

Wednesday 22 July 2026

Dear Friends,

Today the Church celebrates the feast of St Mary Magdalene, one of the most compelling and courageous figures in the Gospels. Mary is sometimes called “the apostle to the apostles” because she was the first person entrusted with the news at the heart of our faith: Jesus Christ is risen from the dead.

Mary’s story is one of love, liberation and faithful discipleship. St Luke tells us that Jesus had freed her from seven demons. We do not know precisely what this meant, though seven of anything sounds exhausting. What we do know is that her encounter with Christ transformed her life. Jesus restored her dignity and gave her a new beginning. Mary responded by becoming one of the women who travelled with Jesus and supported his ministry. Over the centuries, Mary Magdalene has often been confused with other women in the Gospels and wrongly reduced to the stereotype of a repentant prostitute. The Bible never describes her in this way. What it shows us is a woman of courage, devotion and spiritual authority: a disciple who remained near the cross when others fled and who came to the tomb “while it was still dark.”

Mary does not wait for the darkness to lift before going in search of Jesus. She goes carrying her grief, confusion and unanswered questions. She cannot yet see the dawn, but love draws her towards the place where Jesus has been laid. That is often what faith looks like. Faith is not always certainty, confidence or spiritual enthusiasm. Sometimes faith is simply getting up and going to the tomb while it is still dark. It is only when Jesus speaks her name - “Mary” - that recognition comes, after supposing him to be the gardener. Resurrection becomes personal. Jesus does not present Mary with an abstract theological argument. He calls her by name. The same risen Christ calls each of us by name. Before we are useful, successful, certain or respectable, we are known and loved by God. Our Christian identity begins not with what we have achieved for God, but with what God has done for us. Christ meets us amid grief and confusion and speaks our name with tenderness. Then Jesus sends Mary out: “Go to my brothers and say to them...” The woman who came to the tomb as a mourner leaves as a messenger. Sorrow is transformed into witness.

Of course, those who thought they knew best were not immediately persuaded. The disciples had followed Jesus, listened to his teaching and witnessed his miracles. Yet when Mary brought them the news, some struggled to believe her. They had already decided what was possible, who could speak with authority, and what resurrection ought to look like. The disciples believed they understood the situation: Jesus was dead, the tomb was sealed and the story was over. Mary arrived with news that did not fit their settled conclusions. Yet she was right. God was doing something new while those who considered themselves the authorities were still discussing what could not possibly happen. Mary therefore offers a gentle warning to every Church, institution and individual tempted to confuse experience with infallibility. Those who have been here longest, hold titles or speak most confidently do not necessarily see most clearly. Sometimes the person we overlook has been standing in the garden listening to the risen Christ. This does not mean that wisdom, learning or experience are unimportant. It means that genuine wisdom remains humble, curious and attentive. It leaves room for surprise. It asks not only, “What do we already know?” but also, “What might God be showing us anew?”. If we want to be a growing, joyful and invitational people of Resurrection, we must become a community willing to listen: where the grieving are accompanied, the wounded find healing, the excluded are welcomed, and ordinary people discover that they have good news worth sharing. The Church is not the private possession of those who think they know best. It belongs to Christ, who delights in calling unexpected people and entrusting them with astonishing things. We have encountered the One whose love is stronger than death.

May St Mary Magdalene teach us to remain faithful in darkness, humble enough to listen, and courageous enough to declare: “I have seen the Lord.”

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

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, Jo Carroll, Loïc Burn

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

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:

Revd Cate Irvine's funeral is being livestreamed, for anyone unable to attend in person. Details are on the website listed below

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.

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.

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](#)

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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