

Thursday 28 May 2026

Dear Friends,

With a sigh of relief (for clergy anyway, although I may be speaking just for myself here!), the Church has now entered what's called 'Ordinary Time'. From the day after Pentecost, through the long months of the summer until the eve of All Saints Day we settle in to a more sedate phase of the Church's year when the focus is on spiritual growth, faith development and following Jesus in our daily living as best we can. And as the season is one of growth the liturgical colour – the colour of our vestments, our altar frontals and pulpit falls etc - is green, the colour of hope, life and renewal. There are no major festivals during this green season, we are left to simply settle into the daily rhythm of life, and notice where God is in the ordinary and everyday.

And lest you might be tempted to think that 'ordinary' means boring I would encourage you to have a look at the people who populate the Church's lectionary this first week of Ordinary Time, and explore their stories – ordinary people called by God to do extra-ordinary things, ordinary people enabled by the Spirit to live out their own particular calling in ways which bring all of us closer to Jesus and help us to realise our own extra-ordinary uniqueness in the process. For example, on Saturday the Church remembers a man I'm ashamed to admit I hadn't come across before, until I saw his name appear beside two more famous witnesses remembered on the same day - Joan of Arc and Josephine Butler - and decided to investigate. And I am glad I did. Apolo Kivebulaya is not a name which trips off the tongue in church circles, and yet his story is far from ordinary. Apolo was born in 1865 in Uganda. Despite being raised a Muslim he converted to Christianity and was baptised as an adult when he was 30 years old. He joined a missionary society and was sent to work in Belgian-controlled Congo, and despite the difficulties and dangers in that region of central Africa his ministry grew and people were drawn to Christ through his ability to make the gospel relevant and life-affirming. After a spell in prison after being wrongly accused of murder, he continued his ministry in Uganda, encouraging the translation of the bible into local languages and encouraging communities to care for infants and deserted women, and creating opportunities for education and better health provision. Apolo was ordained a deacon in the Anglican Church of Uganda in 1900 and priested in 1903, and often acted as an intermediary between European missionaries and African congregations. Eventually he was allowed to return to Congo and rebuild his ministry there, eventually founding the Anglican Church of the Congo. He died on 30th May in 1933, which is why he is remembered in our Church Lectionary on Saturday, the day when the whole Anglican community around the world will join us in giving thanks for his devotion, courage and witness to Christ.

I hope Apolo's story inspires you to see Ordinary Time as an opportunity to grow in faith, to learn more about the lesser-known heroes of our Anglican Church, and to be encouraged by their extra-ordinary stories.

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

... **the departed, may they rest in peace** – Derrion Davidstone

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 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:

Be sure to book on to the St Albans Pilgrimage next month!

NEW: Team Talk

The latest edition of Team Talk is now available at the back of church or [online by clicking here](#).

NEW: New curate: Anne O'Neil

This summer, I am delighted to say that a new curate will be joining Richmond Team. Her name is Anne O'Neil. Initially, she will be working three days a week in the parish, until she completes a piece of research for the diocese about the nature of vocations to the Church of England. This will largely be completed by December 2026 and from next June, she will be full time in the parish. While Robert will be her training incumbent and she will be mainly based at St Mary Magdalene, especially during her first year, it is anticipated that she will be able to work across the team in different ways especially in her second and third years. She will be ordained deacon at Southwark Cathedral on Sat 27th June and her first Sunday at St Mary Magdalene will be on Sun 28th June. Initially, her main parish days will be Tuesdays and Wednesdays, during the week. Anne grew up by the sea in County Durham, coming to London after university. She gained a business degree and went on to be a management consultant advising on projects around the world. She did postgraduate study in 19th century literature and has a love of poetry and art. Anne has two wonderful teenage sons. She used to compete in martial arts but now enjoys running and hiking, cheese sandwiches and persuading her children to run up hills. Anne lives in Teddington with her children.

NEW: Churches Count on Nature at St Mary's

Sunday 7 June after the 9.30 service - Churches Count on Nature - this involves exploring and recording the plant and animal life living within churchyards to help shed light on which plant and animal species are thriving and which may need more support. We would love as many volunteers as possible to come and help record all the animal and plants we can find in our churchyard. It doesn't matter if you are not an expert – because of course there is an app we can all download and use but there are also paper recording methods too. Please sign up to help the GREEN Team survey our beautiful churchyard. Contact Jo Kitson Johanna_kitson@hotmail.com who will also help you install the app

NEW: HR (Human Resources) Committee

For a while we've been thinking that there are various things into which a HR Committee could be good: for example, keeping certain policies up to date, thinking through job descriptions and also processes at the parish office. While the PCC agreed to create a HR Committee and even found a chair for the committee (Faye Johnstone), we haven't been able yet to 'populate' that committee with people, who could support Faye in her work. If you have a sense of calling to do some more for the church and you have some experience in HR or you have a feeling that you would have something to contribute here, please contact the Team Rector rector@richmondteamministry.org and he'll pass your name on to Faye, who will be in touch.

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>

NEW: Friday 5 June, 2pm-5.30pm - Chamber Music Masterclass at St Mary's

Ahead of his recital on Sunday 7 June, Keval Shah is giving a masterclass at St Mary's to chamber musicians from the Royal Academy of Music and Royal College of Music. The event is open and free to everyone to watch (you don't have to stay for the whole event), and refreshments will be served afterwards.

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 20th June then please email to register your interest 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:

Community News:

NEW: People's Emergency Briefing – Film screening and discussion

Location: The Exchange, 75 London Road, Twickenham, TW1 1BE

Date: Thursday 18 June

Time: 7:00-9:00pm

Booking link:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/peoples-emergency-briefing-twickenham-tickets-1986654519146?aff=oddtcreator>

The film features footage from last November's National Emergency Briefing, bringing together leading UK experts in climate science, food security, health, economics, national security and nature.

It presents a calm, evidence-based overview of how the climate and nature crisis is affecting everyday life in Britain - and what the science says about risks and responses.

The initiative is explicitly non-partisan and supported by a wide range of organisations, including the Church of England, National Trust, WWF, the Royal Meteorological Society and many others. Faith communities have long traditions of stewardship, care for the vulnerable, and intergenerational responsibility. We believe this is an important moment for thoughtful, compassionate local dialogue.

Following the 45-minute film, there will be a structured discussion about what this means for our community.

Tickets are free but places are limited.

With best wishes,
John
Parish Administrator

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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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