

Thursday 30 April 2026

Dear Friends,

What's in a name? While there are many blessings in arriving in a new congregation (and for this post, of course, it involves more than one congregation), there are many new people (also wonderful) but these people each carry names.

Nine weeks in, I'm reaching the point where it starts getting embarrassing to be asking people's names; conversely, what's *really* embarrassing is spending ten minutes addressing someone as 'Fred' when in fact they are called 'Richard'. In a sense, you can't win. So this Sunday at St Mary Magdalene at the 9.30am, we're going to have a 'name' Sunday: when they arrive, people will be invited (expected?) to write their name down on a sticky label and put that on their clothing for the service and for coffee and tea afterwards. I am hoping not just that this will help me out, but that it may also help out people who've been sitting on the same pew for the last four years, but realise they lost each other's names some time in 2024 and haven't yet had the courage to ask again.

In a sense, having someone's name is a sign that you care for them enough to enter into a relationship with them. It's not the only thing but there's something in it; as it says in Isaiah, "I call you by name; you are mine."

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** - Sarah Pryce, Georgina Merchant, Gerald Fearn, Julie Burman, Christa Browne, Irene Chalmers, Sabine Staton, Rebecca Fitzjohn

... **the departed, may they rest in peace** – Peter O'Toole

*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.

**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 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 4pm, 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:

**Any good bakers out there? And does anyone fancy working with our Bishop?**

**NEW: Early May Bank Holiday**

The Parish Office will be closed on Monday 4 May.

**NEW: CHRISTIAN AID WEEK**

Christian Aid Week this year runs officially from Sunday 10 to Saturday 16 May. It has been suggested we have special Church collections on Sunday 17 as a lot of our energies and £s in Richmond will be directed to May Fair earlier.

A licence has been applied for by the coordinator of the local ecumenical group to allow collecting in George Street, the Quadrant, Kew Road and the Station during Christian Aid Week. Envelopes and publicity have been ordered.

Bella Hobson is liaising with other churches and intends to be out with a collecting tin on Saturday 16 p.m. at least. (after the recital which will be held at St MM at 12.30.) Would anyone be free that morning? If so, you could collect labelled 'tins' and tabards from the Church as Bella is on welcoming duty 10 to 12 that day. If you can help that day or at other times please get in touch with her

[bella.hobson@gmail.com](mailto:bella.hobson@gmail.com)

Bella had given her contact details to the charity when she went on the Christian Aid walk last Autumn. Please put this year's date in your diaries Saturday 26th September. It is fun walking in our lovely area raising money for those less fortunate, setting off from St Matthias and finishing at St Anne's Kew via Ham along the riverside with refreshments kindly offered at start, finish and en route.

It would be good if there were volunteers from our three churches who could assist with fundraising for this Charity in May and at other times. Bella is happy to act as link, but it would be helpful to work with those who have more administrative and technical skills!

**NEW: The APCM at St Mary Magdalene – Sunday 17 May 18:30pm**

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting will take place on the evening of Sunday 17 May at St Mary Magdalene, beginning with a Team Service of Choral Evensong at 18:30pm with the Meeting beginning afterwards.

**Celebrating Mike's 95th birthday at St Mary Magdalene**

CHAMPAGNE & CAKE for everyone after the 9.30am service on Sunday 3 May at 11.00 in church to celebrate the 95th (!) birthday of my darling husband Mike (Michael Carleton-Smith). All welcome.

Penny x

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

Next week St Mary's welcomes world-renowned baritone Roderick Williams and pianist Christopher Glynn to the series for a sumptuous programme of English song. These are major artists performing on your doorstep. Absolutely NOT TO BE MISSED! Tickets available on Eventbrite (search "Richmond Piano Series")

**May Fair – Saturday 9 May - in and around SMM**

We are excited to be running the May Fair as usual on the Saturday 9 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.

Please sign up to help on the day at one of the SMM stalls - rota at the back of church - just an hour would be really helpful!

URGENTLY seeking Gazebos for the May Fair - if anyone has one they would be prepared to lend for the day please can they contact Jo - [johanna\\_kitson@hotmail.com](mailto:johanna_kitson@hotmail.com)

THANK YOU  
From the Fair Committee

## **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 Kelsey](#) - St John the Divine

Or, [contact the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor](#)

## **Diocesan News:**

### **NEW: Digital Storyteller Intern**

Bishop Martin is looking for a paid Digital Storyteller Intern to work with him over the summer (to the end of July). If interested, please contact John Palmer ([admin@richmondteamministry.org](mailto:admin@richmondteamministry.org)) for the job description.

Those wishing to apply should send a one-page CV and a 250-word statement indicating how they might be suitable to [Hannah.Nightingale@southwark.anglican.org](mailto:Hannah.Nightingale@southwark.anglican.org) by the closing date of 8 May. Interviews will follow soon after.

## **Community News:**

### **NEW: Can you bake for Open Gardens day?**

Sunday 17 May – 16 private gardens in Richmond will be open to the public to raise money for charity, including the Richmond Soup Kitchen. Teas will be served at St Matthias, and donations of home-made cakes will be very welcome. The best for sales are the 'old-fashioned' varieties such as coffee, carrot, lemon drizzle, Victoria sponge and chocolate but we are grateful for all donations. Please bring them to St Matthias from 11am on 17 May, and also please tell us in advance so we can send you a form for ingredients and allergens.

Tickets (£12.50 in advance, £15 on the day) are available from

<https://www.richmondhillopengardens.org/>

### **NEW: Seen is recruiting**

SEEN is a local charity in Twickenham and is currently looking to recruit an Events Planner for 5 hours per week. SEEN provide a safe space to support those facing unplanned pregnancy and baby loss, and we deliver healthy relationship education to empower and nurture our community. We have over 27 volunteers and more in training. We are looking for someone proactive and organised to develop and deliver high-quality events that raise awareness of our charity. If anyone is interested, please contact John Palmer ([admin@richmondteamministry.org](mailto:admin@richmondteamministry.org)) for the job spec.

### **Day Retreat Wednesday 6 May, 9.30am to 5pm**

Join us for a time of reflection in Kew Gardens and St Anne's Church, ending with Choral Evensong.

With Dr Martin Hodson plant scientist & environmental biologist & Revd Margot Hodson vicar & environmental theologian. Tickets available (£10) from [www.kewtheologyandgardening.org.uk](http://www.kewtheologyandgardening.org.uk)

### **Trustee vacancies for The Leprosy Mission Great Britain**

The Leprosy Mission are seeking to appoint five Trustees. More details can be found [here](#)  
Closing date is Wednesday 13 May.

With best wishes,  
John  
Parish Administrator

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020 8940 0362  
Richmond Team Ministry  
St Mary Magdalene • St Matthias • St John the Divine  
[www.richmondteamministry.org](http://www.richmondteamministry.org)  
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