

Thursday 20 November 2025

Dear Friends,

As the Church year draws to its close and we celebrate Christ the King on Sunday, I've been reflecting on some words Jesus says to Peter at the end of John's Gospel, words spoken not in the excitement of the beginning of discipleship but in the tenderness of the risen Lord's final commissioning:

*"When you were younger, you fastened your own belt and went wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go." (John 21.18)*

These words have a surprising realism to them. They speak honestly about the way our lives change. They acknowledge that the freedom and independence we may enjoy at one time of life are not the same as those we experience later. They also gently recognise that there are seasons when our choices are wide and seasons when they are narrower, and God is present in both. Psychologists often describe human life as unfolding in two broad stages. In the first stage, we concentrate on building. We learn who we are, we make decisions, and we set out on paths filled with energy, hope, and ambition. We choose careers, we form families, we build friendships, and we discover passions. We are outward-facing, longing to make our mark, to stand on our own, to show that we can flourish. It's a good and necessary stage. It equips us. It helps us grow. It gives us a sense of direction.

But then there is a second stage that eventually arrives for all of us in one way or another. It's a stage when life doesn't always turn out as we planned. When health shifts. When we find ourselves looking after those who once looked after us. When retirement becomes part of the story and raises questions about identity and purpose. When children or grandchildren take paths we worry about but can no longer direct. When decisions about moving or downsizing come into view. When we become more aware of our limits, physical, emotional, practical, and learn to rely on others more than we once did. This second stage can come earlier or later in life, and sometimes it arrives unexpectedly. It isn't something to fear or resist. It is simply part of being human. Ronald Rolheiser writes that this transition is often the moment when our spiritual lives grow most deeply. The first half of life is about creating a life. The second is about offering that life in love, sometimes through action and sometimes through trust.

And so, I want to say something very plainly and sincerely, particularly to those in our community who recognise themselves in this description:

**You are held.**

**You are loved.**

**You are precious.**

**You are valued.**

Your worth is not tied to independence or productivity. The things you carry - worries about the future, uncertainty about health, the emotional labour of caring for someone else, or the challenge of adjusting to change - are not signs of weakness, but signs that your heart remains open and generous.

Your faith is not measured by how smoothly life is going but by the trust you show in the middle of change. You are showing the rest of us what following Jesus looks like when the road bends, when control slips from our hands, and when the next step is taken slowly and thoughtfully. Christ the King is not a celebration of domination or triumph in the worldly sense. It is about the kingship of the One who kneels to wash feet, who walks alongside the weary, who stretches out

his hands in vulnerability, who entrusts himself entirely to the Father. His power is always the power of love.

This means that Christ reigns right where you are - in every question, in every difficult decision, in every moment of courage as you face what is changing. He reigns in your prayers for others. He reigns in every act of compassion you offer. He reigns in the honesty with which you meet each day. His kingdom is present in the lives that may sometimes feel hidden, quiet, or ordinary - but are, in truth, profoundly faithful. As we end the Church year and move into Advent - a season of waiting, trusting, and looking for Christ's presence - may you know that Jesus walks with you in every stage of your life. There is no point in the journey where you step outside his care. Whether you feel like the one fastening your own belt or the one stretching out your hands for help, you remain always within his loving embrace.

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

*This letter was written by The Revd Joe Moore*

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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, Sabine Staton

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

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. The service will be livestreamed on YouTube. Here's the QR-code for the link:-



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. 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.

**Please note there will be no morning prayer Friday 21 November.**

## **NEW: Christmas Services**

Details of our Christmas services are now available on the homepage of our website. Please note this year St Mary's are doing just one Christingle service on Christmas Eve at 5pm.

## **NEW: Children's Service at St Mary Magdalene**

Our next monthly Saturday service for children 9 years and under will be on Saturday 6 December at 4pm. Children please dress in a Christmas Nativity costume as we remember St Nicholas and celebrate Christmas together. See you there!

Ruth Martin and Cathy Clayton.

**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: Announcement for the Richmond Team Ministry Sunday 16 November 2025**

We are delighted to announce that The Bishop of Southwark, in consultation with the parish representatives and the Dean of King's College Cambridge, has appointed the Revd Robert Stanier to be the Interim Team Rector of the Richmond Team Ministry, for a period of up to three years. Robert is currently Vicar of St. Andrew & St. Mark, Surbiton. Robert is delighted to be taking up this new appointment, and subject to the satisfactory completion of the necessary procedures, he will take up this post at the end of February 2026.

Robert grew up not far from Richmond, in East Sheen, and has been in ministry for nineteen years, spending all of that time in Southwark Diocese. He served his curacy at St George, Christ Church with St Paul in Forest Hill, and then became school chaplain at Archbishop Tenison's School, Lambeth while also working as a youth minister in the North Lambeth Team and in the parish of St Anne and All Saints, South Lambeth.

He has been the vicar of St Andrew's and St Mark's, Surbiton since 2013 and during that time served a five year term as Area Dean of Kingston.

Before getting ordained, he worked in market research and then strategic marketing consultancy for the Henley Centre.

He remains a regular player for the Southwark Clergy Cricket Team, and occasionally they even win a match. As well as playing, he writes on cricket and sport for 'The Nightwatchman' and 'The Church Times'.

He has also authored a website dedicated to the wines of the Cotes de Thongue, a zone in the south of France that remains a niche interest even among hard core wine enthusiasts.

He is married with three children.

#### **NEW: GreenTips**

The latest edition of GreenTips is now available. Some copies can be found at the back of church or here on our website - <https://richmondteamministry.org/get-involved/>

#### **NEW: The Honourable Artillery Company**

The Honourable Artillery Company will be performing at St Mary Magdalene, Saturday 6 December, 2.30pm. Free entry with collection.

#### **NEW: Murder In The Cathedral**

Some very exciting thespian news for Autumn 2026. RTM is delighted to share the news, recently announced by the Orange Tree Theatre, that our wonderful church St John the Divine will host a new production of T.S. Eliot's 1936 religious play MURDER IN THE CATHEDRAL next October. The renowned verse drama explores the timeless questions which dominated much of Eliot's work: of worldly and spiritual authority; faith and doubt; and temptation and martyrdom. Award-winning actor, local resident and RTM parishioner, David Suchet will return to theatre to play Thomas Becket. Besides his iconic TV role as Hercule Poirot, the Emmy Award winner's five-

decade stage career includes *Amadeus*, *Oleanna*, and *All My Sons*. We look forward to hosting this sweeping, atmospheric drama, which will include live choral music, in our very own St John's. Tickets are now on sale via the Orange Tree website.

### **The kitchen at St Mary Magdalene**

We have had a clear out. All excess plates etc will be on the servery for the next 2 weeks then disposed of or recycled. Please do pick up anything that may be yours.

### **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.

### **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.

### **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.

### **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](mailto: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.

### **Parish Safeguarding Team:**

The Richmond Team Ministry takes its responsibility to safeguard children, young people and vulnerable adults very seriously. If you have any safeguarding concerns, please contact our Child Protection & Vulnerable Adults Representatives

[Jo Kitson](#) - St Mary Magdalene

07880 500528

[Gertrude Seaborne](#) - St Matthias

[Helen Peatfield](#) - St John the Divine

Or, [contact the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor](#)

### **Diocesan News:**

#### **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](http://tinyurl.com/PetershamMessiah).

### **Community News:**

#### **NEW: Richmond Soup Kitchen – Winter Appeal**

A heartfelt thank you to Richmond Team Ministry.

As we step into the coldest months of the year, Richmond Soup Kitchen is preparing for our busiest winter yet - and we could not do this work without the extraordinary support of Richmond Team Ministry.

Your hospitality, encouragement, prayer, practical help and generosity have been fundamental to our ability to serve those most vulnerable in our community. From hosting our services on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, to welcoming our volunteers and sharing in our compassion, you have helped create a space that offers dignity and hope to hundreds of local people.

This winter, the need is greater than ever. Many of our guests are facing bitter weather, financial hardship, loneliness and poor health. A hot meal, a warm drink, a kind word and a non-judgemental welcome make a profound difference.

This year we have expanded our offer to include:

- The Help Hub – providing hygiene items, warm clothing, extra food and gentle signposting
- Saturday Breakfast Service – the only Saturday food offering in the borough

Both are becoming essential lifelines for guests.

If you feel able to support our Winter Appeal, we would be deeply grateful.

Ways to give:

Set up a monthly donation via our website: [richmondsoupkitchen.org](http://richmondsoupkitchen.org)

Give to our Winter Appeal via Crowdfunder: <https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/richmond-soup-kitchen-winter-appeal>

## **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](mailto: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)

Registered Charity No 1130018

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[Click here for St Mary Magdalene's Facebook page](#)