

Thursday 21 May 2026

Dear Friends,

Last Sunday, the ringers of St Mary Magdalene made an attempt at what is called a 'full peal'. A successful full peal requires over 5,000 changes in pattern with no repetitions and takes over three hours; it's a mental and physical challenge akin to running a marathon. Sadly, this one wasn't a successful attempt. Starting at one o'clock, things began to go wrong just after two o'clock and it was not recoverable; the peal was lost at that stage.

Not many of us will have even attempted this particular feat, but most of us will have tried to do something that has gone wrong, or just hasn't been achieved. I imagine among the readers of this newsletter there will be quite a few half-finished novels, failed job applications, and unrealised ambitions; on the heavier end of things, there will even be a few unsuccessful marriages, bankruptcies, and more. But the feeling of disappointment can be disproportionate to the importance of the event. I have one friend who put himself forward to appear on TV's 'The Weakest Link' quietly thinking that he was almost certain to do well and would have a good chance of winning, and in fact he was the first to get three answers wrong and was sent home. It took him by surprise how scarred he was by the experience.

I suppose the key is to know ourselves, and keep trying enough new things to be stretching ourselves without setting ourselves so many improbable tasks that we get overwhelmed by failure. A lesser known verse of the Bible is this one, describing Jesus in his home town of Nazareth: "And he could do no mighty work there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and healed them."

(Mark 6.5)

It didn't stop him from going on, but sometimes it can be a comfort to think of Jesus experiencing an inability to do something. It's just the way of things.

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, Derrion Davidstone

If you would like your own name added, simply [email the parish office](mailto:richmondprayerrequest@gmail.com).

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: [richmondprayerrequest@gmail.com](mailto:richmondprayerrequest@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:

**This long weekend we celebrate Pentecost and, by all accounts, some decent weather. Be sure to check out the special offer on the next Richmond Piano Series concert.**

### **NEW: Pentecost**

This Sunday is Pentecost. Robert will be away from St Mary Magdalene on annual leave. The president and preacher at both the 8am and 9.30am service will be the Reverend Sylvie Collins-Mayo, who is also a professor in sociology at Kingston University. At 6.30pm, the officiant at Evensong will be the Reverend Derrick Thompson, chaplain at the Almshouses.

## **NEW: Late May Bank Holiday**

The Parish Office will be closed on Monday 25 May.

## **Peter O'Toole's funeral service at St Mary Magdalene**

Peter's funeral has been arranged for Thursday 28 May at 11.30am at St Mary Magdalene. Ruth Martin will be taking the service. All are welcome. There will be refreshments in the church after the service.

## **Richmond Piano Series @ St Mary's - Sunday 7 June 3pm - JOSEPH SHINER and KEVAL SHAH**

**\*\*\*SPECIAL RTM OFFER\*\*\* £10 tickets - use discount code "RTM"**

Buy tickets below, or speak to Seb

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/richmond-piano-series-joseph-shiner-keval-shah-tickets-1980038150409?aff=oddtcreator>

## **ST ALBANS PILGRIMAGE - Saturday 20 June**

Rev'd Anne will once again be leading a group from our Team's churches on Pilgrimage to St Albans. Each year, thousands journey to the city of St Albans to honour a story that took place 1700 years ago and continues to inspire Christians all across the world today. The city comes to a standstill as the story of St Alban, Britain's first Christian martyr, is retold through a vibrant procession of giant puppets which weave their way through the city's streets to the ancient Cathedral built on the hillside above the old Roman city of Verulamium. As the story comes to a close, pilgrims make their way in to the Cathedral for a festival Eucharist – the guest preacher this year will be Ruth Dearnley OBE. Ruth is former CEO of Stop the Traffik, the global anti-human trafficking charity she helped to establish in 2008. After a break for lunch (picnic on the Abbey orchard, or in one of St Albans many pubs and restaurants) we will gather for the festal Evensong, sung by the Cathedral choir, followed by procession to the rose-filled shrine of St Alban. We will travel to St Albans by train, an easy journey from Richmond which takes about 45 minutes. If you would like to join Anne on 20<sup>th</sup> June then please email to register your interest [anne.crawford@richmondteamministry.org](mailto:anne.crawford@richmondteamministry.org) More details to follow.

## **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:

### **Invitation to the Leading Your Church into Growth Conference 2026 11-12 September, St John Walworth**

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

I am delighted to invite you to this year's Southwark Diocesan Leading Your Church into Growth Conference — a practical and hope-filled opportunity for us to gather as the people of God and reflect on how we may faithfully nurture growth in our parishes.

This year, we are pleased to offer the conference at a significantly discounted cost compared with last year - £65 for both days - in the hope that as many as possible will be able to attend.

Across our diocese, we continue to give thanks for the rich diversity of our communities and for all who labour generously for the Gospel. Parish life flourishes best when clergy, lay leaders and congregations work together for the Kingdom - and this conference offers a valuable space to learn, to pray, and discern together. It's designed to help leaders grow in confidence and strategic thinking as we seek to see our churches flourish in Christ's name.

The programme will encourage you to think afresh, to pray deeply, and to act boldly. Whether your parish is large or small, rural or urban, you are warmly invited to attend — either with your leadership team or on your own. All who are passionate about mission and the life of the Church will find this gathering inspiring and practical.

In particular, the conference offers an opportunity to...

- Learn from experienced church leaders and practitioners
- Explore practical strategies and tools for numerical and spiritual growth
- Be refreshed and encouraged in your ministry
- Connect with others across our diocese who share a heart for mission

Participants in last year's conference reported a significant impact on their ministry, with 89% saying they left with an achievable plan for growth and more than a third feeling inspired to start a new worshipping community. This conference is a wonderful opportunity to think, pray, and plan for the growth of Christ's Church together. I commend it to you warmly.

#### Details

Dates: Friday 11 September & Saturday 12 September. Followed by 3 online sessions to check on progress and encourage each other – dates to be confirmed.

Location: St John Walworth Centre, SE17 1NQ

Refreshments will be provided, but please bring your own lunch.

Spaces are limited, and I encourage you to secure your place soon. Please feel free to share this invitation with others in your parish or network who may benefit from attending.

[You can find more details and book online here.](#)

With my prayers and good wishes,

*The Bishop of Southwark, The Rt Revd Christopher Chessun*

## Community News:

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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