

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Please join us for our Easter celebrations this year

Maundy Thursday - 2 April - 20.00  
 Informal Communion Service

Good Friday - 3 April - 11.00  
 All Age Service

Easter Sunday - 5 April - 10.00  
 All Age Holy Communion - celebrate with us!

Easter Sunday - 5 April - 18.30  
 Evening Service

Tuesday 14 April - 20.00  
 Joint Churches Evening with Robby Dawkins

Friday 17 - Sunday 19 April  
 Men's Weekend Away

Sunday 26 April - 10.00  
 Annual Church Meeting

Sunday 3 May - 18.30  
 Confirmation Service with the Bishop of Kingston

Sunday 7 June  
 Picnic after the Morning Service

Sunday 12 July  
 Barbecue after the Morning Service



VERSES TO LIVE BY

'Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to Life, and only a few find it.' (Matthew 7:13-14)

From the start of my Christian journey this verse has always intrigued me. Jesus is describing the road to Life as being a narrow one when I would have thought that God would make it broad and wide. But no. The path through the wide gate becomes progressively narrower as we find that money and prestige and fame in fact steal the joy we were created for. But the gate to Life, as described by Jesus, is the narrow one, harder and difficult, but which opens up wide as we become free to enjoy God's creation and His promise of eternal life.

Fiona Wade



PALM SUNDAY is a Christian moveable feast that falls on the Sunday before Easter to celebrate the triumphal entry of Jesus Christ into Jerusalem - an event mentioned in all four canonical Gospels. The crowds greeted Him by waving palm branches and covering His path with them. Immediately following this celebration, He begins His journey to the cross.

RICHMOND'S HIDDEN CHURCH (2)

At The Laying of the Foundation Stone ceremony at Holy Trinity Church, a glass tablet was embedded with the stone, inscribed with the words: 'The first stone of this church, to be consecrated to the service of The Holy Trinity, three Persons in One God, was laid by Her Royal Highness the Princess Mary Adelaide of Teck, on the 28<sup>th</sup> day of August, in the Year of Our Lord 1869.' However, we don't know the actual location. In 1938, the then Vicar, Basil Eldridge, did some research without success and concluded that they had probably been covered up by later building in the porch. I wonder if we'll ever know? On that day the Service ended with the hymn 'Christ is our Corner Stone' so our Newsletter is aptly named!

THE LAST WORD FROM TREVOR

A US writer Lee Strobel has written a book called *The Case for Easter*. Lee used to be sceptical about Christian faith. He is a former journalist who worked for the *Chicago Tribune*. He didn't believe in God and was convinced that Christianity was for the faint-hearted. Then something happened, Lee's wife became a Christian, and became more loving and joyful and fun than before.

So, Lee started to attend church and investigate Christianity, particularly the Resurrection of Jesus. One of the biggest problems that Lee faced was this: If Jesus really did spend three years with His disciples, and when He was crucified they all ran away, how were they later changed into martyrs if He stayed dead? Lee became convinced that Jesus was the Son of God and had risen; he became a follower of Jesus.

You may doubt the Easter message like Lee or Thomas, one of the disciples, but let me encourage you to explore faith - the Bible says when you seek God you will find Him.

WELCOME TO HTR

Do please come and join us at any of our events. We are a very welcoming church with lots going on. Keep a lookout for our Marriage and Parenting Courses and our *Who Let the Dads Out?* events which are for anyone in our community. If you pass on a Sunday morning or evening or Wednesday morning, even if one our Services has started, don't be shy, come on in anyway!

Call 020 8404 1112, go to [www.htrichmond.org.uk](http://www.htrichmond.org.uk) or follow us on Twitter.



@church\_htr

holy|trinity|richmond  
 a church with an open door

Sunday Services - 10.00 and 18.30  
 Wednesday Service - 11.30

CORNERSTONE

Edition 5 - Easter 2015

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EASTER IS NOT A BANK HOLIDAY



Easter helps us remember God's gift of life! We celebrate Easter in springtime when new life bursts out everywhere - daffodils come dancing out of dark earth and we know winter does not win. Death doesn't have the last word. Jesus didn't stay in the grave, so we can trust His promise of new life.

The Bible says that God loved us so much that He gave His only Son 'so that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. Whoever believes in him is not condemned.' (John 3:16)

But why would any of us deserve condemnation? Surely we're good enough if we don't steal or murder? But imagine this scenario: you hire a huge cinema, invite everyone you've ever known plus your grandparents, parents, spouse, children ... then have your entire life played out on the screen. Include every single thought and deed - for instance, remember that night in October was it? In 1992 ...? All of us have memories that condemn us guilty.

The good news is that *God is not out to condemn us* - 'God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world.' (John 3:17)

Imagine that screen again - now God has sent Jesus to stand in front of it, His arms outstretched, putting all your sins behind Him, inviting you to trust His offer of forgiveness. Because Jesus died in your place, every sin can be written off, never to be referred to again. Now He offers *you* life in all its fullness. Wow!

Can you take some time this Easter to consider what it's all about?

GOD GAVE US EASTER



The Passion, the dramatic biblical events leading to the Crucifixion and Resurrection of Jesus, will be enacted on **Richmond Riverside** on Good Friday 3 April from 13.00 - 14.30 (free entry). We will be joining the long list of towns throughout the world in which such plays have been performed since the Middle Ages.

Directed by former BBC Head of Series Peter Cregeen and involving a large cast from local churches and community groups, with music and choirs, this will bring to life the central event of the Christian faith. Unmissable.

OUR VISION FOR 2015 is to have a greater expectation of God's power and to have a greater commitment to one another. With that in mind we have adjusted our mission statement to read 'A church with an open door, reaching out with God's love *and power*, helping *one another* live for Jesus.' Read and learn - Trevor is testing us!

2020 VISION - In 2020 our church will be celebrating its 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and we are going to dare to dream big dreams for the future and to plan each year accordingly. We want to prioritise reaching out to those around us - particularly those who feel alienated from church, young people and men; to build vibrant small groups where new leaders can emerge and all age groups feel valued; to have a more visible local presence; to plant another church (our plant in Barnes has exceeded all expectations); to increase our giving so we may repair and refresh our building and expand God's kingdom here and overseas; and to establish a 24/7 Prayer Room.

TEAM 200 - To make this work we want to establish TEAM 200 - 200 of us discovering our gifts so that each of us will know how we can help bring our vision to life. These are exciting times with our Church growing yearly. We've had our Serving Fair highlighting areas of need, so let's get involved - never too late to sign up. Game on!



May this year's Easter  
 bring you Hope and Joy



## A LIFE MORE REVOLUTIONARY\*

In this sadly topical subject of the persecution of Christians throughout the world, one might ask 'twas ever thus? Jesus Himself warns 'If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you' and 'Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.' However, as is Jesus' way, He also says 'Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.'

It was because of a young Dutchman, Brother Andrew, who smuggled Bibles across the Iron Curtain to the persecuted church, that Open Doors was born. Some sixty years later, in February, we welcomed Eddie Lyle, (CEO of Open Doors UK and Ireland) who spelled out the reality. Did you know that Christians are *the* most persecuted people on earth?

Open Doors, now an international ministry, serves millions of persecuted Christians in over 50 countries - dangerous work in dangerous places. By supplying Bibles, leadership training, literacy programmes, livelihood support and advocacy services, Open Doors also works to mobilise the church in the UK & Ireland, not only to serve Christians living under religious persecution but also to learn from them what it means to be a disciple of Jesus.

Last month, Archbishop Justin Welby gave a keynote address at the launch of The Religious Liberty Commission at Westminster calling on the British government to intervene to prevent religious cleansing saying 'we must speak out in solidarity. Silence is not an option.'

And people *are* speaking out - 5,534 people invited their MPs to the launch of Open Doors report 'Freedom of Religion and the Persecution of Christians'. An unprecedented 74 MPs came to the meeting. Your voice and prayers matter.

*"We have to live a life that is more revolutionary than that of the revolutionaries."* - Brother Andrew  
[opendoorsuk.org](http://opendoorsuk.org)

## 360 AT THE 6.30

Having thoroughly reviewed our Sunday Evening Service, we have relaunched it with a different look. We have now incorporated what we learned from our Church in the Afternoon, which ran for 6 months last year, into our Evening Service. It lasts for about 1 1/4 hours and there is worship in song, talks about today's burning issues and blessings. One Service even had a talk on sex with questions and answers afterwards! As always, refreshments before and after.

## WE DO HAVE A LOT OF FUN!

It is so exciting to see how GRACE has grown and become a flourishing little community in London, fast outgrowing the space in Grace Bar in Great Windmill Street. For bigger events they meet at the Apostrophe Café in Brewer Street. With the evenings starting at 19.00, it's proved a winning concept.

In the pipeline are monthly music/comedy/creative nights and they also meet for worship and brunch on a Sunday once a month at someone's home. Mainly people in their 20s and 30s, some returning to faith and lots bringing their boy and girlfriends who are not Christians. Everyone is very social and deep friendships have been formed.

Ed and Emma also have a new team of Club Angels starting at Tiger Tiger in Piccadilly, showing God's love to people when they are not feeling their 'best selves'. It's a brilliant ministry in which they partner with Third Space Ministries.

Emma says 'I would say the most exciting thing for us is to see, through community, discussion, sharing openly and journeying together, that people's lives, decisions and futures are changing. We hope to help people find a connection to Jesus for themselves that is meaningful and life changing and fun. We do have a lot of fun!'

*'The meaning of life. The wasted years of life. The poor choices of life. God answers the mess of life with one word: GRACE.'* Max Lucado

## 'THE BEST WAY TO FIND YOURSELF ...'



We've been attending Discovery Evenings to study either The Lord's Prayer, how to Live Life, the

Fruitfulness of the Spirit and Parenting. Accompanied by delicious puddings and coffee, they've created opportunities to talk to others we don't know so well. The idea has been to mix us all to discover new truths and new friendships, resulting in a growth in our Home Groups.

You don't know what you've missed until you join a Home/Life Group. There's a lot of laughter and some tears and a lot of tea and cake - importantly it's a space to learn more about God's plan for each of us, combined with a safe, confidential place to discuss our problems and to support each other spiritually and practically.

Groups usually decide on a topic they would like to explore and, with the aid of a book and DVD player, have some truly great discussions. If you're not currently in a Group, speak to Trevor who will link you up.

*\* ... is to lose yourself in the service of others.' Mahatma Gandhi*

## THE NEW TAX YEAR IS UPON US



What the Bible says:

*'This is also why you pay taxes, for the authorities are God's servants ... Give to everyone what you owe them: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honour, then honour.'* (Romans 13:8) Even Joseph went to pay his taxes soon after Jesus was born.

## CHRISTS SCHOOL,

founded in 1713, is a Church of England voluntary-aided Secondary School which celebrates both its distinctive Christian ethos and the diversity of religious traditions within the school - not just learning about religion but also from it. Now with a Sixth Form and headed by Helen Dixon, the school has recently appointed Rev Serena Willoughby as School Chaplain.



Serena became a Christian as an older teenager at a Parish Weekend away that she'd been dragged along to by her parents and has now been ordained for 16 years! She's served in three parishes, her last being in Sevenoaks Weald where she was vicar for 8 years, and taught in two schools. Serena's always been interested in getting back into education, being in a role where she could use her calling to ministry as well as do some teaching. So her heart really is for these young people at Christ's as they emerge as adults into God's big wide world.

Serena's special verse, which she finds really powerful: 'Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight.' (Proverbs 3:5-6)

As a Church, we are very happy to be involved at Christ's, represented as we are by three Foundation Governors and where our Youth Minister, Erin, regularly mentors the students.

PS Serena's a Gooner - in good company with our Archbishop of Canterbury!

## OUTSTANDING, OUTSTANDING, OUTSTANDING!

Holy Trinity CE Primary School had its SIAMS (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools) inspection in February; in this framework, schools are inspected approximately every five years.

The School received a glowing report from the Diocese, confirming that it had achieved the top grade of "outstanding" in all categories. Special mention was made of the positive and caring atmosphere which enables all pupils to achieve well: "every child is valued and enabled to fulfil their potential."

Colin Powell, the director of education for the Southwark Diocese commented "The very glowing report confirms the fact that the Christian character of Holy Trinity shines out to stakeholders. Everyone at the school should be congratulated on the distinctiveness that is being so successfully promoted."

Penny Cox, head teacher, said, "God has richly blessed us through this report. It is a wonderful reflection of the work of Christ through our fabulous team of children, parents, governors and staff who together make Holy Trinity such a special place."

## INTRODUCING NICO, WORSHIP PASTOR



We are delighted to welcome Nico and Anke and their beautiful baby, Madeleine, born shortly after the Marais' joined us last year.

Looking at Nico's Facebook page, musically, he likes Acoustic Rock, Elvis Blue, Lifehouse - what, *Lighthouse*? Oops, my mistake! Favourite TV - Scrubs, House, Bones ... secretly always wanted to be a doctor?

Well, here's the real Nico. He and Anke met at University in South Africa but didn't get together until much later. Anke joined Holy Trinity Brompton in London and Nico was a biology and science teacher in SA. when he volunteered to come to London to go to the Worship Central Academy. As these things go, they dated, married, settled in Earls Court and here we are!

Nico was brought up as a Christian at the Dutch Reform Church in SA and, just before he was fourteen years old, he went to a youth camp. It was there that he discovered the real meaning of having a relationship with Jesus, opening up his religious life, and where Nico officially gave his life to Christ.

Busy planning and introducing lots of new songs (with plenty of actions!), Nico combines everything musical with leadership, worship, pastoring and mentoring his worship team, concentrating on developing everyone's skills. He has plans for his team to meet once a month to have a meal and fellowship outside of rehearsal times, to strengthen bonds and lives. Sounds good!

Our regular **MARRIAGECOURSE** gives couples time to chat alone, with prompts to help them discuss different aspects of their marriage. It's open to all couples and we now have about a quarter coming from outside church. *'One of the highest representations of the image of God is a husband and wife serving each other.'* Grace Filled Marriage - Tim & Darcy Kimmel

Our last **PARENTING COURSE** was attended by fourteen of us - about half from outside the church. Packed with practical tips, topics covered were communication, battles and boundaries, self-esteem, growing responsibility, love languages and managing anger. Good laughs and encouragements were had as we shared our parenting pitfalls. *'The most important thing a father can do for his children is to love their mother and the most important thing a mother can do for her children is to love their father.'* Anon.

If you would like to join one of our courses, call 020 8404 1112.