



New Bells for Richmond

Newsletter from the Ringers – March 2026

We started 2026 by ringing in the New Year in Richmond Town centre – celebrating with our local community! We went off with a ‘showbiz bang’ to accelerate the fundraising campaign



Our ringers hosted a gala screening of ‘Ring Out Your Bells’ from the Midsomer Murders television series. Friends, contacts and our congregation were invited to buy tickets. The ringers went all out in ‘Bake Off’ mode and we offered excellent canapes and a glass of fizz to kick off and a bit of a giggle watching this episode where the bell ringers get murdered one by one. We hope it doesn’t give the locals any ideas!

It was a sell-out and Hugh Bonneville, who was in the cast, sent a recorded message of good wishes from his West End Dressing Room. We also have an expert introduction by John Harrison who is a doyen of the bell ringing world and trained the actors to ring. The event raised £3000. Importantly, it brought our community together and there were numerous requests for more film nights!



Stars on our screens!



Our social media pages have benefitted from the incredibly generous support from local celebrities. As well as Hugh Bonneville supporting our film night, Richard E Grant recorded a video (in the pouring rain) supporting our appeal. Rick Astley, who was brought up in Sheen (who knew?!) has also recorded a clip with an enthusiastic endorsement of our campaign. Richard Ashcroft (latterly of The Verve) has donated 2 concert tickets for his sell out tour to raffle to support our cause! Check out our Instagram page: [instagram.com/richmondringers](https://www.instagram.com/richmondringers)



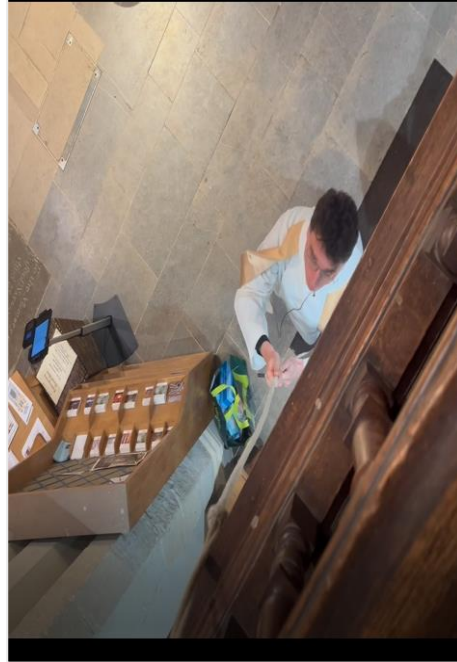


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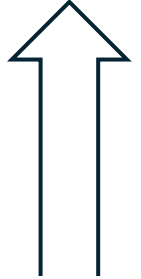
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Our new home-grown local celebrity!

Well, hello Robert!” - a massive warm welcome to our new rector Robert Stanier from all of the St MM Richmond bellringers! As part of the inauguration, Robert had to ring a bell – and we rigged up an extension cord so that he could do so from our ground floor (shown here looking down from the ringing room)! Our Tower Captain, Jackie and one of our talented young ringers, Thomas shown here leading the welcome party with a welcome glass of wine after the service!



£240k



£188k



Progress against £ Target



Mini Baby Bells!

We like to start ‘em young! Bellringing for babies?! Maybe not just yet, but this little cutie in a recent toddler group at StMM certainly seemed to enjoy the sights and sounds of the tower! Joking aside, we are keen to attract more young ringers and the new bells should be easier to handle for all ages.

