

Thursday 6 August 2026

Dear Friends,

Rev'd Joe's Summer Reads

THREE BOOKS FOR LONG DAYS AND QUIET EVENINGS

NEVER LET ME GO

by Kazuo Ishiguro

Kazuo Ishiguro's *Never Let Me Go* is a quietly devastating novel about memory, love and what it means to be human. Narrated by Kathy H, it follows three friends - Kathy, Ruth and Tommy- as they grow up at the seemingly idyllic Hailsham boarding school. Only gradually does the sinister purpose of their lives become clear.

Ishiguro's restrained prose makes the novel's horror all the more powerful. Rather than dramatic revelations, he gives us half-remembered conversations, small jealousies and missed chances. The result is both intimate and unsettling: the characters accept a fate that the reader longs for them to resist.

At heart, this is not simply a dystopian story about cloning or medical ethics. It is a tender meditation on mortality, friendship and the stories through which we make sense of our brief lives. Beautiful, haunting and sad, *Never Let Me Go* lingers long after its final page. A modern literary classic and book I have come back to time and again.

THE WORLD WITHIN

by Guy Stagg

Guy Stagg's *The World Within* is a beautifully written exploration of retreat, solitude and creativity. Blending travel writing, biography and memoir, Stagg follows three twentieth-century figures - philosopher Ludwig Wittgenstein, artist and poet David Jones, and writer Simone Weil - each of whom withdrew from the world during a period of crisis.

Visiting the communities that shaped their lives, Stagg asks whether solitude can heal and transform us, or whether it risks deepening loneliness and despair. His writing is elegant, atmospheric and intellectually curious, yet the book remains personal. He approaches his subjects with sympathy without romanticising either their suffering or their isolation.

The World Within feels timely in an age of noise, distraction and constant connection. It offers no celebration of escape, but explores the tension between withdrawal and belonging with honesty and grace. This is a moving, humane book about where we go when life becomes overwhelming - and what might bring us back.

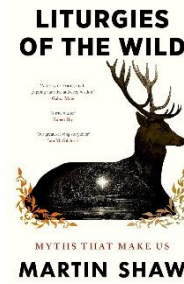
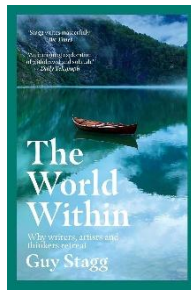
LITURGIES OF THE WILD

by Martin Shaw

Martin Shaw's *Liturgies of the Wild* is a strange and imaginative defence of the stories that shape us. Shaw argues that modern life has become myth-poor: surrounded by information, yet starved of the tales and rituals that teach us how to become fully human.

Drawing on folklore, initiatory rites and his own spiritual journey, he retells myths with a storyteller's energy and a scholar's insight. Most compelling is his path towards Christianity, culminating in his encounter with Christ as the "True Myth" after a 101-night vigil in the Dartmoor forest. His prose can be dense and unruly, but it is rarely dull.

This is not a tidy introduction to Christian faith. It is wilder, more demanding and more provocative than that. Shaw invites seekers, doubters and believers to rediscover Christianity as a story capable of resistance, delight and transformation. An exhilarating book, best read slowly and with an open imagination.



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

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: Christian Aid collection

Thanks to everyone who contributed to the Team effort raising money for this Year's Christian Aid Week. The joint total from our three churches was nearly £700.

The next big Fundraising opportunity for this Charity is the Thameside Walk on Saturday 26 September which sets off from St Matthias Church at 11 a.m. More details will be given soon, but please put the date in your diary.

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

(emeredit@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!

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>

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:

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/>)

COMMUNITY NEWS:

NEW: Summer Opera by The Thames

Richmond Opera are holding their Summer Opera by the Thames at Bingham Riverhouse, Richmond, Friday 21 August, 7pm

Set against the beautiful backdrop of the River Thames, this intimate evening will feature a selection of Baroque music performed by members of Richmond Opera, alongside a preview of their forthcoming November performances of Handel's Messiah.

Guests will enjoy approximately 40 minutes of music in the elegant surroundings of Bingham Riverhouse.

As this is a smaller event, places are limited to just 40 guests and booking is essential. Contact Victoria Kunesch – vkunes11@gmail.com

NEW: Fancy a trip to Woking?

Saint Columba's House is an urban contemporary Christian retreat and conference centre just 30 minutes by train from the heart of London and a mile from the centre of Woking.

They have a busy calendar of events including Quiet Days, Art Workshops, Poetry and Music Sessions. Details can be found here - <https://www.stcolumbashouse.org.uk/your-retreat/our-events/>

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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