

Thursday 3 April 2025

Dear Friends,

Passiontide is upon us, and the Church—ever the dramatic matriarch—lowers her voice, narrows her gaze, and bids us walk softly into the shadow of the Cross.

It is not an easy time. And it's not meant to be. These are days for soul-scouring honesty, for weeping at tombs and wondering what it means to lose in a world obsessed with winning. Yet in this bruised and beautiful season, the Church also remembers who she is and what she's for.

We are called to be a people who evangelise, who form disciples, and who inspire witness. In other words, we are called to be gloriously inconvenient!

To evangelise, for starters, is not about wielding pamphlets or accosting strangers at bus stops. It is about having the courage to tell the story of Jesus—not because we have all the answers, but because we've been encountered by the Answer Himself.

"The joy of the Gospel," says Pope Francis, "fills the hearts and lives of all who encounter Jesus" (*Evangelii Gaudium*, §1). If it's not joyful, it's not the Gospel. And if it is the Gospel, it's worth sharing—even if your voice shakes a bit.

Of course, evangelism without formation is like serving soup without a bowl—warm intentions, but messy results. Jesus doesn't ask for fans; he calls for followers. He doesn't say, "Come and feel vaguely inspired."

He says, "Take up your cross and follow me" (Mark 8.34).

Discipleship, let's be honest, isn't always glamorous. Sometimes it looks like daily prayer and bible reading. Sometimes it looks like loving people who don't recycle properly. But it is in these unshowy habits that the soul is stretched and the heart is made large enough to carry Christ.

St John Henry Newman wrote, "A great memory does not make a saint, nor does great learning. A holy soul, that's what makes a saint" (*Parochial and Plain Sermons*, Vol. 5). Formation isn't about producing spiritual overachievers; it's about helping ordinary people—like us—to live extraordinary grace. And from such grace flows witness. Now, this may conjure images of shouting on street corners, but Christian witness is often quieter and stranger than that. It's the neighbour who always shows up with cake. It's the parishioner who prays for you even when you forgot their birthday. It's the way the sanctuary lamp flickers in the stillness of an empty church, holding space for a world too weary to pray.

St Teresa of Avila, never one to mince words, famously said: "Christ has no body now on earth but yours." We are the body of Christ. And through us, however clumsily, He is still made known.

That's why, looking ahead to the autumn, we're hoping to launch a new evangelistic course—something open, welcoming, and hospitable, designed for those curious about faith or simply wondering if there's more to life than what's on offer. If that stirs something in you, if you feel called to help create a space where questions are honoured and Christ is gently shared, then please do get in touch.

We're gathering a team to help shape and lead this vital ministry. You don't need to be an expert—just open-hearted and willing. Email me at joe.moore@richmondteaministry.org if you're interested or would like to know more.

So, this Passiontide, let us take up our strange and glorious calling. Let us be a Church that dares to speak good news, even in a world that's forgotten how to listen. Let us be a Church that shapes hearts, not just schedules. Let us be a Church that, in the words of Julian of Norwich, knows that all shall be well—not because we're in charge, but because God is.

May your Holy Week be full of grace, your Easter radiant with joy, and your witness full of the holy mischief of the Spirit.

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

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
... **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, Peter O'Toole
... **the departed, may they rest in peace** - Jo Ryeland, June Smith

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 or post a request anonymously on the prayer board at the back of church in St Mary Magdalene.

Church, Community and other news:

NEW: Easter Flowers at St Mary Magdalene

We will be collecting donations towards the Easter flowers after each Sunday morning service in the run up to Easter. If you feel able to contribute we would be hugely grateful. With many thanks.
The Flower Team.

The Vacancy: Seeking a new Team Rector and Vicar of St Mary Magdalene

We have been reflecting on and praying for this vacancy, and about the qualities which we would like from a new Team Rector and Vicar of SMM for 4 months, and it is time for us to begin to collate all the thoughts and feedback. We are beginning the process of bringing together common themes, concerns and ideas for how we might best address the issues raised and take matters forward.

To that end, each church will want to convene a congregational meeting as soon as possible to discuss any matters which have not yet been voiced, about RTM and what we are looking for in a new Rector and Vicar: concerns, hopes, reflections, experiences, and joys! Conveners from each of the churches are organising these now. SMM will hold its congregational meeting after its 9:30am service on 6 April, and members of all the congregations at SMM are invited to come. SJD and SMT, notices will be given in church as soon as appropriate dates and times are agreed.

Following that, all three churches will meet together again, with a view to beginning work on a Parish Profile which reflects our wonderful Team Ministry, each of our churches, and the whole community in Richmond.

Goodbye to the Vicarage

The Vicarage on Ormond Road has been a place of meeting and eating, working, praying, learning and growing for decades!

We're going to have a short service mark the end of an era as the Vicarage goes on the market; to remember all that building has meant to the life of the church.

The service will be on the front steps of The Vicarage, Ormond Rd TW10 6TH on Saturday 12 April, at 12.15, followed by drinks and cakes in the garden. All are welcome!

Parish Office on the move

The parish office will be functioning as normal through to Easter and the week after Easter, but we have also started the first phase of the move to St Matthias Church.

The parish office meeting room, and the offices themselves already look much clearer!

The phone lines are continuing and the office is open the same times as before and our parish administrator John Palmer is still based in the basement office, as is Denise our bookings administrator. The timeline for the final phase of the move will be confirmed in our newsletter but is likely to be Monday 28 April.

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.

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 valid, has to go into the bin and we have to create a new one. This means everyone who would like to vote has to enrol; your name will not be brought forward from the old roll.

Creation of the new roll will start this Sunday 30 March. To enrol you need to complete an application form which will be available at the back of each church. The completed form should be left in the collection post box provided for these. Enrolment will continue up to and including Sunday 27 April.

A Scrubbie for life!

Jutta is crocheting long life scrubbies which save plastic and will also raise money for the piano fund. The beautiful scrubbies will be on sale during coffee at SMM from this weekend and also at the May Fair - don't delay, get your order in asap! - jutta@uwclub.net Colours to suit.

Save the Date: Beetle Drive – Friday 27 June, St Matthias Church

The RTM Green Team continues to explore ways to help us all on our sustainability journey, in particular with our goals under [Eco Church](#).

One aim of the Green Team is to “twin a toilet” for each of the three churches within the Team. <https://toilettwinning.org> is a charity that offers the twinning of a toilet which helps fund a project in a community that helps families to build their own basic toilet, access clean water and learn about hygiene.

To help raise funds for this, RTM is holding a **Beetle Drive at St Matthias on Friday 27 June, 7-9pm**. Please put the date in your diary. More details to follow!

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). Many thanks.

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. 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!

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 (emeredit@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 (emeredit@ctpa.org.uk). Thank you.

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.

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.

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

Enquiries: events.stpeterspetersham@gmail.com

Underground

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

Upcoming Funerals

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.

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
07746 695637

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.

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

Registered Charity No 1130018

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