

Thursday 1 May 2025

Dear Friends,

On my way to take the Eucharist at St Matthias this morning I heard a sound which made me stop and look up.... and there soaring away above my head was a sight for sore eyes: the first Swifts of the summer, heralding their arrival with their unmistakable screech as they tore up the sky, their little bodies full of energy despite the hundreds of miles they've travelled to reach our shores. Who knows what dangers they've encountered, or friends they've lost along the way, but here they are, filling our world with happy noise and the promise of warm summer days ahead.

I've been reading a gentle little book recently with my early morning tea, written by Michael Morpurgo called 'Spring': the story of a season. Michael lives on a farm in deepest rural Devon, and he writes about the coming of spring and the creatures, the sights and the sounds which bring us pockets of hope and joy as the earth stirs in to life at this time of year. He writes about swifts and other migrating birds, about newly returned otters to the river near his home, and the sun-snoozing grass snakes newly awakened from their winter sleep. He paints a beautiful picture of woods carpeted with bluebells, and fields full of buttercups and daisies. And as I read Michael's words I'm transported back to my childhood, to picking bluebells for our school nature table, and a song we used to sing in assembly at infant school: 'Daisies are my silver, buttercups are gold, these are all the treasures that my heart can hold'. The tune we sang our song to is called 'Glenfinlas' and there is a beautiful hymn written for that same tune which we often sing at St Matthias during the distribution of holy communion. And when I look around me on this May day, when Richmond is all froth and blossom, daisies and buttercups, and the air filled with the scent of Wisteria, the lyrics of that hymn come to me too, because they speak of Easter living, of finding hope and peace in a world where too many people are living without beauty, and where the only smell lingering in their nostrils is that of cordite, dust and sadly, death.

Celebrating my first sighting of the newly arrived swifts, and giving thanks for the beauty which surrounds me every day, and the indescribable joy of simply being alive at this time of year when resurrection glory is all around, I can't help but reflect on other migrants who might also be arriving on our shores after long and dangerous journeys, longing for beauty and peace and a place to safely rest their weary bodies, and I wonder what sort of reception they might receive. And Glenfinlas comes to my mind again, and the words of a hymn which brings comfort and hope:

'Come to me,' says Jesus,
'all who are distressed;
Take my yoke upon you,
I will give you rest'.

Hear the call of Jesus,
Come, be deeply blessed;
His the invitation,
You the honoured guest.

Pardon, feed and heal us,
Humble, courteous Lord,
Gracious host, for ever
Honoured and adored.

Alan Gaunt (b1935)

With prayers and blessings from the Richmond clergy team,
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, Philippa Morgan

... **the departed, may they rest in peace** – Adele Curtis, Joy Pinnington, Ron Chave

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:**Sunday 4 May – St Mary Magdalene Time change for the 9.30am service to mark the 80th anniversary of VE Day**

In order to enable older member of our congregation to get to church to mark the 80th anniversary of VE Day, the service at SMM will be beginning an hour later than normal.

On Sunday 4 May, the Sung Eucharist will be at **10.30am**

NEW: Bank Holiday

The Parish Office will be closed Monday 5 May.

NEW: Parish Office has now moved

We are now settling in at St Matthias. Access to the office is via the Church Road entrance. There is a buzzer labelled Parish Office on the left hand side beyond the outer door. Please be patient as we are upstairs!

Our new address is Parish Office, St Matthias Church, Church Road, Richmond, TW10 6LR

Phone numbers remain the same and will be up and running at our new office from Monday 12

May. We will be checking the old landlines for voicemails daily Monday-Friday in the old office but you may find it easier to email us and our emails are:-

John Palmer – admin@richmondteamministry.org

John Rushe (property manager) – property.manager@richmondteamministry.org

Denise (bookings administrator) – bookings@richmondteamministry.org

James (verger) – verger@richmondteamministry.org

We will respond as soon as we can, thank you.

NEW: The APCM at St John the Divine - 18 May 18:30pm

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting will take place on the evening of 18th May at St John the Divine, beginning with a Team Service of Choral Evensong at 18:30pm with the Meeting beginning afterwards.

NEW: Patronal Festival at St John the Divine - 1 June 10:30am

St John's will mark its Patronal Festival on Sunday 1 June with a Team Festival Eucharist at 10:30am. All are welcome and please do invite family and friends! The preacher for this worship of celebration will be The Venerable Moira Astin, Archdeacon of Reigate, who covers the southern end of the Diocese of Southwark. There will be a Bring and Share Lunch after the service, so please do feel free to bring some food and drink!

St Mary Magdalene – closure for works on the beam (Tuesday 6 May – Friday 16 May)

St Mary Magdalene will be closed for two working weeks, while the messiest and most dangerous part of the repairs to the pillar and beam take place. The church will be open at the weekends. Morning Prayer and Wednesday morning Eucharist will be held at St John's for both weeks. Following the closure, all works will continue with the church open for prayer and visitors, and for all services as normal.

NEW: Collection for Seb, Ros and Baby Bede!

Seb, our wonderful Director of Music at St Mary Magdalene, and his wife Ros have welcomed a beautiful new addition to their family—a baby boy named Bede!

We are organising a collection to buy a baby gift for them from the St Mary Magdalene congregation. If you would like to contribute, please donate using the bank transfer details below, or if you prefer please speak to Andreana regarding any cash donations.

Richmond Team Ministry – No 4 acc

Nat West

Sort code: 60-17-31

Account no: 60595477

Reference: Seb

NEW: Music at St Mary Magdalene - Instagram Account

We recently launched an Instagram account for the Music at St Mary Magdalene (@music_at_smm). Follow us for updates on the exciting musical endeavours at SMM!

NEW: Job Vacancy

The Vineyard Community Centre & Richmond Foodbank has a vacancy for a part-time Assistant Manager working 21-28hrs pw who is a Christian. If you sense a calling for this role, or know someone who might be interested, please see their website for more details:

<https://www.vineyardcommunity.org/>

The closing date for applications is Friday 23 May noon.

Richmond Soup Kitchen Fundraising Quiz Night!

As we enter the final week of this season at Richmond Soup Kitchen, we're already looking ahead to the next—and we need your help to make it happen!

Come along to our Quiz Night Fundraiser on Friday 7 June at 6:30pm at St John's Hall, Richmond. The evening will be hosted by a professional quiz master from Interrupt the Routine, and we'll be serving up a delicious curry dinner from Richmond Spice.

Tables of 4, 5, or 6 available

£25 per ticket – includes quiz entry and dinner

Book now: bit.ly/3G5UG2j

All proceeds go directly towards supporting our work with vulnerable individuals in the community next winter. We'd love to see you there—bring your friends, test your trivia, and help make a difference!

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 - **DONATIONS OF BOOKS, TOYS AND TOMBOLA ITEMS PLEASE DROP BY THIS SUNDAY DUE TO CLOSURE OF CHURCH NEXT WEEK OR TO THE PARISH ROOMS MORNING FRIDAY 9 MAY.** We will also need cakes and savoury items to be baked for the event which of course should be brought on the day or dropped the morning of the day before - so please start thinking about your best recipes.

If you need anything collected pl contact Jo Kitson 07880 500528 johanna_kitson@hotmail.com
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 is a rota on the board at SMM for sign up **PLEASE ADD YOUR NAME THIS SUNDAY SO WE KNOW ALL STALLS ARE COVERED.**

There are lovely colourful flyers at the back of church please do take a few and deliver to neighbours and friends.

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.

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.

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

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

Our Privacy Notice can be viewed at: <https://richmondteamministry.org/gdpr/>

TO UNSUBSCRIBE FROM THIS EMAIL LIST, [PLEASE CLICK HERE](#)



[Click here for St John the Divine's Facebook page](#)



[Click here for St Mary Magdalene's Facebook page](#)



[Click here for St Matthias/ Facebook page](#)

