

Thursday 3 July 2025

Dear Friends,

When the Apostle Paul wrote to the early Christians in Philippi, he encouraged them to “shine like stars in the world” (Philippians 2:15). It’s a beautiful and striking image—and perhaps even more meaningful in today’s world. In an age of constant busyness, anxiety, and noise, to shine like a star is not just to be noticed, but to offer light, hope, and stillness in a world that often feels overwhelmed.

Few experiences awaken that sense of wonder quite like standing beneath a clear night sky. To see the stars, scattered like diamonds across the heavens, is to be reminded both of our smallness and our preciousness. The psalmist writes, “When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have established; what are human beings that you are mindful of them?” (Psalm 8:3–4). It’s a reminder that we belong to something vast and beautiful—and that each of us matters deeply to God.

From a scientific point of view, stars shine because of what happens deep within them: the fusion of hydrogen into helium at their core. That hidden process releases the energy that prevents a star from collapsing in on itself—and allows its light to be seen across great distances. And the same is true for us: we shine, not because we are constantly busy or perfect, but because something is being kindled deep within.

Our ability to shine—for others, in faith, in life—depends on how well we tend to what’s happening inside. And that’s where our spiritual lives matter most. In a world that often measures us by what we do or how we perform, the Gospel invites us to rest in who we are: beloved children of God. Rowan Williams puts it beautifully when he writes, “The holiness of the Christian is something hidden, something deep in the process of being formed.” God’s work in us is often quiet, slow, and unseen—but it is no less real for that.

Jesus told his followers, “You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden” (Matthew 5:14). But even Jesus—light of the world though he was—took time away to rest and pray. The Gospels often describe him going off to quiet places to be alone with God (Mark 1:35, Luke 5:16). If he needed space for renewal, so do we.

As summer approaches, I hope many of us will find opportunities to rest and be refreshed in whatever happens to be a ‘quiet place’ for you. Whether it’s through travel, spending time with family, pottering in the garden, enjoying the longer evenings, or simply doing less, the invitation is the same: to reconnect with God, to rediscover what nourishes us deep down, and to be reminded that our worth is not in what we produce, but in who we are.

I find these words from Bernadette Farrell’s hymn *Christ, Be Our Light* especially moving:

“Longing for light, we wait in darkness.

Longing for truth, we turn to you.

Make us your own, your holy people,

light for the world to see.”

This autumn, we’ll be running a Team Alpha Course at St John’s, starting on 22 September. It’s a gentle, open, and welcoming space for people to explore the Christian faith, ask life’s big questions, and experience the warmth of Christian community. If you’ve ever wanted to share your faith with a friend, neighbour, or family member—or if you’d just like to explore it afresh yourself—this is a wonderful opportunity. Perhaps, in inviting someone else, you might help them discover the light of the Gospel for themselves?

Let’s shine!

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** - Marc Cranfield-Adams, Epp Jones, Sarah Pryce, Peter O'Toole, Elisabeth Lourandos nee Chalmers, Philippa Morgan, Georgina Merchant, Gerald Fearn, Julie Burman, Paul & Caity Manning, Jennifer Thornton, Crista Brown

... **the departed, may they rest in peace** –

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: Saturday 5 July - RECITAL POSTPONED

Unfortunately, for a number of reasons we have had to postpone the lunchtime recital due to be held on 5 July at St Mary's. The recital on 19 July will take place as advertised and will be our final recital before the summer break, and a chance to say farewell and thank you to some of our departing scholars.

NEW: St Mary Magdalene, Patronal Festival

We will be celebrating St Mary Magdalene's Patronal Festival, with a community day, recital, Team Service presided over by Christopher, Bishop of Southwark, and Hymn and Pimms!

Saturday 19th July – 12noon-4pm, Church Court Community Festival

Saturday 19th July – 12:30pm, SMM Music Scholars' Recital

Sunday 20th July – 8am, BCP Holy Communion

Sunday 20th July – 10:30am, Team Service, Eucharist with Confirmation

Sunday 20th July – 6:30pm, Hymns and Pimms

All are welcome, especially for the Team Service on Sunday, at which Bishop Christopher will be preaching and presiding.

NEW: Bishop's Certificate 2025/26

Sign-ups are open for the 2025/26 Bishop's Certificate, Southwark Diocese's 'life-changing' course covering the Bible, Christian history and belief, and living as a follower of Jesus. If you've been thinking of signing up this coming year - or if you know a friend or someone in your parish who would enjoy the course - email bishopscertificate@southwark.anglican.org to receive an

application pack. You don't have to be academically inclined to enjoy the course. People of all ages, backgrounds, and traditions enjoy it every year. Places are filling up fast, so don't delay!

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

Update on The Vacancy

The position for Vicar of St Mary Magdalene and Team Rector of Richmond Team Ministry closed for applications on Sunday 15 June. Interviews will take place on Thursday 10 July. Prayers that God sends the right candidate.

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.

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 candidate 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!

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.

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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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/>

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