

Thursday 29 January 2026

Dear Friends,

As we look ahead to Lent 2026, we are delighted to commend our parish Lent Book for the coming year: 'Easter in Disguise', published by Bloomsbury, by Liz Dodd.

Liz Dodd is a well-known Christian writer, retreat leader, and spiritual director, with a particular gift for helping us notice God at work in the ordinary, the overlooked, and the quietly transformative moments of life. She has written widely on prayer, discipleship, and the rhythms of the Christian year, and her writing is marked by warmth, theological depth, and a gentle attentiveness to lived experience.

In 'Easter in Disguise', Liz invites us to approach Lent not simply as a journey towards Easter, but as a season in which resurrection life is already breaking through—often in unexpected and disguised ways. Through scripture, reflection, and prayer, the book explores themes of hope, transformation, loss, and renewal, encouraging us to look closely at our own lives and communities for signs of God's redeeming work. It is reflective without being heavy, honest without being bleak, and deeply rooted in the promise that new life is always nearer than we think.

To accompany this book, we will be offering two Lent Groups:

- Rev'd Anne will lead a daytime Lent Group on Mondays at 10.00am at St Matthias, beginning on Monday 23rd February.
- Rev'd Joe will lead an evening Lent Group on Tuesdays at 7.45pm at St John's, beginning on Tuesday 17th February.

Both groups will run for six weeks and will be open to all. If you are planning to come along, please do email us to let us know:

- Rev'd Anne: anne.crawford@richmondteamministry.org
- Rev'd Joe: joe.moore@richmondteamministry.org

We also encourage everyone to get hold of a copy of 'Easter in Disguise' in advance - available from bookshops and online - so that you can make the most of the reflections and discussions throughout the season.

Lent begins with **Ash Wednesday on 18th February**, and we warmly encourage everyone to mark the start of the season as we turn again towards God in prayer, reflection, and hope. There will three opportunities to receive the impositions of ashes:

Outside Richmond Station 7:30am-8:15am – Rev'd Joe will offer 'Ashes to Go' to those on their way to work and passers by.

Said Eucharist with Ashing at St Mary Magdalene 10am – Rev'd Dr Hannah Swithinbank, Assistant Curate in the Kew Benefice, will lead this reflective service.

Team Eucharist at St Mary Magdalene at 7:30pm – A Team act of worship to begin Lent at which Rev'd Anne will preside and Rev'd Joe will offer a reflection.

Lent is a gift-a time to pause, reflect, and allow God to meet us where we are. Our hope is that Easter in Disguise will help us to notice the quiet signs of resurrection already present among us, and to walk together with honesty, hope, and attentiveness as we journey towards Easter.

With every blessing,

Rev'd Anne & Rev'd 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. 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, Irene Chalmers, Sabine Staton, Frances Irwin,

... **the departed, may they rest in peace** – Jennifer Lock, Gilly Valentine, Gordon Hamilton (Georgina's father), Barbara Adamson, Megan Vaughan-Jones, Robert Thorp, John Cliff, Simon Grosvenor, Patricia Pyle

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: The SMM prayer group meets regularly to pray in confidence over specific prayer needs. Please send your prayer requests to: richmondprayer.request@gmail.com or post a request anonymously on the prayer board at the back of SMM.

If you (or a loved one) 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)

PRAYER & WORSHIP:

St John the Divine's Sunday service at 11.00am is both in-person and live-streamed via their [Facebook page](#). 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 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 on someone else's behalf.

St Mary Magdalene's Sunday services are at 8.00am, 9.30am, and 6.30pm.

Midweek Said Eucharist at 10.00am every Wednesday, followed by coffee and biscuits.

St Matthias' Sunday service is an in-person service at 9.30am Midweek Said Eucharist at 10.00am every Thursday followed by coffee and biscuits.

Orders of service / readings for all three churches can be found on the News page of our website – here: <https://richmondteamministry.org/news/>

Morning Prayer, Monday – Fridays, at 8.30am:

Morning Prayer takes place in church and on Teams. St Matthias on Mondays and Fridays, St John the Divine on Tuesdays, and 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 Wednesday at 5pm, St Matthias

Private Prayer:

St Mary Magdalene is normally open for visiting and prayer Monday – Friday 8am until 3pm and Saturday 10.00am until 12.00noon.

CHURCH NEWS:

Welcoming Rev'd Robert Stanier to the Team – Licensing Service notice

The Churchwardens and Parochial Church Council of

Richmond Team Ministry

request the pleasure of your company at the Institution and Induction of

The Reverend Robert Stanier

as Interim Team Rector of the Richmond Team Ministry and Vicar of St Mary Magdalene Church

by **The Rt Revd Dr Martin Gainsborough**, Bishop of Kingston
and **The Ven Bridget Shepherd** Archdeacon of Wandsworth

at St Mary Magdalene Church, Paradise Road, Richmond, TW9 1SN
on **Sunday 22nd February 2026 at 6.30 pm**

and afterwards for refreshments in the church.

RSVP to: bookings@richmondteamministry.org by 8th of February

Clergy/Readers Please indicate in your reply if you will be robing (Clergy: cassock-alb and white stole -or equivalent- and Lay Ministers Choir Dress)

The Green Team

We are thinking about the Spring Newsletter - have you got a recipe you would like to offer featuring the humble cauli, broccoli, parsnip or rhubarb? Any pictures to share of homemade Christmas gifts, regifted items from charity shops or recycled Christmas Decorations? Anyone check out their Carbon Footprint having read the last newsletter and prepared to share their commitments? We would love to hear from you. Please send any items to Jo Kitson johanna_kitson@hotmail.com

Ruth Martin's Leaving Collection

We are keen to mark Ruth's leaving the Team and are inviting contributions towards a gift for her. You can either hand cash gifts to Anthony Bell or John Buckingham at St Mary's or you can make a direct transfer to the Richmond Team Ministry No. 3 bank account, sort code 60-17-31 and account No. 27091619, marking your gift 'Ruth'.

Big Clean Up at St Mary Magdalene

We are organising a big clean up at St Mary Magdalene on Saturday 14th of February, one week before the arrival of Rev'd Robert Stanier.

If you are free, can you please come to the Church for 10.00am.

Tea and Coffee will be served

Recycle your Christmas cards

Donate your old Christmas (and birthday) cards - the Richmond Soup Kitchen will turn them into gift tags to fundraise. There will be boxes at the back of each church for three weeks in January. The Soup Kitchen would also be grateful for any pieces of ribbon from your Christmas wrapping. Thank you all for supporting this Green initiative.

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.

SPANA's 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.

Movie Night at St Mary Magdalene, Friday 6 February at 7pm

Excitement is in the air! Join the Richmond Bell Ringers for a MOVIE NIGHT - someone is killing off all the bellringers in the week before a big bell ringing competition. John Nettles and Hugh Bonneville star. Join us for fizz and canapes and the film for only £20 per person.

Tickets can be booked using the following link - <https://www.zeffy.com/en-GB/ticketing/movie-night-68>

Richmond Piano Series (begins Friday 13 March)

Tickets are now live for the Richmond Piano Series at St Mary's! A limited number of Earlybird tickets are available, so book quickly!

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/music-at-st-marys-12077675351>

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 who 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 be 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:

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

Community News:

Community Choir at St Mary Magdalene

Wednesdays 11am-12pm

Come and join our free Community Choir at St Mary Magdalene - fun, relaxed, and informal, no experience necessary! We will sing a wide range of music, from folk and traditional songs, to modern music, as well as music to mark the seasons. For more info, contact Seb on 07933024101.

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](#)