

Thursday 8 October 2026

Dear Friends,

I've been watching the weather forecast for Saturday night very carefully. And as the predicted overnight temperature drops – 10C...8C and now 5C, I have added another woolly item to the growing pile of things I'll be wearing as I attempt to get some sleep on the damp grass of a Kingston churchyard. Because I'm joining volunteers and trustees in the second ever 'Big Sleep Out' for the local homelessness charity KCAH – Kingston Churches Action on Homelessness raising funds for a Winter Night-shelter.

Everyone knows someone having a tougher time than usual and feeling a little vulnerable, and that vulnerability can come in many forms - economic, physical, or emotional. Homelessness is the triple whammy though and it's devastating, dangerous and isolating. On average homeless people die at just 47 years of age, are 17 times more likely to be victims of violence, and 9 times more likely to take their own life. People experiencing homelessness are far more likely than most to have had multiple difficult life events or significant relationship breakdowns, and to have physical or mental health problems, the potent combination of which any one of us would struggle with. And being homeless on top of those things, doesn't make it easier to sort your life out.

I'm struck that in our Gospel this week we hear about the wedding banquet where, when the first invited guests won't come the King sends his servants into the streets to invite everyone. Perhaps it is a critique of power and privilege, perhaps it is a reminder of the importance of human relationship and communal well-being over personal prosperity, for sure it is a call to justice – even to the very edge of society.

I was heartened over the Summer by the new PM's announcements about people at the margins – particularly about ending rough sleeping. But I also know that it's a complex issue which connects with structural poverty, mental health provision, with the care system, the welfare system, and with changing societal norms around how we support each other. And then there is 'home insecurity', not quite on the street but not a stable life either. I had personal experience of this as a teenager after my Mother died. Fortunately the little community around me provided a net to catch me, but that was long ago and our societal safety nets have weakened since, especially in our big busy cities. KCAH was set up some forty years ago by a large group of Churches who decided to work together to go out into the streets and invite all they found inside. All God's family, all our brothers and sisters – all sorts of people, old and sometimes shockingly young, men and women, from this country and seeking refuge here. People who need someone to look out for them, to advocate for them, like we all do sometimes. People who don't have that. In the years since, the problem has sadly grown but the charity and churches have stood steadfast in support and prayer. Perhaps you have been part of that, perhaps you would like to be.

The Winter Night Shelter is an awful thing to recognise the need for, but such a positive thing to see in action, it's practical help and hope to guests and volunteers alike. If you would like to be part of that there are lots of ways – not all of which involve finding your thermals on Saturday! If you would like to donate there is a link below, or if you would like to be a shelter volunteer then you are so welcome to join us. Being a human to another human that has been othered by society and inviting them to the banquet is such a Spirit filled action and I know that God abides in it. And whether either or neither of those options are for you, we heartily welcome your prayers.

Lastly – if I look a little more bedraggled than usual at the services on Sunday morning do forgive me – and you know why!

To donate to the Big Sleep Out:

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

To find out more about KCAH:

<https://kcah.org.uk/>

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 usually at 8.00am, 9.30am, and 6.30pm, but Sun 11th Oct are at 8.00am, 9.15am (for families with young children), 10.30am (choral eucharist) 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: Orange Tree Theatre's production of 'Murder in the Cathedral' at St John's

Very excitingly, the staging and lighting for the Orange Tree Theatre's production of *Murder in the Cathedral* have been installed at St John's over the past couple of days. Large gates now stand in the chancel, and a catwalk stage stretches the length of the nave aisle, giving our familiar church a strikingly different appearance.

Those who came to Morning Prayer and Evening worship on Tuesday were impressed by the transformation. Sunday worship will be something of a fun challenge over the next few weeks, requiring a little flexibility and perhaps some careful choreography! It is wonderful to see this partnership taking shape and to look forward to welcoming so many people through our doors.

The run is currently sold out, but please do contact the Orange Tree Theatre about opportunities to obtain tickets. OT Members receive priority access to the waiting list for returns and further ticket releases. During the run, a limited number of "Friday Rush" tickets will also be released online through the OT website each Friday at midday for performances the following week. Keep an eye on the theatre's website for last-minute returns, too.

There is also a special Saturday Seminar on **Saturday 31 October at 11am**, with former Archbishop of Canterbury **Rowan Williams** in conversation with the theatre's Artistic Director, **Tom Littler**. They will explore the play's spiritual themes and the political world of the 1930s that helped shape it. Tickets are **£15**—a wonderful opportunity to deepen our understanding of Eliot's remarkable work. [Further details and booking.](https://www.orangetreetheatre.co.uk) ([orangetreetheatre.co.uk](https://www.orangetreetheatre.co.uk))

NEW: Governor at Christ's School: Vacancy

Christ's School is our local C of E secondary school. There are a number of 'Foundation' places on the governing body reserved for members of the congregation or connected with the church which ensures it keeps its Christian ethos. It's a great way of the Church supporting the wider community, and we currently have a vacancy. If you have an interest in supporting young people in our area in this way, please consider being a governor. Ask Robert for more details. It typically involves a commitment of something like ten evening meetings a year, plus two half days, and some ability to get through paperwork.

At St Mary Magdalene, THIS 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.

Red Events Concert at St Mary's – Friday 9 October, 7.30pm

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.

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 musicatmmm.co.uk

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 of all those cables and the like at one of the Pink Bins across Richmond – this links 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/>

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>

Update: Day Pilgrimage to Canterbury Cathedral, Saturday 14 November 2026 – ONLY A FEW SPACES LEFT!

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.

To register your interest email Rev'd Joe – joe.moore@richmondteamministry.org

ADVANCE NOTICE:

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.

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](#)

Diocesan News:

NEW: Mission Conference – Saturday 21 November - St John's Church, Waterloo

The title of this year's conference is *Signs of Hope*, looking at some of the great examples of work that our parishes across the traditions are doing to help not only themselves but others to grow. Across the Diocese, parishes are flourishing through revitalisation, fresh expressions, church planting, and new forms of Christian community. This conference will showcase these signs of hope and help participants explore practical next steps in their own contexts.

By attending, you will:

1. Hear inspiring stories of growth and renewal.
2. Learn practical approaches that can be adapted locally.
3. Connect with leaders from across the Diocese.
4. Discover resources to support mission in your parish.

A major focus of this year's conference will be Southwark's Hub Churches: parishes that have developed innovative and fruitful ministries which can be shared and adapted elsewhere. Through seminars and marketplace stands, you'll be able to explore ideas that are already bearing fruit across the Diocese.

So far, we have the following who have committed to be there:

1. Spring – helping our Estates thrive
2. Lifting Young Voices – developing missional choirs in a church and school setting
3. Growing Younger Together – building a catholic children and youth work from the ground up
4. Youth Ministry in Communion – Sacramental youth work between churches in an area
5. Body & Soul – an integrated approach to wellbeing – fitness and faith
6. Bubble Church - Bubble Church is a puppet-packed, Jesus-centred, 30 minute family Sunday service for families to worship together.

In addition, we will have stands from:

1. Growing Hope – Provides resourcing and training to help churches become more accessible for children and families with additional needs
2. LyCiG – Leading your church into Growth helps equip local leaders with practical strategies for sustainable growth. These gatherings often result in leaders forming actionable plans and renewed missional focus.

We are delighted that Bishop Martin will open the conference. Keynote contributions from Debbie Clinton, Head of Strategy and Vision for the Church of England, and Canon Will Cookson, Director of Mission for the Diocese of Southwark, will explore where hope and growth are emerging across the Church today and what lessons can be applied locally.

Whether you are looking for fresh ideas, practical tools, or renewed encouragement, *Signs of Hope* is a day designed to equip and inspire you.

We'd love you and your team to join us. Book your place today. Tickets are £15 (includes lunch and refreshments). For more information and booking details please visit Diocesan website:

[Southwark Mission Conference 2026 'Signs of Hope' - The Diocese of Southwark](#)

If cost is an issue or if you have any questions, please do contact our team at

[<Mission@southwark.anglican.org>](mailto:Mission@southwark.anglican.org)

Community News:

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.](#)

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/>

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](#)