

Thursday 10 September 2026

Dear Friends,

The Summer before 9-11, my first 'proper' job sent me to work in New York. Our hotel, 'The Millenium' was downtown, and my window had a glimpse of the North Tower. I struggled to shake jet lag and so developed a sunrise routine of wandering the financial district as the first commuters got off the ferries, followed by a moment outside the Greek Orthodox church and breakfast from the sandwich shop in the World Trade Centre basement. The guy behind the counter would make fun of my accent and evangelise about coffee while he brewed my tea and buttered my bagel. A few months later, I stood in the road in front of St Paul's at a hastily arranged memorial service for the British people killed, including a handful from the company I worked for. Either the cavernous cathedral was too small or the security risk too large, but either way we filled the roads around the dome for hundreds of yards under the careful watch of rooftop police snipers. I have no clue whether bagel guy was working that dreadful day of course, and I prefer to imagine him at home now with grey hair and twenty-five years more life behind him...but someone was on the breakfast shift that day.

Grahame Tomlin, former Bishop of Kensington used to describe true evil as being destruction for its own sake. I had never been a Christian that talked about 'evil' in the physical sense, I carried a largely peace, love and comfort kind of faith. But as I stood with the grief-numbed crowd on Old Bailey that lunchtime, all trying to mumble The Lord's Prayer, I knew I had seen evil personified, and that it's offspring - fury and retribution were on their way because evil begets evil.

In the decades since, I have visited the usual places we think of being of profound darkness. And I know that when I am confronted with the reality of evil individuals and actions that I can identify it. I know 9-11 was a fissure in the fabric of the world and I think of it with horror, distress and disgust, but I also know that there is wickedness I don't see so clearly and don't try to battle. Unjust systems that transcend country boundaries and wealth brackets and hide in plain sight - structural poverty, food insecurity, homelessness, land loss, nature loss, bigotry. And I debate with myself, am I prepared to give up things I enjoy or advantages I possess from the systems we live by which create some of these problems? And I don't know.

During the choir Summer break, instead of Evensong we've been having a service of Compline – it's a beautiful, reflective liturgy of night prayer which 'completes' the day. The opening asks for a quiet night and a perfect end, and then counsels gently: 'be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: whom resist, steadfast in the faith'. As I pray for 9-11 this week, I'm trying to be vigilant, not just of the big lions that make a lot of noise, but of the ones I allow to walk about quietly frightening others.

They quickly rebuilt the little Orthodox church by the way (Saint Nicholas) and made it a national shrine and nondenominational bereavement centre. It's ever so modest, it looks like a lamp and you can see it from streets away...and the light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it. <https://st-nicholas-tour.web.app/light-a-candle>

The Collect of the Episcopal Diocese of New York

O Almighty God, who brings good out of evil and turns even the wrath of your children towards your promised peace: Hear our prayers this day as we remember those of many nations and differing faiths whose lives were cut short by the fierce flames of anger and hatred. Hasten the time when the menace of war shall be removed. Cleanse both us and those perceived to be our enemies of all hatred and distrust. Pour out the spirit of peace on all the rulers of our world that we may be brought through strife to the lasting peace of the kingdom of your Son; Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

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

This letter was written by The Revd Anne O'Neil

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.

Please come to St Mary Magdalene to support Robert on the day - or sign in and listen online - it will be broadcast live all day on our Facebook page - www.facebook.com/StMaryMagdaleneRTM/. It would be great to have online visitors from all over the world so please send this on to friends and family too.

There will be a pop up coffee shop in church so why not invite friends and neighbours to come down with you - make it a local outing!

Update: 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.

Thank you to those who have already indicated their interest by email to Rev'd Joe. He will be in touch with those who have written to him in the coming days.

NEW: Save the Date: Advent Quiet Day

Saturday 28 November, 10.00am–4.00pm

We are delighted that the Reverend Dr Simon Cuff will be leading an Advent Quiet Day for the Richmond Team Ministry.

Simon is the Rector of St Mary-le-Bow - of Bow Bells fame! - in the City of London. The day will offer space before the busyness of the season to pause, pray and prepare ourselves for the coming of Christ. Further details will follow, but please save the date! Any questions about this, please email Joe: joe.moore@richmondteamministry.org

NEW: CCLA Presentation Wednesday 23 September

For those with an eye on finances and our parish, you may remember a question was asked at the APCM about how RTM invests its various bits of savings. We have mainly relied, historically, on what is sort of the Church of England's official investment arm: CCLA. That's not the right term, but it's an investment fund especially for churches, which goes for broadly ethical investment. (What counts as ethical investment is a thorny issue.) Anyway, at the invitation of our treasurer, CCLA are coming to St Mary Magdalene to give a presentation about their strategy on 23rd September at 7pm. If you're interested, please come.

NEW: Christ's School Governor

After the end of her term, Faye Johnstone has stepped down as a governor of Christ's School.

As a Church of England school, part of its foundation means that the Church provides a number of governors, called 'Foundation' governors. Some of these come from Richmond Team Ministry; others come from Holy Trinity, Richmond.

Being a school governor is an incredibly interesting role and you could add value if you've a background in:

Education, buildings, finance, caring for children, secretarial work, sport, marketing, consultancy, healthcare.... almost everything has an expertise which applies to how a school can work and be supported.

There's a degree of commitment in terms of attending governing board meetings and subcommittee meetings, but if you're interested, contact Robert in person or by email rector@richmondteamministry.org. There's not much more important in life than the education of children, so please consider it.

NEW: Community Choir @ St Mary's

Community Choir is underway again at St Mary's - **I am on Wednesdays** during term-time. No prior experience or music-reading ability required!

NEW: Richmond Piano Series - Friday 25 September

The Grammy-nominated Fidelio Trio provide an evening of **sumptuous chamber music**. Tickets available at Eventbrite (search "Richmond Piano Series")

NEW: Richmond CHAMBER Series - Begins 11 October

Our chamber music series, in collaboration with the Orange Tree Theatre, begins on **Sunday 11 October**.

Details can be found at: <https://orangetreetheatre.co.uk/music/>

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.

There is an Anonymous Box at the back of church for any items you would like to raise.

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](mailto:contact@jackieharrison.org)

(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/>

TO UNSUBSCRIBE FROM THIS EMAIL LIST, [PLEASE CLICK HERE](#)



[Click here for St John the Divine's Facebook page](#)



[Click here for St Mary Magdalene's Facebook page](#)



[Click here for St Matthias' Facebook page](#)



[Click here for St Matthias' Instagram page](#)



[Click here for St John the Divine's Instagram page](#)



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