

Thursday 3 September 2026

Dear Friends,

Earlier this week the American novelist, poet, environmentalist and farmer Wendell Berry died at the ripe old age of 92. I was introduced to this incredible man quite recently and I have lots of reading to catch up on, but as the world-wide Church begins the season of Creationtide, and on Sunday ponders Christ's work in creation, it seems timely to mention him here. Wendell Berry was a prophetic voice as far as care for God's creation was concerned, a man who railed against factory farming, against any form of industrial food production. He urged humanity to tread gently on the earth, to cherish and nurture all that God has given to us, to see the beauty in everything, and to work to protect the planet and guard against greed. There is so much to say about Wendell Berry, and there is not enough space here to truly begin to do him justice, but if you haven't come across his writings yet, then I encourage you to explore and be inspired.

A quote from his short novel 'Andy Catlett: Early Travels' sums up Wendell's values and his longing for the world to slow down and notice the damage being done by humanity's drive for bigger and better: "Increasingly over the last maybe 40 years, the thought has come to me that the old world in which our people lived by the work of their hands, close to weather and earth, plants and animals, was the true world, and that the new world of cheap energy and ever cheaper money, honoured greed, and dreams of liberation from every restraint, is mostly theatre..... The world I knew as a boy was flawed, surely, but it was substantial and authentic. The households of my grandparents seemed to breathe forth a sense of the real cost and worth of things. Whatever came, came by somebody's work."

Wendell was a life-long Baptist, and his Christian faith shines through his writings and the way he lived his life. He saw the world, and all creation as a sacred gift from God. Like so many of us, when life is overwhelming in its demands and cares, he went outside to find healing and peace. "And so I go into the woods. As I go in under the trees, dependably, almost at once, and by nothing I do, things fall into place," he once wrote. "I enter an order that does not exist outside, in the human spaces. I feel my life take its place among the lives – the trees, the plants, the animals and birds, the living of all these and the dead – that go and have gone to make the life of the earth." His most famous poem is perfect for this sacred season of Creationtide:

*When despair for the world grows in me
and I wake in the night at the least sound
in fear of what my life and my children's lives may be,
I go and lie down where the wood drake
rests in his beauty on the water, and the great heron feeds.
I come into the peace of wild things
who do not tax their lives with forethought
of grief. I come into the presence of still water.
And I feel above me the day-blind stars
waiting with their light. For a time
I rest in the grace of the world, and am free.*

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, 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:

Update: Tuesday 22 September Preachathon

Reminder - Robert will be preaching, story-telling and unravelling the complexities of modern life in a 12-hour dawn to dusk epic that starts as the sun comes up at 6.47am until darkness officially falls at 6:59pm.

Here is our impressive cast of local celebs who will chat to him throughout the day -

Who's coming to St Mary Magdalene		
WE WELCOME OUR DISTINGUISHED GUESTS		
	9.15am	The Rev Joe Moore Vicar of St John the Divine that hosts the Richmond Soup Kitchen
	10.15am	Sophie Raworth Journalist and presenter of flagship BBC News bulletins
	11.15am	Anne Sebba Renowned local author who finds drama in real life stories
	12.15pm	The Rev Dr Giles Fraser Vicar of St Anne's church, Kew and regular BBC broadcaster
	1.15pm	Greg Dyke Ex-head of the Football Association and regular Sky TV news commentator
	2.15pm	Nancy Baldwin Mayor of Richmond and campaigner for the people of the town
	3.15pm	Students of Christ's School An RE class asks the questions
	4.15pm	Axel Scheffler Illustrator of the <i>Gruffalo</i> books who will bring his paint brushes
	5.15pm	Sarah Olney MP for Richmond Park and champion for Richmond in Parliament
+ Timings and schedule may vary +		

All this effort is in aid of New Bells for Richmond and the Richmond Soup Kitchen.

Please come to St Mary Magdalene to support Robert on the day - you can turn up at any time and buy a coffee at the pop up cafe, bring your lunch or simply sit and listen. You can sign up for a slot (or 2 or 3...) on the attached link <https://volunteersignup.org/CBMJ9> or just turn up anytime to suit. The event will also be broadcast live all day on our Facebook page - www.facebook.com/StMaryMagdaleneRTM/ if you can't get to church - tell friends and family too.

You can also visit our Crowdfunder page to support Robert's efforts - we are hoping to raise £1000 per hour of preaching! <https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/8695557631153a1b9685454ed252ffef>

NEW: St Mary Magdalene Congregation Town Hall Meeting, Sunday 11 October after the 9.30 am Eucharist.

Robert and the Church Wardens of St Mary Magdalene invite the congregation of St Mary Magdalene to a town hall style meeting after the 9.30 am Eucharist on Sunday 11 October. It will be an open forum to discuss any issues which are important to you. We hope to discuss the Church Grounds at this event amongst the many other items which will come up. We look forward to seeing you there, and your participation. Please mark it in your diary .

Day Pilgrimage to Canterbury Cathedral Saturday 14 November 2026

Join us for a day pilgrimage to Canterbury, the historic heart of the Church of England. We will travel by coach from Richmond and enjoy a guided tour of Canterbury Cathedral, exploring its remarkable history, architecture and sacred spaces. There will then be free time to discover the city, visit its shops and cafés, or spend some quiet time in the Cathedral precincts. Our pilgrimage will conclude with the beautiful service of Choral Evensong in the Cathedral before we return to Richmond. Further details, including departure times and cost, will follow. Please indicate your interest by emailing Joe: joe.moore@richmondteamministry.org
All are warmly welcome.

Hope for All Creation – A House of Bishops' New Report

The Church of England House of Bishops is one of three Houses that make up the General Synod, and it has a special role with matters relating to doctrine, liturgy or Sacrament. The House of Bishops has recently issued a publication, Hope for All Creation, which shares the Church of England's position on environment and climate change. More information is available on the CoE Environment and Climate Change page: [Environment and climate change | The Church of England](#)
The Hope for All Creation can be downloaded here: <https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2026-06/hope-for-all-creation-for-web-new.pdf>
The RTM Green Team will take time to consider the report's findings and recommendations for action.

Learn more about God's creation in the Season of Creation (Creationtide)

The Dioceses of Southwark and London are running a course '*Caring for God's Creation: Faithful Living in a Changing World*'.

Taking place over three Zoom sessions (19:00 – 21:00) on 16, 23 and 30 September, the sessions will explore what faithful discipleship looks like in a changing world and what it means to care for God's creation as Christians today.

The course is for anyone seeking to deepen their understanding of environmental issues from a Christian perspective. It will also help participants grow in confidence as they take practical action within their church and wider community.

Find out more and sign up [here](#).

ZERO WASTE WEEK 7-11 September

The RTM Green Team invite you to recycle your '**as new**' socks, gloves and hats (maybe even knit or croquet one with left over wool) for the guests at Richmond Soup Kitchen. There will be boxes in each church for your donations. Thank you.

Twickenham Stadium Zipwire

Huw Morgan, who worships and is a regular server at St John the Divine, will be taking part in the Twickenham Stadium Zipwire, flying 150 metres over the pitch and raising money for Skylarks Charity - a local cause helping children and young people with additional needs, and their wider families. His own family benefited from the charity's help when their children were small. Every pound raised helps ensure these services can continue and grow.

He, and the charity, would be extremely grateful for financial support. Please follow the link below and do use giftaid if you're able to.

<https://skylarks.enthuse.com/pf/huw-morgan-0ab4e/post/26686904>

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 be 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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