

Thursday 15 May 2025

Dear Friends,

This week, churches, schools, families, and workplaces across the country are marking Mental Health Awareness Week. Each year, we're invited to pause and reflect on our wellbeing—and this year's theme, "Community," feels especially timely and profoundly Christian.

In an age when loneliness has quietly become one of the most widespread struggles in society, the call to deeper community is both urgent and healing. Whether we live alone or in a busy household, whether we're surrounded by friends or struggling to connect, the truth is this: human beings are created for relationship. The God who made us in love also made us for love. In the first pages of Scripture, God looks upon Adam and says, "It is not good that the man should be alone" (Genesis 2.18). From the beginning, community is not a luxury - it is a necessity.

Mental ill-health can be deeply isolating. Depression, anxiety, grief, and trauma often convince us that we are alone in what we're going through. But the gospel assures us: you are not alone. Christ is always with us—and, crucially, Christ comes to us through other people. Through the friend who checks in. The neighbour who stops to chat. The church member who prays quietly beside you. In these small moments of connection, community becomes not an abstract ideal, but a living reality.

One of the Church's most powerful gifts is the ability to create spaces of belonging - spaces where people are received as they are, not as they wish they were. To love someone is to show to them their beauty, their worth and their importance." This, I believe, is one of the most sacred tasks we have as Christians: to remind one another of our God-given value, especially when the world - or our own inner voices - tell us otherwise.

The poet John Donne famously wrote, "No man is an island, entire of itself." It's a line often quoted, and rightly so, because it speaks to our deepest truth: we belong to one another. When one suffers, we all suffer. And when one begins to heal, that healing becomes a blessing for the whole body.

This week, perhaps you might reach out to someone you haven't seen for a while. Perhaps you yourself are in need of someone to listen. Don't be afraid to say so. You are not a burden - you are a beloved part of this community. And every person in our church family has something precious to offer.

As we hold one another in prayer this week, may we continue becoming the kind of community where it is safe to be real. Safe to struggle. Safe to hope. A place not of perfection, but of presence - and grace.

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, Epp Jones, Sarah Pryce, Peter O'Toole, Elisabeth Lourandos nee Chalmers, Philippa Morgan, Georgina Merchant

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

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: ACM's

ACM's at St Mary Magdalene and St John the Divine will be held this Sunday after their morning services

NEW: A successful May Fair

A huge thank you to everyone who donated, helped set up and sell, attended on the day and spent money in and around St Mary's. It was a glorious day and we raised over £3000 for the Richmond Soup Kitchen as well as funds for the new piano, the bell tower and Patience School in Uganda.

NEW: Bell Sunday

We are so lucky to have a ring of 8 bells here in Richmond - please support your bell ringers this Sunday and listen out for us ringing across Richmond on Sunday! After the service at St Mary's the bell ringers will be serving coffee and have baked goods. Do come along and support their efforts to raise funds for the tower.

NEW: Richmond Soup Kitchen Award

We're absolutely delighted to share that Richmond Soup Kitchen has been named *Community Group of the Year* at the Richmond Community Heroes Awards!

[Read more here →](#)

To be nominated was an honour in itself - but to win, among such an inspiring group of individuals and organisations, was genuinely humbling. The room was full of heart, hope, and the quiet determination that truly drives change.

This is your award too. Whether you cook, serve, donate, fundraise or cheer us on—thank you. We couldn't do this without you

NEW: Adele Curtis Memorial

Adele's memorial will be held at St Mary Magdalene, Thursday 29 May at 11:30am.

NEW: Dementia Action Week

Next week is Dementia Action Week. Pathways Through Dementia are providing an online Lasting Power of Attorney session Wednesday 21 May at 7pm which gives people the confidence to set up these forms themselves before it is too late - <https://www.goodhub.com/go/pathways-through-dementia>

NEW: Embracing Age Quiz Night - Friday 6 June

Doors open at 7:30pm for 8pm start. Bar and light refreshments available.

Suggested donation £5.00 per ticket. Come as a team (up to 6 people) or join one on the night.

Advance booking is essential. Please visit <https://www.embracingage.org.uk/quiz.html> or phone 020 3778 0035

Embracing Age is a Richmond based Christian charity mobilising trained volunteers to befriend older care home residents.

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.

St Mary Magdalene – works on the beam

The duration of the works will need to be extended due to the discovery of further works required.

Church services are now back to normal and we will aim to keep the church open to the public from 9:00 until 3:00 pm Mon to Fri where possible. Weekend opening times will be as per usual.

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

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting will take place on the evening of Sunday 18 May at St John the Divine, beginning with a Team Service of Choral Evensong at 18:30pm with the Meeting beginning afterwards. The annual reports can be found on the RTM website in the 'News' section, from where they can be downloaded - <https://richmondteamministry.org/news/>

There are **now six** of these: Safeguarding, Deanery, Fabric, Secretary's and the Electoral Roll **and the meeting's AGENDA**

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 six that are on the website, will be available in the churches from **Sunday 18 May**.

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.

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

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.

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!

Richmond Soup Kitchen Fundraising Quiz Night!

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

Corrected booking link: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/richmond-soup-kitchen-quiz-and-curry-night-tickets-1311506584499?aff=oddttdtcreator>

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!

If you're looking to create a team, or if you'd like to join a volunteer table, please contact Isabelle - richmondsoupkitchen@gmail.com

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>

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.

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

Unfortunately we are still unable to receive incoming phone calls, but we are still 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.

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 (emeredit@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 (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.

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.

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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