

Thursday 9 October 2025

Dear Friends,

It is a privilege to write to you as your Team Reader- and one of the two authorised lay ministers in the ministerial team (Sue Eastaugh is the Commissioned Pastoral Lay Minister) across the Richmond Team Ministry.

I have just returned from a pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostella in Galicia, with my very good friend Amanda Adams, as part of the re-set of my life following my final retirement from paid employment in July. The pilgrimage was a wonderful opportunity to bring a spaciousness into my being as I enter the new season of my life ahead. A staggering 70,000 people complete at least 100 kilometres of the route each year. You will remember Charlie did so a few months ago. There are many recognised pilgrim routes across Europe to Santiago, we undertook the latter part of the Camino (the Way) which started in France and we joined in Galicia .

St James, the fisherman brother of John both of whom Jesus called by the lake of Galilee, sailed to Galicia (probably to Padron- yes, Padron peppers!) to bring people to Christ.

'After John (the Baptist) was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God....Jesus walked beside the sea of Galilee....he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John in a boat, preparing their nets. Without delay he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men and followed him.' **Mark 1.14,19-20.**

The symbol of pilgrims on the way to Santiago de Compostella is the scallop shell -pilgrims all seem to carry one with them, as we did, - referencing James the fisherman. He brought the Good News of Christ to Galicia and beyond and his body was brought back there after his martyrdom in Jerusalem around 40 A.D. His body was returned to Galicia after his martyrdom in Jerusalem and the destination of the pilgrimage, the cathedral at Santiago contains his relics and celebrates with a Pilgrims Mass daily, for which up to 4000 people queue each day to attend. We were privileged to attend on a day when the huge incense burner (Botafumeiro) was swung across the cathedral, it takes six strong men to do this! It was quite overwhelming.

This ancient pilgrimage route is therefore known as The Way of St James.

Christians though the ages have been referred to as following The Way, our journey through life being a pilgrimage. Recognising my own faith as a journey has always been important to me and I still enjoy the allegorical work of John Bunyan, Pilgrim's Progress, that many of us will have read perhaps as children. As people of faith our pilgrimage through life will have many challenges.

The Letter of St James in our bibles has five short chapters and begins.

'James, a servant of God, and of the Lord Jesus Christ, ...Greetings.... Consider it pure joy... whenever you face trials of many kinds, because the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so you may be mature and complete...'

Whenever I read that I think of my heroes, such as Dietrich Bonhoeffer executed in the closing weeks of the 2nd World War and those in my own lifetime whose faith has inspired me. I became a Street Pastor for example following the murder of the only child of a dear couple, devout Christians whose 17-year-old son, was waylaid on his way home from his first visit to a pub-their pilgrimage as people of faith continues to be very hard.

Nowadays not everyone on the Way of St James identifies as Christian, and Amanda and I met and walked awhile with an atheist travelling with her Christian partner with terminal cancer. For everyone pilgrimage offers opportunities for reflection, remembrance, humility and an openness to spiritual growth. I loved the wildflowers, trees, fungi, the extraordinary views especially early in the morning, and being open to what the next season of my life will bring.

I returned determined to serve God with more time with my family and in nature, especially my beloved Kew Gardens so near to where I live and Richmond Park.

I also deliberately spent more time reflecting on the Letter of St James too.

Two short excerpts resonate as we all continue to pray fervently in the coming days for the prospective peace settlement in Gaza, through President Trump's Peace initiative:

'...take ships for example...although they are large and are driven by strong winds, they are steered by a very small rudder wherever the pilot wants to go. Likewise, the tongue is a small part of the body, but it

makes great boasts. Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark' **Letter of James 3 v 3-5**

'Do not merely listen to the Word and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. Anyone who listens to the Word but does not do what it says is like a man who looks at himself in the mirror and after looking at himself goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like' **Letter of James 1.v 22-24.**

So as we journey as pilgrims though our lives let us all make space and time so we can be fully open to the Spirit and so offer ourselves to the service of God.

As pilgrims say to each other as they trek up and down the countryside 'Buen Camino', a greeting to each other to encourage us on the journey, the Way.

With prayers for our world, our communities, our churches and for each other, Ruth

This letter was written by Ruth Martin (Lay Canon)

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, 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. More details will follow.

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.

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) and we would be happy to arrange it.

Prayer & Worship:

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 John Palmer if you have any concerns about this or need a hand with the tech.

NEW: Evening Prayer at St Matthias each Wednesday at 5pm

This new service (using the Daily Prayer app) will include a time of silent prayer, an opportunity to pray for the wellbeing and ministry of our three churches during the vacancy, and for the person God is calling to join the Team as Vicar of St Mary Magdalene. All welcome.

NEW: All Souls' – A Team Service on Sunday 2 November, 6.30pm at St Mary Magdalene

Lists for names of people you wish to remember in that service will be in each of our churches.

Do write names you would like to have read out clearly, to help those who are reading. If you are unable to come to church to write the name, please email them to John Palmer,

admin@richmondteamministry.org.

You are of course warmly invited to the service itself, to remember loved ones and light a candle for them. A joint choir will sing the Fauré Requiem.

Church News:

NEW: Little Chicks at St Matthias – Fridays 9.15am to 10.45am

We are pleased to offer a new play church for babies and toddlers at St Matthias each week during term time. A great 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 Rev'd Anne know. Thank you.

NEW: Lancelot Andrewes Medal awarded to Mary Ricketts

On Sunday 5 October, Mary Ricketts, longstanding member of St John's and Churchwarden was presented with the Bishop of Southwark's Lancelot Andrewes Medal. This is awarded for 'zeal for the Gospel and Godly service'. Mary has demonstrated a commitment to the life of St John the Divine and the Richmond Team Ministry for over 25 years and has served in numerous capacities. The Medal was presented by The Reverend Joe Moore on the Bishop's behalf. Thank you, Mary!

NEW: St Mary's Bell Restoration project

This Sunday 12 October, the bell ringers will be launching a fundraising campaign to raise money for the restoration of the bells at St Mary's.

If you would like to hear about the project, please come along to St Marys after the 9:30 service to hear about the challenges posed by the existing bells, the solution which will make the bells better mechanically, more musical and easier to ring and how you can help.

The bell ringers will be talking about the project over coffee after service and look forward to answering any questions that you may have.

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 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.

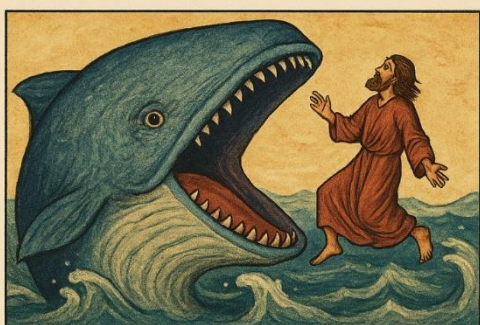
Whether you've done Alpha before or are completely new to it, we'd love your help in making it a welcoming and fruitful time for all involved.

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

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**

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 Churchwardens 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 - SMMChurchWarden1@richmondteamministry.org

Anthony Bell – SMMChurchWarden2@richmondteamministry.org

If you would like to speak with a Priest then your Team Clergy - Rev'd Anne Crawford anne.crawford@richmondteamministry.org and Rev'd Joe Moore joe.moore@richmondteamministry.org – are available and more than happy to meet in person or via a telephone conversation.

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.

Diocesan News:

NEW: Invitation: Kingston-Matabeleland Link Coffee and Pastry Morning – Saturday 18 October

Dear Fellow Pilgrims in Christ,

Following the completion of my Pennine Way Challenge in August, an incredible £40,000 has been raised for our link Diocese in Matabeleland. Thank you! I am hugely grateful for your support and donations, which are already funding vital projects for schools in Matabeleland.

I would like to invite you to join me on Saturday 18 October for an event celebrating the Link and following up on the projects that are now underway thanks to your donations. It will be an opportunity to hear the stories from my run, learn more about next steps for the Link, and most importantly to meet Jem, the real hero of the Pennine Way!

Saturday 18 October 2025, 11am to 1pm

St Paul's Church, Wimbledon Parkside. Augustus Road, SW19 6EW

This will be an informal gathering with coffee and pastries. I will be interviewed by the Revd Steve Coulson, Chair of the Link Committee. There will be opportunities to chat to members of the Link team and to play with Jem!

Please RSVP via the Microsoft Form here so that we can cater for everyone: <https://forms.office.com/e/RBLyKw2BWz>

I look forward to seeing you there.

Best wishes and prayers,

+ Martin

NEW: JUBILEE - Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation Conference taking place on Saturday 8 November at St John's Church, Waterloo SE1 8TY

A coming together to reflect on God's heart for Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation. The day is for all those who want to explore more issues of poverty, racial justice, climate justice, disability and more. There will be many opportunities to meet others, network, and share stories, ask questions and be part of a growing conversation about social justice and social action in our Diocese. Here's the registration link - <https://JPICConference2025.eventbrite.co.uk>

Community News:

NEW: Richmond Soup Kitchen update

The Mexican quiz evening on Saturday at St John's raised more than £2,500 for the Richmond Soup Kitchen – an evening of fun and fundraising and a great start to the season that kicks off on 5 November. We are now looking for volunteers to provide cake, make soup and help on site and with logistics. We are particularly looking for help on Tuesday mornings in November to build up our stock of soup. If you could spare a couple of hours or have queries please contact Sarah Percival (soup/cake, sarahpercival52@gmail.com) or Isabelle Swann (on-site/anything else, richmondsoupkitchen@gmail.com). We will be offering a Saturday morning breakfast as well as the previous Wednesday and Thursday evening meals.

Check out the website for news and details and to DONATE www.richmondsoupkitchen.org.

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.

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

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!

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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