

Thursday 27 November 2025

Dear Friends,

Well, here we are approaching the season of Advent at speed, and I am not ready in the least. But help is at hand in the vast array of Advent inspiration available in newly published books so if, like me, you need a little encouragement to face up to the impending season with slightly more enthusiasm, then I can recommend one particular resource for your consideration:

'Listening to the Music of the Soul' is the Archbishop of York's suggested Advent book for 2025 and is beautifully written by Bishop Guili Francis-Dehqani. Guili shares some very personal reflections with her readers, and her honesty and ability to explore the pain and beauty of human experience and find God in both is what gives her writing such poignancy and spiritual depth. As you may deduce from the book's title, each chapter offers a musical interpretation of the theme being explored, and this is where the book provides the means for each one of us to respond in our own unique way. The music is offered to us via a QR code, making it very easy to access, and each chapter offers a wonderful smorgasbord of writers, poets and speakers to follow up and explore, making this book a rich feast for anyone looking for hope and a deeper sense of connection to the Divine this Advent.

If you would like to explore Guili's beautiful book with others in a group setting then we can offer two options within the Team: I will lead a group at St Matthias on Wednesday afternoons at 2.30pm beginning on 3rd Dec, with following sessions on Wed 10th and Wed 17th Dec and a final session after Christmas on Wed 7th Jan at 3.30pm (note the later start time). If you would prefer an evening group meeting then Ruth Martin has kindly offered to host sessions at her home on Tuesdays at 7pm on Dec 2nd, 9th and 16th, with a final session after Christmas on Tues 6th January. Please contact Ruth if you would like to join her group so that she can provide you with her address.

I will also be offering an online Advent Calendar again this year, with images, reflections and prayers for each day. If you have received the Calendar in previous years then you will continue to receive this year (unless you email to let me know you would like to unsubscribe). And if you haven't received the calendar before but would like to then please send me an email and I will gladly add you to the mailing list - anne.crawford@richmondteamministry.org

Joe and I look forward to welcoming you to St John the Divine on Sunday evening at 6.30pm for our Team's Advent Procession, a beautiful traditional candlelit service of readings, hymns, and music for the start of Advent.

With every blessing for an inspirational, holy and refreshing Advent journey together.
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, Philippa Morgan, Georgina Merchant, Gordon Hamilton (Georgina's father), Gerald Fearn, Julie Burman, Paul & Caity Manning, Christa Browne, Barbara Adamson, Irene Chalmers, Sabine Staton, Frances Irwin
... **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 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.

Please note there will not be Tuesday worship at St John's on the first two Tuesdays after Christmas, 30 December and 6 January.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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:

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.

The Honourable Artillery Company

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

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.

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 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

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.

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.

Community News:

NEW: Heading to the Richmond Christmas Lights This Evening?

If you're out enjoying the Richmond Christmas Lights switch-on tonight, do come and visit the Richmond Soup Kitchen stall outside St Mary Magdalene.

We'll be serving hot chocolate, homemade cakes, and offering beautiful handmade gift tags. Every donation helps support the vital work of the Richmond Soup Kitchen, providing hot meals and care for those in need in our community.

We'd love to see you there!

Our bells will also be ringing at 5.45pm to celebrate the big switch on.

NEW: Holocaust Memorial Day at Richmond Synagogue, Sunday 25 January, 7-9pm

Please register early to be assured of a seat. The event concludes at 9pm, followed by refreshments and conversation.

Please note that our small car park is open *only to blue badge holders*, but there is plenty of street parking available nearby as well as Paradise Street car park. We look forward to welcoming you to a meaningful evening.

Registration Link [HERE](#)

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

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](#) 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

Our Privacy Notice can be viewed at: <https://richmondteamministry.org/gdpr/>

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