

Thursday 4 June 2026

Dear Friends,

One of the intriguing things about former SNP leader Peter Murrell's case is the frequency and extensiveness of the corruption.

On one level the thing that stands out are the big ticket items, such as the £112,000 that he splurged on a motor home (which has weirdly never since been used) and £50,000 on a Jaguar sports car, but thinking more about it, I have become intrigued by the little things; there were 383 purchases on Amazon using his SNP charge card, and 627 items in all. Pen pots, writing folders, commemorative coins, pasta bowls, cappuccino mugs, moccasins, toilet seats, collar shirts, chop sticks, computer games, corkscrews, watering cans, hand cream... nothing is too small, and there seems no pattern to it, albeit he had a real penchant for niche cookery items.

When, if ever, did it occur to him that he might be doing something wrong? For he wasn't just buying on a charge card; he was also mislabelling things in order to put auditors off the scent: in buying a £23.98 egg poacher set, he listed it under the charge code, 'ethernet cabling'. Is it that it was a form of mental illness: like people who compulsively shoplift, even though they have what they need? Is it an online corporate version of that? But it wasn't *obviously* an illness: he was operating at an incredibly high level in Scottish politics.

I wonder if the key moment was the *first* time he used the charge card inappropriately. The evidence from people doing other kinds of cheating, for example cycling drugs cheats, is that once the pattern is established, it does not seem to them to be wrong anymore and it all blurs together, but they *can* later remember the *first* time they took performance enhancing drugs very clearly and what lay behind that particular decision. After the first or perhaps second time, the self-justification has already been set and they don't ask themselves the question.

I doubt if any of us have committed crimes along the same lines as Burrell, but, in 'the devices and desires of our hearts', are there other sins that we have stopped even counting as sins, so imbedded are they in the pattern of our lives? Things that we once grappled with the morality of, yet have since learned to overlook, but which, actually, we should examine again. Burrell's case can perhaps act as a warning to us to re-examine habitual but possibly unhealthy parts of our lives.

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**

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:

**We look forward to welcoming our new curate Anne at the end of this month**

### **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 27<sup>th</sup> June and her first Sunday at St Mary Magdalene will be on Sun 28<sup>th</sup> 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: Update on the bells at St Mary's**

Work on the bell restoration project will be starting very soon.

On Friday 5 June, the dial rod which connects the church clock to the clock faces on the external walls of the Tower will be disconnected to enable the removal of the bells.

The clock will remain stilled until after the bells have returned later this year.

The following week, the trap doors on each floor of the tower will be removed and the bell hangers will attend on June 22 to begin removing the bells.

The bells will temporarily be stored in the church to allow the opportunity for people to see them before they are taken to the bellhanger on June 29.

Our tower captain, Jackie and any of the ringers will be very happy to answer any questions: [jackieph456@gmail.com](mailto:jackieph456@gmail.com)

### **Team Talk**

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

### **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](mailto:Johanna_kitson@hotmail.com) who will also help you install the app

### **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](mailto:rector@richmondteamministry.org) and he'll pass your name on to Faye, who will be in touch.

### **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>

### **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 into 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:**

### **Community News:**

#### **NEW: Do you have a spare room?**

Do you have a spare room and would you like a paying guest for a week later this month?

An actress appearing in Barnum at Richmond Theatre from 23-27 June needs somewhere local to stay for a period of time slightly longer than those dates.

If you are interested, in the first instance please contact Trish on 07980 439 298. Thank you.

## 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

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](http://www.richmondteamministry.org)

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