

Thursday 30 October 2025

Dear Friends,

As the leaves turn and the days grow shorter, we arrive once more at one of the most poignant and beautiful moments in the Church's year - the celebration of All Saints and All Souls', which we keep on 2nd November. Within the Richmond Team Ministry, we keep both on the same day: All Saints in the morning, full of light and thanksgiving; and All Souls' in the evening, gentle and reflective, as we remember those we love but see no longer. Together, these two observances reveal the depth of Christian hope and the richness of our shared belonging in Christ. In the morning, the Feast of All Saints lifts our gaze heavenward. It is a day of joy, a day when the Church rejoices in the vast company of those whose lives have reflected the light of Christ. We remember the great saints of history and scripture, but also the "ordinary" saints whose holiness was woven quietly into everyday life, perhaps the kind word, the steadfast friendship, the humble service. The writer of Revelation describes "a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb" (Revelation 7.9). These are the saints: not perfect people, but people made perfect in love. They remind us that holiness is not a distant ideal, but something deeply human, that is the radiance of God's grace shining through ordinary lives. Rowan Williams once wrote, "A saint is someone whose life gives you a glimpse of what God is like." That glimpse may come through courage, through compassion, through a life given quietly in service. The saints are not simply examples from long ago; they are companions on the journey, members of the same great communion to which we belong. Across our three churches - St Mary Magdalene, St Matthias, and St John the Divine - we give thanks for the saints who have shaped our own story: those who prayed, served, sang, and gave of themselves that others might find faith and hope. The Collect for All Saints' Day puts it perfectly: "Grant us grace so to follow your blessed saints in all virtuous and godly living, that we may come to those inexpressible joys that you have prepared for those who truly love you."

Then, as evening falls, we gather for All Souls'. The candles are lit, the music becomes more contemplative, and we remember, by name and by love, those who have died. The bright alleluias of the morning give way to the stillness of prayer and the quiet confidence of hope. All Souls' is not a time of despair but of trust. We entrust those we have loved to the mercy of God, knowing that his love is stronger than death. St Paul writes, "Whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's" (Romans 14.8). The love that bound us together in life is not lost; it is fulfilled. That is why we light candles: small, flickering signs that love endures, that darkness cannot overcome light.

The poet Christina Rossetti captures this tenderness:

*"Be the green grass above me
With showers and dewdrops wet;
And if thou wilt, remember,
And if thou wilt, forget."*

Her words speak of peace, of love resting safely in God's care. And John Donne, with characteristic confidence, gives voice to the Christian hope that unites both feasts: "Death, be not proud... One short sleep past, we wake eternally."

Keeping All Saints and All Souls' together on the same day beautifully expresses the truth that heaven and earth are never far apart. The joy of the saints in glory and the love we still bear for the departed are both part of the same communion. In every Eucharist, we join our voices "with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven", that vast fellowship of the living and the dead united in Christ.

As we move through November, the Church's month of remembrance, we will also keep Remembrance Sunday, with its own solemn thanksgiving for courage and sacrifice. Yet at the heart of all these observances lies one great truth: that nothing can separate us from the love of God in

Christ Jesus our Lord (Romans 8.39). So as the nights draw in, may we give thanks for the saints whose light still shines, and pray for those we love who now rest in God. And may we find, in this communion of memory and hope, strength to live faithfully in our own time, saints in the making, surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses.

“Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his faithful ones.”
(Psalm 116.15)

“And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God.”
(Revelation 21.2)

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

This letter was written by The Revd Joe Moore

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, Barbara Adamson, Irene Chalmers, Katherine Keddle
... **the departed, may they rest in peace** – Jennifer Thornton, Margaret Walsh, Martin Buckley

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.

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:

NEW: An update from John Rushe on the Beam Work at St Mary Magdalene

This week the plastering over the beam has been completed and on Tuesday 28 October our carpenters worked through to 10.30pm to complete fitting the Corniche and wood filling in preparation of the scaffold removal on Wednesday 29 and Thursday 30 October. It has been a long journey for us all, but the light is shining at the end of the tunnel. Following the removal of the scaffold a clean on Friday 30 from our contractors Stone Edge will take place. The further decoration that is required will be early 2026 once the plaster has fully dried out and settled. A big thank you to our wardens Anthony and John together with James our vergier in working together with our contractors in keeping us safe and enabling St Mary Magdalene's to remain available to the public as much as was safely possible throughout the past 18 months.

NEW: Sunday 7 December, 6.30pm at St Mary Magdalene *Recital and Choral Compline*****

Music for Advent

Andreana Chan - Organ

The Choir of St Mary Magdalene, Richmond

Andreana Chan, Assistant Organist of St Mary's, provides a short, reflective programme of organ music for the season of Advent. This is followed by the ancient and atmospheric service of Compline, sung by the choir.

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.

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:

NEW: Christmas Wreath Making Workshop!

Join us for a festive evening of creativity as we make beautiful Christmas wreaths together - all while supporting the work of Richmond Soup Kitchen. Tuesday 2 December, 7–9pm, St John the Divine, Richmond. Includes wine & mince pies, £50 per person.

Whether you're a wreath-making pro or a complete beginner, our friendly volunteers will guide

you step-by-step to create a stunning decoration to take home. Book your spot by emailing Isabelle at richmondsoupkitchen@gmail.com or <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/rsk-christmas-wreath-workshop-tickets-1889190041269?aff=oddtcreator>

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
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