

Thursday 16 October 2025

Dear Friends,

'Little Chicks', the new weekly baby and toddler group at St Matthias, got off to a good start at the beginning of October. Each session includes time for play, and ends with a story, song and a short toddler-friendly prayer. The story we listened to on the first morning was a familiar one from my childhood – and probably you will know it too – the story of Chicken Licken, a little chick who got very worried when an acorn fell on his head. Being a very little chick, he took the acorn to be a sign that the sky was falling in, and he rushed off to tell the King, taking many of his farmyard feathered friends with him. Our little chicks loved the story and happily joined in with the clucking, quacking and gobble-gobble noises of Chicken Licken's friends. They weren't quite so delighted when the little group of friends came across Foxy Loxy with his cunning invitation to follow a shortcut, a trick which would lead them straight to his dinner table! In truth we didn't actually make it to the dinner table last Friday morning - the ending of the story was edited with a slightly more gentle conclusion!

But the story got me thinking, not just about acorns of which there are a super abundant harvest this year, but about our human capacity to over-react like Chicken Licken, mis-reading the signs and worrying ourselves to distraction, especially about the things we have little control over. And worry, as disciples of Jesus will know, is not to be encouraged: 'why do you worry so much?' says Jesus, take a look around you and see how beautiful the world is, and how clever mother nature is in providing for your needs (you can read his words of reassurance and encouragement in Matthew's gospel Chapter 6, verses 25-34; and also in Luke's gospel, chapter 12, verses 22-34). Trusting in God's provision for our lives, for all that we have and all that we are, should shield us from too much worry, but when we look at the world and inevitably despair at the cruel depths to which humanity can descend in our dealings with one another, let alone read about the damage done by climate change, it's easy to worry about where it will all end. But Jesus tells us to lift our eyes upwards and outwards, see the needs of others and do all you can to alleviate suffering, in other words keep our eyes fixed on him and on all that he teaches us about kingdom living and caring for the world and its people. And when we need extra reassurance and strength to keep on keeping on following in his footsteps, take a look at mother nature and all the beauty and bounty God showers on us. And as autumn leaves and acorns fall, especially in this Mast Year when all the trees of the field are producing an over-abundance of nuts, fruits, seeds and berries, we can give thanks that despite all the damage we have done to this planet in the past, the natural world knows what we need and keeps on providing for us.

Not worrying about life unnecessarily doesn't mean, of course, that we are off the hook as far as working to protect, heal and nurture this planet. There is much to do, but worrying won't change a thing. Actively playing our part, recycling and upcycling, reducing food waste and consuming less, planting more trees (which is what mother nature is doing in a Mast Year – over producing seed to ensure survival and abundant growth in the future), all of this goes towards a healthier environment and will help us worry less when we feel we can make a positive contribution.

If you are in need of a little more reassurance and encouragement so that you worry less, then why not do as Chicken Licken did and go and see the King (avoiding the foxy people along the way who love to lead you in the wrong direction!). King Charles has been a prophet for most of his adult life, and he has been an effective warrior in the fight against waste and agricultural practices which have caused untold damage to this planet and the people who are least able to cope with climate change. And his son, our future King William, is following in his father's footsteps. Watching an interview with him the other evening as he spoke about the incredible, inspiring and even miraculous work being done by the scientists and environmentalists around the world who have entered for this year's Earthshot prize, will help alleviate anyone's propensity to worry.

There is much to do, but the sky hasn't fallen in yet, and with God's help, when we tread gently on this sacred earth, and play our part working together to heal the damage we have done, we give mother nature a fighting chance to provide for our needs and the needs of all who will come after

us. So, let's all play our part, keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus, worrying less and trusting in God's provision more. "Do not be afraid little flock" says Jesus, "it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom" (Luke 12:32)

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

This letter was written by The Revd Anne Crawford

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** – Jennifer Thornton, Martin Buckley, Revd Canon Julian Reindorp, Margaret Walsh

Martin Buckley's funeral will be held at St Mary Magdalene, Wednesday 22 October at 12 noon. All are welcome.

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.

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.

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.

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: Margaret Walsh

Margaret Walsh died peacefully in hospital on Wednesday 15 October. Margaret was a much cherished member of St Mary Magdalene. Ruth Martin was able to spend time with her in her last days & will be meeting with the family to make arrangements for her funeral. More details will be announced.

NEW: Coffee Mornings at St Mary Magdalene

The Church Committee has agreed with the suggestion of the pastoral group to hold three Saturday 'Open House' Coffee mornings in St Mary's. This is to show local residents that we are

still active during the vacancy and we wish to encourage them inside our church for coffee and informal chat.

18 October 10.30 - 12.00

15 November 10.30 - 12.00

13 December 10.30 - 12.00

Any member of the congregation is most welcome to join us for these. It would be lovely to see you too.

NEW: The bells of St Mary Magdalene

The bells of St Mary Magdalene are to undergo a dramatic transformation. The three most historic bells dating from 1680 are to be incorporated into a brand-new ring of eight bells that will be faithful to the presence of centuries past while bringing a new sound to the town. The work, that is planned to begin next year, will help future-proof the art of bell ringing and maintain the unique music of church bells in Richmond.

With a target of £200,000 the Richmond ringers will lead the fund-raising effort and are hoping that some benefactors will be prepared to sponsor one of the five new bells that will have the potential to be inscribed with names and messages that could last for hundreds of years. Please visit the ringers' website for more information: [HOME | SMM Richmond Bells](#)

Or email smmringers@gmail.com or call Jackie Harrison, Bell Tower captain on 07747 111525

NEW: Christingle Nativity, Wednesday 24 December 5pm. St Mary Magdalene.

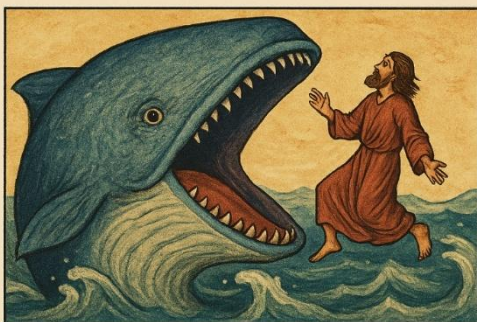
Message from Maia Rushby and Sarah Brown

Please let us know if your child/young adult would like to take part in the nativity section of the Christingle Service. The 'performance' will depend on numbers and ages. Current thinking is that we'll have alumni performers as narrators and our younger performers dressing up! Rehearsals during Sunday services in December. Please let Maia (07500 765733, maiarushby@hotmail.com) know who would like to join, and whether they would like a speaking part, a dressing up part or would just like to be on stage! We also need help with costumes.

Thank you, Maia & Sarah.

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

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.

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!

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:

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

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:

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

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