

Tuesday 15 September 2026

Dear Friends,

September is one of my favourite months, not least because autumn is my favourite season. I have even become one of those people who puts a different wreath on the front door for each season. The arrival of September therefore means that the summer wreath is carefully put away and its autumnal successor - decorated with pinecones and golden apples - is brought out once again. Whether this is a charming seasonal custom or evidence that I am becoming prematurely middle-aged, I shall leave you to decide...

There is seldom a single morning when summer ends and autumn begins. Instead, the light subtly changes. The evenings draw in, the air becomes cooler, and the trees begin to loosen their grip upon their leaves. Conkers appear beneath our feet, spiders decorate gardens with silver webs, and Richmond gradually takes on the first golds, reds and browns of autumn. All this reminds us that we worship a God who is not distant from the material world, but who created it, delights in it and holds it in being. The changing seasons are not merely an attractive backdrop to our lives. They are part of the great rhythm of creation: seedtime and harvest, growth and rest, life and death. Each season reveals something of the God whose faithfulness remains constant through every change.

John Keats famously described autumn as the "season of mists and mellow fruitfulness." It is a line so familiar that we can easily overlook its richness. Autumn is certainly a season of decline: leaves fall, flowers fade and fields are stripped bare. Yet Keats sees fruitfulness everywhere. The bending apple trees, ripening fruit and gathered harvest speak not simply of an ending, but of fulfilment. What has been growing quietly through spring and summer is now ready to be gathered.

September therefore invites us to notice the strange intermingling of abundance and loss. It is the month of harvest festivals and shortening days, of full baskets and emptying branches. It reminds us that God's work in us is not always about beginning something new. Sometimes God asks us to allow something to ripen. Sometimes God helps us recognise growth that has taken place quietly and almost unnoticed. Sometimes God gives us the grace to let go. Jesus speaks of the grain of wheat which must fall into the earth and die if it is to bear much fruit. At the heart of our faith stands the cross: the place where what appeared to be an ending became, through God's love, the beginning of new creation. The Christian story does not deny loss or pretend that every ending is painless. It proclaims that no loss, darkness or barren place lies beyond the redeeming presence of God.

Within the Richmond Team Ministry, September brings us back to familiar patterns. People return from summer holidays, schools begin a new term, choirs and groups reconvene, and parish diaries become increasingly full. Across St Mary Magdalene, St John the Divine and St Matthias, we return to the regular rhythms of prayer, worship and service. At the centre of that shared life is our gathering around the altar. There we bring to God the fruits of the earth and the work of human hands: bread and wine, signs of creation transformed by God's grace. In the Eucharist, Christ takes what we offer, blesses it and gives himself to us. We are then sent out to recognise and serve him in our neighbours and in the world he loves. The return to activity can be energising, but it can also feel daunting. We may be tempted to measure the health of our churches - and even the value of our own lives - by the number of tasks completed, meetings attended or events arranged. Yet God's grace cannot be measured in diary appointments. Much of God's deepest work happens slowly and unseen, like roots spreading beneath the soil.

The natural world offers us another way. Trees do not cling anxiously to every leaf. The earth is not ashamed to rest. Autumn reminds us that relinquishment is part of fruitfulness and that no life, or church, can remain permanently in summer. There are seasons for growth and seasons for rest; God is present in them all. Gerard Manley Hopkins wrote that "the world is charged with the grandeur of God." That grandeur is present not only in spring blossom or high summer, but also in misty mornings, ripening fruit and falling leaves. Creation is God's gift, entrusted to our care, and a

living sign of the generosity upon which we all depend. So, as the season changes we might ask: what has God been quietly growing within us? What are we being invited to gather with gratitude? What might we need to entrust to God and release?

May the God of seedtime and harvest deepen our trust, renew our hope, and make our lives fruitful in love.

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

This letter was written by The Revd Joe Moore

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 - Next TUESDAY – it's the big day - 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.

He will be joined by Revd Joe at 9.15 am and there are a host of other local celebrities popping in. Choose your favourite and plan your day – DON'T MISS IT.

Please come to St Mary Magdalene on the day - or sign in online - it will be broadcast live all day on our Facebook page - www.facebook.com/StMaryMagdaleneRTM/

Come for a coffee, come and bring your lunch or just come and listen - 10 mins or all day you are all very welcome. Those online let us know you are there and where you are signing in from.

Come on down and support Robert.

NEW: World Clean Up Day – Sunday 20 September

Join the Green Team for a litter pick in the churchyard at St Mary Magdalene after the 9.30 service - refreshments will be served and litter pickers provided!!!

Reminder: Christian Aid Walk

A Walk for creation. A Walk for climate justice. A Walk for hope.

Join the scenic Thames walk on Saturday 26 September in support of Christian Aid and enjoy a day of community, fellowship and action for a fairer, greener world.

We'd love you to join the Green Team on this walk. The walk starts at St Matthias at 11am and you can choose between the 3 mile walk to St Richards in Ham or continue on the 8.5 mile route to St Anne's in Kew. We might even get a team together from each church!

Please let Bella Hobson (bella.hobson@googlemail.com) know if you would like to join our team and also do register online <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/richmond-riverside-sponsored-walk-september-2026-tickets-1994315316798>

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

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 planning to attend, please let Ros know as CCLA want an idea of numbers - ros.constantine@gmail.com

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.

Community Choir @ St Mary's

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

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")

Richmond CHAMBER Series - Begins I I October

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

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

St Mary Magdalene Congregation Town Hall Meeting, Sunday I I 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 I I 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](#)

(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](#)

Community News:

NEW: 'Big Sleep Out' – Saturday 10 October

On the night of Saturday 10th Oct I'm joining lots of others at the 'Big Sleep Out' for Kingston Churches Action on Homelessness.

We'll be spending the night sleeping in All Saint to help raise funds for this amazing grassroots charity. I'm a trustee and see how hard staff work to care for people across Kingston, Richmond and Wandsworth. This special charity was started by a group of fifty supporter churches more than thirty years ago. Each year it helps keep hundreds of people to stay in their homes and out of debt. It also provides addiction support and a Winter nightshelter for those on the street in the coldest months. It provides separate safe space too for women experiencing homelessness - often for complex reasons.

If you can donate anything I'd be very grateful. And whatever the weather turns out to be, I promise to be in church the next morning to tell you all about it!

Donation link is below.

Thank you!

Revd Anne O'Neil

<https://www.zeffy.com/en-GB/fundraising/anne-oneil>

Find out more about the work of KCAH here:

www.kcah.org.uk

NEW: Unlock The Mystery – Sunday 4 October, 5-8pm at St Mary's, Putney

Join us at this YMIC SW Youth Takeover event for a thrilling night of mystery, secrets and suspense! Enjoy soe fabulous pizza and a workshop led by Fr. Kieron

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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