

Thursday 17 July 2025

Dear Friends,

On Sunday Bishop Christopher will confirm six members of St Mary's congregation during the Team service when we will be celebrating the faith and witness of St Mary Magdalene herself. It seems a very appropriate day to bear witness to personal faith as well as corporate belief and identity, and for many of the candidates the journey to this very significant point has taken a while and been more of a slow burn and a gradual realisation than a sudden blinding conversion. And that is how it is for most of us, a journey of ups and downs, doubt and certainties, fears and distractions, awe and wonder alongside the mundane and the ordinary. One thing is certain about this walk with Christ and with each other, it takes commitment and a certain doggedness to keep going when we feel the Church has let us down, or our fellow travelling companions have made decisions we don't or can't agree with. But the Church is a family after all, and living in a family involves a lot of love and joy alongside compromise, forgiveness, patience, compassion and tolerance. And I am sure that Mary Magdalene experienced her journey in much the same way; she was human after all and lived a life which, given the culture and societal norms of the time, would have been particularly challenging as a woman, albeit a woman of means able to support not just herself financially, but along with some of the other women who followed Jesus, able to fund the disciples' ministry and after the resurrection to support the early Church in getting the word out there and relevant. And we know from what the gospels tell us, and particularly what Luke tells his dear Theophilus in the book of Acts, that living together in community is not always plain sailing or joyful. But we strive to make it so regardless, because that's what disciples of Christ do.

And I want to say to anyone who is thinking of making a commitment to Christ and his Church whether that's through confirmation or perhaps wanting to use the opportunity on Sunday to re-commit to their own slow-burn with the memory of their confirmation in the dark and distant past, that it's the 'trying to' which will make all the difference. It's the desire, the wanting to take another step forward, responding to that still small voice, the gentle tug of the heart, to follow Jesus more closely, this is what matters to God. Not that we get it right, or that we know our bible better, or pray more religiously, or feel ourselves to be worthy enough (none of us is worthy!), what matters to God is that we want to. Because the Holy Spirit will help us with the rest.

We can choose, as the confirmation candidates have, to say yes to God's invitation to come closer and be part of the divine life of the Trinity, and we will learn - as we find a little courage and learn to trust a little more - to depend on God's surprising love and grace and now and again when we are least expecting it, we may be blown away by its power and beauty. And like Mary Magdalene, our journey will be enriched and strengthened by the love, companionship, support and encouragement of each another, of our brothers and sisters who are also walking the road alongside us, not just here in Richmond, in this diocese, but all across the world. The road can be long and hard, but it should also be full of joy and hope, mercy and love.

A deepening and abiding faith which will sustain us and hold us through good and bad is God's gift to each one of us, and we will remind each other of the beauty and enabling power of this gift on Sunday as we witness to growing faith and the joy of life lived in and for God and for each other.

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** - 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: Notice from our Archdeacon, Bridget Shepherd regarding the vacancy

As you will be aware, earlier this week (Thursday 10 July) we held interviews for the post of Team Rector.

Unfortunately, we were not able to make an appointment that satisfied the needs for both a Team Rector and a Vicar for St. Mary Magdalene.

Bishop Christopher and Bishop Martin are now considering how best to support the ministry at St. Mary Magdalene, as well as longer term options for the team.

We recognise that this will be disappointing news for many people and ask for your continued prayers as we seek God's guidance for the future.

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 Hymns 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. **Please note the later start time**

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!

Christ School Governors vacancies

We are currently looking for two new foundation governors for Christ's School. Four Foundation Governors are appointed by the PCC of the Richmond Team and we have two empty spaces. 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 Fay Johnstone -

fsijohnstone@gmail.com

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!

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

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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