

Thursday 11 September 2025

Dear Friends,

A couple of year's ago, Bea and I went on a trip to Rome, and a friendly young American Seminarian kindly showed us and a group of other tourists and pilgrims (German, Australian, American, Swedish) around St Peter's Basilica. His name was *Gerard* (with a thick Midwest accent,) and although we politely disagreed with women's ordination as we cued our way around St Peter's Square, we were having a lovely time.

As you will know, if you've been to the Vatican, everything (every stone, altar, monument, view) has a story attached. It's a place steeped in holiness and history.

Once inside, *Gerard* began the tour: it's a stunning building of bright and golden decoration. And in one reasonably dark side chapel, *Gerard* pointed to the altar and casually announced that we were in the presence of the remains of St John Chrysostom! Bea and I were so excited! *Gerard* was, as you may be, pleasantly amused.

St John Chrysostom was a 4th century saint, knick-named 'golden-mouthed' in Greek for his eloquence and oratory. His feast day is on Saturday, and he (along with Basil, Gregory of Nazianzus, and Athanasius) is considered one of the four Great Greek Church Fathers. His sermons are worth reading, but really Bea and I were primarily excited about *the guy who wrote that prayer*.

The prayer in question is prayed at every BCP Evening Prayer:

ALMIGHTY God, who hast given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplications unto thee; and dost promise that when two or three are gathered together in thy Name thou wilt grant their requests: Fulfil now, O Lord, the desires and petitions of thy servants, as may be most expedient for them; granting us in this world knowledge of thy truth, and in the world to come life everlasting. Amen.

"as may be most expedient for them..." "Grant their requests... as may be most expedient for them." Isn't that beautiful?

In so few words asking earnestly and sincerely, but with deep recognition of God power and authority, of God's wisdom and enduring love. It's acknowledgement that we know and comprehend so little, and yet the creator not only listens to our prayers but acts upon them.

So, think of St Chrysostom on Saturday, and pray his Golden Mouthed prayer tonight.

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

... **All who work in the media**, especially those who risk their lives working in places of war and conflict.

... **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, Phil Denning

... the departed, may they rest in peace – Marc Cranfield-Adams, Jennifer Thornton, Ron Gibbs, Nimi Hyderabad (Jemima's cousin), Doctor Fran Bates

... Those who are to be baptised - Bede Gillot and Violet Hitchmough, and their parents and godparents

### **Marc Cranfield-Adams' 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](mailto: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: Team Talk**

The latest edition of Team Talk is now available at the back of church or [online by clicking here](#).

#### **NEW: Parish Office**

Our parish administrator John is on annual leave for 2 weeks from Monday 15 September. The next newsletter will come out Thursday 2 October.

#### **NEW: Statement read out in St Mary Magdalene from Archdeacon Bridget Shepherd on Sunday 7 September at a meeting to discuss arrangements after Revd Charlie leaves**

*The Archdeacon writes:*

As you will be aware, in June we held interviews for a new Team Rector, but were unable to appoint. Since then, work has been going on behind the scenes to consider the best way forward. I have met with the clergy and churchwardens in the parish to hear their current concerns, as well as their hopes for the future. I've also spoken with the Bishops, and with the Dean of King's College Cambridge (who is one of the patrons) to discuss possible next steps.

In the next four weeks I will be meeting with the Standing Committee and PCC to propose a suggested way forward. If the PCC are happy with this proposal, we will go through another interview process in November, with a view to having someone in post from the end of February.

Alongside this, the property team at the diocese are working hard to identify a suitable property to purchase as a new parsonage for the parish. We hope that this will also be ready for occupation by February.

I am very grateful to Charlie Middleton for her ministry during the vacancy, and to the other clergy in the team for the support they have offered. I am also very grateful to the Churchwardens at St. Mary Magdalene - John Buckingham and Anthony Bell, for all that have been doing, and for the arrangements they have made to provide cover for services over the next five months.

Whilst this may feel like an uncertain time, I am confident that God is at work bringing new life. I have a great sense of hope for the future, and pray that the next season in the life of this parish will be one in which our three churches flourish.

Please continue to pray for this parish and for the appointment of a new Team Rector. In the meantime, do think about how you can be involved in serving God at St. Mary's. I'm aware that the parish are seeking to appoint a new Treasurer, and it would be wonderful to have some new people involved in the leadership of the parish as we move into this new season.

Thank you for your partnership in the Gospel.

Bridget Shepherd  
Archdeacon of Wandsworth

**NEW: Being With - Explore the meaning of life together (St Peter's, Petersham).**

Developed at St Martin in the Fields, the 'Being with' course is an introduction to discovering Christian faith and life in a positive and inclusive group. No special knowledge or religious language is needed, just what you have learned in life so far. The course's aim is to provide a space to explore what it might mean to live abundantly with God, with one another and with creation. Sundays 4.30 - 6pm in the Parish Room St Peter's Church, Petersham starting 28 September 2025, running for 10 weeks.

Contact Rev Kate Daymond for more details - [revdaymond@outlook.com](mailto:revdaymond@outlook.com), Parish Office -0208 940 8435.

**NEW: Diocesan Ecumenical Pilgrimage 2026  
March 2026**

Dear all,

I wanted to write to you as we all return following the summer. I hope that you have had a good summer and are looking forward to our work together this autumn.

I also wanted to remind you about our Diocesan Ecumenical Pilgrimage to Rome and Assisi - planned for March 2026 - which I am pleased to be co-leading with the Dean of Southwark, The Venerable Dr Mark Oakley, Paul Hendricks (Auxiliary Bishop for the Kent Area of the Archdiocese of Southwark) and Canon Michael Branch (Dean of St George's Cathedral Southwark). Together, we will be visiting classical Rome and sites relating to the early Christians and Vatican City. We will move on to Assisi to see the Old Town and the Basilicas of St Francis and St Clare as well as other sites.

I hope that you will joining us on this wonderful journey in the steps of St Peter, St Paul, St Francis and St Clare.

We will be traveling with McCabe who have looked after all of our Diocesan Pilgrimages and they are offering special discounted deposit of £200 until Monday 15 September. Below you will find links to a flyer - which I hope you will print off and display in your parish - as well as a brochure and booking form. You can also find the booking form and more information about the places we will see and share together [online here](#).

[Pilgrimage flyer](#)

[Brochure & booking form](#)

I very much hope to journey with you - and that you bring this pilgrimage to the attention of your parish.

With my very best wishes and prayers for the autumn,



*The Bishop of Southwark, The Rt Revd Christopher Chessun*

### **NEW: Litter Pick In Churchyard Sunday 21 September**

The 20th of September is World Clean-up Day – this is a Global event supported by the UN. Join us for a litter pick on Sunday 21 September after the 9.30 service at St Mary's. We have registered our event with World Clean Up Day. Equipment will be supplied as well as coffee and biscuits.

### **NEW: Tower Tours this Saturday**

The Bellringers will be holding tower tours again at St Mary's on Saturday afternoon as part of the celebrations in Richmond. The tower will be open from two till four so that visitors can climb to the top and enjoy the views over Richmond. We will also be serving tea/coffee and cakes in the church.

Donations will be invited to go towards the Bell restoration fund.

### **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.

### **Open House London Festival at St John the Divine**

On September 13<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> from 11am prominent architect, local historian, and former chairman of The Richmond Society and current President of the Richmond Local History Society, Paul Velluet will lead a special guided tour of the church and its grounds. This is part of the **Open House London Festival** programme, in which St John's is participating.

Paul Velluet is known for his expertise in building conservation and heritage walks in the Richmond area. He has a deep understanding of the borough's history, having held significant positions with Historic England and worked in local government and private practice. Paul was born in East Sheen, is a long-time resident of the borough, and has played major roles in various local institutions.

### **Open House London Festival at St Mary Magdalene**

On September 13<sup>th</sup> at 11.30am distinguished church architect and local resident **Peter Bowyer**, parish architect in the Richmond Team Ministry for more than 30 years, will give a guided tour of St Mary's explaining its rich history and architectural significance. The talk will be followed immediately by a music recital.

For free tickets to either of these Open House London events please visit the Open House Festival website: <https://programme.openhouse.org.uk/take-part/visitor>

**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](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!

### **Reflective Walk - Friday 19 Sept, 10am.**

We will meet at Elizabeth Gate, Kew Gardens and explore the new Carbon Capture garden. Please bring along your membership card if you have one, but don't worry if you don't – we always manage to have enough guest passes to go around. More details from Anne.

### **Alpha**

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 27<sup>th</sup> 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.

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](mailto:joe.moore@richmondteamministry.org) or [admin@richmondteamministry.org](mailto:admin@richmondteamministry.org)

### **Saturday 27 Sept – Sponsored Walk**

The annual Richmond Riverside Christian Aid Sponsored Walk is taking place on Saturday 27th September. Full details can be found here:-

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/richmond-riverside-walk-2025-christian-aid-tickets-1504776750769?aff=oddtcreator>

Walking along the river is a pleasant and enjoyable way to raise money for the poorest in the world.

### **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

## **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](mailto:joe.moore@richmondteamministry.org)  
 Richmond  
Team Ministry

### **Little Chicks**

Baby and toddler play church at St Matthias launches on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> Oct at 9.15am. Each weekly session (term time only) runs until 10.45am, an opportunity for carers and their children to meet together in church and play, with a short story, song and prayer at the end. If you would like to help with this new venture, either by serving refreshments or simply chatting to people, then please let Anne know. Thank you.

### **Piano Concert – Saturday 11 October, 7.30pm**

Come and enjoy an evening of Mozart, Ravel & Chopin at St Richard's CE Primary School, Ashburnham Road, Ham, TW10 7NL. In aid of St Richard's Church restoration appeal. Tickets £25, including interval refreshments – available online from Eventbrite (search Anthony Adkins) or at the door.

### **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.

### **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](#) or come and find him at St Mary's!

### **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.

### **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.

### **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](mailto:fsijohnstone@gmail.com)

A visit to the school is also strongly recommended.

### **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.



### **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](http://www.richmondsoupkitchen.org)

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

### **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](http://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](#)