

Thursday 18 December 2025

Dear Friends,

At Sunday's Eucharist we will hear St Matthew's account of the part Joseph played in the Incarnation of our Lord (Matthew 1:18-end), a timely reminder of how important it is to reflect on Joseph's calling to love and protect Mary at the most pivotal and dangerous time in her very young life. We know that Mary would only have been around 14 years of age when she experienced that awesome visit from Gabriel and was told the earth-shattering news that she was to carry and give birth to the Son of God. We will reflect much more on Mary as the coming week unfolds, but for now we spend time with Joseph as he struggles to grasp the reality of what it is that God is asking of him. We know, as Joseph did, that the sentence for committing adultery in first century Palestine was to be stoned to death – without Joseph's 'yes' to God, we can only imagine how different the world, and our lives, might be now.

The crazily beautiful Basilica de la Sagrada Familia in Barcelona is dedicated to Saint Joseph; the cornerstone was laid on his feast day (19<sup>th</sup> March) in 1882. Joseph features prominently in the Nativity façade, his presence carved in stone, interwoven through the scenes from Jesus' childhood. This incredible place of worship is still a work in progress, and there are plans for Joseph to be given a resting place in the Glory scenes which will bring this awesome Gaudi creation to completion. If you haven't had a chance to visit this inspiring Cathedral then why not have a look online and read its fascinating history, and the people who have had a hand in bringing this sacred project to birth.

We too are a work in progress, human beings living out that deep Advent truth that the Kingdom comes to earth now in and through us whenever we say our 'yes' to God; and yet the future reality is still to come, the glory of the promise which is ours in Christ still to be made fully present. As we lean into this final week of Advent our cry is all the more urgent: 'Come, O Come Emmanuel'!

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. For all pregnant women and new mothers in Bethlehem, and all who care for them and their babies in the Holy Family Hospital.

... **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, Gerald Fearn, Julie Burman, Paul & Caity Manning, Christa Browne, Barbara Adamson, Irene Chalmers, Sabine Staton, Frances Irwin, Pat Pyle and Megan Vaughan-Jones

... **the departed, may they rest in peace** – Jennifer Lock, Gilly Valentine, Gordon Hamilton (Georgina's father)

The funeral of Michael Green will be held at St Mary Magdalene on Tuesday 6 January at noon, followed by burial at Twickenham Cemetery. Michael's family is very dispersed, but would welcome

any local members of the community who knew him to attend the funeral. Michael was part of the Windrush generation and came from Jamaica as a small child and worked in Richmond Park and locally, as a gardener. He lived very close to the church at Victoria Place.

*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. **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.

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.

## **Evening Prayer at St Matthias each Wednesday at 5pm**

### **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.

#### **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.

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

### **CHURCH NEWS:**

**NEW:** The latest edition of Team Talk is now available at the back of church or [online by clicking here](#).

#### **NEW: Epiphany Afternoon Tea**

Come and celebrate the season of Epiphany on Saturday 10 January 2026 at 3pm in St Mary Magdalene church. All are welcome for this special Epiphany afternoon tea with delicious cakes & scones, beautiful music and a chance to meet new friends, chat with old friends and enjoy the light of Epiphany together. If possible, please RSVP to [admin@richmondteamministry.org](mailto:admin@richmondteamministry.org) so we have an idea of how many cakes to bake!

#### **NEW: Recycling stamps and postcards to help the world's working animals**

I can recycle used postage stamps and postcards to raise funds for SPANA, a charity which relieves the suffering of working horses, mules and donkeys, toiling under impossibly harsh working conditions, often without food or water, in some of the world's poorest communities. Stamps should be cut from envelopes, leaving a small margin of paper around them. Postcards can be new or used.

SPANAs website link is - <https://spana.org/>

Please leave any contributions at St John the Divine Church, marked for the attention of Sylvia Browning - 07981 925529.

Thank you very much.

#### **NEW: Theft at the Museum of Richmond**

The Museum of Richmond can confirm that the theft of nine artefacts from its collection took place on 6th December 2025. The historic pieces were on loan from St Mary Magdalene Church and Richmond Charities (Hickey's Almshouses Chapel) and include precious items such as a pair of Charles II silver flagons, a William III Britannia silver tazza (cup), and a Charles II silver sideboard plate.

We are deeply saddened by this appalling act and are working closely with the local authorities and the police to provide our full support to the ongoing investigation. In parallel, we are reviewing our security procedures in partnership with lenders to ensure that all loaned items continue to receive the highest level of care and protection.

These historic pieces represent an important part of Richmond's heritage, and their loss is felt profoundly by the Museum, Richmond Team Ministry, Richmond Charities and the community. We urge anyone with information that may assist the investigation to contact the police.

## **Christmas 2025 Opening Hours**

Please note the parish office will be closed from Tuesday 23 December, 12 noon. We will re-open on Friday 2 January. There will be no newsletter for those next two weeks.

Our churches will be closed 26, 27, 29, 30 & 31 December and 1 January, although Rev'd Anne will be working and available if anyone needs priestly support. There will be Morning Prayer at St Matthias on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> and Wed 31<sup>st</sup> Dec and on Fri 2<sup>nd</sup> January, but no morning prayer at St Mary Magdalene or St John's until the new year.

## **BIBLE STUDY – PHILEMON**

There will be a one session Bible Study on the Paul's letter to Philemon on Tuesday 27 January 2026.

Morning: in person 10am-11:15am, Evening: in person and online 7:45pm-9pm. Contact me to express interest and let me know which one you are coming to. Bibles will be available in church. Rev'd Joe – [joe.moore@richmondteamministry.org](mailto:joe.moore@richmondteamministry.org)

## **Welcoming Rev'd Robert Stanier to the Team – Licensing Service 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.

## **Exploring 'Listening to the Music of the Soul'**

If you would like to join with others to explore Bishop Guili's Advent book we have two possible Advent group options: Ruth Martin on a Tuesday evening or Rev'd Anne on a Wed afternoon. Please contact the leaders for more information: [anne.crawford@richmondteamministry.org](mailto:anne.crawford@richmondteamministry.org) or [ruthtea304@hotmail.com](mailto:ruthtea304@hotmail.com)

## **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.

## **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](https://www.smmringers.org.uk/)

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**

Our newly launched toddler group is taking a break over Christmas, and will return on Friday 9 January at 9.15am.

## **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.

## **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: Lay Minister Taster Day**

Saturday 31 January, 10-2pm at Trinity House (SE1 1HW)

Come and find out more about the different types of ministries including Pastoral, Reader, Pioneer, Church Army and Children and Young People. With guest speaker Adjoa Andoh MBE – actor, writer, director, and Licensed Reader (Parish of Herne Hill).

For more information and to book your place, email [learning@southwark.anglican.org](mailto:learning@southwark.anglican.org)

## **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](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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