

Thursday 28 August 2025

Dear Friends,

I am delighted to let you know that we will be running the Alpha Course at St John the Divine beginning on Monday 22nd September.

For those unfamiliar, Alpha is a simple and hospitable way of exploring the Christian faith. Each session begins with food and conversation, followed by a short film exploring one of the big questions of life and faith – Who is Jesus? How does God guide us? Why and how do I pray? After the film, there is time to talk openly in small groups. No question is too simple or too difficult, and everyone is welcome to share their perspective.

Alpha began nearly thirty years ago at Holy Trinity, Brompton, in London, and since then it has spread around the world. Today it runs in more than 100 countries and across every major Christian denomination. It is offered not just in churches, but also in prisons, schools, universities, and workplaces, helping people from all walks of life to encounter the Christian faith in a welcoming and accessible way. Millions have taken part, many discovering faith for the first time, others finding their faith deepened and renewed.

The apostle Peter urges us to “Always be ready to make your defence to anyone who demands from you an account of the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and reverence” (1 Peter 3.15). Jesus himself promised, “I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly” (John 10.10).

At its heart, Alpha is about evangelisation. Evangelisation simply means “sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ” – offering the message of God’s love, forgiveness, and new life to others. It is not about winning arguments, but about invitation, welcome, and witness. Pope St John Paul II put it beautifully: “Faith is strengthened when it is given to others” (*Redemptoris Missio*, 2). Pope Benedict XVI added: “The Church does not engage in proselytism. Instead, she grows by ‘attraction’” (Homily at the Inauguration of the Aparecida Conference, 2007).

It’s worth saying a word about language too. Evangelisation is the activity of sharing the Gospel. Evangelical, on the other hand, refers to a particular Christian tradition that places strong emphasis on the authority of Scripture, the cross of Christ, and the need for personal conversion. Evangelisation belongs to the whole Church – Catholic, Anglican, Orthodox, Evangelical, and beyond. Alpha itself is used across all these traditions, and in that sense, it is a gift to the whole Body of Christ.

Alpha is not a lecture course or a test of knowledge; it is about sharing food, friendship, and honest conversation. It is a safe space to bring questions and doubts, and to listen to one another.

I would love you to support our Alpha in three ways:

- Pray – please pray for the team, for those who will come, and for the Spirit’s work in our parish through this course.
- Invite – think about a friend, neighbour, or colleague who might appreciate an invitation. Alpha is a gift to share.
- Come – if you have never done Alpha, or if you’d like a refresher, please consider joining us.

Together let’s make this an opportunity for our parish to welcome new people, deepen faith, and discover again the richness of life in Christ.

With prayers and blessings from the Richmond clergy team,
Anne, Charlie and Joe

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** - Epp Jones, Sarah Pryce, Elisabeth Lourandos nee Chalmers, Philippa Morgan, Georgina Merchant, Gordon Hamilton (Georgina's father), Gerald Fearn, Julie Burman, Paul & Caity Manning, Christa Browne, Cynthia Hill, Barbara Adamson, Ruth Jones

... **the departed, may they rest in peace** – Marc Cranfield-Adams, Jennifer Thornton

Marc Cranfield-Adam's Funeral

Marc's funeral will take place at St Mary Magdalene's at 11am on Thursday 18 September. All are welcome to attend.

Condolences can be sent to Marc's family care of Charlie, 8 Church Walk, Richmond, TW9 1SN.

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:

Charlie's last service – Sunday 28 September

Charlie, our delightful curate, will celebrate her last service at St. Mary Magdalene on Sunday 28 September at **10.30am**. 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

NEW: Q&A: What happens at St Mary Magdalene now?

After the 9:30am service on Sunday 7 September, the congregation at SMM are going to have a meeting to discuss how the vacancy will continue after Charlie leaves at the end of September. An informative meeting, led by Anthony Bell, will take place during coffee, and there will be plenty of time for questions.

Rest assured, though, that things are in hand and that SMM will be well cared for.

NEW: Greentips

The Autumn edition is now available and can be found [here](#) on our website. A few printed copies can be found at the back of church.

NEW: Treasurer for Richmond Team Ministry

We are seeking to appoint a new Treasurer for Richmond Team Ministry.

Ruth Martin has kindly been covering this role as the interim Treasurer for the last six months, whilst we seek to appoint a new permanent Treasurer, for which we are all very grateful.

We are asking you to consider whether you, or someone you know, could be called to take on this important voluntary role. This person will ideally be a worshipper in one of our churches and have an understanding of the Church's mission and ministry.

The Treasurer role includes being a PCC Trustee, chairing the Property and Finance Committee and attending other evening meetings including PCC and Standing Committee. As a parish we have both investments and property holdings, so we are looking for an experienced financial specialist, who is able to advise the team strategically.

The Treasurer will also present our annual financial accounts to the Team and be responsible for signing off the annual financial statements for the Charity Commission. The Team already benefits from an independent accountant, who also completes the bookkeeping, so the Treasurer has fewer day to day duties, but will be an authorised signatory for financial expenditure.

We are looking for someone who combines financial experience with good interpersonal skills and a desire to be Christ-centred and outward-focused.

Please do contact the clergy or your Churchwardens with any questions, or to express an interest.

NEW: Sunday 7 September at 15:30: Eco Church talk at St Mary's, followed by Creationtide Evensong

The RTM PCC has agreed that each church should join the Rocha Eco Church Scheme and work towards its goals as part of each church's Mission Action Plan. The RTM Green Team was formed to help our churches and congregations on our sustainability journey, and each church has achieved its Bronze Eco Church Award.

The RTM Green Team is pleased to confirm Helen Stephens, Church Relations Manager at A Rocha UK/Eco Church, will be giving a talk to RTM on the afternoon of Sunday 7 September, at St Mary's, followed by a Creationtide themed Evensong. Helen will be speaking 15:30-16:45, which will include a Q&A, followed by tea and cake. Evensong will begin at 18:30.

Helen will be sharing thoughts and tips on how we can progress on our path to the silver Eco Church award and how we can work together as a Team in caring for God's creation around us. We look forward to seeing you all on 7 September.

NEW: COMMUNITY CHOIR - ALL WELCOME

We would like to set up a community choir for anyone interested singing in a light, fun and relaxed environment. All experiences/ability levels welcome, and reading music is definitely not required. If you are interested, please email [Seb](mailto:Seb@richmondsoupkitchen.org) or come and find him at St Mary's!

NEW: Margarita, Mexican & Quiz Night – Supporting Richmond Soup Kitchen

Join us for a fantastic evening of delicious Mexican street food, great company, and a fun quiz - all in support of the Richmond Soup Kitchen.

Date: Saturday 4 October

Time: 7:00 pm

Venue: St John the Divine Hall, Richmond, TW9 2NA

Tickets: £25 per person - includes a full meal and quiz entry

Teams of up to six are welcome. You're also very welcome to book individually - we'll make sure everyone is placed in a friendly team.

Book your place now at: www.richmondsoupkitchen.org

Come along for a great evening out - and help make a difference in our community.

NEW: Saturday 13 September - Richmond Town Centre Festival (including events at St Mary's)

Richmond's streets will pulse with music, creativity and community this September, as a brand-new festival takes over the heart of the town centre. The free event will transform George Street and Whittaker Avenue with live performances, dance workshops, roaming theatre, street food, communal dining and hands-on art activities – offering something for everyone.

https://richmond.gov.uk/news/news_july_2025/new_september_festival

Events at St Mary's on Saturday 13 September:

12.30pm - St Mary Magdalene Lunchtime Recital Series

Sophie Davis - Mezzo soprano

Sooyeon Baik - Piano

2pm-3.30pm - WOODLAND TALES: A journey through music

Family-friendly drop-in music workshop run by our Junior Choir music team.

Aimed at ages 5-10, come and join in with music and movement activities and games, and learn a song in twenty minutes!

NEW: Mystery Players – an opportunity

Small theatre group called 'The Players of St Peter', who perform medieval mystery plays (a centuries-old form of theatre which combine biblical dramatisations with comic farce) are looking for more players. They perform in early December at St Saviour's near Hampstead, and if you would like to help, whether that's acting or behind the scenes they'd be very glad of new blood. Particularly, they're looking for a young actress to play the role of Mary, who has quite a bit of impressive Latin to deliver! An audition is on Thursday the 28th of August, but the director is happy to look at another day if necessary. Here is a link with all the relevant information, plus audition excerpts, or speak to Tim from the 6:30pm, St Mary's Evensong congregation.

<https://theplayersofstpeter.org.uk/auditions>

NEW: London Open House Festival, 2025

As part of the annual London Open House Festival, St Peter's Church in Petersham on Church Lane TW10 7AB, celebrates over 1350 years of architecture. Thanks to dedicated Visitor Guides, guided tours will take place throughout the afternoon on Sunday 21 September 1-5pm. All are welcome.

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!

Autumn Bible Study: Book of Jonah

Join our 4-part Bible Study on the Book of Jonah this autumn at St John the Divine.



4-PART BIBLE STUDY JONAH

**Tuesdays 30th September,
7th, 14th, 21st October 2025**

Morning: in person 10am–11:15am

Evening: in person and online 8pm–9:15pm

Church of St John the Divine

Contact Joe to express interest:

joe.moore@richmondteamministry.org



**Richmond
Team Ministry**

Beam Work St Mary Magdalene

The work is progressing well. Please expect some planned weekday closures over the next few weeks to safely facilitate a new phase of these works. There will be a barrier placed at the main entrance indicating that we are temporarily closed for safety reasons.

The builders have our permission to close the church at any time that they feel there is a safety issue so please follow their instructions. Please avoid cordoned off areas.

We will continue to update you via this Newsletter as best we can over the coming weeks.

The Church will be open on Saturday and for all Sunday Services.

ZERO WASTE WEEK - first week of September

Leftover foreign currency, out of circulation coins from here, there and everywhere...

We all have coins and notes lurking in the back of drawers, in envelopes beneath your passports, in a spare purse and so on. Will we be going back to China? Do I need those old Lira?! Probably not - so let's have a clear out and bring all our unwanted and outdated currency to church the first two weeks of September. There will be collecting boxes in all three churches. We will then donate the collection to Oxfam whose aim is to reduce poverty around the world. Did you know there is an estimated £2.7bn worth of unused foreign currency lying around in the UK? – let's find as much of it as we can and support a very worthwhile charity in the meantime.

Peace Doves installation at Southwark Cathedral

Peter Walker's *Peace Doves* sculpture is on display in Southwark Cathedral, free for all to visit and view until Saturday 13 September. More information is available, here:

<https://cathedral.southwark.anglican.org/whats-on/peace-doves/>

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.

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.

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!

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.



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, 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 for visiting and prayer, on Saturdays between 10.00am and 12.00noon and Monday – Friday 8am until 3pm.

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.

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/>

TO UNSUBSCRIBE FROM THIS EMAIL LIST, [PLEASE CLICK HERE](#)



[Click here for St John the Divine's Facebook page](#)



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

