

POSITIVE PARENTING

The title says it all. Skills and strategies to help us rise to the challenge of growing our little ones - if only I had joined the church when kiddies were young, how we could all have benefitted. Run by Kate Patterson and Hazel Morris, it will take place on Mondays from 09.00 to 10.30 at Holy Trinity School, starting 12 May. *Open to Holy Trinity School parents.*

ASCENSION DAY - 29 MAY

Ascension Day is observed in the UK on the 40th day of Easter, commemorating Jesus Christ's ascension into heaven, according to the New Testament

EASTER SERVICES

Please join us for our Easter celebrations this year

Good Friday - April 18 - 10.00

March of Witness in Richmond.
Meet at Whittaker Avenue

Good Friday - April 18 - 11.00

Morning Service for all ages

Good Friday - April 18 - 14.00

An hour at the Cross.

A quiet Service of readings and reflection

Easter Sunday - April 20 - 10.00

Communion Service for all ages

Easter Sunday - April 20 - 15.30

Afternoon Celebration

Easter Sunday - April 20 - 18.30

Evening Celebration

VERSES TO LIVE BY

'A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.' (John 13:34-35).

'I think this verse resonates with us because we really think Love is the precursor to everything. God's love for us and then our response. This verse captures what we hope to do - Ed and Emma Wilson.'

THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF CHILDREN

Ben* 'Why can't we see God?'

Luke* 'Because he is so burning and bright that if we see him we will die.'

As Chaplain of Holy Trinity School, Kate Patterson spends half a day a week being available to talk to children, parents and staff, going into classes and offering the opportunity to ask big questions - see above!

An easier question might be 'How do we know God loves us?' The Bible says 'This is how God showed his love among us: He sent His one and only Son into the world that we might live through Him' (1 John 4:9).

If you'd like to meet with Kate, contact Holy Trinity School on 020 8940 2730.

THE LAST WORD FROM TREVOR



Jesus is alive!

Central to Christian faith is that Jesus, having been crucified, two days later defied the grave and rose from the dead. What evidence is there to back up this claim?

His absence from the tomb. The body of Jesus was not in the tomb two days after Jesus' death and no-one was subsequently ever able to produce it. Maybe Jesus didn't

die but accounts describe how He suffered for hours on the cross and was proven clinically dead. Or maybe the disciples stole the body? We know two things. First, the Romans had the tomb carefully guarded and secondly, many of his followers were later martyred for their beliefs. Not many are prepared to die for what they believe to be true, let alone what they know to be a lie.

His appearances to the disciples. Were these hallucinations? Fishermen, tax collectors and a cynic like Thomas were unlikely to simultaneously hallucinate, never mind 500 people who heard Jesus speak on one occasion.

Born in 1783, Simon Greenleaf was a principle founder of Harvard Law School and a world-renowned expert on evidence. Challenged by one of his students to 'consider the evidence' for Jesus' resurrection, Greenleaf set out to disprove it. He ended up concluding that the Resurrection of Jesus Christ was indeed fact. Greenleaf converted from agnosticism to Christianity believing, like Christians around the world today, that Jesus is alive and as He claimed to be, 'God with us.'

YOU'RE ALWAYS WELCOME AT HTR

This Newsletter is just a taster about the goings-on at Holy Trinity Richmond which we hope will make you curious to know more! Do come and visit us at any of our Services or events. Call 020 8404 1112, go to www.htrichmond.org.uk or follow us on Twitter.



@church_htr

holy|trinity|richmond
a church with an open door

Sunday Services
10.00, 15.30 and 18.30

Wednesday Service
11.00

CORNERSTONE

Edition 2 - Easter 2014

Sheen Park, Richmond, TW9 1UP | 020 8404 1112 | office@htrichmond.org.uk | Vicar - Rev. Trevor Patterson

MEN UNITED

Whilst Christian and non-Christian research shows that the spiritual habits of a father have a massive impact on the family, figures show that we need to attract more men into the church. The future of our children depends on it.

Starting here in Richmond, Tim Stride's dream would be to see an influx of men into our church - a band of brothers rising up who reach out to family, friends, mates and work colleagues, extending a loving arm of Christ into other guys' lives.



**'I also want
to learn for myself
what it means to be
a 'Geezer Christian'***

This is big stuff, so we've started small and simple. If you're a bloke, regardless of your church attendance or religious standing, come and get to know us. Simple. We regularly do curry; we go to the pub (HTR Men's Drinks, The Mitre pub, 16.00-18.00, last Saturday of the month) and we have a Men's Weekend away (9-11 May, in the Cotswolds, £40 deposit).

Tim at holytrinitymen@gmail.com

**'A Geezer Christian - not ashamed of my faith; able to be accountable to my fellow brothers in Christ; moving out of my comfort zone and getting involved in conversations and works of faith that enable me to share the Gospel.'* Tim Stride.

MAUNDY THURSDAY

Maundy Thursday (Holy Thursday) is the Thursday before Good Friday. The date is always between 19 March and 22 April inclusive but these dates fall on different days depending on whether the Gregorian or Julian calendar is used liturgically.

It is the time to remember the Last Supper, when Jesus and his disciples dined together for the last time before his death. The word 'maundy' comes from the Latin word for commandment (mandatum) and refers to the new command Jesus gave his disciples at that meal - 'Love one another.'



THERE BUT FOR THE GRACE ... *

It is one thing to recognise that there are many people working or studying in London who are looking to be part of a community - a place to grow and be supported in their faith, or people asking questions of faith for the first time. Another thing to do something about it!

Well, under the umbrella of Central London Vineyard and supported by HT Richmond, our own Ed and Emma Wilson are leading GRACE with their vision of being the bridge to facilitate this need. Ed runs a construction company but prefers building people. Emma spent most of her career in the West End as a singer / dancer and choreographer, and now teaches dance and choreography.

GRACE meets in Soho, on Wednesday evenings, in a nightclub called, naturally, Grace Bar! The aim is to create a community centred on Jesus that is active in helping people learn more about him and that has relevance in their lives. As such, the evenings are centred around discussion and shared teaching about who Jesus was and is - money, sex and power. After hearing and telling stories, occasional live music and fellowship with others, dinner locally usually follows!

If you work in London, this could be a perfect place to meet before heading home - 42 Great Windmill Street, W1D 7NB (Piccadilly Circus tube)

Ed and Emma at ejzcowilson@gmail.com

**...OF GOD, GO I. John Bradford (c. 1510–1555), English evangelical preacher, is said to have uttered 'There but for the grace of God, goes John Bradford' when seeing criminals being led to the scaffold.*

NEVER TOO LATE TO CATCH UP ...

The world-famous **ALPHA COURSE**, designed to help people explore Christianity and ask the big questions, saw a wonderful group of people on our last course - those who have been Christians for a long time and those who were not



even sure if God existed. As well as being a great opportunity to talk about Jesus, faith, life and the universe, every Thursday for 10 weeks we gathered to eat and build friendships. Virtually all of the newcomers who attended the course have remained involved with the church in some capacity. How wonderful that following Alpha 2013 we have new friends to welcome into our church family!

Join us for supper on 25 September. Our next Course starts on 2 October.

J JOHN is a speaker with an appeal that transcends gender, age, race, culture and



occupation. His much-loved art of storytelling helps people discover spiritual meaning in a way that makes sense of everyday life. He preached to around 160 people at Holy Trinity Barnes in January and three came to faith. Really encouraging for us as the church that planted a new community of faith there.

J John will be at HTR on the morning of 12 October.

QUEEN'S ROAD HOSTEL

On a surprisingly rain-free day in January about 30 willing volunteers came for breakfast and an inspiring talk by Pauline Hawkes (The Phoenix Community Trust), who encouraged us to remember the lost, the lonely and the outcast and make a real tangible difference in our community. We spent the remainder of the morning and all afternoon transforming a few areas at the Hostel, including their garden, a playroom or two and also spent time talking to residents, eating together and generally getting to know everyone.

Rob, the Hostel manager, and the residents, were all extremely touched and grateful for the work and time we spent with them. We hope that we will be able to make this 'Call to Action Day' a regular event.

CHURCH IN THE AFTERNOON

We have been welcoming around 40 people each week, made up of new families and familiar HTR faces, about half being children. We have shared in fellowship and the kids are really part of each Service, praying and worshipping, and have even made cakes for all the grown ups! There have been some great talks and God has worked in people's lives. We are looking forward to experiencing even more of Him and everything else. You are all really welcome to come along.

'I LOVE YOU WILD, I LOVE YOU LOUD ...'

Children's writer Smriti Prasad-Halls' latest book 'I Love you Night and Day' is a perfect book to read to the one you love; an affirming message of unconditional love inspired by Ephesians 3:17-19. For more details go to www.smriti.co.uk



The wonderful **WATOTO CHOIR** came to HTR in February. The evening, to raise awareness of the plight of vulnerable women and children in Uganda, was a moving experience. Many of the children were only primary age, yet their joyful singing and expressive dancing had the audience captivated and actively involved!

Although we heard stories of great sadness and trauma that most of us can only imagine, the message of the evening was one of hope, with a tangible reminder of the transformation that can take place when we respond in practical ways to the pressing needs we see around us.

ROUND OF APPLAUSE

Thank you to the leaders, teams, helpers, faithful church members, homegroups who cook delicious food and everyone behind the scenes. We couldn't have managed without you!

... OR TOO EARLY TO LOOK FORWARD!

Friday 9 - Sunday 11 May
Men's Weekend Away in the Cotswolds

Sunday 8 June
Picnic after the Morning Service

Sunday 13 July
Barbecue after the Morning Service
At Holy Trinity School

Friday 17 - Sunday 19 October
Women's Weekend Away in East Sussex

IT TAKES TWO TO TANGO

Most of us would admit we could use some help in maintaining a strong and healthy marriage that lasts for the lifetime which we committed to in our wedding vows. Kate and Trevor Patterson, themselves married for 22 years and with three sons, will be leading a course designed for just that. Your privacy is respected - do not fear! There will be NO group discussion! And NO requirement to disclose anything about your relationship to anyone else! Furthermore, whilst based on Christian principles, you do not have to have a Christian / Church background to benefit from these evenings.



Topics will include building strong foundations; the art of communication; resolving conflict; the power of forgiveness; the impact of family past and present; intimacy and love in action.

Said by one couple - 'It was a fantastic atmosphere. Although we were amongst all these people I felt we were on a tropical island just the two of us. It was a great feeling just to spend time together'.

This year's popular Marriage Course will take place at our Church on Thursdays at 19.30 (coffee and pudding) starting 5 June for six evenings.

To take part, call 020 8404 1112 or e-mail office@htrichmond.org.uk

Love always protects, trusts, hopes and perseveres (see 1 Corinthians 13:4-7).



INTRODUCING ALWYN WEBB, OUR NEW CURATE

It would be Alwyn's Grandmother, a Pentecostal Christian, who cared for him as a small child, who would teach him the power of prayer and who remained a steady figure in his life. Unable to look after all the children long term due to their mother's illness, when Alwyn was four years old it was considered best that he and his siblings went into care. It was not an unhappy time; the Sisters were dedicated and caring people and Alwyn would go to weekly chapel until the age of 13.

At 17 Alwyn joined the Army where he later undertook parachute training and was posted to 5 Airborne Brigade, on standby to move anywhere in the world. He left after 7½ years of Army life but found for him there was no natural bridge from Army to civilian life and a series of jobs ensued.

Eventually, a friend, who had completed an Alpha Course, knowing Alwyn went to chapel as a youngster, asked him to go to church with her for moral support. Their second visit was to Holy Trinity Brompton where a man, dressed in blazer and slacks, was talking about Jesus in a very normal manner. Alwyn went up after the Service and the words that came out of his mouth were 'I want to serve Jesus'. The man was Sandy Millar, the vicar of HTB and the principal person responsible for the Alpha Course, which Alwyn subsequently completed.

Alwyn's journey in faith continued, working with street children in Brazil, after which he obtained a theology degree and trained as a teacher, teaching at secondary level for 14 years before training for two years for Ordination. Alwyn says 'I believe that my Grandmother's prayers for me throughout my early life were instrumental in my decision to accept Christ at the age of 26.'

We are now blessed to have Alwyn - with his wife Kate and two boys, Matthew and Joshua - bringing with him all that valuable experience.

Contact **Alwyn** on 07850 343693 or at alwyn.webb@htrichmond.org.uk

CALL TO 24/7 PRAYER

Our **Week of Prayer** leading up to Good Friday will involve seven other local churches (each responsible for a 12-hour period) hosting round-the-clock prayer for our community from Monday to Friday of Holy Week. We will host the final session, beginning at midday on Maundy Thursday, including prayer with Handel's Messiah 12.00-15.00, worship at 20.00 and prayer from 22.00 to 07.00 on Good Friday morning. There will be opportunities to pray at the various churches and we will also encourage people to pray where they are.

Why pray? We pray because the world needs God. He's listening. He can be found by those who are looking: 'Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.' (Matthew 7:7).

Need help? Learn to pray by praying! Alone or with others, at home, in the car, on the train or on the streets. Try talking to God in creative ways; imagine Him sitting next to you. Join one of our Life Groups meeting in people's homes for discussion, prayer, fellowship and support. Weave prayer into the fabric of your life.

Call our **Church Office** on 020 8404 1112.