

Thursday 23 October 2025

Dear Friends,

Today brought a remarkable moment in the life of the Christian family. In the splendour of the Sistine Chapel, King Charles III met and prayed with Pope Leo XIV - the first time in almost five hundred years that a reigning British monarch and a Pope have joined together publicly in worship. It was a simple occasion, yet rich in meaning. As Reuters described it, it was “a gesture five centuries in the making.” The King and Queen were received warmly at the Vatican, and the Archbishop of York, Stephen Cottrell, took part in the prayers. Words were spoken in both English and Latin, and choirs from Anglican and Catholic traditions sang together beneath Michelangelo’s frescoes. It was, in every sense, a meeting marked by grace, dignity and hope. The separation between our Churches stretches back nearly five centuries, but what we saw today was not about reopening old wounds. It was about looking forward - about reconciliation, friendship and a shared calling to serve Christ in the world. The King, who has long been a voice for interfaith dialogue and environmental care, spoke afterwards of “a shared commitment to peace, to the care of creation, and to the service of humanity.” Pope Leo echoed the same spirit, reminding those present that when Christians pray together, they “make visible the unity for which Christ himself prayed.”

It was not a political moment, nor a grand ceremony, but a quiet and genuine act of faith - a reminder that unity begins when people of goodwill choose to stand together before God. Christian unity does not mean everyone becoming the same. It means learning to see one another through the eyes of Christ. In John’s Gospel, Jesus prays that his followers “may all be one... so that the world may believe.” Unity of that kind is born in humility, in listening, and in the shared desire to make God’s love known. We live out that unity whenever we pray with others, work together for justice, or simply choose generosity over suspicion. It grows in small, steady ways - in our worship, our partnerships with other churches, and our acts of service in the community. The sight of the Pope and the King together in prayer offers a powerful sign for our own times. It tells us that reconciliation is possible, that the Church can still speak with one voice of peace, and that what unites us in Christ is far greater than anything that divides us. As we reflect on this historic meeting, let us pray that it inspires all Christians to renew our shared calling: to be people of hope, compassion, and faith. And may we, in our own daily lives, continue that work of unity - gently, faithfully, and prayerfully - for the sake of the Gospel.

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

This letter was written by The Revd Joe Moore

Don’t forget to change your clocks this weekend!

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, Philippa Morgan, Georgina Merchant, Gordon Hamilton (Georgina’s father), Gerald Fearn, Julie Burman, Paul & Caity Manning, Christa Browne, Cynthia Hill, Barbara Adamson, Ruth Jones, Irene Chalmers

... the departed, may they rest in peace – Jennifer Thornton, Margaret Walsh

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.

There will be no evening prayer Wednesday 5 November.

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 Worship at St John the Divine Tuesday 28 October

There will be no Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament or Said Eucharist on the evening of Tuesday 28 October.

NEW: Children's Service – Saturday 1 November, 4pm

The theme of the service will be: Refresh, renew, remember our Baptism.

Monthly service at St Mary Magdalene Service led this month by Cathy Clayton and Ruth Martin.

Please encourage children you know to join us for songs, poems, prayers and lots to do!

Thank you, Cathy and Ruth

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.

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.

Church News:

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. Margaret's funeral will be at St Mary Magdalene Monday 17 November at 2pm.

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.

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

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.

We will be taking a break during half term and so there will be no session on Friday 31 Oct. We will return on Friday 7 Nov.

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.

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.

Diocesan News:

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

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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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