

Thursday 1 October 2026

Dear Friends,

Last week, I was part of the Preachathon on Tuesday, the 12 hour preach, which lasted from dawn till dusk. While clearly it was me who was doing the preaching, on the day, I was deeply moved when I looked out and realised that people had indeed turned out to listen. For example, a good number of people turned out for the early shift just before 7am. At this point, those of us on the organising committee had anticipated that there might only be a handful of people in church, but there were two dozen even then, and that number only expanded over time. Thank you to all who came; on a personal level, it was a huge support for me, when I was preaching.

It was also an interesting example of shared enterprise: on the day, as well as people listening, there were people filming, people doing Instagram posts, people coming in to do interviews, people coming in to pour tea, to make cakes; even at one point someone checked my blood pressure to make sure I wasn't going to keel over near the end. Arguably, the most important people were those outside the door encouraging people to come in the church, to listen for a bit, and then get their 'I've attended the Preachathon' sticker, and so on.

In a world of individualism, it was a reminder that teams can often be better. And I got a further example of this, when I spoke to Axel Scheffler, the illustrator of 'The Gruffalo Granny' and all the other Gruffalo stories, halfway through the afternoon. I asked him whether he was making a point in that so often the heroes of his books (worms, witches, fish, mice and so on) were characters/creatures who normally don't get any glory (unlike lions and elephants, which are often heroes of children's books), he simply said, "Well, it's Julia [Donaldson] who sends me the words and I don't get involved until then." And the Gruffalo itself is a good example of a team at work; the words are brilliant, the illustrations are brilliant, but the magic *really* comes when they are put together.

In the New Testament, Paul's letters and the Book of Acts show the first Christians becoming a church, but it is interesting that there is no word for 'leader'. There are servants (translated 'deacons'), there are overseers (translated 'bishops'), but there is no word for leader, and nor is there in any of the 1st or 2nd century texts about the church from outside the Bible.

So, it's not just that a team is better, but somehow there can be something good where people have roles, but no *one* person is a leader.

This is deeply counter-cultural; in most of society, strong leadership is prized and clearly it has its place. But, just possibly, that place is not the church.

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:

NEW: Harvest this Sunday at St Mary Magdalene

This Sunday (4th), we'll be marking Harvest Sunday at St Mary Magdalene at our morning services. There will be an opportunity to share God's blessings onto people in vulnerable situations by bringing forward food (and also, if you like, toiletries) near the start of the service. This food will

either be passed on to the Vineyard project or kept in the food basket at the back of church, which each day is used by people who are struggling for food. Ideally please bring things that can be eaten without cooking it or with very simple cooking (canned fruit or vegetables is good) or also toothpaste and the like can be crucial for some people so that is welcome too.

NEW: Sunday 4 October - Come and Sing Evensong at St Mary's -

4.30pm Rehearsal

5.45pm Refreshments

6.30pm Evensong

Music by Dyson, Wood, and Greene

All welcome - music will be provided!

NEW: At St Mary Magdalene, on Sunday 11th October, we're doing something a little bit different, so look out for the timings.

The 8am Book of Common Prayer communion happens at 8am as normal.

This is followed at 9.15am, with a service of Morning Worship for Families with Young Children.

This will include a Bible story, an action song and a time of prayer and will last just half an hour. It's very focussed on people with children who don't enjoy being part of the longer, one hour service.

Then we'll have our Choral Eucharist at 10.30am (NOT 9.30am). This will last its usual time.

This will be followed by a 'Town Hall' event: after the service, it won't quite be the usual chat time, but, for those who wish, coffee will be brought to people in the pews, and stay and feel free to ask questions or make points about how we go about our church life. Among things to think about are how we use our church grounds at St Mary Magdalene, and also whether we normally have the right timings for our morning service. Is 9.30am best for the choral eucharist or would 10 or 10.30am be better?

I imagine this will last about 45 minutes.

So that's in ten days' time. (For this coming Sunday, 4th October, the timings are NORMAL.)

NEW: Climate Change - People's Emergency Briefing Film, plus panel discussion with Sarah Olney MP

Thursday 19 November 7pm, St Mary Magdalene.

Please join us for a special community screening: The People's Emergency Briefing.

This is a free but ticketed event, please book your free ticket via this link.

<https://www.tickettailor.com/events/richmondteamministry/2448476>

Drinks will be available from 7pm with the screening starting at 7.30pm.

What's happening with climate and nature, and what does it mean for everyday life in the UK? This eye-opening 50-minute film brings together nine leading UK scientists and experts with the latest evidence and why it matters for things like:

Extreme weather

Food security

Health

Cost of living

The film is based on the National Emergency Briefing in Westminster (featured by ITV, Channel 4 and The Times) with appearances from Chris Packham, Deborah Meaden, and a range of voices from across the UK.

After the film there will be an open panel discussion about what it means for our community, the Christian response and what we can do locally.

Seats are free but limited so please book in advance. The briefing was developed for an adult audience, so the film is appropriate for ages 16 and above. Bring a friend, neighbour or family member: everyone is welcome.

Screenings are going on across the country, so if you can't make the event with us, please use this [screenings map](#) to find an alternative.

NEW: International e-waste day Wednesday 14 October - green team challenge

International E-Waste Day 2026 turns the spotlight on Fast Tech: the small and inexpensive electronic products that have become part of everyday life. Just as disposable clothing culture reshaped how people think about garments, a comparable shift has taken place with small electronics. The result is a large and growing volume of items that are never properly collected or recycled.

Unlike large household appliances, which consumers generally recognise as items requiring responsible end-of-life disposal, Fast Tech products are rarely perceived as electronic waste. A broken pair of earphones is thrown in the general bin. A tangled charging cable ends up in a drawer, forgotten. Let's face it - most of us have a "drawer of doom" – full of those old chargers, cables and broken electricals we no longer use. On average, each UK household has 15 cables stashed away. But did you know every one of these cables contains valuable, critical and finite materials like copper? Copper is essential for phones, transport, clean energy and medical equipment. It's 100% recyclable AND recycling it uses up to 85% less energy than mining new copper – a win for the planet!

So the Green Team are challenging our congregation to check out our Fast Tech and to recycle it – sort out the 'drawer of doom' and drop off all those cables and the like at one of the Pink Bins across Richmond – this link tells you where your nearest one is by just putting in your postcode <https://recycleyourelectricals.org.uk/how-to-recycle-electronics/what-electronics-can-be-recycled/>

NEW: Wednesday 7 October, 1.10pm at St Mary's

Lunchtime piano recital given by Hayden Miller (Royal Academy of Music)

NEW: Sunday 11 October, 3pm at St Mary's - RICHMOND PIANO SERIES

Genre-bending pianist Harry Baker provides an eclectic programme weaving threads of classical and jazz repertoires - everything from Debussy to Bill Evans and John Coltrane (and much more in between!)

Tickets available at musicatmm.co.uk

Reminder: Friday 16 October

Huw Morgan, who worships and is a regular server at St John the Divine, will be taking part in the Twickenham Stadium Zipwire on Friday, 16th October. He'll be 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>

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.

Giving to the Church.

The churches in Richmond Team Ministry all face bills and various costs through the year, from fixing a roof to paying an administrator. Beyond this, the churches in Richmond contribute significant financial support to the work of other churches in Southwark Diocese in poorer areas than ours. While we are blessed with investment income, we also depend significantly on regular donations from ordinary congregation members and supportive members of the community. The best way to give to us, which requires the least administration is through 'the Parish giving Scheme'.

Go to: parishgiving.org.uk/donors/find-your-parish/richmond-team-ministry-richmond

If you would consider a regular or a one-off donation, that would be great.

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: Richmond Soup Kitchen are hiring!

If you have excellent organisational, communication and practical skills and would like a hands-on role that supports some of the most in need in the community, this could be for you.

[Richmond Soup Kitchen \(RSK\)](#) provides a free, hot, takeaway food service in central Richmond through the winter months. It's open to anyone in need, no questions asked. Now in its sixth season and supported by over 125 volunteers, the service welcomed 2,228 guests last winter, and demand continues to grow.

The purpose of this role is to keep the operational heart of the service running smoothly – by managing surplus food deliveries, stock and supplies and kitchen hygiene records, and ensuring volunteers and guests are supported by a well-organised, safe, and reliable service each week. It's a hands-on, practical role, involving on-site work at St John the Divine with the Managing Director and RSK's volunteer team.

The fixed term post starts between 26 October and 2 November 2026, and ends when the season is over (29 Apr 2027), with some additional time for induction and wind-down.

Applications from all backgrounds and experience levels are welcomed. If you are organised, reliable, and passionate about supporting your community, we would love to hear.

The closing date for applications is Thursday 15 October 2026.

Interviews will be held week commencing 19 October 2026.

[Click here for a full job description and application details.](#)

NEW: SEEN is currently looking to recruit more trustees

SEEN is a local charity in Twickenham, providing a safe space to support those facing unplanned pregnancy and baby loss, and we deliver healthy relationship education to empower and nurture our community. We have over 27 volunteers and more in training. We are looking for those who have a heart and vision for developing the work of our charity.

[Become a Trustee at SEEN - Seen](#)

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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