

Wednesday 23 September 2026

Dear Friends,

This weekend I will celebrate my ordination anniversaries: my deaconing on Sat 25th Sept 2004 and my priesting, which happened a year later on Sun 26th September 2005. And inevitably the anniversaries will bring back lots of precious memories, especially the joy of worship and being in the great Abbey and Cathedral Church of St Alban, of being surrounded by so many people, those who had been on the journey towards ordination with me, and those who had loved me and supported me through the highs and lows of training and formation whilst I struggled to look after a young family, work to earn a living in the Cathedral's education centre, and spend time on chaplaincy placement at Great Ormond St Hospital. I look back now and wonder how I managed it all, but experience has shown me and taught me that where there is a will there is God! Somehow I had the energy and support not just to cope but to thrive, and I came out the other side wondering why me? And I go on wondering and being amazed by the grace which calls all of us to follow Jesus in our own particular, curious and wonder-fuelled way.

One of the most powerful parts of both ordination services in the Abbey was the giving of my newly embroidered ordination stole and its placing across my shoulders – on the day I was made deacon it was placed over one shoulder only and tied at the side, whereas on the day I was ordained priest it was laid across both shoulders, a symbol of my sharing fully in the ministry of Christ's Church, bearing the weight of my calling not only in my own strength but in His. My ordination stole is probably one of the most precious things I own, and every time I place it over my shoulders I remember not just the day I first wore it, but the life and faith it has been witness to over the last 22 years, not just the worship in church at times of seasonal celebrations like Christmas and Easter but at other times when a white stole has been part of my vestments. I will remember the baptisms of people of all ages and from all backgrounds, most of them long planned and joyful but some urgently and without ceremony; the couples I have married and whose hands have been tied together in my stole as a sign that they have been bound together within the love of God (its where the saying 'tying the knot' comes from). I think of the funerals I have taken when my white stole has rested lightly on my shoulders as we've given thanks for long and happy lives and for the deaths which have happened naturally and peacefully. But my stole also carries the imprint of funerals which have come out of pain and trauma and sometimes violence, with too deep a sense of loss and heartache, when bearing the cross of Christ at the nape of my neck has weighed heavily on me and cause me to weep with those who weep.

My beautiful ordination stole is no longer white, it's more than a little grubby and sadly its beginning to fray at the edges. I had contemplated having it dry cleaned a while ago, but to be honest I couldn't bring myself to wash away all that Christ has shared with me over the years. I cherish my calling and my well-worn off-white stole is symbolic of all that I have been witness to as I've carried the joyful and the sorrowful towards the gates of heaven. This weekend, as I remember all that I am and all that I have, I will pray for the people who have come my way (including all of you!), who have blessed me and my life as much as I, through the grace of God, have blessed them in my ministry. And I will give heartfelt thanks for the enormous privilege and joy of being able to service Christ and His Church as a deacon and a priest. Deo gratias.

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:

NEW: Red Events Concert at St Mary's – Friday 9 October, 4-10pm

Hayao Miyazaki's Dreams by Mystery Ensemble comes to St Mary's Church in the heart of Richmond. Discover the enchanting music of Hayao Miyazaki's beloved anime, including My Neighbour Totoro, Spirited Away, Howl's Moving Castle and Laputa: Castle in the Sky. The programme features renowned compositions by Joe Hisaishi alongside works by other composers inspired by Miyazaki's creations. Let the music transport you into worlds of magical creatures, brave heroines and characters rooted in Japanese folklore and experience the timeless beauty of these unforgettable stories through live performance.

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 Mattias 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>

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

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](#)

Community News:

'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

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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