

Thursday 12 June 2025

Dear Friends,

We are all waiting expectantly for a new Vicar for St Mary's, someone who will also be Rector of the Team. We have prayed and discussed, mapped out and explored, and now we hand over to God and continue to pray that the right person will respond to the invitation to come and join us and be part of the life of Christ in Richmond. It's all very exciting!

This week the Church settles down to Ordinary Time again, a season of growth, highlighted by the use of the colour green in our vestments, altar frontals, pulpit falls etc. And so it seems appropriate that we are preparing to welcome someone new to come among us and work with us to grow in Spirit as well as in number. We are also in the season of ordinations – we will be thinking of Heidi this weekend as she is ordained priest in Chester Diocese, along with so many others who have answered God's call to a particular ministry in the Church. People from all walks of life, from different cultures and backgrounds and a rich variety of life experience, all responding to God's call to play their part in building up the miraculous body of Christ we call the Church. Chatting over coffee this morning a group of us were wondering what might be going through the mind of the person God is calling to join us – do they feel encouraged, uncertain, excited? Has the calling come as a surprise, a bolt out of the blue, or is this something they have been looking out for, expecting, even dreaming about? And what does the Bible have to say to us about the part the Holy Spirit plays in encouraging a response, in affirming a calling.

I suppose for many of us who have answered the call to ordained ministry, the familiar words of the Prophet Isaiah have spoken to us in ways which are both daunting and affirming, which is why the hymn "I the Lord of Sea and Sky" is such a popular one at ordination services: "And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'whom shall I send, and who will go for us?' And I said, 'Here I am; send me!' (Isaiah 6:8). And long after we answered that initial tug and plucked up enough courage to respond even when we wondered why (and go on wondering why!), because God is faithful and can be trusted we continue on the journey of discovery and exploration, unpacking the call and responding in ways which sometimes surprise us and the people around us. A calling to ministry is never a static thing, it changes as we grow and change, as our faith deepens and new challenges inspire us and fire us to see God afresh and recognise Christ in the faces and the lives of the people we are called to serve.

And so I have no doubt that someone somewhere is pondering and praying and listening, someone somewhere is feeling the tug of the Holy Spirit urging them to draw near, whispering words of encouragement, and opening their eyes to the possibilities which lay ahead of them, a future ministry full of promise, love and rich fulfilment here in Richmond. Jesus encouraged his disciples with words which affirmed and strengthened them for all that lay ahead, and we can hear them being spoken to us too at moments of uncertainty when we need a little courage to respond to a new call to ministry, whether ordained or lay: 'You did not choose me, but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name.' (John 15:16)

May God bless the person he is calling to come among us with reassurance, courage and insight, and may God bless us with patient, welcoming, encouraging hearts.

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, Julie Burman

... 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:

NEW: Update on the Beam Works at St Mary Magdalene

Next week the investigative work will continue but it is not envisaged at time of writing that this will result in any planned closures of St Mary's. Safety is our primary concern, so our builders are authorised to close the church at short notice if they deem it is necessary. Please avoid the cordoned off areas.

We are making progress, working towards a resolution and completion in the coming weeks. We thank you for your prayers and patience.

Best Wishes

Anthony & John - Churchwardens

NEW: Update on The Vacancy

The position for Vicar of St Mary Magdalene and Team Rector of Richmond Team Ministry is closing for applications on Sunday 15 June. Shortlisting will then take place with interviews on Thursday 10th July. Prayers that God sends the right candidate.

NEW: Parish Office update

We are now able to take incoming phone calls. Phone numbers remain the same. Access to the office is via the Church Road entrance of St Matthias. There is a buzzer labelled Parish Office on the left hand side beyond the outer door. Please be patient as we are upstairs and please let us know if you're coming to see us, so we can check what's going on in the church.

Our email contact are:-

John Palmer (parish administrator) – admin@richmondteamministry.org

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

Denise (bookings administrator) – bookings@richmondteamministry.org

James (verger) – verger@richmondteamministry.org

Ruth (voluntary operations lead) – ruth.martin@richmonteamministry.org

NEW: Christ School Governors vacancy

We are currently looking for a new foundation governor for Christ's School. Four Foundation Governors are appointed by the PCC of the Richmond Team and we have an empty space. If you are interested and would like to contribute to the life and work of this Church of England Secondary School, please have a conversation with Rev'd Joe or Faye Johnstone. A visit to the school is also strongly recommended.

Rachel Boulton's funeral

Rachel's funeral will be held at St John the Divine. The reception of the coffin into church will be Friday 13 June, 6pm. The funeral service is Saturday 14 June, 11.30am. A reception will follow in the Church Hall.

Christ's School Year 5 Open Evening – Thursday 3 July, 5.30-7.30pm

Christ's School is sometimes overlooked by families who assume that distance from the school affects their chances of securing a place. However, for our Christian places, distance is not a factor. Instead, we require evidence of regular church attendance - at least twice per month for two years prior to application. A supplementary form can be downloaded from our website for you to complete - <https://www.christs.richmond.sch.uk/>

We warmly invite you to our Year 5 open evening to experience Christ's School community - rooted in the Christian values of love, justice, and peace - where every student is supported to fulfil their God-given potential.

Booking is not required to attend this event, Headteacher's talks are allocated on a first come, first served basis; arrive early to avoid disappointment. We are unable to offer any onsite parking

A New Piano for St Mary's - **FINAL CALL FOR DONATIONS! Only £9,000 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 £9,000 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/>

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.

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](#)

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.

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!

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.

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

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