

Wednesday 29 July 2026

Dear Friends,

As many of you will know my 92-year-old Mum has recently moved to full-time care in a beautiful new residential home in Hertfordshire. She lost her sight gradually over recent years and is now completely blind and unable to manage safely at home, and so with some trepidation she put her house on the market and yesterday we handed over the keys to the new owners and bade a fond, if somewhat emotional, goodbye to what has been the family home for nearly 50 years. It's been a difficult few months, but to know Mum is now safe and sound and being looked after with love, kindness and care is a huge comfort.

One of the great blessings of settling Mum into a home just around the corner from where she used to live is that friends and loved ones are able to pop in easily for a cuppa and a chat. I know that she feared being isolated in her new home, but if anything, Mum has more visitors now than ever before – having someone at hand to open the door to friends and old neighbours, and make the tea (with cakes and pastries always available!) is a bonus we hadn't considered, but it's made a terrific difference to Mum's emotional wellbeing, which in turn has had a knock-on positive effect on her physical health. Mum still speaks regularly on the phone to two old and very dear school friends back in Yorkshire (also in their 90s), as well as to the cousins she has been close to since her childhood. Their encouragement and support of Mum as she made the painful but necessary decision to sell her home and move in to care, made the transition easier and Allan and I are so grateful for the love and care we've also received from so many of our own friends and neighbours.

Today the Church remembers Mary, Martha and Lazarus, the family from Bethany who were such good friends to Jesus, loved ones who supported and encouraged him through the most gruelling and saddest of times. And of course Jesus offered his love, strength and support to them too, just as he has to Mum as she's faced difficult decisions and lived through bereavement and loss in her life - it's been easy to see God's love for Mum expressed through the love and support of her friends and those who are caring for her in her new home. So perhaps today is a good day to take some time to remember friends old and new, those near and those far away, along with the people who sit in the pews beside us every week who encourage our faith and support us when we feel unsteady; the neighbours who go the extra mile, feed the cat when we are away, put out the bins when we forget, or are just the nicest, most supportive people you could wish to meet. Let's give thanks to God for them all today and cherish their friendship just as Jesus cherished Mary, Martha and Lazarus.

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

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, Jo Carroll, Loïc Burn

... **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:

NEW: RTM is Silver!

The RTM Green Team is delighted to announce that all three churches have recently achieved the Eco Church Silver Award! You will see the posters displayed in church soon.

As part of the RTM Sustainability and Environmental Policy, RTM is committed to sustainable development as a guiding principle. Our aim is to reduce the impact on the environment from our churches and other buildings that we own and/or occupy, our employees and volunteers, and strive to make our congregations and local communities more aware of how we need to care for God's creation around us.

We use the principles of [Eco Church](#), an A Rocha programme, to direct us in our thinking and action. A Rocha UK is a Christian charity working to protect and restore the natural world. The Southwark Diocese has signed up to Eco Church and is encouraging all its churches to participate. All three churches in RTM achieved the Bronze award in 2023, although have continued to score Gold in the Worship and Teaching category.

We are extremely pleased to have progressed to the Silver award.

The RTM Green Team members are thanked for all their great work together, for their enthusiasm and good ideas not only in ensuring our worship, buildings, land, communities and lifestyles are meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs, but also for sharing tips and then taking our actions back to our churches. In particular, we would like to thank Jo Kitson for writing the quarterly RTM Green Tips and for coordinating the regular recycle week campaigns; the Clergy and Church Wardens for their ongoing encouragement; and to the RTM Office Team for their help and support.

If anyone would like to join the RTM Green Team, please contact Emma

(emeredith@ctpa.org.uk). The group meets around three times a year and we keep in contact in between meetings by email.

Our work is not done, and you have heard it here first - RTM is Going for Gold!

NEW: Church Times article written by Nana Amamoo

Nana is part of the congregation at St Mary's. She's written an interesting article about the work of four nuns from Whitby who went to Ghana.

<https://www.churchtimes.co.uk/articles/2026/10-july/features/features/a-school-to-shape-generations>

NEW: Community Lunch Scheme

St Matthias are taking part in this new venture, which offers Sunday lunch to anyone in need on a fortnightly basis. The next lunch at St Matthias will be on Sunday 16 August – if you are able to help set up from 11.30am, or / and serve and/or clear away Anne and Alison would be very happy to hear from you.

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: A Pastoral Letter from Bishop Martin

Dear Fellow Pilgrims in Christ,

'In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed' (Mark 1: 35)

I am very fond of the John Hayward painting at Wychcroft 'Christ the Worker'. But equally, I am drawn to those (frequent) images of Jesus in the gospels where he takes time out, to escape from the fray, to be still and to pray.



This short letter is simply to thank you sincerely for all you do, lay and ordained, in the service of the Church in parishes, schools and chaplaincies across the Kingston Episcopal Area, and to wish you a peaceful and restful August. I will be taking some time out, first walking the 230-mile Cape Wrath trail by way of a mountain retreat (yes with Jem!) and then taking some holiday with my family in Pembrokeshire. I hope you will have the chance to do something that will refresh you. For many of us, the summer is also a chance to catch up with some reading. With this in mind, I would like to share two short pieces with you. The first is the sermon preached by Barnabas Palfrey, a lay theologian on the staff at St Augustine's College of Theology, at the recent and very joyous ordination of priests at All Saint's Kingston. While the sermon was particularly directed at our new priests, there is something in it for all of us.

The second piece is an article by Fr Steffan Mathias, one of our clergy, who is shortly leaving us to join the staff at the College of the Resurrection, Mirfield. We wish him well. Fr Steffan has written an excellent article probing the roots of anxiety both in the Church and in the world and advocating how we in the Church might lead the way in living differently. I would love to see us having a conversation about this in the Kingston Area and thinking how we might resist those patterns of living and working which detract from more Christ-like lives and hence our flourishing. In fact, there are almost certainly themes here that we will be exploring through our teaching and learning offer during 2026/27.

With this in mind, 'Reimagining Church' is starting again in the autumn (on the third Monday of the month from October, 7-8.15pm, online). Plus, my team and I are limbering up to stage a successor to the lay conference, open to lay and ordained, in autumn 2027. Please watch this space!

Meanwhile, have a wonderful summer.

Best wishes and prayers,

Rt Revd Dr Martin Gainsborough, Bishop of Kingston

(The sermon and article can be found here on our website - <https://richmondteamministry.org/uncategorized/e-newsletter/>)

With best wishes,

John

Parish Administrator

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