

Wednesday 19 August 2026

Dear Friends,

"O God, you are my God; earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water."

Thus the Psalmist using a drought as a metaphor for a sense of spiritual dryness; usually, if one is preaching, this is followed by some explicatory verses about how dry it can get in the Judaeian wilderness and how at times people would yearn for rain. The change for us reading that verse today is that even in Richmond, we don't need any explanation about Judaea to understand dryness; we no longer need to imagine what things will look like after sixty days without rain; we have seen it with our eyes.

To have had a little rain last night was a great relief, and at some point any drought must end; but the summer has been extraordinary. Equally, I do not yet sense a tipping point in terms of people looking change their actions to mitigate climate change.

Five years ago, sustainability was a buzzword for a lot of companies; these days, not so much.

Perhaps it is Trump's 'Drill, baby, drill' rhetoric which has given people a sense of freedom to plough on with our old ways, but I wonder if more of the change in atmosphere is the dawning in our minds of the sheer challenge in front of us all. Faced with the idea of reconfiguring all our domestic heating systems, adjusting our transport networks, eating less meat, and giving up on flying planes until flying is possible without colossal fuel consumption, we are like rabbits frozen in the headlights. Thus, even with thousands dying from heat related deaths, extremely uncomfortable working and living conditions, harvests shrinking, and other significant impacts on our daily lives caused by human-related global warming, we have changed very little about how we behave. And of course this has got to change.

We have managed colossal behavioural change before. Just think about how people in Britain lived before and after World War II. In the spirit of belt-tightening, people lived with rationing of pretty basic foodstuffs for something like twelve years and found it doable. And as Christians, as well as being aware of the limitations of human sinfulness, we have hope in our God-given ability to do the right thing; we have hope. But, my goodness, it's going to take some doing.

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

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, Sabine Staton, 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:

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.

Richmond Preachathon

On Tuesday September 22nd, Robert will be preaching from dawn till dusk to raise money to complete the bells project at St Mary Magdalene, and to increase funds for the Richmond Soup Kitchen.

Go to crowfunder.co.uk and look for Richmond Preachathon if you'd like to sponsor him:

[The Richmond Preachathon - a Community crowdfunding project in Richmond by New Bells For Richmond](#)

The aim is to raise £12,000 for the twelve hours of preaching.

But giving money isn't the only way to support: on the day, a congregation to listen to the sermon would be welcome. You're not expected to listen for all twelve hours, but popping in for twenty minutes would be a great support. In particular, while we expect people will come in later in the day more naturally, we'd particularly love local congregation members to consider an early morning slot (i.e. around 7am) as we won't get many passers by at that point. The first lines will be preached at 6.47, which is dawn, and we'll finish at 18.59, which is sunset.

More information about guest interviewers who will be popping in across the day will be forthcoming.

Sunday 22nd August

For the next couple of weeks, St Mary Magdalene is providing a temporary home for a clavichord. For those who are interested in how this eccentric instrument works, Seb will be giving a short demonstration after this Sunday's service at St Mary Magdalene.

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:

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>

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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