

Thursday 9 April 2026

Dear Friends,

This week's weather has been glorious, and all around us there are signs of new life and resurrection joy in our gardens and parks. The world around us is full of colour, the trees and shrubs greening up at last, and perfume from every kind of blossom hangs in the warm air, assaulting our senses at every turn. Richmond really does smell wonderful at this time of year – mother nature is in her Easter finery and we marvel at the way she reflects resurrection joy and gives us hope especially when the world feels cold and dark.

Earlier in the year St Matthias' churchyard had a make-over; our gardeners removed old and decaying shrubs and replaced them with new planting which will withstand the hot and dry conditions we experience at the top of Richmond Hill. Some of the plants and shrubs, like the new olive tree, have biblical connections and thrive in a Mediterranean climate, but there is one tree which stands out above all the others (literally as well as figuratively!), and that's the beautiful *Cercis Siliquastrum*, or Judas Tree. Our gardeners managed to source a wonderful specimen from a nursery in Cambridge and at the moment it is full of promise – what seemed like a dead tree just days ago is now covered in bright pink buds, ready to burst into full flower over the next few days. This is the perfect tree, not just for the Easter season, but for those of us who are part of the church community whose Patron Saint is Matthias, the disciple who replaced Judas after the resurrection, this tree and its blossom provides a hope-filled message of forgiveness and redemption. In winter long black seed pods hang down from the bare branches, a reminder of the manner in which Judas died, but in spring, at Easter time, those same bare branches are covered in lovely bright pink pea-like flowers, and when the blossom has finished the round heart-shaped leaves finally appear, speaking of love, life and new growth.

Admiring our beautiful Judas Tree at St Matthias this morning, I was reminded of a poem by **Mary Oliver**, where she speaks of the ability of trees to gently point us to resurrection joy:

When I am Among the Trees

*When I am among the trees,
especially the willows and the honey locust,
equally the beech, the oaks and the pines,
they give off such hints of gladness.
I would almost say that they save me, and daily.*

*I am so distant from the hope of myself,
in which I have goodness, and discernment,
and never hurry through the world
but walk slowly, and bow often.*

*Around me the trees stir in their leaves
and call out, "Stay awhile."
The light flows from their branches.*

*And they call again, "It's simple," they say,
"and you too have come
into the world to do this, to go easy, to be filled
with light, and to shine."*

As we journey on through this new Easter season and appreciate the sights and smells of new life all around us, I hope we can go easy and be filled with light, and shine with the joy of Resurrection glory!

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** – 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.

CHURCH NEWS:

NEW: St John's Hall

After closing for refurbishment in January, the Hall at St John the Divine reopens fully next week -- on Thursday 16 April.

We have replaced the old floor, which was in poor condition, with a beautiful new semi-sprung floor. The breeze block walls have been plaster-boarded and the walls, beams, ceilings, cupboard fronts and doors have all been redecorated in brighter colours. Old plug sockets have been replaced with new ones that include USB and USB-C charging points and new radiator covers have been installed. We hope the fresh, attractive space will continue to be enjoyed by existing bookers and will entice new hirers. For all queries about hiring the Hall please email:

bookings@richmondteamministry.org

NEW: Litter pick at St Mary's – Sunday 19 April

As our contribution to Earth Day, the Green Team will be organising a litter pick after the 9.30 am service in the churchyard - all welcome and tea, coffee and biscuits will be provided (plus hand held litter pickers).

NEW: Sunday 19 April - COME AND SING EVENSONG

Ever wanted to try singing in a church choir, but never had the chance? Join us at St Mary's for a Come and Sing Evensong to get a flavour of singing at this beautiful service.

4.15pm-5.45pm rehearsal followed by refreshments

6.30pm evensong

All music will be provided!

NEW: May Fair – Saturday 9 May - in and around SMM

We are excited to be running the May Fair as usual on the 9th May in and around St Mary Magdalene.

We will be raising money for the Richmond Soup Kitchen. In order to make this event the usual huge success, we are looking for donations of the following items:

- Books in good condition – both for adults and children
- Children's toys – used but in good condition
- Donations for the Tombola – full bottles (wine, spirits, oil, bubble bath etc), new food items (chocolates etc) unwanted gifts (new)
- Baked items (cakes, biscuits, savouries), jams, marmalades, chutneys – please list ingredients

Please bring books, toys and tombola items to church from this Sunday (note the church is also open everyday Mon- Fri from 10 – 3 and Saturday morning) and baked items either on the day before or on the day itself.

We will also be asking you all to sign up and help – there will be the usual signup sheet at the back of church. And of course, do let friends and family know all about it and invite them to support us on the day. There will be flyers available for you to take and pass on.

THANK YOU
From the Fair Committee

NEW: Another Green Team initiative

You may have noticed there are now Bra Banks in all three churches - please recycle your old bras. We are collecting old or unwanted bras to support breast cancer research, damaged bras will be recycled to prevent landfill waste, and those in better condition will be used to provide affordable clothing to developing countries. All shapes and sizes needed! Thank you

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

Electoral Roll Revision

We will continue revising the RTM's electoral roll 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](#)

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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