

Thursday 16 July 2026

Dear Friends,

So England's footballers will go home dealing with a defeat as they failed to win the World Cup. 48 countries went to North America in pursuit of the World Cup; only two still have a chance and only one will actually win. So that's 47 disappointed countries out of 48... assuming that the only thing you want out of it is to be the eventually winner.

Put like that, it's not so surprising that we didn't win, and you might even regard it as something of a success to have got to the last four. 44 countries would have been delighted to have made it as far as we did.

And yet the disappointment is real.

Don't get me wrong, I'm gutted that we lost. My father was at Wembley in 1966 (at least he always said so, though I know that half a million people claim to have been at Wembley that day and it only fits 100,000 people), and I live in hope that England's men will win a major tournament just once in my lifetime; the chances of doing it the once must be reasonable.

And yet there's something in this morning's press coverage that says something about how our national expectation leans into entitlement. There's no particular reason why our players should have beaten an Argentina team that includes the greatest player who has ever lived; we go home in disappointment but so do those of mighty football nations like Brazil, France and Germany; Italy didn't even make it to the World Cup in the first place.

I've got some happy memories of this World Cup that I'll always associate with just having moved to Richmond. Watching Harry Kane belt in two spectacular goals in ten minutes against Congo in the Duke's Head with my younger son - we hadn't yet rigged our TV up on that day so the Duke's Head was an excellent alternative; half a dozen sixteen year olds, friends of my older son, coming around to Mount Ararat Road to watch the Mexico game at heaven knows what hour in the night and watching the match with them. It was hot that night and they all sat on the sofa with their tops off in the manner of sixteen year old boys; I kept my shirt on throughout, but we celebrated as one, as Bellingham timed his run to perfection to put us two up.

It's the moments on the journey that we should treasure.

St Paul always thought he would make it to Spain to spread the Gospel there (he refers to this in Romans), but it's pretty certain he got stuck in Rome and died there. Yet while he never made it to Spain, it's not as if he failed in his mission; neither did the England football

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

... **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:

We have Hymns & Pimms at St Mary's Sunday evening for anyone looking to lift their spirits after the disappointment of yesterday

NEW: Saturday Coffee Mornings for Richmond Soup Kitchen

Richmond Soup Kitchen volunteers are running a pop up cafe in St Mary Magdalene on Saturday 25 July from 10 to 12. Do come along and support their fundraising efforts. Do invite friends and neighbours to come as well.

NEW: Request for donations of raffle or auction prizes

Two of our congregation members are looking for your help and involvement!

Nancy Baldwin, who sings in the choir at St Matthias and is also Councillor for the ward of North Richmond, has been elected as Mayor of Richmond for the next year. As one of the two charities she will support, she has chosen Skylarks, a local charity which Fiona Morgan, who is one of the church wardens of St John the Divine, works for as Head of Operations.

We are delighted that two members of our congregations are working together to support residents of the borough of Richmond.

Skylarks is a local independent charity which supports families who have children and young people with additional needs and disabilities through a wide range of activities, therapies, information and advice, all offered free of charge.

During the year, there will be many events and opportunities for the community to get involved.

At each event there will be a raffle

We would really appreciate offers of raffle prizes or auction donations for upcoming fundraising activities. If you're able to help, please consider approaching your employer, local businesses, friends or contacts for items such as vouchers, experiences, hampers or gifts.

To offer your support, please email info@skylarks.charity

[To join the Mayor's mailing list to find out more about events over the next year, please click here](#)

For more information on the work of Skylarks charity please visit:

<https://www.skylarks.charity/news/news-from-the-mayor-of-richmond/195>

Thank you in advance.

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

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.

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.

Cate's funeral will take place on Thursday 23rd July at 11am at St Andrew's Church, Totteridge, N20 8PR. All are welcome. Further details can be found 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.

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](#)

(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:

NEW: Bishop Christopher's Valedictory Eucharist

Bishop Christopher's Valedictory Service will take place this Saturday (18 July) at Southwark Cathedral at 12pm.

All are welcome to attend, but those unable to be present in person can watch the service live [on the Cathedral's Youtube channel here](#).

Please join us to thank Bishop Christopher for his service. Please pray for him as he retires and for our Diocese as we enter the next stage of our life together.

COMMUNITY NEWS:

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

Our Privacy Notice can be viewed at: <https://richmondteamministry.org/gdpr/>

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