

Thursday 26 March 2026

Dear Friends,

Watching the enthronement service for our new Archbishop yesterday got me thinking about the people who have supported and encouraged me through my own journey of faith, especially the journey to ordination as a woman. Archbishop Sarah has spoken about coming to faith as a teenager, but my own faith journey began, I suppose, from the moment I was born (and maybe even before – psalm 139). My parents took me to church as a baby, I was baptised when I was a few weeks old, and I continued to be a part of various church communities all through my life, going to Sunday School when I was younger, joining a youth group in my early teens, and then confirmation when I was 14, and continuing to go to church into adulthood. So for me there was never really a time when I consciously felt I ‘came to faith’, God has always felt present, and my call to ordination didn’t seem to surprise anyone but me!! Even as a little child I used to play at being a Vicar, all my dolls and teddies were baptised, and I used to line them up in our hallway to sing hymns, my little sister acting as verger, keeping order (she still is quite bossy!).

Looking back yesterday and thinking about all the people who have been part of my faith journey has been an emotional experience; so very many people (quite a few of them now have gone home) have encouraged, supported and taught me, some of them, though not many, were ordained, most were lay people who quietly lived out their faith in generous and joyous ways, eager to share with me what they found to be true about Jesus and infected me with their love for the Church as well as their love for God. And like Archbishop Sarah, all my life experiences have provided grist for the mill in my priestly life and in parish ministry – nothing is wasted with God, even the negative stuff of life teaches us lessons which inform the way ahead, and all our experiences in life help to shape the people we become, for good and for ill. As a young woman leaving school the option of training for ordination wasn’t something which was open to me (in those days the C of E didn’t ordain women), and in a way – for me at any rate – that was a good thing because all that I learned in my working life in retail for M&S and for Waitrose, and then as a mum and while my children were growing up working with children and with a huge number of volunteers in the Cathedral Education Centre in St Albans, gave me skills which have been invaluable in parish ministry whilst also giving me time to grow into myself and understand a little bit more about the priest God was, and is, calling me to be.

I loved that Archbishop Sarah had the clasp of her nursing belt stitched on to her new cope ready for yesterday’s installation, and that she wore the ring which Pope Paul IV gave to Archbishop Michael Ramsey during a historical visit to Rome almost 60 years ago to the day. The service yesterday was steeped in history – the ancient Cathedral itself has been part of our Christian journey for over 1400 years – but it’s the personal stories and the pilgrimages which have been celebrated within its walls which speak to me of the God who sustains all life and calls each one of us to follow faithfully in Christ’s footsteps in our own individual way, using the gifts and skills and life experiences which have been poured upon our wondering heads, and which miraculously help us to be the body of Christ, the Church Archbishop Sarah is now leading. She spoke often about the power of God being able to do the most extraordinary things through the ordinary everyday experiences of life. Her wonder at being called to be Archbishop of Canterbury, especially the first ever female Archbishop, was obvious as she walked emotionally back down the aisle on her way out of the Cathedral yesterday on a huge wave of love and mighty roar of applause. Nothing is impossible with God, she said repeatedly, echoing the words of the Angel Gabriel to Mary at the annunciation – we walk with God, trusting that, in all of life’s joys and challenges, the good and the bad, God is with us. And we pray now, as our new Archbishop takes up her cross and follows Jesus, that God will bless her with strength, courage, humility, grace and joy. May she know the love of her Church and the encouragement and support of all of us as we walk the way of the cross with her on this next part of our journey of faith together.

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

This letter was written by The Revd Anne Crawford

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, Jo Carroll, Peter O'Toole, Rebecca Fitzjohn

... **the departed, may they rest in peace** – Robert Thorp, John Cliff, Margaret Myatt, Andrew Cregeen, Frances Irwin, Michael Richardson

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> <i>Begins with the Liturgy of Palms at the entrance to the Terrace Gardens on Friars Style Road, followed by procession to church</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 Matthias

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
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Friday 3 April

Good Friday

8.30am	Morning Prayer	at St Mary Magdalene
9:00am	Stations of the Cross	at St John the Divine
10:00am	Stations of the Cross	at St Matthias
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 at **St Matthias**
and First Eucharist of Easter *followed by breakfast*

8:00am Holy Communion at **St Mary Magdalene**
from the Book of Common Prayer

9:30am All Age Eucharist at **St Mary Magdalene**
with Easter Egg Hunt

9:30am Sung Eucharist at **St Matthias**
with Easter Egg Hunt

11:00am Sung Eucharist at **St John the Divine**
with Easter Egg Hunt

6:30pm Choral Evensong at **St Mary Magdalene**

CHURCH NEWS:

NEW: British Summer Time

This Sunday, the clocks go forward, so don't be late, to whichever church you worship at. For those going to St Mary Magdalene, we're starting our Palm Sunday procession at the flower stall outside Pret a Manger. I hope you know where that is! That'll be at 9.30am but it'll feel like 8.30am.

Then, whichever church you're at on Sunday morning, in our team we worship Holy Week together. Of the 'big' Triduum services, this year, St John's is hosting our Eucharist of the Last Supper with footwashing, at 8pm on Maundy Thursday.

Then Good Friday Liturgy happens at St Mary Magdalene. This is at 2pm preceded by the church being open for two hours with some meditative readings and music interspersed amid the silence. There's also a children's activity and act of worship at St Mary Magdalene at 10.30am at St Mary Magdalene.

Easter Day (Sunday) morning starts very early with our Dawn Liturgy, and that's going to be at St Matthias this year.

Check out the website for the evening services on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.

There are 52 weeks in the year but only one Holy Week, and you definitely get out as much as you put in. Some amazing services, liturgies and music to help us draw closer to Jesus at this time.

NEW: Update on the Bells appeal at St Mary's

The Bells appeal has a new and unlikely fan, Donald J Trump. Check out what he thinks about the bells of Richmond here: <https://www.facebook.com/share/18R39hhDvA/?mibextid=wwXlfr>

NEW: Funeral for Frances Irwin

Frances Irwin was a long-standing, faithful member of St Mary Magdalene. Her Requiem Mass will take place at St Mary Magdalene on Tuesday 7 April at 2pm. After the service, there will be light refreshments. Her committal will follow at Mortlake Crematorium at 4.40pm. Patrick her brother hopes that her many friends will be able to join him.

New: Electoral Roll Revision

As given in last week's newsletter we will begin revising the RTM's electoral roll this Sunday (29th March) and this will continue until Tuesday, 28th April.

The St Matthias' Annual Church Meeting will be held on 3rd May and the Annual Meetings for St John's and St Mary's on Sunday 10th. The Annual Parochial Church Meeting will take place a week

later on 17 May. It is at these meetings that church officers, i.e. Wardens, Deanery Synod Representatives, PCC lay members and Church Committee lay members are elected and to vote for this you need to be on the electoral roll.

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

If you are not already on the roll you need to complete a registration form which will be available at the back of each church from 29th March. The completed form should be left in the collection post box provided for these. If you are already on the roll you need not do anything unless your contact details have changed, in which case we need the new ones. If you are not sure if you are on the roll please ask the vicar or wardens who will have this information.

Saturday 28 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...

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>

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")

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:

NEW: Vacancy at Vineyard Community & Richmond Foodbank

Vineyard Community & Richmond Foodbank have an exciting new vacancy.

Role: Community Outreach Caseworker (Part-time, 25 hours per week)

Location: Richmond-upon-Thames

This is a brand-new role, working alongside people facing some of life's most complex challenges - helping them find hope, stability, and a way forward. Full details and how to apply can be found on our website:

<https://www.vineyardcommunity.org/vacancies>

Closing date for applications: 12pm, Friday 17 April 2026

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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