

Thursday 2 October 2025

Dear Friends,

This week Anne and I will have taken two funerals each. Every funeral is different, each deeply personal, and each one reminds us that change and loss touch every life. Funerals are some of the most profound occasions in parish ministry. They bring together grief and gratitude, memory and mourning, pain and hope. Standing with families at such moments sharpens our awareness that the familiar can slip away and life can look very different in an instant. Loss, of course, comes in many forms. Sometimes it is the sharp grief of the death of a loved one. Sometimes it is the loss of health, or a change in work or circumstances. Sometimes it is quieter: the realisation that a familiar rhythm is gone, that the world around us has shifted, that time has carried us into a season we never expected. Every change carries within it a kind of loss, because it asks us to let go of what was once familiar.

Autumn mirrors this reality. The long days of summer give way to shortening evenings; the leaves fall; the world seems to be letting go. There is beauty in this season, but there is also melancholy. Autumn tells the truth that nothing stays the same. And for many of us, that is unsettling. We are creatures of habit. We like our routines, our favourite hymns, our preferred pew. Even small changes can throw us off balance. (It could be said that the most dangerous words in the Church are: "But we've always done it this way!") And yet, the Bible is clear that God works in and through change. Israel grumbled in the wilderness about the "leeks and onions of Egypt" (Numbers 11.5). The disciples were bewildered when Jesus told them he was going where they could not follow. Mary Magdalene, in the garden on Easter morning, did not at first recognise the risen Christ because she was still looking for what had been familiar. Again and again, God shows up in the very moments when his people feel most lost.

St Paul writes, "We know that all things work together for good for those who love God" (Romans 8.28). He does not say all things are good—death and grief are real—but he does insist that nothing is wasted in God's hands. Jesus said: "Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit" (John 12.24). What looks like an ending can, in God's grace, become the seed of new beginnings. This is true not only in our personal lives, but also in the life of the Church. The Catholic priest, Fr James Mallon, in his work on parish renewal, reminds us that we cannot cling only to what is comfortable or familiar. Renewal often means letting go of cherished habits or structures so that God's Spirit can bring fresh growth. Renewal is never about discarding our treasures; it is about shifting from a mindset of maintenance to one of mission, from keeping things ticking over to daring to share the Gospel afresh. Like the autumn trees, sometimes we must release what we cannot hold on to, so that new shoots may come in due season.

Tomorrow the Church of England will announce a new Archbishop of Canterbury. After a season of waiting, this moment brings hope. We pray for a shepherd of courage, integrity, and compassion, someone who will help the Church lean more deeply into God's mission and face the challenges of our time with faith and creativity. Leadership, like parish life, has its seasons of change. But the appointment of a new Archbishop reminds us that God continues to raise up leaders for his people and to provide fresh vision for his Church. Yet our ultimate hope does not rest in leaders, however gifted. It rests in Jesus Christ, crucified and risen. That is why funerals are not only occasions of grief but also occasions of faith. We mourn what we have lost, but we also proclaim what we believe: that in Christ, even death itself has been overcome. As St Paul says, "Death has been swallowed up in victory" (1 Corinthians 15.54).

So as we journey through this autumn season, with its changes and challenges, let us face them honestly but also with trust. Let us care for one another in grief, encourage one another in faith, and open ourselves to the renewing work of God's Spirit. For the final word is not loss, but life; not endings, but resurrection.

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

*This letter was written by The Revd Joe Moore*

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**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, Margaret Walsh

... **the departed, may they rest in peace** – Jennifer Thornton, Ron Gibbs, Nimi Hyderabad (Jemima's cousin), Doctor Fran Bates, Martin Buckley, Revd Canon Julian Reindorp

The memorial service for Revd Canon Julian Reindorp, Vicar of St. Mary Magdalene and Team Rector 1992-2009, will be held at St Mary Magdalene, Saturday 29 November at 3.00pm

*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.*

*If you (or a loved one) find yourself housebound for some reason (even temporarily, after an operation, say) and would like to receive home communion, or if you would welcome a home or hospital visit from one of the pastoral care team, please do get in touch with the church office ([admin@richmondteamministry.org](mailto:admin@richmondteamministry.org)) and we would be happy to arrange it.*

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**Church, Community and other news:**

**NEW: St Mary Magdalene in Vacancy, Special Notice**

If as a St Mary's worshipper you have any pastoral concerns or worries during the vacancy, whether your own or on behalf of others, please contact either of the Churchwarden's in confidence. Our emails are below. Alternatively contact John Palmer in the Parish Office. One of us or a member of the Pastoral Group will get in touch with you.

John Buckingham - [SMM1@Richmondteamministry.org](mailto:SMM1@Richmondteamministry.org)

Anthony Bell - [SMM2@richmondteamministry.org](mailto:SMM2@richmondteamministry.org)

**NEW: Richmond Soup Kitchen**

The winter season of the Richmond Soup Kitchen starts on 5 November and we are now looking for volunteers to provide cake, make soup and help on site. Many from RTM already support the

Soup Kitchen and if you would like to be involved or have queries please contact Sarah Percival (soup/cake, [sarahpercival52@gmail.com](mailto:sarahpercival52@gmail.com)) or Isabelle Swann (on-site/anything else, [richmondsoupkitchen@gmail.com](mailto:richmondsoupkitchen@gmail.com)). We will be offering a Saturday morning breakfast as well as the previous Wednesday and Thursday evening meals, and are organising regular soup-making sessions at St John's on Tuesday and Wednesdays. Our fundraising Mexican quiz evening this Saturday is sold out, but you can still buy raffle tickets. Prizes include vouchers for The Victoria Inn or The Old Maids of Honour, a signed Ottolenghi cookbook, family ticket for Battersea Fireworks, and more.

Check out the website for news and details [www.richmondsoupkitchen.org](http://www.richmondsoupkitchen.org)

### **NEW: Autumn Melodies Recital at St John the Divine – Sunday 12 October, 12.30pm**

Reflective music featuring The Lark Ascending by Ralph Vaughan Williams.

Gina Kruger – piano

Orpheus Leander – violin

Suggested donation £8 with a glass of fizz

### **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.

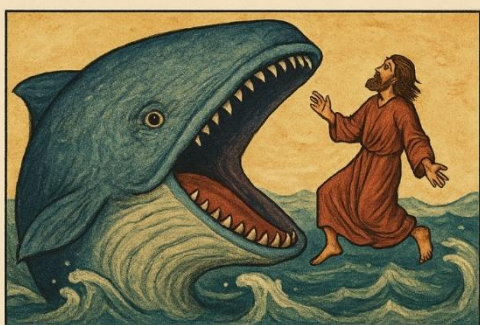
Whether you've done Alpha before or are completely new to it, we'd love your help in making it a welcoming and fruitful time for all involved.

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)

### **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!

### **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.

### **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)

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