

Thursday 24 July 2025

Dear Friends,

The 19th July marked two years since I began my ministry as Team Vicar in the Richmond Team Ministry, with special responsibility for St John's. Two years is long enough for roots to begin to deepen - for life to become not just familiar but inhabited. And as I've walked this landscape - spiritually and literally - I've found myself drawn to the quiet wisdom of ...trees!

Here in Richmond, we are surrounded by them. The ancient oaks of Richmond Park. The diverse, curated beauty of Kew Gardens. Each tree with its own form, rhythm, and life - and yet, beneath the surface, something even more remarkable: an underground network of roots and fungal threads known as the *wood wide web*. Trees, it turns out, do not live in isolation. They communicate, care, and share. They warn one another of danger. They pass nutrients to those in distress. Older trees - "mother trees" - often surrender their own energy to help new life flourish.

It is, to me, a living parable of the Church.

We are not solitary believers. We are part of a living, growing communion - rooted in Christ, bound to one another in grace. And here in Richmond, we have our own spiritual root system, invisible perhaps, but very much alive. I like to imagine the hidden roots that connect St Matthias, St Mary Magdalene and St John the Divine. Each has its own distinct life and voice. Each has its own strengths and struggles. But beneath the surface, we are one: held by a shared history, nourished by the same Gospel, and shaped by our shared calling to follow Christ. I have a deep love for each of our churches for this reason.

That root system stretches beyond our own Team. It intertwines with the other Christian communities of Richmond - Anglican, Roman Catholic, Methodist, Baptist, Orthodox, Charismatic, Evangelical. We may grow in different shapes, but we are nourished by the same Spirit. We belong not just to our building or tradition, but to the one Body of Christ.

The image of the forest brings to mind something else, too - something we often long for in church life: the beauty of a strong family system. Healthy families, like healthy forests, are grounded in a few simple but vital things: shared purpose, clear boundaries, open communication, and the freedom to be both held and changed by love. Strong families give space for growth and failure. They honour each member's individuality, while staying connected in times of stress or disagreement. Above all, they prioritise presence - showing up, again and again, with grace and honesty. This is what the Church at its best can be: a family of many roots, many branches, nourished by the same living water, and committed to walking together - even when it's easier to drift apart.

And in a time when the world - and often the Church - feels increasingly fractured, this interconnectedness matters more than ever. It is always easier to grow apart: to stay in our silos, to guard our patch, to retreat into the comfort of our own 'tribes'. But the Gospel calls us to do the harder, holier thing: to come together. To listen. To serve. To stretch out our roots and our arms in shared love and purpose.

As Paul writes, "We, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we belong to one another" (Romans 12.5). *We belong to one another*. That's not just theological poetry - it's the pattern of Christian life. And it's our calling here, as a parish, a Team, and a wider Church: to be rooted deeply in God and in one another, so that we might bear fruit that is not just for ourselves, but for the life of the world.

Let's look forward to what we might grow into together - connected not only by history and structure, but by love. Let's continue to tend those roots. Let's keep showing up for one another. And may the life of Christ flow through us, reaching far beyond what any of us can see.

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, Christa Browne, Cynthia Hill
... **the departed, may they rest in peace** – Susan Robinson
... **James Lewin, to be baptised at St Matthias on Sunday 27th July, his parents and godparents**

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: Confident Faith in a Changing World

Kingston Area Lay Conference – Sat 20 Sept 10am – 4pm

at St Cecilia's Church School, Sutherland Grove,
SW18 5JR

Southfields Tube station 5 mins walk.

Keynote speaker – Rowan Williams. All Welcome.

Tea, Coffee, lunch included.

See poster in church for more details.



NEW: The Nicene Creed

A 4-week exploration of this ancient text is taking place at Barnes Methodist Church, Station Road, Barnes, SW13 0NH. Thursdays, 10.30-12.00 noon, starting 11 September. All welcome and questions encouraged!

NEW: Autumn Bible Study: Book of Jonah

Join our 4-part Bible Study on the Book of Jonah this autumn at St John the Divine. Tuesdays: 30 Sept, 7, 14, 21 Oct. Morning sessions (10am-11:15am) in person; evening sessions (8pm-9:15pm) in person and online. To express interest, contact Joe: joe.moore@richmondteamministry.org
All are welcome!

NEW: Part-time Job for Christian Charity, Embracing Age

The Richmond-based Christian Charity Embracing Age is seeking an Administrator to the CEO. This flexible and hybrid role would be a great opportunity for someone looking to work part-time (10-12 hours) providing high-level administrative support to the CEO while helping the charity make a real difference to older care home residents and unpaid carers, and equipping churches. For full details and to apply, please visit: www.embracingage.org.uk/jobs.html
Closing date Monday 1 September.

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.

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

Bells for your birthday?

Church bells are the most historic things that many of us ever hear. The bells ring to call us to worship on Sundays and also as a joyful celebration of weddings and more sadly when tolling for funerals. Here at St Mary's we offer you the opportunity for a unique gift for those special people in your lives. We will ring to celebrate birthdays, anniversaries, births of children and grandchildren and any other special occasions you can think of. We can also offer a personal tower tour as part of the gift. Contact Jackie Harrison, Tower Captain for more information and an indication of proposed donation jackieharrison456@gmail.com
For all the latest bell ringer news, visit <https://richmondteamministry.org/bell-ringing-news/>

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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[Click here for St Mary Magdalene's Facebook page](#)