Thursday 5 November 2026

Dear Friends,

I have three pieces of paper which encompass World War 1 for me. The first is the honourable discharge certificate for my Grandmother's Father which hangs in a frame on the wall behind my desk. The others are postcards written in pencil at the front from my Grandfather's Father to his sister. Both Bernard Riley and Norman Harold Tempest came home ok, at least physically.

Bernard was injured but shell shock was the bigger problem and he was prone to occasional violent outbursts the rest of his life. By all accounts he went away a nice man and came back a difficult one. He signed up immediately war was declared – three weeks after my Grandmother (his fifth of ten children) was born. He returned when she was three and a half and couldn't recognise him. He was in his early thirties and a coal miner. He didn't have to go - he chose to, which is hard to comprehend of a man with five children under the age of seven. I'd like to think he was stirred to action, but more realistically that he was with mates, it paid better and he would be above ground. So it seemed a good option in some ways. He was a Durham Light Infantry private in the trenches somewhere. I could ask the DLI museum for details, but the reality is that honourably discharged probably just means he was injured to the point he wasn't useful anymore.

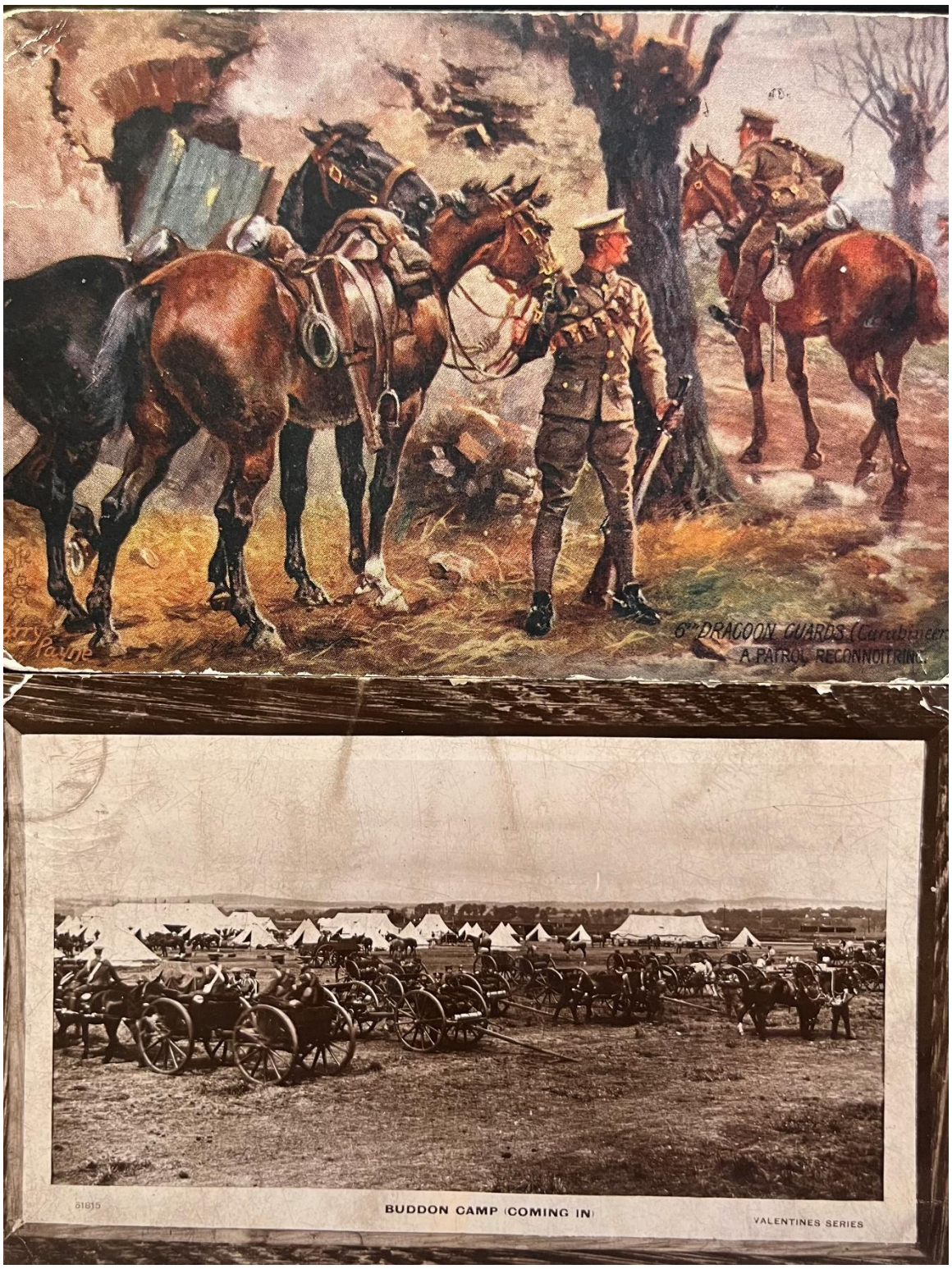
Norman was younger, he didn't join the DLI until 1917. Classed as less than A1 he was assigned to the second class Labour Corp - digging channels and unloading supplies not always at the front line but usually within the range of the guns.

His first postcard says:
'Dear Sister,
Just a line hoping you are enjoying the company and thanking you for your kindness towards my wife and children, as I know they will be welcome there. Also remember me to M.F. and family in their sorrow'.

His second begins with a joke and ends with kiss after kiss for the children – Norman, Mable and little Harry.

They are such human, workaday and not big glorious tales - like the story of millions I guess. No books will be written about them, no films made, no gallant tales of them have survived the years. But they gave their service and they gave it willingly. They thankfully came home, but they offered for our sake all they had to give - themselves.

And before the God of both the great and the ordinary - we remember them.




With prayers and blessings from the Richmond clergy team,
Robert, Anne, Joe & Annie

*This letter was written by The Revd Anne O'Neil*

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**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** – Joan Crosland, Jennifer Murmann

*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)*

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## 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 for a quiet service following the text of the Book of Common Prayer, and 9.30am where there will be a choral eucharist. There will be Choral Evensong at 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. 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:

**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.

**NEW: Mailing list distribution issues last week**

As you may remember, we experienced issues last week with the parish email being sent out but then some follow-up replies being sent to everyone on the mailing list, something which has never happened before.

We followed up with ICL, our IT providers and can confirm that, contrary to what we considered originally, this is not due to a hack, but due to a loophole in the current system, which shouldn't exist i.e. it's possible, if a reply isn't written in a certain format, for that reply unintentionally to go to *the whole mailing list,* not just e.g .the administrator. ICL have contacted Microsoft 365 to find out why this possibility exists when it shouldn't, but have not yet heard back. We continue to look for an answer.

For this week, we have followed the 'old' method of sending the email. Please do not reply to it! By next week, hopefully Microsoft 365 will have closed down the loophole; alternatively, it will fall on us, and we will go about reconfiguring our own back-screen contacts list so that this is no longer possible. This will be tedious, but may be necessary.

**NEW: Update on the Bell restoration project at St Mary's**

After the phenomenally successful Preachathon at the end of September, the New Bells for Richmond campaign has now raised in excess of £230,000 with a further £20,000 pledged for when the work is completed.

This means that the fund raising reached its target in just 12 months, with the money raised through the Preachathon including £12,000 for the Richmond Soup Kitchen.

Although the exact final cost will not be known until the work is complete, we believe we now have enough to cover all of the costs of the work required to install five new bells and the three restored bells made in 1680.

We now expect our new ring of eight bells to be delivered and installed by the end of January. Once ringing has resumed, we will be able to obtain an accurate estimate for reinstating the clock bell so that it will chime each hour during the day.

The peal boards have been skilfully restored by our conservator and will be returned to St Mary Magdalene during the week of November 18 and will be on display in the church before being rehung in the ringing room the following week. Do take the opportunity to look at them.

The ringers are extremely grateful for the magnificent support for this historical fund-raising project and look forward to ringing again soon with new bells and a new sound.

**NEW: James Nicholson**

James, our longstanding verger whom many of you will know, has written to give notice that he would like to leave his post at the end of January 2027 to spend more time with his family. James joined the staff of Richmond Team Ministry in 2016 and has been a great servant to the churches in our team, in all sorts of ways. After I arrived at St Mary Magdalene, when I took a funeral, a funeral director introduced himself to me and said, "So, you're the new member of clergy… you guys come and go, but I know we'll be alright when I see James at the door: he's the constant." As well as moving the furniture, in many ways, James has been *part* of the furniture and he will be greatly missed.

That said, he's not leaving just yet, and there will be time to do a proper good-bye in the New Year.

**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.

**Update: Day Pilgrimage to Canterbury Cathedral, Saturday 14 November 2026**
Places are now allocated and Revd Joe will be in touch within the next few days confirming final arrangements.

**Climate Change Film Event -** 170 tickets have been booked - only 30 are left so please reserve soon if you'd like to come.
We are likely to have a waiting list, so if you've booked tickets but can no longer make it then we'd be so grateful if you can let us know so we can pass tickets on. Email Revd Annie on anneoneil@richmondteamministry.org
More details below.
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.
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.

**The Questions of Jesus — Richmond Team Ministry Advent Quiet Day**

**Saturday 28th November, 10am–3pm**
**St John the Divine, Richmond, Kew Road, TW9 2NA**

Before the busyness of Advent and Christmas begins, take a little time to be still, breathe and reflect. Our Advent Quiet Day offers space to step away from everyday demands, listen for God's voice and prepare our hearts for the coming season.

Led by **The Rev'd Dr Simon Cuff, Rector of St Mary-le-Bow in the City of London**, we will explore *The Questions of Jesus*, considering how Christ's questions invite us into deeper faith and shape our lives today.

The day will begin with **Holy Communion**, followed by coffee, and will include two addresses, generous periods of silence and personal reflection, prayer and closing reflections.

**Programme**

- **10am:** Holy Communion
- **10.30am:** Coffee
- **10.45am:** First address
- **11am:** Silence and reflection
- **12 noon:** Prayer During the Day
- **12.15pm:** Lunch
- **1pm:** Second address
- **1.15pm:** Silence and reflection
- **2.15pm:** Closing reflections
- **2.45pm:** Sending out

Please bring a packed lunch, or buy lunch at one of the various cafés and eateries in Richmond.

Whether you are familiar with quiet days or coming for the first time, you are warmly welcome.

**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

## Community News:

### NEW: Line Dancing Evening

You are invited to join the Mayor of Richmond on Friday 13 November for a line dancing evening! Join Nancy Baldwin (from St Matthias and local councillor) for a fun evening at York House in Twickenham from 7 to 9pm. Tickets are £20 including 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

### NEW: Richmond Soup Kitchen is back!

Next week marks the start of another winter of Richmond Soup Kitchen supporting people in our community. We will be opening from 11th November to 29th April, every Wednesday and Thursday 5-6pm and Saturday 9-10am. The weather has certainly turned, and we anticipate, as with every season, that we will be busier than ever.

Every year, I find myself wondering whether this might be our last season - whether enough can change in our society that organisations like ours are no longer needed. I remain hopeful that one day this will be the case. But until then, we will be here.
If you are in a position to donate, either as a one off or regularly we would really appreciate your support via richmondsoupkitchen.org. Also follow us on social media @richmondsoupkitchen to keep up to date on all our news.
If you are interested in volunteering with us please get in touch at volunteers@richmondsoupkitchen.org
We have a few Christmas events coming up, we would really love to see you there.
Come and Find us at the Christmas Lights Switch-Ons
We are excited to be attending two Christmas Lights Switch-On events this year!
We'll have stalls selling our fantastic Christmas gift tags, lovingly made from all the Christmas cards you donated last year. We'll also have festive treats, reindeer food and cake available in exchange for donations to support our work.

- Teddington: Thursday 26th November, from 5pm
- Hampton Hill: Friday 27th November, from 5pm

We would also love some extra volunteers to help us run the stalls. If you can spare an evening, please get in touch at volunteers@richmondsoupkitchen.org.

**Christmas Eve Carols at St John the Divine**
Celebrate this Christmas Eve in Richmond at St John the Divine with a warm, family-friendly celebration of carols, community and the Christmas story. Led by Revd. Joe Moore, the service will feature festive sing-alongs and readings by candlelight followed by mince pies and hot drinks. Donations will be welcomed on-the-day for the vital work of Richmond Soup Kitchen and Shepherd's Star. Bring the whole family, invite a neighbour or just come along to share in the music and festive cheer.
We are seeking a few volunteers for the day to help set up and serve mulled wine and festive treats. If you are free please do get in touch.
Everyone is welcome and we'd love to see you there!
3pm - 4pm. Free to attend and all ages welcome.

Isabelle Swann

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

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