

Thursday 9 July 2026

Dear Friends,

Trying to find some relief from the heat this week has not been easy, and despite following some of the more sensible-sounding tips and advice offered online about the best way to cool off, I am still struggling to cope. But the heat has prompted me to remember one of our summer Reflective Walks from a couple of years ago, on a hot July morning, when a group of us met at the Park gates to experience the immersive Japanese practice of 'Shinrin-Yoku, or Forest Bathing.

Gathering under the cool shade of the trees in the Park, switching off our phones, taking a deep breath in and being conscious of the damp scent of the forest floor under our feet, we set off. Walking slowly and silently, stopping now and again to listen more intently to the bird song, the noise of insects, sensing the change in temperature underneath the canopy of trees, noticing the different patterns of tree bark, the moss and lichens, finding hidden pools of water we'd never come across before, and being captivated by the way the sunlight streamed through tree branches like a mystical stairway to heaven... all this made for a tranquil and cooling reset of body and soul, a sabbath rest on a Friday morning in Richmond Park.

As I ponder the beauty on our doorstep, and the way Mother Nature keeps providing for our physical wellbeing as well as our spiritual and emotional health, I'm reminded of some words from the Prophet Isaiah:

*'In returning and rest you shall be saved; in quietness and in trust shall be your strength'.
Isaiah 30:15*

Being blessed by the cooler air under the canopy of trees in the Park feels like an invitation from God to step off the hamster wheel of our everyday busy lives and re-connect with the source of our being. So later today I will head into the park, phone off, and practice a bit more Shinrin-Yoku and hope you might feel encouraged to do the same.

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

... **the departed, may they rest in peace** – Leonard Webster, Revd Cate Irvine

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:

You can read all about the great work The Richmond Soup Kitchen has done in the attached Impact Report

NEW: Get to know our new curate

Our new curate Anne O'Neil is keen to get to know everyone. You can contact her on 07554 122063 or by email – anneoneil@richmondteamministry.org

NEW: The Reverend Cate Irvine (1970-2026) RIP

It is with great sadness that we share the news of the death of The Reverend Cate Irvine, who will be fondly remembered by many as Vicar of St Matthias from 2005 to 2011.

Cate died peacefully in the early hours of Saturday morning, surrounded by her loving husband, Brian, and their two sons, Rufus and Douglas.

We give thanks to God for Cate's faithful ministry, her love for the people of St Matthias, and the many lives she touched through her priesthood and life.

Funeral details, when finalised, will appear at <https://cateirvine.muchloved.com/> where those that wish to can leave a tribute.

Please keep Brian, Rufus, Douglas, and all who mourn her in your prayers.

May Cate rest in peace and rise in glory.

NEW: Saturday 18 July, 12.30pm at St Mary's - Scholars' Showcase Recital

The final Saturday recital of the academic year is our annual Scholars' Showcase, and is a chance to say farewell to our departing scholars. The theme is Music through the Ages. Entry is free as usual.

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](#)

COMMUNITY NEWS:

NEW: A Thank You from Richmond Soup Kitchen

To everyone at Richmond Team Ministry - an ENORMOUS thank you for all the ways in which you support Richmond Soup Kitchen. For me RTM is woven into the fabric of RSK - from its formulation on the pews at St Mary's, St John's generously hosting our service, the extraordinary

fundraising feat of the May Fair, incredible volunteers, baking, wise words, support and prayers across all three churches - we genuinely couldn't have done it without you.

It's hard to think back to the winter during this heatwave - and a particularly wet winter it was too! But that's exactly what we've been doing: reflecting on our fifth season, which saw us support 2,228 guests across our sessions. It is an honour to lead this organisation and watch so much of our community come together - not just to provide food, but connection, and a space where everyone is welcome.

For those who love a statistic, I have attached our impact report. But for me it's the guest voice that says it all:

"RSK has been a lifesaver for me. The free food, the friendly faces, knowing you'll always be here - it means everything."

Summer is our reset time - a chance to plan, reflect and get ready for season six. We are looking at new ways to gather feedback, but if you have anything to share in the meantime - what you love, what we could do better, or a brilliant idea - we'd love to hear it. Send us an email at richmondsoupkitchen@gmail.com

Thank you, as always, for everything you do.

Isabelle

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

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