

Thursday 13 November 2025

Dear Friends,

A few weeks ago, I was at the Victoria Inn on Hill Rise, where I was kindly taught how to pour a proper pint of Guinness. (There's an art to it!) The glass must be tilted at just the right angle, filled slowly, then left to rest so that the dark liquid settles before it's topped up with that creamy white head. It's part science, part ritual and rather satisfying. That moment came to mind as I began watching *The House of Guinness*, the fairly new Netflix series that explores the story of Ireland's most famous brewing dynasty. It's full of all the grandeur and contradiction of Irish history itself; faith and doubt, poverty and prosperity, conflict and community. What makes the series compelling is that it isn't simply about a business empire. It's about legacy, about how belief, family, and conscience shaped a brand that became part of the national story.

Arthur Guinness, who founded the brewery in 1759, was a man of faith as well as ambition. He was influenced by the evangelical revival sweeping through Britain and Ireland - by the preaching of John Wesley and the growing conviction that industry and morality belonged together. His Christianity was Protestant and reforming, yet it was also generous and public-spirited. In a Dublin still marked by sectarian tension, social inequality, and deep suspicion between Catholic and Protestant communities, the Guinness family's philanthropy stood out. They built housing for workers, supported hospitals and schools, funded sanitation and clean water, and sought to improve the lives of ordinary Dubliners - Catholic and Protestant alike.

It's worth remembering that this was no simple task. Religion in Ireland was rarely just about private devotion; it was entangled with questions of identity, power, and belonging. For a Protestant family of privilege to use their wealth for the common good was, in its own way, a form



of witness — an expression of a faith that refused to be confined by tribal loyalties. The Guinnesses were never saints, and their legacy is not unblemished. But their story suggests that faith can, at its best, bridge divides and transform public life. Watching the series, and remembering that carefully poured pint, I found myself thinking about what kind of “house” we are building in our own time. Every parish, like every family, inherits something from the past: a mix of faith and frailty, of beauty and brokenness. The question is what we do with that inheritance. St Paul writes, “Like a wise master builder I laid a

foundation, and another is building on it. Each builder must choose with care how to build” (1 Corinthians 3.10).

Here in the Richmond Team Ministry - at St Mary Magdalene, St Matthias, and St John the Divine - we, too, are the stewards of a rich legacy. We have beautiful buildings, deep roots in our community, and traditions of worship and service that have shaped generations. Yet, like the Guinness family, we must also find ways to renew what we've been given, to ensure that what we build is not simply for ourselves, but for those who will come after us. The Church, after all, is not a museum but a living house, a place where faith is brewed and shared afresh each day. Like the care that goes into crafting a pint of Guinness, the life of the Church depends on attention and patience: the steady pouring of prayer, compassion, and hope into the fabric of our community. But the Irish story also reminds us that houses of faith can become divided, that religion can wound as well as heal. That's why the Psalmist's reminder still holds true: “Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labour in vain” (Psalm 127.1). We build best when we build for reconciliation — when our “house” becomes a place where strangers are welcomed, burdens are shared, and God's grace flows freely.

So perhaps the real lesson of *The House of Guinness* is that legacy is not about wealth or reputation, but about the courage to serve. A good pint takes time to settle; so does a faithful life. May we, in our Team churches, continue to build a house that overflows with generosity, beauty, and love - a house where all can taste and see that the Lord is good.

With prayers and blessings from the Richmond clergy team,

Anne and Joe

This letter was written by The Revd Joe Moore

Please pray for:

... **Fr. Jamil Khadir and the Anglican congregations in Nablus** in the West Bank; for the peace of Jerusalem, release of hostages 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** - Epp Jones, Sarah Pryce, Philippa Morgan, Georgina Merchant, Gordon Hamilton (Georgina's father), Gerald Fearn, Julie Burman, Paul & Caity Manning, Christa Browne, Barbara Adamson, Irene Chalmers, Katherine Keddle

... **the departed, may they rest in peace** – Jennifer Thornton, Margaret Walsh, Martin Buckley

The memorial service for Revd Canon Julian Reindorp, Vicar of St. Mary Magdalene and Team Rector 1992-2009, will be held at St Mary Magdalene, Saturday 29 November at 3.00pm. More details will follow.

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: Is anything weighing on your heart at present that you would like us to hold in prayer for you? The St MM prayer group meets regularly to pray in complete confidence over specific prayer needs made known to us. Please feel free to send us your prayer requests

at: richmondprayer.request@gmail.com or post a request anonymously on the prayer board at the back of church in St Mary Magdalene.

If you (or a loved one) find yourself housebound for some reason (even temporarily, after an operation, say) and 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) and we would be happy to arrange it.

Prayer & Worship:

St John the Divine's Sunday service at 11.00am is both in-person and live-streamed via their [Facebook page](#). St John's 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 our regular Said Eucharist at 7pm 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 to receive it on someone else's behalf. All are welcome.

St Mary Magdalene's Sunday services are at 8.00am, 9.30am, and 6.30pm. Our 9.30am service will be live-streamed via [St Mary Magdalene Facebook page](#). You can watch the service live as it happens, or once it is uploaded.

There is a Said Eucharist at 10.00am every Wednesday, followed by coffee.

St Matthias' 9.30am Sunday service is an in-person service. The midweek Eucharist at St Matthias is held on Thursdays at 10.00am and is followed by coffee and biscuits. Everyone is very welcome to join us.

Evening Prayer at St Matthias each Wednesday at 5pm

This new service (using the Daily Prayer app) will include a time of silent prayer, an opportunity to pray for the wellbeing and ministry of our three churches during the vacancy, and for the person God is calling to join the Team as Vicar of St Mary Magdalene. All welcome.

Please note there will be no evening prayer Wednesday 19 November.

Orders of service / readings for all three churches can be found on the News page of our website – here: <https://richmondteamministry.org/news/>

Private Prayer:

St Mary Magdalene is normally open for visiting and prayer, on Saturdays between 10.00am and 12.00noon and Monday – Friday 8am until 3pm.

Morning Prayer, Monday – Fridays, at 8.30am:

Morning Prayer takes place in church and on Teams. We meet at St Matthias on Mondays and Fridays, at St John the Divine on Tuesdays, and at 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.

Please note there will be no morning prayer Friday 21 November.

NEW: Safeguarding Sunday at St Mary Magdalene

Action Speaks Louder! #SafeguardingSunday is an opportunity to thank those who work hard to make our churches a safer place for all, and to reflect on what we can do better. St Mary Magdalene will be using the @thirtyoneeight resources on 16 November to join the national campaign for safer places! [Safeguardingsunday.org](https://safeguardingsunday.org)

Sunday 30 November @ 6:30pm - Team Advent Procession & Advent Carols at St John the Divine

All are warmly invited to this beautiful Team act of worship with music and scripture readings as we begin the season of Advent.

Please do invite family and friends to this special service.

Christingle Nativity, Wednesday 24 December 5pm. St Mary Magdalene.

Message from Maia Rushby and Sarah Brown

Please let us know if your child/young adult would like to take part in the nativity section of the Christingle Service. The 'performance' will depend on numbers and ages. Current thinking is that we'll have alumni performers as narrators and our younger performers dressing up! Rehearsals during Sunday services in December. Please let Maia (07500 765733, maiarushby@hotmail.com) know who would like to join, and whether they would like a speaking part, a dressing up part or would just like to be on stage! We also need help with costumes.

Thank you, Maia & Sarah.

Church News:

NEW: The kitchen at St Mary Magdalene

We have had a clear out. All excess plates etc will be on the servery for the next 2 weeks then disposed of or recycled. Please do pick up anything that may be yours.

Sunday 7 December, 6.30pm at St Mary Magdalene *Recital and Choral Compline*****

Music for Advent

Andreana Chan - Organ

The Choir of St Mary Magdalene, Richmond

Andreana Chan, Assistant Organist of St Mary's, provides a short, reflective programme of organ music for the season of Advent. This is followed by the ancient and atmospheric service of Compline, sung by the choir.

Margaret Walsh

Margaret Walsh died peacefully in hospital on Wednesday 15 October. Margaret was a much cherished member of St Mary Magdalene. Ruth Martin was able to spend time with her in her last days. Margaret's funeral will be at St Mary Magdalene Monday 17 November at 2pm.

Coffee Mornings at St Mary Magdalene

The Church Committee has agreed with the suggestion of the pastoral group to hold three Saturday 'Open House' Coffee mornings in St Mary's. This is to show local residents that we are still active during the vacancy and we wish to encourage them inside our church for coffee and informal chat.

18 October 10.30 - 12.00

15 November 10.30 - 12.00

13 December 10.30 - 12.00

Any member of the congregation is most welcome to join us for these. It would be lovely to see you too.

The bells of St Mary Magdalene

The bells of St Mary Magdalene are to undergo a dramatic transformation. The three most historic bells dating from 1680 are to be incorporated into a brand-new ring of eight bells that will be faithful to the presence of centuries past while bringing a new sound to the town. The work, that is planned to begin next year, will help future-proof the art of bell ringing and maintain the unique music of church bells in Richmond.

With a target of £200,000 the Richmond ringers will lead the fund-raising effort and are hoping that some benefactors will be prepared to sponsor one of the five new bells that will have the potential to be inscribed with names and messages that could last for hundreds of years. Please visit the ringers' website for more information: [HOME | SMM Richmond Bells](#)

Or email smmringers@gmail.com or call Jackie Harrison, Bell Tower captain on 07747 111525

Little Chicks at St Matthias – Fridays 9.15am to 10.45am

We are pleased to offer a new play church for babies and toddlers at St Matthias each week during term time. A great opportunity for carers and their children to meet together in church and play, with a short story, song and prayer at the end. If you would like to help with this new venture, either by serving refreshments or simply chatting to people, then please let Rev'd Anne know. Thank you.

St Mary Magdalene in Vacancy, Special Notice

If as a St Mary's worshipper you have any pastoral concerns or worries during the vacancy, whether your own or on behalf of others, please contact either of the Churchwardens in confidence. Our emails are below. Alternatively contact John Palmer in the Parish Office. One of us or a member of the Pastoral Group will get in touch with you.

John Buckingham - SMMChurchWarden1@richmondteamministry.org

Anthony Bell – SMMChurchWarden2@richmondteamministry.org

If you would like to speak with a Priest then your Team Clergy - Rev'd Anne Crawford anne.crawford@richmondteamministry.org and Rev'd Joe Moore joe.moore@richmondteamministry.org – are available and more than happy to meet in person or via a telephone conversation.

Giving, one off, regular and planned

At the end of each service you will find a plate at the back of church for your cash offering. Gift aid envelopes are available if you are a UK taxpayer. You can also give by using the card machine.

If you can, would you consider making a regular gift to the Richmond Team, for the upkeep of our churches and the work of the Team?

Last year we introduced the Parish Giving Scheme (PGS). Many thanks to those of you have joined the scheme. If you are still making regular donations by standing order, envelope or GiveALittle, please do switch to PGS if you are able to. This will help us enormously by reducing the amount of administration and significantly improving our cashflow. If you have any questions, please [contact Jackie Harrison](#) 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 Peatfield](#) - St John the Divine

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

Diocesan News:

Petersham Messiah: Sunday 7 December 2025, 6pm

The Elysian Singers and Players, directed by Sam Laughton in his 25th year with the choir, return to the beautiful church of St Peter's Petersham (TW10 7AB) to perform excerpts from Handel's Messiah in our fourteenth Petersham Messiah charity concert. All donations go to the Vineyard Community & Richmond Foodbank or music at St Peter's. This ever popular annual concert is expected to sell out, so buy £15 tickets whilst you still can - and make any further donations - at tinyurl.com/PetershamMessiah.

Community News:

Christmas Wreath Making Workshop!

Join us for a festive evening of creativity as we make beautiful Christmas wreaths together - all while supporting the work of Richmond Soup Kitchen. Tuesday 2 December, 7–9pm, St John the Divine, Richmond. Includes wine & mince pies, £50 per person.

Whether you're a wreath-making pro or a complete beginner, our friendly volunteers will guide you step-by-step to create a stunning decoration to take home. Book your spot by emailing

Isabelle at richmondsoupkitchen@gmail.com or

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/rsk-christmas-wreath-workshop-tickets-1889190041269?aff=oddtcreator>

COMMUNITY CHOIR - ALL WELCOME

We would like to set up a community choir for anyone interested singing in a light, fun and relaxed environment. All experiences/ability levels welcome, and reading music is definitely not required. If you are interested, please email [Seb](#) or come and find him at St Mary's!

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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