

Thursday 5 March 2026

Dear Friends,

Walking around Richmond this past week and a half has been a curious mixture for me of fresh scenes and great nostalgia. I was brought up in East Sheen, just down the road and one of my earliest memories is being hauled around Dickens & Jones department store by my mother - who knows what we were buying? - and at the end of the trip, we went to the cafe on the top floor; she got a cup of tea and I got a sugar cube.

The first time I went to the theatre was to see Arthur Askey in the pantomime at Richmond Theatre. The first film I watched at the cinema without an adult was with my elder brother to see 'For Your Eyes Only' at Richmond Odeon on the day of its release. My first trip using a bus on my own was to take the 33 from East Sheen to Richmond where I bought a cassette from 'Our Price'. Looking back, I must have walked past St Mary Magdalene church to do it, but I have no memory of that: church wasn't a part of my life then; Jesus was someone whose life was touched on in school assemblies but had no particular significance.

So then there is also something different about my new time here. St Mary Magdalene is where I was welcomed at a wonderful service of installation; and I of course am coming to this place as an adult. Even Richmond itself has changed, if only a little.

But the phenomenon of retreading familiar ground is one that is at the heart of the Christian Year. It's Lent just now, but we have done this before; we're going into Holy Week soon, but we do know what's going to happen. Crucially, however, that does not mean it is a waste of time. The power of this particular story doesn't depend on us not knowing what happens next. For we haven't journeyed this road in exactly the same way. We are different in 2026, if possibly only slightly, from how we were in 2025; the world is certainly different. And God's call on us at this time may be different.

In my case, it's dramatically so. I find myself in a totally different church; and indeed part of a trio of churches that I have never been to before. But for all of us there is some difference. Perhaps you have been bereaved in the last year and this is the first Easter without that person in your life; perhaps you are in a new job; perhaps you have a child or grandchild. And nature knows this too. We may have seen a magnolia tree before but let us not lose our awe at the miracle of witnessing its explosion into life that occurs just now.

May this time be for us a time of exploration, for life is a continuing search for the divine spark that is inbuilt into us.

As TS Eliot famously put it in "Little Gidding":

We shall not cease from exploration  
And the end of all our exploring  
Will be to arrive where we started  
And know the place for the first time.

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

*This letter was written by The Revd Robert Stanier*

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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 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, Gerald Fearn, Julie Burman, Christa Browne, Irene Chalmers, Sabine Staton, Frances Irwin, Jo Carroll, Peter O'Toole

... **the departed, may they rest in peace** – Gilly Valentine, Robert Thorp, John Cliff, Susan Cox, Margaret Myatt, Chris Harrison (former verger), Andrew Cregeen

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](mailto: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](mailto:admin@richmondteamministry.org))

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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](#). 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.

### Children's Service at St Mary Magdalene

The next one will be on Saturday 14 March at 4pm. All welcome.

**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.

## **Lent & Holy Week:**

Stations of the Cross will be led on Saturdays at 11:30am at St John's during Lent.  
Also at 9:00am on Good Friday.  
All are welcome to this devotional act of prayer.

## **Palm Sunday & Holy Week in Richmond Team Ministry**

### **Sunday 29 March**

### **Palm Sunday**

8:00am	Holy Communion	at <b>St Mary Magdalene</b>
9:30am	Sung Eucharist with <i>Passion</i> reading	at <b>St Mary Magdalene</b>
9:30am	Sung Eucharist with <i>Passion</i> reading	at <b>St Matthias</b>
11:00am	Sung Eucharist with <i>Passion</i> reading	at <b>St John the Divine</b>
6:30pm	Choral Evensong	at <b>St Mary Magdalene</b>

### **Monday 30 March**

### **Holy Monday**

6:30pm	Stations of the Cross	at <b>St Matthias</b>
7:15pm	Said Eucharist	at <b>St Matthias</b>

### **Tuesday 31 March**

### **Holy Tuesday**

6:30pm	Stations of the Cross	at <b>St John the Divine</b>
7:15pm	Said Eucharist	at <b>St John the Divine</b>

### **Wednesday 1 April**

### **Holy Wednesday**

10:00am	Holy Communion	at <b>St Mary Magdalene</b>
6:30pm	Stations of the Cross	at <b>St Mary Magdalene</b>
7:15pm	Said Eucharist	at <b>St Mary Magdalene</b>

## **Triduum in the Richmond Team Ministry**

### **Thursday 2 April**

### **Maundy Thursday**

8:00pm	Eucharist of the Last Supper with <i>footwashing</i> . Followed by a Vigil till Midnight.	at <b>St John the Divine</b>
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### **Friday 3 April**

### **Good Friday**

8.30am	Morning Prayer	at <b>St Mary Magdalene</b>
9:00am	Stations of the Cross	at <b>St John the Divine</b>
10:30am	Children's Stations of the Cross <i>followed by squash and hot cross buns</i>	at <b>St Mary Magdalene</b>
12.00-2.00pm	Good Friday Reflections – Team Service	at <b>St Mary Magdalene</b>
2:00-3:00pm	Good Friday Liturgy – Team Service	at <b>St Mary Magdalene</b>
7:00pm	Music for Good Friday	at <b>St Mary Magdalene</b>

### **Sunday 5 April**

### **Easter Day**

6:00am	Dawn Liturgy and First Eucharist of Easter <i>followed by breakfast</i>	at <b>St Matthias</b>
8:00am	Holy Communion <i>from the Book of Common Prayer</i>	at <b>St Mary Magdalene</b>
9:30am	All Age Eucharist <i>with Easter Egg Hunt</i>	at <b>St Mary Magdalene</b>
9:30am	Sung Eucharist <i>with Easter Egg Hunt</i>	at <b>St Matthias</b>
11:00am	Sung Eucharist <i>with Easter Egg Hunt</i>	at <b>St John the Divine</b>

6:30pm

Choral Evensong

at *St Mary Magdalene*

## CHURCH NEWS:

### **NEW: Parish Office**

Our parish administrator is on annual leave next week, so the next newsletter will be out Thursday 19 March.

### **NEW: Saturday 7 March, 12.30pm - Rachel Smith (Flute) and Emilie Capulet (Piano)**

Rachel and Emilie return to St Mary's for a programme of traditional folk songs arranged skilfully for Flute and Piano. Free entry with a retiring collection.

### **NEW: Recital+Choral Compline (6.30pm) at St Mary's**

This Sunday evening at St Mary Magdalene we are continuing to pilot our "Concert and Compline" series. It starts at 6.30pm with a short recital, in this case with our choral scholars showcasing their talents, and then this segues relatively naturally into Choir led Compline, the ancient night time office of the church. It's a stunning and peaceful way to end your weekend and will include both silence and music. It will be finished at 7.30pm. We've had great feedback from people who've come so far, so do give it a try.

### **NEW: Memorial Service for Susie Cox**

There will be a celebration of life for Susie Cox on Wednesday 25 March at 2pm, at St Mary Magdalene Church. Susie was a much-loved parishioner and wife to Mark Cox. All will be welcome and please dress cheerfully!

### **Friday 13 March, 7.30pm - Joanna MacGregor CBE - HANDFUL OF TICKETS REMAINING**

Join us as Joanna inaugurates the new piano at St Mary's. Her programme will include Mussorgsky's iconic *Pictures at an Exhibition*. Tickets can be secured below:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/richmond-piano-series-joanna-macgregor-tickets-1978834726937?aff=oddtcreator>

### **Glasses, Specs and Sunglasses**

As part of our Green efforts, we are again collecting all your old prescription (or otherwise) glasses and sunglasses. We will be sending them off to the Lions Club who use them to improve the sight of children and adults living in other less developed countries. All donations are washed and regraded then sent directly to those in need throughout the world. There will be boxes from now until the end of March in all three churches - please hunt through those desk drawers and bring all those unwanted spectacles to church.

### **The English Chamber Choir performs Stainer's Crucifixion, Sunday 29 March, 3pm at St Mary Magdalene**

Stainer's dramatic and poignant portrayal of the Passion is preceded by a rare performance of a modern choral classic in *Vidi Aquam*, a forty-part acapella motet by James Macmillan.

Fresh on the heels of recent performances at The Royal Albert Hall and Buckingham Palace, the English Chamber Choir will be joined by acclaimed soloists Martin Hindmarsh (tenor), John Holland-Avery (bass) and SMM's very own Assistant Organist Andreeana Chan on the organ - do come along!

Get your tickets here! <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/english-chamber-choir-the-crucifixion-stainer-palm-sunday-2026-tickets-1982542287350>

### **Another GREEN project**

Recycle your Birthday cards - please do drop these into the boxes at the back of the three churches. Richmond Soup Kitchen volunteers will recycle these into beautiful gift tags for fundraising - thank you

### **Lent Groups to discuss the book 'Easter in Disguise'**

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](mailto:anne.crawford@richmondteamministry.org)
- Rev'd Joe: [joe.moore@richmondteamministry.org](mailto:joe.moore@richmondteamministry.org)

### **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:**

### **Community News:**

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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