

Thursday 22 October 2026

Dear Friends,

There's keeping to tradition and there's missing out on innovation.

Two recent examples.

First, at Evensong at St Mary Magdalene on Sunday, the choir and cantor sang the beautiful Responses written by the modern composer Joanne Forbes l'Estrange (quite a name, I know). As will be familiar to regular attenders, at one point the priest sings, "O Lord, save the King" and the choir respond, 'And mercifully hear us when we call upon Thee.' Forbes l'Estrange, however, has put into the music the option for the priest to sing, "O Lord, save the state" rather than "O Lord, save the King". Helpful update or unnecessary change?

Second, in the Orange Tree production of 'Murder in the Cathedral', a knight, before setting off on a speech from T.S.Eliot's original text, in explaining why Becket's murder is necessary, has been given the added line, "It's not a good look." They aren't Eliot's words, but arguably they help the play to work for a modern audience.

Neither are especially significant but they point to a constant dilemma in church life. When is it right to change to move with the times and when should we keep the treasure that has been given us? And unless one is a fundamentalist, everyone would say that both approaches have got their value and need to be honoured; rather, it's about deciding where and when the change is going to be in accordance with the Spirit. This, I suppose, is encapsulated in an old-fashioned but very important word: discernment.

To return to the Evensong dilemma: I wasn't quite sure where I was going to go until we got to the Responses and I ended up sticking with 'O Lord, save the King'. It isn't because I'm a particularly passionate monarchist but eventually I thought that the right way for a change in liturgical text should come about is through the Liturgical Commission and General Synod; it wasn't for a composer or any individual for that matter to push an agenda or cause a change. So I stuck with it. I'm quite a rule abiding person, really.

But you can't stick with everything, and I don't think anyone present would have minded if I'd changed the word. In fact, it is possible that no one would have noticed. Discerning the right time and place for change is the key.

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/>

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:

Don't forget: the clocks change this weekend!

All Souls' – A Team Service on Sunday 1 November, 6.30pm at St Matthias

Lists for names of people you wish to remember in that service are up in each of our churches. If you would like to write one or two people's names you would like to have read out, please do so clearly, to help those who are reading. If you are unable to come to church to write the name, please email them to John Palmer, admin@richmondteamministry.org

The deadline for submission is midday, Thursday 29 October.

You are of course warmly invited to the service itself, to remember loved ones and light a candle for them. A joint choir will sing the Fauré Requiem.

All Souls Reflective Walk, Friday 30 October

Come and join Rev'd Anne on a seasonal walk around the Old Cemetery off Queen's Road. We will explore the lives and legacies of some of those laid to rest here, along with the flora and fauna which make this such an interesting place to visit. Meet at the end of Greville Road near the old cemetery chapel at 10am. Nearest bus stop is Park Road (371 bus towards Kingston). We will end our walk with coffee at The Lass pub. The route is a little uneven in places, but not too long and

perfect for a gentle reflective stroll. More info from Anne anne.crawford@richmondteamministry.org

NEW: Zip Wire Thanks

Huw Morgan would like to thank everyone from the Richmond Team Ministry who sponsored his zip wire “flight” across Twickenham Rugby Stadium last week. With your help - along with others, and giftaid - he’s been able to pass on very close to £500 to the charity Skylarks to further their work with children and young people with additional needs - and he really enjoyed doing it!



NEW: St John's Church Hall Renovation - Richmond Society Commendation Award

It was a joy for the renovation of St John's Church Hall, completed earlier this year, to receive a Commendation Award from The Richmond Society. Rev'd Joe attended the awards ceremony on Wednesday evening alongside our parish architect, Daniel Benson, who joined him in receiving the award. We are grateful to Daniel and everyone whose skill, care and hard work helped transform the hall. Above all, we give thanks for this renewed space and the opportunities it offers for hospitality, friendship and community life. It is lovely to see the work recognised and celebrated in this way.

NEW: Thursday 12 November - Faure Requiem at St Matthias

November is often a chance to pause, reflect and remember. With All Souls' Day and Remembrance falling in quick succession, it is a moment to stop and think about those who have come before us. Richmond Chamber Choir, whose musical home is St Matthias' Church, are teaming up with the church's own choir to perform Gabriel Fauré's famous Requiem on Thursday 12 November at 8pm. Directed by Alexander Turner, and accompanied on the organ by Phoebe Tak Man Chow, solos will be performed by Richmond Chamber Choir's choral apprentices who are current students at the Royal Academy of Music. Entry is free, with a retiring collection divided between the church and chamber choir. The performance will be around 45 minutes, with poetry reflecting remembrance interpolated between movements of Fauré's sublime and ultimately hopeful music.

NEW: Saturday 24 October, 12.30pm at St Mary's

St Mary Magdalen's very own Seb and Ros are coming together to showcase their talents THIS Saturday for the Lunchtime recital - Rosalind Ridout (Flute), Seb Gillot (Piano)

Music by Poulenc, Schubert, and Telemann

Donations welcome at the end. Please do come to support them and enjoy the music. Rumours that Bede will be joining them on violin are unsubstantiated.

NEW: OneRichmond Carols For Hope Concert

OneRichmond's Carols for Hope Christmas Concert will take place on Tuesday 1 December, 6.15pm at St Mary Magdalene Church, with all funds going towards local charities making a big difference to children in need across the entire borough. Every penny raised up to £10,000 will be doubled thanks to match funding provided by Richmond Foundation, doubling the impact of your donation.

The concert will feature carols from multiple local choirs and readings delivered by celebrities such as Samantha Bond, Jill Baker, and David Horovitch. The atmosphere will be festive and family-friendly, with mince pies and mulled wine on arrival. It promises to be the perfect way to celebrate the start of the festive season whilst also doing something positive for your community. The event is being supported by OneRichmond's health partner London Gynaecology, as well as local charity Sponsorstars.

All funds raised will go towards local children facing challenging situations such as mental health struggles, deprivation, food poverty, disability, growing up in care, and more.

Tickets are available now for the Carols for Hope Christmas Concert via OneRichmond's website.

They cost £25 for adults, £10 for children, and £55 for a family ticket (2 adults and 2 children).

Under 5s go free.

Link to buy tickets: <https://www.intix.co.uk/event/carols-for-hope/information>

New: Bereavement Support Cafe

We are exploring beginning an RTM monthly bereavement cafe in the Spring, where people dealing with grief and loss can drop in for a coffee and chat with volunteer listeners.

If you may be interested in training to be a listener and would like to find out more, please get in touch with Revd Annie

anneoneil@richmondteamministry.org

07554 122063

Update: 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.

100 tickets have already been booked (more than half) so if you want to come, please book soon.

Any problems with doing online booking just speak to Revd Annie or someone on The Green Team.

Joining Morning Prayer online, Wednesdays and Thursdays, at 8.30am:

Morning Prayer takes place in church in person, but also on Teams on Wednesdays and Thursdays. You are welcome to join from distance. You can use this code on Microsoft Teams:

[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.

Giving to the Church

It's been a wet week, and we need to keep the roofs working... 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

[Jo Kitson](#) - St John the Divine

07880 500528

Or, [contact the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor](#)

Diocesan News:

NEW: Invitation to Church Urban Fund (CUF) Webinars

1. On Monday 26 October, between 12:30-13:30, we will be asking 'how well do you know your parish?'

Join us as we explore CUF's free and revamped *Look Up Tool* and consider how this can help us uncover the demographics, opportunities, and challenges within your local community. This webinar will be particularly helpful for those who are curious about their local area, wanting to better reach out to their neighbours, are developing a MAP, or applying for funding.

2. On Monday 23rd November, between 12:30-13:30, we will be asking 'are you ready to grow your church's local community engagement?'

Join us as we explore how we move from social action being the passion of a few individuals to a shared vision that engages the whole church. CUF will be sharing about their *Growing Good* resources as one way of doing so, helping churches to connect faith with action and equipping congregations to come alongside their local communities.

These webinars are for clergy and laity alike, so please do feel free to forward this email on to anyone in your church who you think might be interested.

[You can sign up to either \(or both!\) of the webinars here.](#)

If you have any questions, please feel free to get in touch with Nicole McKeever directly at Nicole.mckeever@southwark.anglican.org.

Community News:

Calling all quizzers!

You are invited to join a team from Richmond Team Ministry and Skylarks Charity for a quiz night hosted by the Mayor of Richmond on Friday 30 October.

Join Nancy Baldwin (from St Matthias and local councillor) and Fiona Morgan (from St John the Divine) for a fun evening at York House in Twickenham from 7.30pm. Tickets are £27 and the evening includes food and there is also a raffle and bar. All proceeds go to the Mayor's charities.

Book your tickets here:

https://www.richmond.gov.uk/council/councillors/mayor/mayors_charities

Town Centre redevelopment

This isn't directly church related, but Richmond Council have just launched a website for issues around improving Richmond Town Centre. See here, and add your name to a link within that website, if you want to get emails with updates and news.

<https://improving-richmond-town-centre.commonplace.is>

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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