

Thursday 2 April 2026

Dear Friends,

I buried my father yesterday afternoon. He and my mother bought a plot in Richmond Cemetery a few years ago and now they are both in there. So I guess it's a spot I will visit for many decades to come, long after I've ceased ministry in Richmond.

There's no denying the emotional heft of losing one's parents and Holy Week is a curious time for the funeral to happen. On a practical level, when there are services here, there and everywhere, it's inconvenient; on an emotional and spiritual level, it plays out in different ways.

For if there is one week in the year when the Church thinks a lot about death, it's this one, and there is a part of me which thinks I've thought about death quite enough for one week; but it's also the week when we think about resurrection, and the joy of that.

As you grow up, this mystery gets deeper, for the central thing about resurrection is that it is not a denial of the reality of death; rather, it articulates the reality that death is overcome in a new form of life. This is a matter of faith, of course.

Losing one's parent isn't easy; but it doesn't compare with what happened to a clergy colleague of mine during Holy Week six years ago; for it was then that he received the news that his daughter had died in a tragic road accident while on holiday in Greece. If you lose your father, it's tough but it's in the natural order of things; losing a child is a reversal of that. My friend had to go through the Easter services, and, for he has a strong faith, he did so in the strong conviction that his daughter was now with God.

How can we sing a song of Easter joy in the consciousness of death? The best expression of this, for me, comes at a key point in the Easter liturgies in the singing of the Exsultet at dawn, during the Easter Vigil, after the Paschal candle is brought in to church. This year, in this team, that service will be happening at St Matthias.

Now for me, when I first started attending church, I found the Exsultet a weird and unhappy bit of liturgy. The tune, which comes from something like the 14th century, to my teenage self seemed rather dirge-like; it felt like it went on forever, and was a real drag on what I felt should be more joyful. A joyful song, I thought, should be more what you might go on the dancefloor for: 'Shake it Off', or 'the Locomotion'; it should get you dancing. No one, I mused, was going to be dancing along to the Exsultet.

But then, slowly, very slowly, the Exsultet began to grow on me. I came to acknowledge that this ancient tune and words was able to carry off deeper emotions than the superficially joyful pop songs. And in the year of my friend's daughter's death, when I thought of him dealing with the depth of grief, the Exsultet was one song I was able to sing, which didn't diminish my friend's sorrow, but equally honoured the deep, ultimate joy of resurrection life. It was authentic to the message that the Church proclaims. I had begun to understand the Exsultet for what it truly was and is.

And that's the hope that will carry me through this Holy Week. Of course, there is sadness, but there's also the fact that this is a deeper joy at the heart of the universe, and that incorporates the sadness around us. Whatever stage of life you find yourself at, I hope that you will come to services and find that a part of you, a deep part of you, is touched one way or another. The services are not emotionally easy, but they carry the weight of history behind them and strength. Happy Easter to you when it comes!

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

This letter was written by The Revd Robert Stanier

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** – 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.

From April to early June, Tuesdays will be open for prayer from 6.30pm with Said Eucharist at 7pm with no exposition.

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

Triduum in the Richmond Team Ministry

Thursday 2 April

Maundy Thursday

8:00pm

Eucharist of the Last Supper

at **St John the Divine**

with footwashing. Followed by a Vigil till Midnight.

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

at **St Mary Magdalene**

followed by squash and hot cross buns

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: Bank Holidays

The Parish Office will be closed Friday 3 April and Monday 6 April.

NEW: The Week after Easter

Please note there will be no weekday Eucharist at St John's and St Mary's.

NEW: Green Team

We are looking for a volunteer or 2 to build an insect hotel in the churchyard - check out this link to see how easy it can be

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ajcOdXIXuv4&t=10s>

Sheddington in Teddington (a workshop space) are happy to help with tools and workspace and even wood.

We are also looking for donated pots/starter plants to start a small herb garden.

Please contact the Green Team (Emma Meredith emeredith@ctpa.org.uk) if you can help with either project. Thank you

NEW: Update from the Bell Project Team

The Bell Project Team is making great progress in raising funds for the new bells. The team are very grateful for the support received from all quarters – including that from some household names! Their newsletter is attached which sets out some highlights from early 2026.

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.

Updated: Electoral Roll Revision

We will continue revising the RTM's electoral roll this Sunday (5th April) and continue until Tuesday 28 April.

The St Matthias' Annual Church Meeting will be held on Sunday 3 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.

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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[Click here for St Mary Magdalene's Facebook page](#)