

Thursday 29 October 2026

Dear Friends,

It may be me, but I have not noticed quite as many houses decorated for Hallowe'en as there have been in recent years. Perhaps the cost of living is making people think twice, or it may be that the world is scary enough just now without adding to the fear.

For older generations the trend to mark Hallowe'en with 'Trick or Treating' is seen as something new, and there's a common assumption that marking Hallowe'en by dressing up and asking for sweets, is an American pagan tradition. But Hallowe'en (31st Oct and the night before All Saint's Day) is an ancient Christian festival, part of the sacred season of All Hallows tide, when the dead are remembered and are prayed for. In pre-reformation days our ancestors would have marked the season by dressing in costume, in rags and tatters, covering their faces or wearing masks and going from door to door, meeting and greeting neighbours, singing, dancing and blessing the household with prayers for their dead. In those days it was against the law to beg, so the poorer members of a community, who didn't have the money to celebrate a feast like their wealthier neighbours would go 'Souling' as a way to earn some extra money, and in return for their singing, dancing and prayers for the dead, they would be given Soul Cakes, little spiced fruit cakes marked with a cross on the top.

Keeping traditions alive is a way of remembering who we are, and celebrating our Christian heritage and some of those ancient strange customs like 'Souling' feels important. So why not, this Hallowe'en, bake some little Soul Cakes – there are lots of recipes to be found online - and give as gifts to friends and neighbours who have lost a loved one this year, along with a promise to pray for them and for the people they love and miss.

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, Sally Gill, Barry Dell

... **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, and 9.30am where there will be a choral eucharist and a baptism. Note that there is no evening service this Sunday at St Mary Magdalene's: instead there is a team service for All Souls at St Matthias. 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. This Sunday St Matthias hosts the All Souls service at 6.30pm.

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:

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

You are 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 – Tomorrow

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

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.

Sunday 8 November – Remembrance Sunday

Remembrance Sunday will be marked at all the churches in the team. As happens each year, directly after the 9.30am service at St Mary Magdalene, after the act of remembrance outside at the church war memorial, the rector, choir and anyone who would like to join will leave to help lead the civic act of remembrance at Whittaker Avenue with two minutes' silence at 11am.

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.

Reminder: Advent Quiet Day at St John the Divine - 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

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>

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

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

Please consider becoming a regular donor to the church, if you are not one already. The churches in Richmond Team Ministry all face bills and various costs through the year, from fixing a roof to paying an administrator; we also, through our contribution to the diocese and from our own resources, fund the stipends and housing of three full time clergy. Through the diocese, we also have a part time curate. 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:

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

With best wishes,
John
Parish Administrator

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Richmond Team Ministry
St Mary Magdalene • St Matthias • St John the Divine
www.richmondteamministry.org
Registered Charity No 1130018

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[Click here for Revd Joe's Instagram page](#)