

Thursday 10 July 2025

Dear Friends,

While I have lived in Richmond, I have had the privilege of sharing my home: first with my brother and his fiancée for 4 years, and then over the last few months with a marvellous ordinand called Peter, who is staying with me while he finishes up a placement at St Mary's, Bourne Street, before he heads off to St Stephen's House, Oxford, to train to be a priest.

Now, I love sharing my home: it means that there are more often friendly faces around; it's a privilege to live in Richmond and it's fun to share that gift; there's usually someone around to look after the cat(!) However, one finds oneself cleaning the bathroom rather more frequently, and one can't always remember to whom the ice lollies in the freezer belong...

Why write about my shared-home-ice-cream-woes? Because, at Church Committee last night, I was speaking to members of the SMM congregation about all the *stuff* which accrues in our churches! Bits and things, important and trivial, carefully placed and accidentally left! It's tricky, in community, to share responsibility for our buildings and their stuff, and all the more to share responsibility for one another and for the people of our Parish whom we are called to love and serve.

So, why not go it alone? Then, things would always be exactly as we left them.

Well, Jesus doesn't go it alone. Jesus surrounded himself with friends, followers, companions. And sometimes that worked wonderfully, and sometimes they let one another down on the catering (Matthew 14:15-21 for example) or someone made a significant financial decision, causing the treasurer great grief (John 12: 1-8) or someone comes up with a completely inappropriate solution to a problem (Luke 9:54). And yet, they learn and grow in community. They compensate for one another's' inadequacies. They love and care for and correct one another.

Today, as I write, the interview panel for the position of the new Rector and vicar of SMM are meeting to discuss the interviews which took place this morning, and their decision will be very important for the life and community of the Anglican Church here in Richmond, for our Team, and for Richmond as a whole, but *one person isn't the whole thing*. We have learned a great deal about ourselves as a community during the interregnum, and I imagine that we will continue to do so! Ultimately, God calls us into community, with one another and with the Trinity. Our imperfection means that there will likely be ice-lollies left in the proverbial freezer, and occasion grief for the treasurer, but none-the-less we are called to bear with one another, and to live out the love of God together. I'd venture that that is the most important thing that we do.

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** - 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, Christa Browne, Cynthia Hill

... the departed, may they rest in peace – Susan Robinson

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: A NEW PIANO FOR ST MARY'S: TARGET REACHED!

We are thrilled to announce that we have hit our £100,000 target for our new piano! A huge thank you to everyone who has contributed to the appeal; we have been bowled over by people's generosity and enthusiasm for the project. We are still accepting donations (pianos always require regular tuning and maintenance throughout their life!), but we hope to have the instrument in church in a matter of weeks.

Unfortunately, owing to the uncertainty surrounding the works to the beam at St Mary's, we have taken the decision to postpone the opening recital series until next year. Please stay tuned for updates!

NEW: Date for your diary – Sunday 28 September

Charlie, our delightful curate, will celebrate her last service at St. Mary Magdalene on Sunday 28 September at 10.30 am. It will be a Team Service followed by shared lunch.

A time to express our love and thanks for her caring commitment to the community these last 4 years. An account has been opened should you wish to contribute to a leaving present.

Richmond Team Ministry Acc No 4.

Sort code: 60-17-31

Acc No: 60595477.

Reference 'Charlie'

Alternatively, I'm happy to receive cash in an envelope marked 'Charlie', at any 9.30 service at St Mary Magdalene's church.

Pat Johnston

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.

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!

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 will run for 10 weeks starting at 7pm and over by 9:15pm. We will break for a week on 27th October, so no Alpha that week.

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!

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

Our Privacy Notice can be viewed at: <https://richmondteamministry.org/gdpr/>

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