

Thursday 29 May 2025

Dear Friends,

Last Wednesday I spent a fabulous day at the Chelsea Flower Show. So many of the gardens this year were designed for charities who work to promote wellbeing and improve mental health, and were full of inspirational ideas which might be included in our much more modest gardens at home. My favourite gardens were those which were awash with colour and scent – foxgloves, roses, irises all at their very best at this time of year and displayed to utter perfection at Chelsea. Among the best of the show gardens were those which not only looked beautiful, but which also provided an insight into the benefits of being connected to nature, and the power of plants and horticulture in general to heal and restore. One garden entitled ‘Strong Beauty’, created by Jo Thompson for The Glasshouse Garden, stood out for me. The Glasshouse is a not-for-profit social enterprise which harnesses the benefits of horticulture and work to create second chances for women in prison. Through nurturing, creating and maintaining indoor plants in offices for corporate clients, women gain skills, grow in self-belief, improve employability and can begin to plan for a better future. We heard the stories of lives being changed for the better, of women finding hope when they thought they’d come to the end of the road, and all through the power of being immersed in nature and working in an environment where nurture and nature are the focus. One of the women helped by the project wrote, “The Glasshouse found me at the lowest point in my life when I’d lost who I was and what I stood for in life. They provided me with a nurturing environment, helped me to see there was hope and encouraged me to be me again, a person who has a lot to offer, who has skills and eagerness to learn new things, a mother, a wife, and a person capable of amazing things.”

Listening to the stories of women helped by the Glasshouse project reminded me of the Church’s calling to sow seeds of hope, to bring healing and wholeness to lives which have been damaged along the way by life’s experiences, to empower the weak and listen to those who have lost their way, and to bring beauty, joy and fullness of life where all feels barren, dark and sterile. Sometimes it feels as though the Church has lost her way, we’ve forgotten who we are and whose we are and, like the women the Glasshouse project supports, are in need of a little more self-belief, our faith grounded more securely in the rich soil of Church tradition, fed by theological learning and spiritual insight, refreshed by the joy and light of worshipping God together in a diverse community of sinners and saints. At our recent PCC away day we recognised that one of the barriers to us growing as a Church is our lack of confidence - our hesitance in sharing the gospel because we feel we don’t know our bible well enough, or our worry that others may not feel our prayer life is strong enough. And yet we are all learners and growers, we are all searchers and seekers, whether we’ve been attending church for a life-time or just a few weeks. We should believe in ourselves because the miracle is that God believes in us, and calls us to go out and sow seeds of love and hope and joy and light in our little patch. We are, after all, the Church which, through our faith in the risen and ascended Jesus Christ, believes wholeheartedly in second chances (and plenty more besides!) and the self-belief which comes with knowing that we are loved beyond our weaknesses, beyond our doubting, beyond the limits we set on ourselves and on others, beyond all doubt, even beyond death. And that is very definitely something worth sharing. Faith is like a beautiful garden which when sown and nurtured, weeded, watered, fed and supported, will bring joy, colour and hope to all who come within its walls.

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, Georgina Merchant, Gerald Fearn

... **the departed, may they rest in peace** – Joy Pinnington, Peter Hallwood, Rachel Boulton

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:

Upcoming Team Services

- Ascension Day at St Matthias – Thursday 29 May, 7.30pm
- Patronal Festival at St John the Divine – Sunday 1 June 10:30am

St John's will mark its Patronal Festival on Sunday 1 June at 10.30am 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! There will also be a retiring collection for the Richmond Soup Kitchen, please bring cash and give as generously as you can.

NEW: Update on The Vacancy

The advertisement for the position of Vicar of St Mary Magdalene and Team Rector of Richmond Team Ministry was placed in the Church Times last Friday. The Closing date for applications is Sunday 15 June with interviews on Thursday 10 July. Prayers that God sends the right candidate.

NEW: A New Piano for St Mary's - **FINAL CALL FOR DONATIONS! Only £10,000 to go!**

Fundraising for our new piano is going very well indeed, and we hope to have some specific news very soon. The very same keys which are up for sponsorship are being restored and shaped as we speak, and the piano will be ready in a matter of weeks. With several generous promises and donations, we're very close to our £100,000 goal. We are now looking at closing the final gap, and we only need a further £10,000 of individual donations to reach our target. Please contact Seb for any final gifts/key sponsorship.

Full details can be found on our website - <https://richmondteamministry.org/news/>

GREENTIPS

Check out the Summer edition of GreenTips - the Green Newsletter for RTM. This edition has fabulous photos of the recent events plus news of much exciting things to come. A small number of printed copies are available at the back of church or read it on our website -

<https://richmondteamministry.org/get-involved/>

NEW: Update on St Mary Magdalene Beam Work

Please be advised further to our message last week that St Mary Magdalene will be closed for construction work next Monday and Tuesday, 2/3rd June. We are erecting the additional

scaffolding. We hope to complete this work during the timeframe; however we cannot guarantee this so your kind patience is requested in the event of unforeseen circumstances. We are working steadily towards a resolution, prayers welcome!

Best Wishes

Anthony & John Churchwardens

Book Recommendation – *The Missing Ending: Rediscovering the Joy of the Ascension* by The Venerable Moira Astin

Christians believe in a crucified, risen and *ascended* Lord, and so the Ascension is a key Christian doctrine. Moira Astin, our preacher for the Patronal Festival at St John's, has written a comprehensive and readable book on the topic. In straightforward language, it considers: the Ascension in the gospels, Paul's letters and in Hebrews and Revelation, its heavenly and earthly meanings and why the Ascension matters today. This book comes highly recommended!

Alpha is Coming to the Richmond Team Ministry – Get Involved!

We're excited to announce that a Team Alpha Course will be running on Monday evenings from 22nd September 2025 at St John the Divine.

Alpha is a relaxed and welcoming course that creates space for people to explore life, faith, and meaning. It's especially aimed at those who are new to church, curious about Christianity, or just asking life's big questions. Each session involves a simple meal, a short film, and open, honest discussion in small groups.

There are many ways you can be part of this:

- Pray regularly for the course, for those leading and attending.
- Invite friends, neighbours, and colleagues who might be interested.
- Serve by helping to prepare and serve the meals.
- Set up or pack away the space before and after sessions.
- Facilitate or support a small group discussion.

Whether you've done Alpha before or are completely new to it, we'd love your help in making it a welcoming and fruitful time for all involved.

To offer help, register interest, or find out more, please speak to/email Joe at St John's or contact the Parish Office.

joe.moore@richmondteamministry.org or admin@richmondteamministry.org

As we seek to be Christ Centred and Outward Focused, let's share the invitation of the Gospel together!

Talk about Death - Saturday 14 June, 2pm at St Mary's

An afternoon where we hope to take the fear away about talking about death and prepare each other for the next stage of our journey. We will have a series of short talks on a variety of topics, with music between each talk. Talks to include theology of death, marking a death, what the undertakers do, the journey of grief, managing probate. Refreshments afterwards. Hosted by Charlie, Nicky and Maia.

Confirmations 2025

+Christopher, Bishop of Southwark, will be joining RTM for St Mary Magdalene's patronal festival on 20 July, and he has kindly agreed to confirm candidates from all three churches during the Team Service. If you are considering taking this step on your faith journey, please contact Charlie on charlie.middleton@richmondteamministry.org

Confirmation preparation classes will take place over 4 sessions in June and July: dates to be confirmed, based on candidates availability.

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.

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.

RTM Beetle Drive: Friday 27 June St Matthias Church – Book Your Tickets!

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, and you can book your tickets now for an evening of fun for all the family. £10 for adults and £5 for children. A Ploughman's Supper is included in the ticket, feel free to BYOB. A raffle will also be held. Email Emma (emeredit@ctpa.org.uk) to book.

The RTM Green Team looks forward to seeing you there!

A poster can be downloaded [here](#)

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.

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.

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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