

Thursday 18 June 2026

Dear Friends,

In nine days' time, Anne O'Neil will be ordained in Southwark Cathedral. It will be twenty years, pretty much to the day, since this happened to me, so being present for it will probably trigger a few memories.

Curiously enough, Anne herself is currently involved in a research project for the national church about the nature of vocations in terms of who offers themselves for ordained ministry and why they do so. It has thrown up some interesting things. For example, there are 365 churches in Southwark Diocese, but just 14 churches produce 25% of all our ordained vocations. On the one hand, a sense of vocation is clearly an individual thing, but this shows that there are some church cultures where considering this is more intuitive than others.

Being new, I don't know when the last time was when someone from one of the churches from the Richmond Team went into ordained ministry; perhaps, someone can tell me over the weekend. Is it something you have considered for yourself? If not, is it something that you think someone else in the congregation should be doing? If so, why?

At other periods in church history, the vocations process has been different. In Augustine's time (in 4<sup>th</sup> Century north Africa), congregations made their mind up and then more or less forced individuals into it. In one of his letters, Augustine has to consider whether the ordination was valid when the candidate had had to be pinned in his chair to accept the laying on of hands. Was it overcoming a humble reluctance (and a sign of authentic vocation) or was it a form of assault? I wouldn't want to return to those days, but I do wonder if we don't miss out on the wisdom of congregations a little, in our current process.

Imagine Joe, Anne and I were not here one weekend, and Anne (O'Neil) hadn't arrived yet, and yet you still wanted a eucharist to happen, who would you ask to say the words of consecration? What quality is it about them that you feel would make it right for them to do it? (And then, have you ever told them about the quality that you've sensed in them?)

The Church doesn't need loads of priests, and it is a vocation (let's be honest) that is somewhat peculiar, but we need more than we currently have. I hope you'll think about it for yourself, or mention it to someone you know.

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** – 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](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.

**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:

**Sadly we've had to cancel the St Albans Pilgrimage**

### **NEW: THIS Saturday 20 June, 12.30pm - The Choir of St Mary Magdalene**

The choir of St Mary Magdalene present a recital of choral music as part of the lunchtime series at St Mary's. Free entry with a retiring collection.

### **NEW: St Albans Pilgrimage – cancelled**

Due to train issues this will not be going ahead on Saturday 20 June. Revd Anne is exploring alternative dates. Please contact her if you are interested in attending – [anne.crawford@richmondteamministry.org](mailto:anne.crawford@richmondteamministry.org)

### **NEW: Bells Update at St Mary's**

Our old bells have been removed from the tower and will be in the church from 22nd June - do come and check them out. We will also be selling the old wheels and the old clappers which make fabulous and unusual garden features on the morning of 29th June. If you would like to make an offer before then please contact Jackie Harrison - [jackieph456@gmail.com](mailto:jackieph456@gmail.com)

### **NEW: Clean Air Day – Thursday 18 June**

This campaign aims to reduce air pollution. We at RTM can support this campaign by walking, biking, taking the bus or sharing lifts to church this Sunday - let's hope it's not raining!

### **Our new curate**

Anne O'Neil the new curate's first Sunday will be on Sun 28<sup>th</sup> 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 27<sup>th</sup> June.

### **Vicarage moving date**

The vicar is set to move into the new vicarage on Mount Ararat Road on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> 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.

### **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

### **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.

### **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](http://parishgiving.org.uk/donors/find-your-parish/richmond-team-ministry-richmond)

If you have any questions, please [contact Jackie Harrison](#)

([stewardshipcoordinator@richmondteamministry.org](mailto: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](#) - St Mary Magdalene

07880 500528

[Gertrude Seaborne](#) - St Matthias

[Helen Kelsey](#) - St John the Divine

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

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)

Registered Charity No 1130018

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