

Wednesday 1 July 2026

Dear Friends,

So I'm now living in Richmond. We moved on Tuesday, and my family, my dog and more boxes than you can possibly imagine are now resident in Mount Ararat Road; the boxes are stacked up at the side of the lounge where they stand magnificent, intimidating and impregnable as the walls of Troy.

I find it almost embarrassing to contemplate quite how many possessions we must have accrued: every week before a Book of Common prayer communion service, I will read out to a congregation: "Lay not up for yourself treasure upon earth, where rust and moth can corrupt and thieves break through and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where rust and moth do not corrupt and thieves cannot break through and steal." How is it that I who preach this so often can have acquired quite as many things as exist in these boxes?

On a practical level, there are some immediate issues; one of the boxes contains my socks, but which one is it? How far down the boxes on the wall will I have to dig to locate them?

But more to the point, it's sobering to see the sheer footprint of possessions we have generated over time, yet I suspect we are not the only ones. Some are perfectly reasonable – the air fryer we bought last year is now a highly valuable item in the household – but others are things you wonder about; you pick them out of the box and wonder whether they really played a sufficiently significant part in our lives for us to keep them and transport them from Surbiton.

Even so, it's a delight now to be living in Richmond. I am looking forward to discovering life here in a deeper and richer way. I look forward to seeing you around.

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

This letter was written by The Revd Robert Stanier

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 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.

St Mary Magdalene's Sunday services are at 8.00am, 9.30am, and 6.30pm. (On Sun 12th July, there is a special service for families with young children and the main service is at 10.30am: see below.)

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

Pilgrimage Visit to St Albans Cathedral

Hello everyone

There was great disappointment that this year's trip to the Alban Pilgrimage had to be cancelled due to railway engineering works putting a stop to trains operating to St Albans from London on Saturday. However I have been in touch with the Cathedral and am delighted to say that they are able to accommodate a mini tailor-made pilgrimage for us on Friday 24th July – not quite the same as the all-singing-all-dancing affair we are used to, but I can promise that it will be awesome and a brilliant way to get to know more about St Alban, and the Christian community which has worshipped on this sight since Roman times.

We have the option of a guided tour exploring the Cathedral as a place of pilgrimage in the morning of our visit, and then after lunch a guide will lead us through this ancient building looking

at mediaeval graffiti and some of the wall paintings. I'm hoping we will be able to join a midday Eucharist at the Shrine of St Alban, and there is also the option of evensong at the end of the day (although the cathedral choir will be on holiday so this will probably be said rather than sung). Lunch can be taken either in the Cathedral refectory, or in one of the nearby pubs or cafes (there are plenty to choose from). Or you might prefer a sandwich from M&S and a picnic in the Cathedral vintry.

If you would like to join me on this visit then please email to let me know (anne.craford@richmondteamministry.org) so that I can firm up numbers with the Cathedral in good time. We will travel by train (overground and then Thameslink from West Hampstead – about 45 mins in total), leaving Richmond at 9am to benefit from cheaper fares.

I am hoping to re-start our monthly Friday morning Reflective Walks again in Sept. Please keep an eye on the weekly newsletter for more info and dates.

With every blessing,

Anne

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

The series continues this Friday 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.

12th July: Sea Sunday and change in times of morning services at St Mary Magdalene

As has happened each year, the Sea Cadets will be joining the congregation of St Mary Magdalene, but to accommodate them and the various dignitaries, we will be starting at 10.30am, not 9.30am. This gives the opportunity for a special extra service for young ones.

12th July: 9.15am Short, informal service for families with young children

We'll be launching a pilot for a service for families with young children: a Bible story, songs with an action song and a time of prayer. Will last half an hour. Excellent for wriggly and restless toddlers (and their parents or carers). We'd love you to join us: good for children up to the age of ten, and their parents or carers.

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@jackieharrison.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](#) - St Mary Magdalene

07880 500528

[Gertrude Seaborne](#) - St Matthias

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

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

DIOCESAN NEWS:

A message from Bishop Christopher

Historic adoption practices
18 June 2026

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

I am writing to inform you about an apology issued today for the Church of England's role in historical adoption practices. As you may be aware, a number of mother and baby homes, or similar, were overseen by diocesan moral welfare councils as part of a wider network of provision for unmarried mothers and babies, particularly in the years between 1949 and 1976. There has been growing awareness in recent years of practices within these homes and their outcomes for mothers and their babies.

Further information on the research and apology, and support, is available here:
www.churchofengland.org/adoption

The Church of England played a significant role as part of a wider system shaped by social attitudes and legislation which often stigmatised unmarried mothers. The apology reflects the deep sorrow felt by senior church leaders for the pain, trauma and stigma experienced - and still carried – by many people affected. Whilst the policy of the Church of England's Moral Welfare Council was to encourage mothers and babies to be kept together where possible, we recognise that this guidance was not always upheld in practice within individual homes. Some mothers have described harsh and unkind treatment whilst resident in Church of England-affiliated homes, while others were not given a meaningful choice about whether to keep their baby.

I recognise the impact this may have on people living in your community, now and in the future. It's likely that the number of mothers and babies connected to Church of England-affiliated homes is in the tens of thousands during the period covered by the research (1949 to 1976). However, because of the nature of the records that still exist, it is difficult to verify information from that period. Southwark Diocese has been able to identify up to 20 mother and baby homes that may have been connected in some way to the diocese. These are listed on a dedicated page on our diocesan website, which also highlights further sources of information and support for those affected.

While the number of those affected is unknown, some people in our congregations and parishes may have been affected in some way - as mothers, adoptees, or perhaps as those who were employed in the homes. For some, this may be a wish to tell their stories and be heard by their clergy or church family. For others, there may be a need for more specialist support. We encourage you to signpost people to the support services listed on our website, or, where appropriate, to diocesan safeguarding colleagues.

I recognise that this is a complex and wide-ranging history that may affect you also - and that people have had very different experiences of this system. The apology does not seek to make a blanket judgement on everyone involved, nor the motivations of those who worked and cared for others at the time, including those who worked in the homes and adoptive families.

I am very grateful that Mother Joyce Forbes has offered to be available as a listening ear for those who are affected. She worked as a social worker for many years and was also a magistrate on the family bench – and so is very familiar with the issues involved. She can be contacted via historicadoption@southwark.anglican.org.

Please be assured of my prayers and together let us pray:

*Loving God,
you hear the cry of the afflicted and gather the outcast.
Look with mercy on all whose lives
have suffered rejection, loss, or neglect.
Bind up the wounds of the broken-hearted,
assure them of your love,
and grant us grace to walk in the way of your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.*

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Christopher Southwark". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

The Bishop of Southwark, The Rt Revd Christopher Chessun

COMMUNITY NEWS:

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/>

TO UNSUBSCRIBE FROM THIS EMAIL LIST, [PLEASE CLICK HERE](#)



[Click here for St John the Divine's Facebook page](#)



[Click here for St Mary Magdalene's Facebook page](#)



[Click here for St Matthias' Facebook page](#)



[Click here for St Matthias' Instagram page](#)



[Click here for St John the Divine's Instagram page](#)



[Click here for Revd Joe's Instagram page](#)