

Thursday 13 August 2026

Dear Friends,

Standing on the hillside below the Terraces last evening to watch the Eclipse was an incredible experience. As I looked around me at the hundreds of people gathered to see this once in a generation event, I was reminded of another crowd gathered on a hillside above a different expanse of water two thousand years ago. Just over a week ago our gospel reading from Matthew was the feeding of the 5,000 and yesterday I couldn't help but notice similarities: people sitting down on the grass, sharing the resources they had with those who had come unprepared – last night it was special eclipse glasses, or colanders, or a cereal box pinhole camera shared around generously and willingly, so that everyone was able to join in and experience the event in the fullest way possible. It was biblical in so many ways, and easy to hear the Psalmist's exclamation that the 'heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims his handiwork' (psalm 19:1). We were witnesses to the beauty and mystery and majesty of Creation as we watched the moon glide between our planet and the sun, and it left many of us feeling small and insignificant.

And yet at the other picnic on the grassy hillside above Galilee 2,000 years ago, the Son we know as the Light of the World, tells the crowd that they – and we - are not small and insignificant in God's miraculous creation, we are of infinite value and loved beyond anything our human brains can imagine. The Son people came to see and meet with on a grassy hillside above Galilee was God incarnate, and as St John tells us, 'all things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it' (John 1:3-5). The God who stands on a hillside inviting people to share what they have, is the God who calls all things in to being, including us.

Which brings me to a song which kept playing in my head all last night.... Eric Idle's Galaxy Song from the Monty Python film The Meaning of Life. If you are of a certain age then you might remember the lyrics which attempt to put life on this planet into perspective. If you want a little light relief today as we struggle with the ongoing heat and continue to worry about the effects of climate change and the damage we have done to our beautiful God-given planet, then you might want to search out a version online. You can watch the original from the film online or you can search out the version sung by Professor Brian Cox and the Australian actor Tim Michin (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4WqPGAJcp5c>) – the awesome statistics may seem far-fetched, but the reality is even more unbelievable. Mind-boggling and awe-inspiring.

With the Perseid meteor shower lighting up the night sky tonight with myriads of shooting stars, we have plenty of opportunities to stand in awe and wonder that the Creator God who made heaven and earth and all that is in them, should come to earth and live as one of us. The final word belongs to St Francis, and an extract from his Canticle to the Sun, written in 1225:

Most High, all-powerful, good Lord,
Yours are the praises, the glory, the honour, and all blessings.
To You alone, Most High, do they belong,
and no man is worthy to mention Your name.

Praised be You, my Lord, with all your creatures;
especially Brother Sun, who is the day, and through whom You give us light.
And he is beautiful and radiant with great splendour,
and bears a likeness to You, Most High One.

Praised be You, my Lord, through Sister Moon and the stars;
in heaven You formed them clear and precious and beautiful.

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, Sabine Staton, Jo Carroll, Loïc Burn, Vrouwkje ten Klooster, Ian Rainsford

... **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.
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: Norwich Cathedral

The Choir of St Mary Magdalene will be singing evensong at Norwich Cathedral on Monday 31 August (the bank holiday), Tuesday 1 September and Wednesday 2 September. Anyone who would like to make the trip up to Norfolk is most welcome to attend. Services are at 5.30pm

Christian Aid Thameside Walk

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 am. Please join the clergy and members of our Green Team in walking to raise funds for Christian Aid's support of people suffering the effects of climate change across the world.

Seeking help at St Mary's

Is anyone able to help the pastoral team with some practical tasks to help fellow worshippers? This is particularly needed during the holiday period.

Please speak to Anthony John or Judy.

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: Invitation to Kew Theology & Gardening Lecture - 30 September

Wednesday 30th September 6:30pm. *What Are We Here For? Gardening and the Human Vocation*. Lecture in Kew Gardens by Carmody Grey, Professor of Integral Ecology at Radboud University in The Netherlands, Visiting Professor at the London School of Economics and a regular contributor to BBC Radio 4's *The Moral Maze*. For further details and to purchase tickets (£20): <https://www.kewtheologyandgardening.org.uk/events-schedule>

COMMUNITY NEWS:

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 Kunesh – vkunes11@gmail.com

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

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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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