Thursday 19 November 2026

Dear Friends,

There were many things to reflect on after Saturday's parish day pilgrimage to Canterbury, but one of the things that struck me was how change in the Church of England is embodied in that cathedral.
Our tour in the morning took us past Becket's place of martyrdom through the arched crypt to the chapel steps, worn away by centuries of pilgrims ascending the stairs on their knees, and finally to the site of his tomb, where hundreds of thousands of pilgrims prayed for cures for ailments and much more. This was Medieval Christianity writ large, pulsating with energy, but it had all come to a lurching standstill with Henry VIII banning of pilgrimage in 1538.
Then, in the early evening, we regathered for evensong in the chapel which stands on an upper tier, and the choir sang crystalline harmony from Byrd and Tallis. These two were writing in the 1580s, only fifty years later, and yet the spirituality is entirely different. For us, of course, the tunes sound 'old', but their style would have been diamond-fresh in its time, and Evensong itself was relatively newly minted by Thomas Cranmer; in its time it must have been mind-blowing.
Two quite different spiritualities, succeeding each other as the mainline English Christian worship and yet the same building hosted it all.
We may experience change today, but our worship is remarkably constant in comparison with the sea change that surged through England in the 16th Century, for better or worse. Today, we can tap into both (and other styles too); it's a less binary age, in spiritual terms, and we should be grateful for this.

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, Sally Gill, Barry Dell, Christopher Powell-Smith
… 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)

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.

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.

CHURCH NEWS:

NEW: Our Mailing List for the Newsletter - test
As you know we experienced an issue with our newsletter email distribution list a fortnight ago. Working together with our IT people, we believe we have corrected the issue, but have been advised by Microsoft that we will only know for certain it has been corrected, once an attempt is made to send an email from a certain email address which is then *not* distributed. So we will be doing this test on Tuesday morning next week, with the subject line, "Test". Hopefully, you will not receive this email, as that will be a sign that the problem has been rectified. If you *do* receive this email, please just delete it. (Unfortunately, it will mean that we will go back to the drawing board about how to rectify our problem, but sending out the test is the only way to work out if there is still an issue.)

NEW: Saturday 5 December, 2.30pm at St Mary's
The Band of the Honourable Artillery Company return for their ever popular Annual Christmas Concert.

NEW: Sunday 6 December, 6.30pm - RECITAL & COMPLINE @ St Mary's
A rare chance to hear a clavichord recital, given by Seb. Followed by choral compline.

Christingle at St Mary Magdalene
We're proposing to do a similar nativity to last year during the 5pm Christingle service on Christmas Eve at St Mary's. Teenagers narrating us through the Christmas story, smaller children dressing up, Andreana holding it all together with a tinkle on the piano.
Commitment:
November 29th: 10:45am (during coffee): planning meeting
December 6th: 10:45am (during coffee): walk through of script, plan costume
December 20th: 10:45am (during coffee): dress rehearsal
December 24th: 4.30pm - final prep before 5pm Christingle service.

Contact Maia (07500 765733) for more information, to express preference on your part or just turn up on 29th November.

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:

NEW: Signs of Hope – Diocesan Mission Conference 2026 - Saturday 21 November 2026 9.30am–4.00pm - St John's Waterloo

There is still time to register for Diocesan Mission Conference, **Signs of Hope**

We are delighted that our keynote speaker will be **Debbie Clinton**, Interim Joint Chief Operating Officer and Director of Strategy and Vision for the Church of England. Debbie says of the conference:

"Hope doesn't look the same in every place. Across the Church of England we are seeing God at work through churches of every size and tradition, often beginning with something quite small: prayer, a new idea or resource, or simply recognising what God has already placed in our hands. These small beginnings can become part of something larger, as God grows and connects them into deeper transformation across our churches and communities. I'm looking forward to sharing some of those signs of hope and asking what they might spark in each of us."

Across the Diocese of Southwark, churches are embracing new opportunities, reaching out to their communities in creative ways, nurturing faith across generations, and discovering fresh ways to share the love of Christ.

Join us for a day of inspiration, encouragement, and shared learning. Through keynote talks, practical seminars, and our Mission Marketplace, we hope and pray that you will discover an idea, resource, or opportunity that could make a real difference in your church and community.

Seminar Programme

With three seminar sessions throughout the day, there will be something to inspire everyone, whether you are exploring new ways of being church, developing mission and discipleship, or seeking fresh ideas to renew parish life.

Seminar Session 1

1. **Starting Something New** – Revd Katie Kelly
2. **Developing for Growth** – Revd Santhosh Thomas
3. **Renewing the Parish** – Revd Ben Bell and Revd Stuart Labran
4. **Opportunities, Challenges and Joys of Church Planting** – Revd Ben Jones and Revd Andrew Twesigye

Seminar Session 2

1. **Growth Through Pathways to Faith and Worship** – Ethan Glackin McColgan
2. **Developing Missionary Disciples** – Alex Brito
3. **Youth Ministry in Communion: Lifting Young Voices** – Fr Kieron Rowley and Revd Joe Moffat
4. **Springfield / Estates Pioneers** – Revd David Atkinson and Revd Gary Jenkins

Seminar Session 3

1. **Learning with Others** – Revd Paul Holden
2. **Leading Your Church into Growth** – Revd Sue Cooke
3. **Growing Younger Together** – Revd Canon John Pritchard, Revd Rachael Gledhill and Revd Helen Harknett
4. **Re-missioning the Parish** – Revd Marcus Ottavani

Come along, be encouraged, make new connections, and discover fresh possibilities for mission and ministry.

Book your place today

https://tinyurl.com/Signs-of-Hope

Community News:

Two Lives, Two World Wars
Lesley Dunlop has written this book about the lives of her grandfather and father, both baptised at St. John the Divine. It provides some fascination insight into local and military history.
Further information on Two Lives, Two World Wars can be found at
www.pastdayspublishing.com

With best wishes,
John
Parish Administrator

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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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Click here for Revd Joe's Instagram page