

Thursday 6 November 2025

Dear Friends,

This time last year Stephen Cottrell, the Archbishop of York, had a new book published, 'Praying by Heart, the Lord's Prayer for everyone'. It's a helpful guide for anyone who would like to plummet the depths of the prayer Jesus taught his disciples, a prayer many of us learnt by heart when we were children, and in this season of Remembrance, especially as we approach Remembrance Sunday and Armistice Day and reflect on the urgent need for reconciliation, peace and unity in the world today, this prayer – which has less than 70 words – is relevant as well as challenging.

Archbishop's Stephen's books are an accessible mix of theology and spirituality and I've found this little book a helpful resource when it comes to prayer. It's especially helpful for anyone who wants to find a way to add depth and structure to their prayer life, and for anyone who struggles to find the words to even begin to pray because the needs of the world feel overwhelming at times, then the Lord's Prayer is a gift (as Jesus meant it to be!). Taking each petition at a time, mulling over the words, reflecting on them slowly and meditatively is key; quite often taking just one line at a time - or even just a couple of words at a time - provides me with enough food for thought and there's no need to go any further. This gift of a prayer is, in so many ways, the only prayer we need. Take those first two opening words for instance: 'Our Father'. Our. Not my Father, or your Father, not my God or your God, but our Father, our God. There it is, at the very beginning of the prayer which Jesus taught us, words from the heart of God to our hearts – Our Father. When we are reflecting on our inability as a human race to live in peace, our failure to love our neighbour as ourselves, these two words bring us up short, a reminder that we are brothers and sisters together, whether we like each other or not we are part of the same family, all of us beloved children of the same heavenly Father. The prayer Jesus taught us is a declaration of the unity we already have – our calling as followers of Christ, as the Church, is to work to make this truth visible and felt. That word 'our' is key to understanding who we are and whose we are, and yet our common humanity under God seems an alien concept to the rich and powerful political voices in the world today, especially and shamefully to those who dare to proclaim to be followers of Jesus. We don't pray, "give me today my daily bread, or forgive me my sins", the prayer is forgive us: we have responsibility for one another. We, never me. Imagine a world where it was always we and never me...

The Lord's Prayer helps us to discover that what's best for us and our flourishing is to be found in community with others. We discover who we are through our relationship with others. Our well-being is tied up with the well-being of our neighbour. Our isolation from one another, and from God, causes us to stumble and fall. Adam and Eve, made for communion with each other and with God, turn on each other, blame each other, and try to hide from God. Cain slays his brother Abel, and on it goes... separation, isolation, failure.

In his exploration of the Lord's Prayer, Archbishop Stephen offers hope and wise words. He speaks of the prayer as a pattern for life, not just a pattern for prayer. Right praying he suggests, shapes right living. We learn this prayer by heart, but its only by living the prayer that our hearts are changed. We may have taken the Lord's Prayer for granted, especially those of us who learned it as children, and too often we say it parrot fashion and give it no thought. And yet in this prayer God is saving us from ourselves, God is teaching us how to live our lives in communion with God and with each other. By giving us this extra-ordinary prayer, and by its repetition so that it dwells deep within us, our God is teaching us how to live.

And over the next few poignant and sad days, as we remember how not to live, we need that prayer to dwell more deeply than ever within us, and learn the lessons Jesus longs to teach us.

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

*This letter was written by The Revd Anne Crawford*

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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, 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](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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**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.

### **NEW: Sunday 30 November @ 6:30pm - Team Advent Procession & Advent Carols at St John the Divine**

All are warmly invited to this beautiful Team act of worship with music and scripture readings as we begin the season of Advent.

Please do invite family and friends to this special service.

### **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](mailto: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: 'Breaking the Rules' – Saturday 8 November, 7.30pm**

'Breaking the Rules' by Clare Norburn - a Music/Drama based on the life of 16th/17th century composer-prince Carlo Gesualdo with his music sung by the Mancunium Consort.

Tickets from [www.thetelling.co.uk/btr-london](http://www.thetelling.co.uk/btr-london)

### **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](mailto: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](mailto:SMMChurchWarden1@richmondteamministry.org)

Anthony Bell – [SMMChurchWarden2@richmondteamministry.org](mailto:SMMChurchWarden2@richmondteamministry.org)

If you would like to speak with a Priest then your Team Clergy - Rev'd Anne Crawford [anne.crawford@richmondteamministry.org](mailto:anne.crawford@richmondteamministry.org) and Rev'd Joe Moore [joe.moore@richmondteamministry.org](mailto: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:**

### **NEW: Petersham Messiah: Sunday 7 December 2025, 6pm**

The Elysian Singers and Players, directed by Sam Laughton in his 25th year with the choir, return to the beautiful church of St Peter's Petersham (TW10 7AB) to perform excerpts from Handel's Messiah in our fourteenth Petersham Messiah charity concert. All donations go to the Vineyard Community & Richmond Foodbank or music at St Peter's. This ever popular annual concert is expected to sell out, so buy £15 tickets whilst you still can - and make any further donations - at [tinyurl.com/PetershamMessiah](https://tinyurl.com/PetershamMessiah).

### **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:**

### **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](mailto: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](http://www.richmondteamministry.org)

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