

Thursday 8 May 2025

Dear Friends,

Today, the church remembers Julian of Norwich, mystic and theologian. You may already be familiar with Julian's story:

On this day in the year 1373, a 30 year old woman was on her death bed, and there received sixteen visions, inspired by the image of the crucified Christ, and revealing to her aspects and expressions of the love of God. She recovered from her illness, and spent the next twenty years of her life pondering their meaning and recorded her conclusions in what became the first book written by a woman in English, *The Revelations of Divine Love*. The woman became an anchoress attached to the Church of St Julian in Norwich, giving her the name by which we know her. She died around the year 1417.

Perhaps you have even read her *Revelations of Divine Love*? I warmly recommend it to you if you've not yet had the pleasure. Julian writes vividly (medievally) about the saving horror of the cross; with warmth and depth about Jesus as our mother; about the gift of falling and failing so that we can enjoy God's saving grace; about the power and goodness of God which is beyond even the Church's comprehension and description, and by which means that ultimately, on and beyond the day of judgement *all shall be well and all shall be well, and all manner of things shall be well*.

I thought, today, you might like to hear about an encounter between Julian and another medieval mystic, Margery Kempe. While Bea and I were walking the Camino(!) we encountered a statue of Margery Kempe, who walked the Ingles Route to Santiago in 1417, so she is very much in my thoughts.



Margery Kempe (1373-1438) married around the age of 20, and subsequently had at least 14 children. Following the birth of her first child, Margery cried for eight months and was beset by voices and visions of demons. Later in life, Margery negotiated a chaste marriage and dedicated herself to worship, devotion and pilgrimage. In the 1420s, Kempe dictated her own book, describing her life and spirituality. In it, she describes meeting with Julian, through her anchoress's window:

“The anchoress [Julian] hearing the marvellous goodness of our Lord, highly thanked God with all her heart for his visiting, counselling this creature [Margery] to be obedient to the will of our Lord God and fulfil with all her might whatever he put in her soul, as long as it was not contrary to the worship of God and the benefit of her fellow-Christians; for, if it was, then it was not the inspiration of a good spirit but of an evil spirit. The Holy Ghost never inspires anything which is contrary to love; if he did, he would contradict his very self, for he is all love...

Saint Paul says that the Holy Ghost asks for us with mourning and weeping beyond saying, that is to say, he makes us to ask and pray with mourning and weeping so plenteously that the tears may not be counted. No evil spirit can give these tokens, for Jerome says that tears torment the devil more than the pains of hell. God and the devil are always opposite to each other and never dwell together in one place, and the devil has no power in a man's soul. Holy Writ says that the soul of a righteous man is the seat of God, and so I believe, sister, that you are. I pray God grant you perseverance. Set all your trust in God and do not fear what the world says to you, for the more scorn, shame, and reproof that you have in the world, the more is your merit in the sight of God. Patience is necessary to you, for in that you shall preserve your soul.

Much was the holy conversation that the anchoress and this creature had, communing in the love of our Lord Jesus Christ many days that they were together.”

I thought that you might appreciate this story of female spirituality in an era when women's power and education were aggressively limited: two wildly different holy women, meeting together and discussing the will and nature of God, caring for one another, and discerning God's love. May all our encounters with one another be so warm and holy, so open and interested, so wise and full of love.

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

This letter was written by The Revd Charlie Middleton

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:

NEW: Update on the 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.

ANY LAST MINUTE DONATIONS OF BOOKS, TOYS AND TOMBOLA ITEMS PLEASE DROP 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. Because so many people have allergies, please can foods be labelled and the ingredients listed?

If you need anything collected pl contact Jo Kitson 07880 500528 johanna_kitson@hotmail.com
Just as importantly we still need volunteers on the day and on the Sunday (as we will continue our book sale after church that day). Please let Jo know if you haven't already signed up and can help for an hour or so and she will fit you into the rota.

AND OF COURSE COME ALONG AND SUPPORT THE FAIR ON SATURDAY

NEW: Annual Reports

The annual reports for the forthcoming APCM on 18th May can be found on the RTM website in the 'News' section, from where they can be downloaded - <https://richmondteamministry.org/news/>
There are five of these: Safeguarding, Deanery, Fabric, Secretary's and the Electoral Roll.

The annual accounts for 2024, both the full set and the shortened financial summary, as well as the draft minutes of last year's APCM are not shown on the website. Hard copies of these, together

with hard copies of the five that are on the website, will be available in the churches from Sunday 11 May.

NEW: Christian Aid Week 11-17 May

Envelopes for donations can be found at the back of church or online donations can be made using the following link: <https://fundraise.christianaid.org.uk/envelope-2025/richmond-kew-christian-aid-week-2025> Thank you.

NEW: Update on The Vacancy

We had a very good PCC away Day and we are now working on the Parish profile. Thank you for everyone who made all the suggestions at the congregation meetings and in the suggestion box. Reverend Anne and Ruth Martin and also Reverend Joe are now bringing it all together in a concise, fully representative profile and we will keep you in touch with developments.

NEW: Saturday 14 June - Heidi will be ordained priest

Heidi Munn was ordained deacon in June last year after having spent two years training at St Mary Magdalene and is currently a curate at Norbury Church near Stockport. Heidi reports that it has been a more challenging first year as curate than she had been expecting as her vicar moved to a new post in February. But God had prepared her for the challenges, not least through the excellent grounding that she had whilst at RTM. Heidi is pleased to announce that she will be ordained priest in a service at Chester Cathedral at 4pm on Saturday 14 June. Heidi would welcome your prayers at this further significant step in her ministry. If anyone is interested in attending the service in person, do let Heidi know by emailing heidi.munn@btinternet.com. Alternatively the service should be watchable through the Cathedral's livestream. Heidi prays that both the vacancy at Norbury Church and at RTM are filled quickly with God's chosen candidates.

NEW: Thy Kingdom Come family-friendly celebration - Pentecost Sunday, 8 June 2025, from 3:00 to 5:00pm at Southwark Cathedral

This year's theme for Thy Kingdom Come is 'Light up the world in prayer' and to mark the global wave of prayer, Southwark Diocese is inviting people to join a family-friendly celebration, which will take a place on Pentecost Sunday, 8 June 2025, from 3:00 to 5:00pm at Southwark Cathedral. We warmly invite you and your children to join us for a meaningful and multi-sensory celebration of the Holy Spirit, as part of *Thy Kingdom Come*.

The event will be specially designed by Rachael Gledhill (Associate Vicar of St John the Evangelist, Upper Norwood) and Sharon Moughtin (Vicar of St Mary in the Wilderness and author of *Diddy Disciples*). You will hear the story of Pentecost in an interactive storytelling session using song and movement, created for the wriggliest and chattiest among us. Plus explore and celebrate the many meanings of Pentecost together across different sensory stations.

- Through touch create swirling patterns of fire with rice dyed with fiery colours
- Through taste (and edible friendship bracelets!) celebrate the Holy Spirit as our friend and comforter who gives us boldness to pray in turn for our friends
- Through smell, explore the call to be 'the aroma of Christ' to others, rubbing herbs to wake up their scent and creating mini herb bags to gift to others
- Create a sight for the eyes, making fiery headbands to remember the story of tongues of fire dancing on the heads of the apostles
- Make a joyful noise with shakers made from discarded plastic bottles: the Holy Spirit can create beautiful new things even from the things and moments we see as waste

The event is open to all and free to attend. Refreshments will be provided.

To book, visit: <https://tinyurl.com/2m7uf6xj>

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 first thing daily Monday-Thursday 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.

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.

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.

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!

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, St Matthias Church, Church Road, Richmond TW10 6LR
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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