

Thursday 4 December 2025

Dear Friends,

Advent is, at its heart, a season shaped by a single, ancient prayer:

Maranatha - "Come, Lord." This short Aramaic plea from the earliest Christians holds together the promise and the longing of our faith. Before we place a wreath, light a candle, or sing a familiar carol, the Church whispers this word into the gathering darkness:

Come, Lord Jesus. Advent reminds us that everything begins with God's initiative.

God reaches towards humanity with love long before we reach back. God calls; we respond. God invites; we open our hands.

Our whole spiritual life is contained within that cry: *Maranatha. Come, Lord.*

The Scriptures reveal a God who is always inviting. Abraham is invited to leave his homeland for a future he cannot yet see. Isaiah is invited to speak comfort to a weary people. Mary is invited to bear God's Word made flesh. St Augustine reminds us that God is "nearer to us than we are to ourselves," meaning that God's invitation begins deep within us—even before we know how to name it. The God who invites Abraham, Isaiah, and Mary is the same God we call upon in Advent. When we pray *Maranatha*, we step into that long story of divine invitation. Jesus' ministry continues this holy pattern. He calls fishermen from their nets, tax collectors from their tables, the afflicted from their pain, and the weary from their burdens. His welcome is expansive, but it is not passive. Jesus does not simply offer comfort; he offers a calling. To be welcomed by Jesus is to be drawn into His way of life: a life of mercy, courage, prayer, justice, self-giving love, and joy. Advent, with its watchful stillness, invites us once again to receive not only Christ's comfort but His summons. When we pray *Maranatha*, we are not just asking Jesus to come, we are offering ourselves to follow.

This is where Advent speaks powerfully into our life as a parish. It invites us to consider the difference between being a *churchgoer* and being a *missionary disciple*. A churchgoer attends services, perhaps regularly, perhaps occasionally, and may appreciate the rhythm, the beauty, the tradition, or the community. This is often the beginning of faith. But it is possible to attend church without allowing Christ to shape the whole of our life.

A missionary disciple is something different. A missionary disciple is someone who receives Christ's invitation deeply and personally, and then lets that invitation spill outward into daily life. They carry their faith into their work, their friendships, their decisions, their hopes, and their habits. Their identity is rooted not in attending church, but in belonging to Christ and participating in God's mission in the world. They do not see themselves as consumers of religious services, but as members of Christ's Body, sent to be His presence in the everyday spaces of life.

A churchgoer may seek comfort; a missionary disciple seeks calling.

A churchgoer may keep faith private; a missionary disciple knows faith naturally overflows into hospitality, kindness, justice, and gentle invitation. A churchgoer watches; a missionary disciple responds.

Julian of Norwich described God's love as something that "wraps and enfolds us," yet she also understood that love sends us outward towards others. That is the heart of missionary discipleship: held by God, we become people who carry God's welcome into the world. When *Maranatha* becomes our prayer, it also becomes our posture; expectant, ready, willing. And missionary discipleship is always deeply invitational. If we follow a God who invites, then we are called to be an invitational parish. This is not primarily about programmes or publicity. It is about ordinary, grace-filled gestures: a warm hello at the door, an invitation to share coffee, making space for newcomers, ensuring our worship is easy to follow, shaping our notices so they welcome rather than confuse.

These simple acts of attentiveness carry extraordinary spiritual weight. They show, quietly but clearly, that Christ's welcome is real. Yet invitation must also move beyond the church walls. Many will first encounter the Christian faith not through clergy or choirs, but through the gentle courage of a friend who says, "Would you like to come with me?" Lesslie Newbigin reminds the Church that it exists not for itself but "for the life of the world." Missionary disciples carry the hope of Christ into ordinary places - into conversations, workplaces, kitchens, classrooms, cafés, and street corners. They live with an Advent heart: watchful for God's presence, open to God's prompting, ready to respond.

And so this Advent, we pray *Maranatha* with renewed intention. We ask Christ to come to us, and we offer ourselves to go where He sends. We ask Him to shine in our parish, and we choose to be bearers of

that light for others. We ask Him to renew His world, and we commit to the work of welcome, hospitality, justice, and peace.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Maranatha.

Make us your people of invitation, your community of missionary disciples, your light in this waiting world.

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, 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

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.

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.

Christingle making at St Mary's will be on Tuesday 23 December, 10-12 noon.

Church News:

NEW: Memorial Service for Revd Julian Reindorp, 29 November 2025.

Dear friends

Hundreds of people poured into St Mary Magdalene on Saturday to the ringing of our bells, so we could gather together to remember and celebrate the life, service, and ministry of Revd Julian Reindorp, 22 June 1944 - 14 September 2025.

Julian spent 17 years of his long parish ministry as priest and first Team Rector in Richmond (many more years when we include his ongoing pastoral support for us after he retired).

Julian's family was at the very centre of what was a moving, emotional and, at times, both sad and humorous service. It was led brilliantly by Rachel Carnegie, who had been Julian's curate here.

With some 500 people packed into the church and standing room only - and remarkably increasing numbers online - we all reflected on this remarkable priest who loved people, loved God, and knew each of our names.

We had speakers from Julian's childhood and his friends as well as his beloved sister and four children on behalf of the family. Bleddyn and Judy Wright spoke of the Richmond years and Rabbi Guy Hall sang Psalm 23. Several priests who ministered alongside Julian in the Richmond team from St John's and St Matthias attended and the final blessing was given by Bishop Guli Francis-Deqhani, now Bishop of Chelmsford. Julian had chosen the readings and hymns.

There are too many people to thank by name: it was a great team who worked with the family and Rachel - James our verger was simply outstanding - but the last word of thanks must be for the flower team as the family was amazed and thrilled by the South Africa themed arrangements.

Julian Reindorp: a beloved and Love-filled pastor and parish priest. As one speaker said: 'Rest in Peace- but we think he will be too busy....'.

Ruth Martin

NEW: Robert Stanier License notice

The Team are delighted to announce that Rev'd Robert Stanier will be Licensed by Bishop Martin as Team Rector of Richmond Team Ministry and Vicar of St Mary Magdalene at 6:30pm on Sunday 22 February 2026 at St Mary Magdalene. Further details will follow, but in the meantime please put the date in your diaries.

NEW: Sunday 14 December - Wear Pink for the Soup Kitchen

In some traditions, on the 3rd Sunday of Advent (often called 'Gaudete' Sunday), the vestments change from Advent purple to 'rose' (pink). To reflect this, we are encouraging RTM folk to wear items of pink clothing (as little or as much as you like!) to the morning service, and to bring £5 to go towards the soup kitchen.

Exploring 'Listening to the Music of the Soul'

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: Revd Anne 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 (ruthtea304@hotmail.com) if you would like to join her group so that she can provide you with her address.

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 1935 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.

Please note Little Chicks is stopping this Friday - so the last one is on the morning of 5th December. It is starting again on 9th January.

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:

NEW: A Message from The Bishop of Southwark, The Rt Revd Christopher Chessun

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

As we begin the Church's year and the wonderful season of Advent, so full of promise and hope, I share with you that His Majesty The King has graciously consented to my request to retire on my seventieth birthday in August next year. I have had the privilege of serving this Diocese for over twenty years in two episcopal roles, and of sharing the cure of souls with the many excellent clergy who hold my licence. I am mindful of all that you have given generously and sacrificially, as clergy and lay people, to strengthen partnerships in the Gospel in the parishes and ministries to which you have been called. I thank God for you daily, and ask for your prayers in these concluding months.

I shall be nominating Bishop Rosemarie as Acting Bishop of Southwark, to work with the Diocesan College of Bishops. A year ago when I was convalescing, greatly encouraged by your prayers and good will, Bishop Rosemarie convened the College of Bishops with authority and grace in an uncertain time. I ask for prayers for her during the Vacancy in See, and also for my esteemed colleagues Bishop Martin and Bishop Alastair. I shall hand the Diocesan crozier to Bishop Rosemarie at my final service at Southwark Cathedral on Saturday 18 July 2026 at 12 noon and I am confident that she will lead a senior team that is well prepared for this change – it is a brilliant and effective team.

During my time in Southwark I have very much enjoyed leading diocesan and co-leading ecumenical pilgrimages, particularly to the Holy Land. In recent years I have a very strong sense of how important the reality and metaphor of journey and pilgrimage is in the Christian Faith. It is the Way, as we seek together to understand God's loving purposes for us, to speak well of each other, and to honour our Baptism and participation in Christ.

I have a heartfelt desire, God willing, to continue to serve Christ's Church, but my own personal sense of pilgrimage is captured in Walter Raleigh's poem, 'The Passionate Man's Pilgrimage':

*Give me my scallop shell of quiet,
My staff of faith to walk upon,
My scrip of joy, immortal diet,
My bottle of salvation,
My gown of glory, hope's true gage,
And thus I'll take my pilgrimage.*

It has been a privilege to make my pilgrimage with you over these years. You have been hearty companions. I am confident that in God's providence there will be joy and sustenance for each and every Southwark pilgrim in the faithful years to come, the Lord himself being our helper.

NEW: Invitation to hear Bishop Sarah, Sunday 7 December, 3.30pm

We are warmly invited to a service of Challenge and Hope on Sunday 7 December at St Stephen's Church Ealing at 3.30pm where the Chair of Christian Aid, the Rt Revd & Rt Hon Dame Sarah Mullally DBE, Bishop of London will be speaking.

Bishop Sarah will share how the unstoppable power of hope continues to inspire and challenge us to unite in the fight against poverty and injustice.

Refreshments will be served after the service.

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:

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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