone over the age of 50. For more information visit <https://www.embracingage.org.uk/poetry.html>  
The closing date is Friday 9 May.

### **NEW: A New Piano for St Mary’s**

We are raising funds for a new piano for St Mary’s. This will help with our ambition to make St Mary’s a cultural hub in Richmond and a musical centre of excellence.  
Full details can be found on our website - <https://richmondteamministry.org/news/>  
Booklets are also available at the back of church.

### **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!**

### **Lent Lunch in support of Bishop Christopher's Lent Call**

At St John the Divine on Wednesday 26 March between 12:00 and 14:00. Please join us for a simple lunch, for fellowship and to support the Bishop's projects in Southwark, Jerusalem and Zimbabwe.

It would be helpful if you could let us know that you are coming!

### **Reflective Walks 2025**

Rev’d Anne’s next reflective walk is on Friday 28 March. 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)

### **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.

### **Choral and Organ Scholars 2025-2026**

St Mary Magdalene, Richmond, seeks to appoint an Organ Scholar and four Choral Scholars (SATB) for the academic year 2025-2026 (September till end of July).

The Organ Scholar receives an annual honorarium of **£1,500 - £2,000** (depending on experience) and generous extra fees may be available for any weddings/funerals throughout the year.

The Choral Scholars are each paid an annual honorarium of **£1,500** plus extra fees for any weddings/funerals as available through the year.

The deadline for all scholarship applications is **12 noon, Tuesday 1 April 2025**. Auditions will take place on **Sunday 6 April and Friday 11 April**.

For an application pack, or for more information, please email

[music.stmarys@richmondteamministry.org](mailto:music.stmarys@richmondteamministry.org)

### **Upcoming Funerals**

Phil Crowther – The celebration of Phil Crowther's life will be held at Christchurch in East Sheen (SW14 7AW) on Wednesday 2 April 2025 at 2.30pm. Dress smart, or as you wish, with colour.

Family flowers only.

Donations to Princess Alice Hospice or Cancer Research. (Condolences to Shirley Crowther – 25, Connaught Avenue, London, SW14 7RH)

Henry Leighton-Crawford – Henry's funeral will be held at St Mary Magdalene, Richmond, on Tuesday 15 April 2025 at 12pm, followed by tea and coffee. All are welcome.

### **Lent Talk**

Sunday 6 April 4pm at St John the Divine.

'Wings and Whispers: The Silent Battle Between Angels and Demons'

Joe Gunby, Director of Operations at St Elizabeth of Portugal RC Church, Richmond will give a talk exploring beliefs about angelic and demonic forces. All are welcome. Followed by Q&A.

### **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)

### **Electoral Roll Revision**

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting and the three Annual Church Meetings will be held on 18 May this year and it is then that the church officers will be elected. Church officers are the Wardens, Deanery Synod Representatives, PCC lay members and Church Committee lay members.

Everyone who has been a member of one of our churches for a minimum of 6 months is eligible to vote.

As with national elections, we have to have an electoral roll for this. As our existing roll is now 6 years old it is no longer considered valid and we have to create a new one.

Creation of the new roll will start on Sunday 30 March. To enrol you need to complete a registration form which will be available at the back of each church from that day. The completed form should be left in the collection post box provided for these. Enrolment will continue for four weeks, so don't worry if you cannot do it on 30<sup>th</sup> March.

### **Lent Book Recommendations**

'Why Church? Christianity as it was meant to be' by Scott Cowdell

Church Publishing Inc £14.99

(978-1-64065-736-6)

This is a refreshing and positive book for those of us who like to learn from history - and from the Christian faith globally - as we ponder the Church in our own times. Cowdell passionately argues that the Church is essential to Christianity: Christ is the Vine and we are the branches. It is thoughtful, positive and encourages church in church buildings with the Eucharist at the centre. It is encouraging in approach and is good for Lent study with questions after every chapter.

'Healing Wounds: the 2025 Lent Book' by Erik Varden

Bloomsbury £12.99

(978-1-3994-1040-3)

Eric Varden is a Cistercian Monk and the book is based on a 13th Century poem by a fellow Cistercian monk who focussed on Christ's wounds (the hymn 'O Sacred Head, sore wounded' is thought to be derived from this poem). It is deep, unflinching in its description of Christ's wounds and invites us to consider our own woundedness, with a final chapter on Flourishing. Eric Varden prayerfully unwraps all of this, encouraging us to see that by Christ's wounds we are healed.

### **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.

### **Calling all teenagers!**

We have started a new Dinner and Discussion group for teens. Our next session will be on Sunday 25 May, 6-8pm.

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

### **Underground**

The next Preteens (for 8-13) meet will be Sunday 13 April, 4-6pm: treasure hunt and BBQ at SMT.

### **Bells for your birthday?**

Church bells are the most historic things that many of us ever hear. The bells ring to call us to worship on Sundays and also as a joyful celebration of weddings and more sadly when tolling for funerals. Here at St Mary's we offer you the opportunity for a unique gift for those special people in your lives. We will ring to celebrate birthdays, anniversaries, births of children and grandchildren and any other special occasions you can think of. We can also offer a personal tower tour as part of the gift. Contact Jackie Harrison, Tower Captain for more information and an indication of proposed donation [jackieharrison456@gmail.com](mailto:jackieharrison456@gmail.com)

For all the latest bell ringer news, visit <https://richmondteamministry.org/bell-ringing-news/>

### **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

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

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