

Thursday 19 March 2026

Dear Friends,

This week in the Church's calendar we celebrate two beloved saints: St Patrick (17 March) and St Joseph (19 March). At first glance they seem very different figures. Patrick is remembered as the bold missionary bishop who helped bring the gospel to Ireland. Joseph is the quiet carpenter of Nazareth, the foster-father of our Lord, whose faithfulness is revealed less in words than in steadfast obedience. Yet together they remind us of something essential about the life of the Church: that the gospel is made known through many different gifts and charisms.

Patrick's story is one of transformation and courage. Once taken captive and enslaved in Ireland as a young man, he later returned freely to the very land of his captivity, compelled by the love of Christ to proclaim the gospel there. His life reminds us that Christian mission is never simply an institutional programme; it grows out of encounter with the living Christ and a deep sense of vocation.

Joseph, by contrast, teaches us the holiness of quiet faithfulness. The Gospels record none of his words, yet his actions speak profoundly. He listens to God in dreams, protects the Holy Family, and faithfully bears the responsibilities placed upon him. Joseph shows us that the work of God is often carried forward not by dramatic gestures but by humble obedience, courage, and trust.

Between them, Patrick and Joseph illustrate the breadth of Christian vocation. Some are called to visible leadership and proclamation; others are called to faithful, seemingly hidden service. But both are rooted in the same gospel imperative: to make Christ known - in word, in action, and in the way we live our lives. That calling feels especially important in the times in which we live. Many people sense that we inhabit a fragile and uncertain moment in our world: politically unsettled, socially fractured, and often overshadowed by anxiety about what lies ahead. Yet the Church has always lived in such conditions. The story of the Christian community has never been one of perfect stability or security.

The Church of God is, in truth, cross-shaped. But because it is cross-shaped, it is also resurrection-focused.

Our faith is rooted not in despair but in hope. The Cross is real - but so is the empty tomb. And because the Easter reality is that Christ is risen, we are invited to live not out of fear or scarcity, but out of the abundance of God's grace. So much of our world is shaped by a mindset of scarcity: not enough time, not enough resources, not enough energy, not enough hope. It can be tempting for the Church to fall into that same pattern - to become anxious, defensive, or inward-looking.

But the gospel tells a different story.

In Christ, there is always more: more grace, more mercy, more love. The Eucharist itself is the great sign of this abundance - bread broken and shared, yet never exhausted; a foretaste of the heavenly banquet where all are fed and all are welcome. To live the Christian life, then, is to live from that place of abundance. It is to trust that God is at work, even when we cannot see it clearly. It is to give generously, to love freely, and to hope boldly - not because of our own resources, but because of God's.

And this leads us to the very heart of why the Church exists at all. The purpose of Christian community is not simply to sustain itself. It is not merely to preserve traditions, however beautiful and meaningful they may be. The Church exists to draw people into the love of God. Everything we do - our worship, our music, our pastoral care, our outreach, our presence in the community - is ultimately about that: creating spaces where people can encounter the living Christ and discover that they are loved beyond measure.

Or, to put it another way, we are called to be disciples who make disciples.

Often it is about the quiet, faithful witness of everyday life: the welcome we offer at the door, the conversations we have, the way we live out our faith in our homes, workplaces, and friendships. It is about being a community in which others can glimpse something of the love, grace, and truth of Christ.

As part of sustaining ministry for the long term, the Church encourages clergy to take periods of sabbatical leave from time to time. I am therefore grateful to have been granted a short sabbatical this year, and I will be away from the parish from 6 April to 6 June. A sabbatical is not simply time away. Rather, it is intended as a time of rest, reflection, and spiritual renewal - a chance to step back from the daily responsibilities of parish life in order to pray, learn, and return refreshed for the next season of ministry. I am deeply grateful to the Diocese, the Richmond Team Ministry, my clergy colleagues, and the key lay leaders at St John's for encouraging and supporting this time away.

It also feels particularly meaningful that this time begins as we enter Eastertide, the great season in which the Church celebrates the risen life of Christ. Easter reminds us that renewal and new beginnings lie at the very heart of the gospel.

Part of my sabbatical will involve spending time with other church communities. I will spend two weeks at St John's in the Village, an Anglican church in Greenwich Village in New York City, which has a distinctive ministry among those living with addiction. I will have the opportunity to observe and take part in aspects of their pastoral and liturgical life. It is a parish that seeks to embody the radical hospitality of the gospel, and I look forward to learning from their experience. After that, I will travel to Atlanta, Georgia, where I will spend a few days observing the life and ministry of a Methodist church community. One of the gifts of the wider Christian family is the opportunity to learn from different traditions and contexts, and I hope this time will offer fresh insights that may enrich our own life together here.

As I prepare for this time of sabbatical, I find myself returning again to the closing words of Mary Oliver's poem *The Summer Day*:

*"Tell me, what is it you plan to do
with your one wild and precious life?"*

It is a question that sits close to the heart of the gospel. And perhaps one way of answering it is this: to live not out of fear, but out of abundance; not turned in on ourselves, but turned outward in love; not as consumers of the Church, but as participants in God's mission - disciples who make disciples, drawing others into the life of Christ.

With prayers and blessings from the Richmond clergy team,
Robert, 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 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** – 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 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.

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

Monday 30 March		Holy Monday	
6:30pm	Stations of the Cross		at St Matthias
7:15pm	Said Eucharist		at St Mathias

Tuesday 31 March		Holy Tuesday	
6:30pm	Stations of the Cross		at St John the Divine
7:15pm	Said Eucharist		at St John the Divine

Wednesday 1 April		Holy Wednesday	
10:00am	Holy Communion		at St Mary Magdalene
6:30pm	Stations of the Cross		at St Mary Magdalene
7:15pm	Said Eucharist		at St Mary Magdalene

Triduum in the Richmond Team Ministry

Thursday 2 April		Maundy Thursday	
8:00pm	Eucharist of the Last Supper <i>with footwashing. Followed by a Vigil till Midnight.</i>		at St John the Divine

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

Sunday 5 April		Easter Day	
6:00am	Dawn Liturgy and First Eucharist of Easter <i>followed by breakfast</i>		at St Matthias
8:00am	Holy Communion <i>from the Book of Common Prayer</i>		at St Mary Magdalene
9:30am	All Age Eucharist <i>with Easter Egg Hunt</i>		at St Mary Magdalene
9:30am	Sung Eucharist <i>with Easter Egg Hunt</i>		at St Matthias
11:00am	Sung Eucharist <i>with Easter Egg Hunt</i>		at St John the Divine
6:30pm	Choral Evensong		at St Mary Magdalene

CHURCH NEWS:

NEW: A Message from Robert

Thank you to everyone who has offered prayers, condolences and cards on the death of my father. I have really appreciated it, and it will be a sustaining part of my time here that he was able to attend my installation service.

Just to give some of the background, until three years ago, my father was a very healthy 80-something; then he suffered a major stroke and lost his ability to walk, along with some of his mental capacity, though he was still able to converse (at length!) on various cultural subjects and, while he couldn't take in new books, he could still remember the poetry he had learnt when he was a boy. He had been a TV producer for the BBC during his career, and he had one idea for a final production, which he didn't quite finish but we've put together a version here; it gives you a bit of a flavour of him, though here he is operating well below his full capacity.

[Tom Stanier Final Production - Talking about the poem Ulysses by Tennyson](#)

Anyway, while he was not actually getting any more sick - his mobility and memory in February this year were no worse or better than it had been the year before - his death was not a total surprise; if you're 80+ and you have a stroke from which you do not recover mobility, life expectancy is limited. My brothers and I have been able to get used to the idea of his passing for some time, and he was even able to give some instructions to me about what he would want at his funeral.

This will take place on Tuesday 31st March, at 12 noon at Christ Church, East Sheen.

I'm very grateful for Anne and Joe stepping in to take services last week. Going forward, while I will not be in Richmond on the day of the funeral, I don't anticipate taking further time out for compassionate leave.

That said, I may occasionally get tearful; if I do so in the next few weeks, it's almost certainly not something you said, but that something has triggered a memory of my father, and they will be happy tears.

New: Electoral Roll Revision

The Annual Church Meeting this year for St Matthias will be held on Sunday 3 May and those for St Mary's and St John's on Sunday 10 May. The Annual Parochial Church Meeting will be a week later on Sunday 17 May. It is at these meetings that the church officers will be elected. Church officers are the Wardens, Deanery Synod Representatives, PCC lay members and Church Committee lay members.

Everyone who is baptised, over the age of 16 years and has been a member of one of our churches for a minimum of 6 months is eligible to vote.

As with parliamentary elections, we have an electoral roll for this. Our existing roll, drawn up last year is now due for revision and this process will start on Sunday 29 March. To enrol you need to complete a registration form which will be available at the back of each church from that day. The completed form should be left in the collection post box provided for these. Enrolment will continue for four weeks, so don't worry if you cannot do it on 29th March.

NEW: 28th March 8.30 pm - Earth Hour

Earth Hour is known as a "lights off" moment, with individuals from around the globe switching off their lights to show symbolic support for the planet and to raise awareness of the environmental issues affecting it. So please join all our three churches and switch off ALL your lights for an hour. Use the time to do something positive for our planet – to pray, to think about the impact of our actions, watch a climate documentary, cook a meal using local produce...

NEW: Sunday 3 May, 3pm - Richmond Piano Series: Roderick Williams + Christopher Glynn

After Friday's sensational launch concert given by Joanna MacGregor, St Mary's welcomes world-renowned baritone Roderick Williams and pianist Christopher Glynn to the series for a

sumptuous programme of English song. Absolutely NOT TO BE MISSED! Tickets available on Eventbrite (search "Richmond Piano Series")

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!

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
- Rev'd Joe: 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

Registered Charity No 1130018

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