

Thursday 17 April 2025

Dear Friends,

As we prepare to welcome people to our churches over the next few days, it's been interesting to read various articles in the media lately about a resurgence of interest in the Christian faith among young people, especially as it's expressed in the Roman Catholic church. It's been reported that 500 people will be received in to the faith at Westminster Cathedral this Easter, a substantial number of them under the age of 35. One of the archbishops who has been involved in the preparation of so many candidates reported that young people are looking for community, for a place to belong, they are wanting stability and moral guidance, and they are finding it in the Church. But what strikes me as especially inspiring is that many of that large number of people preparing to make a commitment to Christ in the Roman Catholic church are young men, because that's certainly been our experience at St Matthias over the last few months. We too have seen a rise in the number of young men, under the age of 35, who are joining us regularly for worship. It was also noticeable in our school Easter services that it was the boys who were most eager to join in the exploration of the Easter story, and ask and answer questions. I had a fantastic time with two classes of 10 year olds from Kings House School who engaged with Jesus' journey to Jerusalem from Palm Sunday to Good Friday with an empathy and enthusiasm I hadn't expected. And the 200 or so 14 year olds attending Christ's School Easter service in church were equally interested and engaged, again especially the boys.

At a time when the news is full of doom and gloom, and church attendance figures can feel a bit depressing, we should take heart that the Holy Spirit is at work despite our failings. And as we journey to the cross this week we should be comforted to learn that our young people are finding Jesus to be a loving and inspiring guide through life, the Christian faith providing them with stability, purpose and a sense of belonging in a world which is disordered and uncertain. I can think of no better role model for young people than Jesus Christ, the suffering servant who taught us how to live, and how to love, and gave his life so that we may have life in all its incredible beauty and abundance.

With every blessing for a holy, happy and peaceful Easter.
Anne, Charlie and Joe

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

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

... **Christians of Congo**

... **the sick and those in need** - Liz Velluet, Marc Cranfield-Adams, Epp Jones, Sarah Pryce, Peter O'Toole, Elisabeth Lourandos nee Chalmers

... **the departed, may they rest in peace** – Adele Curtis

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: Bank Holidays

The Parish Office will be closed Friday 18 April and Monday 21 April.

NEW: Services at St John the Divine

There will be no Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Eucharist on Tuesday 22 April at St John's.

NEW: Team Talk

The latest edition of Team Talk is now available at the back of church or [online by clicking here](#).

NEW: Morning Prayer after Easter Day

There will be no Teams available on Wednesdays and Thursday

NEW: St Mary Magdalene – closure for works on the beam (28 April – 2 May)

St Mary Magdalene will be closed for one working week, while the messiest and most dangerous part of the repairs to the pillar and beam take place.

During that week:

Morning Prayer on Wednesday (30 April) will be held at St John's

Morning Prayer on Thursday (1 May) will be held at St Matthias

Wednesday morning Eucharist will be cancelled.

Following 5 days closure, all works will continue with the church open for prayer and visitors, and for all services as normal.

NEW: Off she goes again

Charlie is having another crack at the Camino! Hoping, this time, to make it all the way to Santiago de Compostela (though, of course, it's the journey which is the important bit...)

Bea and I are setting off from Southwark Cathedral on Easter Monday, walking to Portsmouth, taking a ferry to Spain, and then walking the Ingles Route from Ferrol to Santiago.

Your prayers are much appreciated, and be assured that I am praying for you too!

UPDATE: Parish Office on the move

Our final move date up to St Matthias is set for Monday 28 April. The parish office will essentially be closed on this day. Please bear with the office team as they get up and running in their new surroundings.

If you hold any keys to the parish office or Vicarage, these need to be returned no later than midday Monday 28 April. If no one is around please pop them through the basement letter box in an envelope, labelled with your name and details of the keys being returned.

May Fair Saturday 10 May

The team at St Mary Magdalene are excited to be running the May Fair again in St Mary's and in the church yard. There will be tower tours and a series of music and dance performances in the church as well as refreshments in the church and our fundraising stalls outside.

HOW CAN YOU HELP? We need you all to start bringing your donations of books (please only books in good condition) and new bottles and unwanted gifts for the tombola (wine, bubble bath, oils, gift sets etc). We are also hoping to run a toy stall, so we'll need toys and childrens' books (in good condition please).

There will be boxes at the back of St Mary's for donations. We will also need cakes and savoury items to be baked for the event so please start thinking about your best recipes. Just as importantly we need volunteers on the day and on the Sunday (as we will continue our book sale after church that day). There will be a rota on the board at SMM for sign up after Easter Sunday. Thank you for all your help.

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.

The congregational meeting at SJD around the Team Rector vacancy will be on Sunday 4 May after the service

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.

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.

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 (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). 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.

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

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 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

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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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