

Thursday 11 June 2026

Dear Friends,

Today, 11th June, is the Feast of St Barnabas, one of the great saints of the early Church. Barnabas is remembered not because he sought the spotlight, but because he encouraged others to flourish. His name means “son of encouragement”, and throughout the Acts of the Apostles we find him building bridges, drawing people together, and helping the Church discover that God’s love is wider than many had imagined.

That ministry of encouragement feels especially important in our own time.

Recently I had the privilege of spending some time on sabbatical in the United States, a period that offered space for prayer, reflection, and renewal, for which I am very grateful. Part of that time was spent in New York City where I stayed in the rectory building of St John’s in the Village, an Episcopal church on Waverly Place in the West Village. The church stands just around the corner from the Stonewall Inn, the site of the 1969 Stonewall uprising, often regarded as the birthplace of the modern LGBTQ+ liberation movement.

As I learned more about the history of the parish, I discovered that St John’s became known as a place of refuge and safety for many LGBTQ+ people at a time when such welcome could not always be taken for granted. I found myself reflecting on the Church’s calling to be a place of sanctuary, compassion, and hope for all God’s people. As we now find ourselves in June, Pride Month offers an opportunity to give thanks for the gifts and contributions of LGBTQ+ people, while also reflecting on the continuing work of building communities where every person knows themselves to be valued, respected, and loved. As Christians, we believe that every person is created in the image and likeness of God and is infinitely loved by God. In an often divided world, the Church is called to be a sign of God’s kingdom, where all may know themselves to be welcomed, cherished, and embraced by divine love.

During my travels I also visited Atlanta, Georgia, where I spent time at the grave of the Revd Dr Martin Luther King Jr. Standing there, I was reminded of King’s extraordinary Christian witness and of the Civil Rights Movement’s struggle for racial justice and equality. King famously said, “*We must learn to live together as brothers or perish together as fools.*” Written in the language of its time, the challenge remains as urgent as ever. We might hear it today as a call for all people - sisters and brothers alike - to recognise our shared humanity and our common responsibility to build a more just and compassionate world. King’s words find an echo in St Paul’s teaching that “*There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus*” (Galatians 3.28). The Gospel does not require us to deny our differences, but it does proclaim that our deepest identity is found in Christ, and that every human being possesses a God-given dignity that must be honoured and protected.

The connections between these experiences were striking. Whether reflecting on the struggle for racial justice in the American South or the struggle for LGBTQ+ equality in New York, I found myself thinking about the Church’s calling to be a place where barriers are overcome, wounds are healed, and people are welcomed into the embrace of God’s love.

St Barnabas knew something about that calling. When others were suspicious of Saul, the future St Paul, Barnabas welcomed him and vouched for him. When the early Church wrestled with questions of belonging and inclusion, Barnabas helped people recognise that God was already at work beyond the boundaries they had previously imagined. Again and again, he chose encouragement over exclusion, relationship over suspicion, and hope over fear.

The Church has always been at its best when it has followed that example. We are called not simply to preserve what we have inherited, but to discern where God is at work today and to join in God’s mission of reconciliation and renewal. That does not mean agreeing on everything, but it does mean committing ourselves to the difficult and holy work of listening, learning, and loving one

another as Christ has loved us. As we continue in our common life together may we be inspired by Barnabas's example. May we be encouragers of one another. May we be people who build bridges rather than walls, who listen before we judge, and who seek to recognise Christ in those whose experiences may differ from our own. And may we discover afresh that the God who calls us together is always larger, more gracious, and more loving than we can ever fully comprehend.

With prayers and blessings from the Richmond clergy team,
Robert, Anne and Joe

This letter was written by The Revd Joe Moore

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** – Jean Hodgson

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:

Today we celebrate the Feast of St Barnabas and the start of the World Cup!

NEW: Our new curate

Anne O'Neil the new curate's first Sunday will be on Sun 28th June. Her first service will be at the 9.30am service at St Mary Magdalene. This will be followed by welcome drinks and nibbles and will be another 'Sticker Sunday' at St Mary's, where we'll be asking people who come to write their names on stickers, in order to make life easier for her to learn names. It'll also help the rest of us who just might not quite remember all the names we'd like to have remembered to get a little reminder.

Then, everyone in the team, St Mary Magdalene, St Matthias and all are invited to St John the Divine for a bring and share lunch, at St John's, which will start *after* their service is finished, so around 12.15pm. Do bring your preferred food that you'd like to share: ham sandwiches, sausage rolls, subtly textured quiches, potato salad, caviar, crab, or even custard creams to St John's, for that date. If you're able to contribute, please use the sign-up sheets at the back of church. And if you can't bring anything but would like to help, doing the washing up at the end of lunch would be a very valid way to do that. Looking forward to it.

In the meantime, do pray for Anne. Her ordination service will take place at Southwark cathedral on Saturday 27th June.

NEW: Vicarage moving date

The vicar is set to move into the new vicarage on Mount Ararat Road on Tuesday 30th June. Before that, various bits of electrical work are being done on the house, so don't be surprised if you see workmen coming in and out of the house, if you're walking past over the next fortnight or so.

NEW: We need your Children's Christian Books!

We're refreshing the children's space at St Mary's and we need your help! Many of us fondly remember reading books about parables, miracles, the adventure stories of the bible, and books with a clear moral and ethical compass, based on Christian values. Please look on your bookcases - can you share and spare pre-loved Christian books to capture the imagination of our children? Please bring donations (in good condition) to St Mary's at any time; books for teenagers and

financial donations also welcome for us to complete our library and make it an attractive place for all.

Thank you

NEW: Friday 3 July, 7.30pm - Richmond Piano Series: Adam Heron

The series continues with a recital given by the outstanding young pianist and composer Adam Heron. Adam will play the music of Chopin, Beethoven, Handel, William Bolcombe, as well as some of his own compositions. Tickets available at Eventbrite or speak to Seb.

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

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 festival 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

A few years ago, we introduced the Parish Giving Scheme (PGS). Many thanks to those of you have joined the scheme. This helps us enormously by reducing the amount of administration and significantly improving our cashflow. If you are still making regular donations by standing order, envelope or GiveALittle, please do switch to PGS if you are able to:

parishgiving.org.uk/donors/find-your-parish/richmond-team-ministry-richmond

If you have any questions, please [contact Jackie Harrison](mailto:contact@richmondteamministry.org)

(stewardshipcoordinator@richmondteamministry.org) 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](mailto:Jo.Kitson@richmondteamministry.org) - St Mary Magdalene

07880 500528

[Gertrude Seaborne](mailto:Gertrude.Seaborne@richmondteamministry.org) - St Matthias

[Helen Kelsey](mailto:Helen.Kelsey@richmondteamministry.org) - St John the Divine

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

Diocesan News:

Community News:

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.

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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