

holy|trinity|richmond

a church with an open door



BOOK OF REPORTS 2019

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Sunday 28 April 2019

1000

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Meeting Agenda

Election of Churchwardens by Parishioners

1. Minutes of the 2018 Annual Meeting concerning the election of Churchwardens
2. Election of Churchwardens *

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

1. Minutes of the 2018 Annual Meeting
2. Report on the Electoral Roll
3. To receive the Treasurer's Report and
 - approve the audited accounts for the year ending 31 December 2018
 - adopt the budget for 2019
 - appoint an Independent Examiner
4. To elect 3 PCC representatives to serve for 3 years *
5. To elect Sidespeople
6. Any Other Business **

As in recent years we are weaving our Annual Meeting into our Sunday Morning Service, so it takes place in the context of prayer, worship, testimony, teaching and encouragement.

Please return completed nomination forms to Keith Nurse

* Nomination forms are available on the Welcome Desk

** Items to be given to Keith Nurse in writing by Friday 26 April

Vicar's Report

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

Hebrews 13:8

I find these words from the book of Hebrews immensely encouraging when facing a time of change. The past year has been a significant time of change for Louise and I as we arrived at HTR, settled into the Vicarage and began to get to know the church family. It has been a very positive experience of change, but even positive change can be unsettling at times!



The past year has been a time of change for the church too. The death of Trevor Patterson, the previous vicar, is a loss still felt among the church family, and rightly so. The summer also saw a number of other changes in the church leadership. It was hard to say goodbye to Kate Patterson,

along with Ben, Johnny and Connor, but joyful to celebrate the ways all of them have given to the life of HTR. Similarly, we had to say goodbye to Alwyn and Kate Webb and thank them for all the work they had done among us, especially over the year since Trevor's death. We continue to pray for God's guidance for their future plans and ministry. The summer also saw Ellie Hughes step down from her role as director of Riverbank Trust and move on to new challenges. We are grateful to God for the ways that he has worked through these leaders in so many ways, and we shall miss them greatly.

Change can be difficult. Which is why the writer to the Hebrews reminds us that "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever." In the midst of change and uncertainty, whether in our national, personal or church life, Jesus never changes. His love and faithfulness are constant. He is the Rock and the sure foundation upon which we stand - as disciples of Christ, and as a church.

Change happens, but Jesus is still present and at work. Indeed, as Louise and I have arrived at HTR, we have been overjoyed to see so many ways in which God has been active among us. At our Vision Sunday in January we had the opportunity to pause and look back over the past year. There have been occasions to develop the community of the church through picnics and barbecues in the summer, men's and women's breakfasts, and a church morning led by David Cooke from Holy Trinity Barnes. We have seen the work of Riverbank Trust, Kick London and LVA Trust grow and develop, with God opening up further doors for their work to reach more people. God has been generous through the financial generosity of the church family, and we have been able to not only support the work here at HTR, but give to mission and ministry elsewhere. Our ongoing Sunday meetings continue to grow, welcoming new people and deepening our love for Jesus.

Change continues to happen too. We are in the process of helping to appoint a new head teacher for Holy Trinity School and giving thanks for the leadership of Penny Cox which has borne so much fruit over the years. We have begun a new youth-led service once a month in the evening called *Kaleidoscope* and we look forward to seeing how that will develop and how God might use this new venture. We are gathering a team of people to restart our building project and we will hear more about that and what it means for us as a church over the coming months. All these changes represent opportunities that God is placing before us. It can be exciting to take risks and try new things. Yet in it all, we remember that Jesus is the same, he never changes and his goodness to us never fails or falters.



Personally, I am so grateful to God for the gift of coming to Holy Trinity. I am not sure what Louise and I imagined arriving at a new church as vicar to be like, but the experience has been so much better than we could have asked for. We have felt so welcomed and loved and prayed for from the very first day. Thank you for your patience as I have learnt the ropes (and continue to do so), get things wrong from time to time, and get to know everyone. When Louise and I visited the church before our interview, our first thought as we left the building was "we're home." That has continued to be our thought as we have joined the church and become part of the family. Thank you for making this not just a terrific job to do, but a wonderful home to be part of.

I am particularly grateful to the Staff Team, to David Ewart and Mark Lambert as Churchwardens, to Keith Nurse as Operations Manager and fount of all knowledge, to the PCC and numerous other people who have led, served and cared for this church. As we look to the future, I am excited about the possibilities that God will put before us, the gifts that God will give to meet those opportunities and the deepening of relationships, with God and with one another, that he will forge. Above all, I am excited that we step forward into the future with Jesus, who never changes, who is always faithful, and who is the same yesterday and today and forever.

Dan Wells

Churchwardens' Report



We would like to begin by thanking everyone at HTR for the marvellous support we have received in helping to keep our Church running so smoothly during the interregnum. This was both a tribute to Trevor Patterson and his work, but also a real expression of God's grace to us by encouraging leaders to step forward and serve. It continues to be a

great privilege to be able to serve as Churchwardens alongside such an amazingly talented, faithful and committed team of staff and volunteers who serve the Church day in, day out.

2018 has been a year of change as we have had to say goodbye to some and welcome to others. We would particularly like to express our deep gratitude to Alwyn and Kate Webb for the blessing they have been to this Church over the last five years and particularly in the period following Trevor's death. Both Alwyn and Kate selflessly stepped up to lead our Church through the emotional and painful journey that was the interregnum. We are eternally grateful for their sacrifice and witness. As Alwyn continues to cast his net in search of the next position we pray that God will reward Alwyn and Kate many times over for their ministry here at HTR. Heartfelt thanks also go to other Staff Team leavers - Joao Paulo Henrich Tavares and Ellie Hughes - both of whom have played key roles in the administration, community outreach and youth work here at HTR over the past few years. We were sad to have to say goodbye.

Much of the year was focused on the recruitment of our new vicar which involved extensive communication to the congregation and Diocese, preparation of the Parish Profile document, designing and placing the job advert, liaising with our Parish Patron (John Fisher, Church Pastoral Aid Society [CPAS] Patronage Secretary) and Archdeacon (John Kiddle) and arranging for the Parish visits and candidate interviews. We are extremely grateful to Keith Nurse (who, unsurprisingly, was instrumental in most facets of the process), Penny Cox (Parish Representative on the interview panel), all PCC members who assisted in the creation of the Parish Profile, the rest of the interview panel (John Fisher, John Kiddle and Helen Simpson - CPAS Patronage Trustee), Alwyn Webb (for his guidance, support and wisdom) and all those who interacted with the candidates on the Parish visit day. Thank you all so very much.



And of course we know that the process successfully concluded with the induction of Dan Wells as our new vicar in September - a truly joyous occasion that will remain long in the memory. It was wonderful to welcome Dan and Louise into

our fellowship. We thank and praise God - Hallelujah! - for bringing them to HTR. We pray that He continues to bless them and their ministry here in Richmond for many years to come.

Much of the work and service for the Church is and always has been done quietly without fanfare (preparing meals or refreshments for meetings or Services, visiting sick or elderly members of the Church, or setting the Church up for Services and much else) all of which makes our church such a wonderful, loving and caring community to be part of. We pay particular tribute to all those who serve in such a selfless way - thank you.

We are also very grateful to the Welcome Team who greet everyone on Sunday mornings and ensure we truly are a welcoming church! Thank you to the weekly team leaders - Graham Bamping, Keith Nurse and Jimmie Keesing - as well as all those who help with the evening and Wednesday Services. We would also like to express our appreciation and thanks to Nico Marais and all the Worship Team on stage and the AV desk for their selfless efforts in providing such superb worship support to our Services.



We would particularly like to thank all the very generous members of our church community who continue to give financial support to ensure that the rich and deep ministry of HTR continues to grow and thrive. A big thank you also to Mark Johnston and the finance team, particularly Coleen Keesing, Thelma Pritchard and Keith

Nurse, for all the work they do to communicate our financial progress throughout the year and prepare our year-end accounts, and for their wise stewardship of the monies we receive.

One of the traditional roles of a churchwarden is to maintain the structure of the church. We also aim to ensure the church is organised and administered to enable the people of God to minister to those within the church and in our community, and we are particularly grateful to Keith Nurse, Joao Paulo Henrich Tavares and Liz Morris for their work in these areas. During the year, a small number of minor works were carried out to maintain the Church in a safe and secure manner, details of which appear in other reports.

The challenge of maintaining and improving the Church building is ever present, as we have previously communicated. The building project was put on hold during the interregnum but with Dan Wells now in place plans are already in motion to re-start the process.

Despite the challenges we have faced in 2018 God continues to do many wonderful things in our midst. We have seen stories of lives changed and people coming to know Jesus which makes all the work done so worthwhile. HTR remains a wonderful place to serve God and the community and we look forward to seeing what God will do through us all in the years to come.

We love being a part of a church with a passion for reaching out to those who don't yet know Jesus or are in other forms of need. This happens in many ways and the other APCM reports are testament to this.

Finally we would again like to thank all those who have given, served and supported the work of the Church during 2018, and ask all to continue to pray for the Church and in particular Dan and Louise Wells and the development of their ministry.

Mark Lambert and David Ewart

Building Committee Report

We continue to be blessed with minimal buildings and equipment expenditure, there being no major unplanned repairs in the year, reflecting our prudent approach to preventative maintenance.

As noted in prior year reports, we will soon need to address a number of issues pertaining to the fabric of the church building - particularly the roof and stonework - and parts of the Church Centre are showing increasing signs of wear and tear.



Although the Committee has not met formally during the year, I regularly speak with Keith Nurse, Joao Paulo Henrich Tavares, Liz Morris and Robert Lucas on matters that need addressing. All routine maintenance and servicing has been carried out (including steam cleaning the blue chairs and a number of carpets and a deep clean of kitchen cupboards and

equipment over the summer). No more substantial refurbishments have been started because of the anticipated major redevelopment noted below.

Much excitement resulted from the reporting in February 2019 of a smell of gas that led to the Church building losing its supply for a couple of days. Parts of Sheen Road and Sheen Park had to be dug up for repairs, with the usual Sheen Park entrance to church closed for a week.

Every five years, the Church of England requires that every church building must be inspected by an architect or chartered building surveyor to ensure it is kept in good repair. Our latest Quinquennial inspection, carried out in April 2015, identified the roof and stonework as areas for urgent repair and refurbishment before 2020; significant challenges we were already aware of. By year end of 2018 the PCC had set aside £158,000 for the prospective building work, although our architect's estimate of the likely costings is a magnitude in excess of this amount.

In 2016 and 2017 we prayerfully sought God's wisdom and guidance on the direction of the church building redevelopment project, the congregation gave their input and feedback on key themes for inclusion in and exclusion from the architect specification, and the PCC reviewed the feedback and made final recommendations to the Strategy Group who crafted the final specification document. A selected group of individuals from our congregation with relevant building and project management expertise were invited to the first project meeting in late July 2017 but the project was put on hold in October 2017 following the death of Trevor Patterson. With Dan Wells now in post, we look forward with great enthusiasm to re-starting this vital and transformational project in the very near future.

I am very grateful to Robert Lucas who gives us the benefit of his professional expertise, meeting and liaising with architects, builders and contractors. I would also like to express my sincere gratitude to Keith Nurse, Joao Paulo Henrich Tavares and Liz Morris for managing the day-to-day repairs and maintenance of the fabric of the building and the Peldon Court flat so expertly and efficiently. This group have effectively constituted the Building Committee and therefore deserve all the recognition and my heartfelt thanks.

Mark Lambert

Mission Group

The Mission Group is an official subcommittee of the Church Council, its main aim being to raise awareness that mission is holistic; it involves proclamation of the Gospel, social action and campaigning for change at home and overseas. The Group also reviews and proposes to the Church Council which people and organisations should receive ongoing financial support from our annual church budget, and also proposes to the Church Council how we should use the money raised from Gift Day each year.

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**GIFT DAY
 17 JUNE 2018**



**An opportunity to
 bless others**

reaching out with God's love and power
 helping one another live for Jesus

In 2018 the Group continued to support charities with whom HTR has close links; these have been initiatives often started by members of HTR as a compassionate response to local community and global poverty issues. Some examples include supporting vulnerable single parent families, building positive self-esteem with young people, helping with restorative justice courses in prison, helping orphans in Kampala, Uganda and supporting trauma healing workshops in Bunia, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Our ongoing connections with our partners around the world show how we are all partners with the missional work going on as a global church.

The Group seeks to not only support our mission partners financially but to raise prayer support and awareness within the church. Once again our Gift Day reflected the amazing generosity of our church community, raising over £23,000 to support four projects and organisations locally and overseas - Riverbank Trust, LVA Trust, Prison Fellowship and displaced people in DRC.

In the coming year the Group is excited to explore how mission is integral to discipleship by using the helpful framework of the Five Marks of Mission - Evangelism, Discipleship, Compassion, Justice, and Creation Care. The Group has two co-chairs - Sara Kandiah and Liz Green - with Dan Wells, Karin Boyton, Robert Lucas and Catherin Tidmarsh serving our church as members of the Group.

Sara Kandiah

Life Groups

Life Groups are a key part of our church life as we continue to learn more together about what it means to live for Jesus. Apart from Oasis, our Friday morning women's group, and a Wednesday evening group for men, there is a Tuesday afternoon group and seven other evening groups, most of which meet on the second and fourth Wednesday of the month in homes in and around the Richmond area. Every group is different, but all of them spend time learning together through studying the Bible, worshipping, praying for one another and the wider world, caring for, supporting and encouraging each other, and reaching out with God's love to those around us. Hospitality and food also play an important role!

Well over 100 people regularly or occasionally come along to our groups. Many have been meeting together for several years, and value the deep friendships that have developed over time. But the groups also welcome new members, and they are a particularly helpful way for newcomers to our church to feel more a part of the HTR community. If you would like to link up with one of the groups, then please contact the Church Office or one of our group leaders - their names and photos are on our Welcome Desk noticeboard at church.

Groups usually choose their own Bible study material, but sometimes several follow a common theme. Over the past year a number have used *The Jesus Lifestyle*, a practical and challenging book by Nicky Gumbel that explores the Sermon on the Mount. Group leaders also benefited from a training evening on Discipleship last June led by Viv Thomas, a teaching pastor at St Paul's Hammersmith, and from taking part in our Church Leaders' Morning in February this year.

Here's what some people said about our groups:

For me, life group is ...

... a place to give and receive support, and to journey with one another in community

... friendship and fun, with a bit of Bible study thrown in

... time to pray for each other about day to day life, encourage each other and grow deeper in our faith

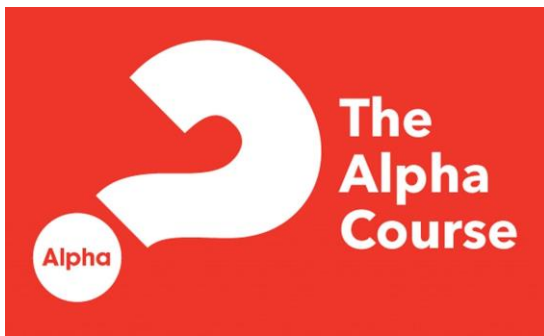
... somewhere to share and build friendships, study together and learn about Jesus

... a chance to be honest about the challenge of living as a Christian in today's complex world, and to be inspired to press on by the richness of God's word and the wisdom and experience of trusted friends

... a place to belong.

Keith Nurse

Alpha Course



In September 2018 Roger Marx stepped up to lead a team of helpers to run the Alpha Course. In total there were 13 people who regularly attended and it was a season of learning for all involved.

The Alpha Course is a fantastic way to provide an accessible introduction to the Christian faith. It also explores the

meaning of life and helps everyone involved find a deepened and renewed faith. Most of the participants this time were already church members, some new to HTR and others who have been part of the church for a long time. For some it was their first experience of Alpha while others had done the course before, a few of whom had not participated in a course for decades! For all involved it became a wonderful time of regular fellowship and discussion and a time of relationship building as we all got to know the course and each other better.

The guest speaker at the Launch Supper was Penny Cox, the Head teacher at Holy Trinity School. She shared her personal and inspiring story of growing up and coming to faith and fielded a variety of questions afterwards. Her honesty was moving and encouraging and set the tone of openness for the weeks to follow.

Subsequent weeks covered areas such as 'Who is Jesus?', 'Why and How Do I Read the Bible' and 'How Does God Guide Us?' The evenings began with wonderful meals prepared by Richard Jackson and served by Life Groups - greatly enjoyed and appreciated by all and an important part of getting to know each other in a relaxed setting. We then watched a film introducing the theme, presenting key ideas and biblical context. The personal testimonies during each film also gave a moving depiction of faith in action and encouraged interesting and challenging discussions. 12 people were at the Holy Spirit Day, held on a Saturday, which provided time and space to explore the power of the Holy Spirit and receive prayer.

One participant from the course this year said:

I did Alpha a long time ago and I wanted to do it again in this setting as a recap and also a chance to get to know people. The quality of the videos surprised me; they were totally different than before and I found them very powerful. I also really enjoyed chatting with people during the meal and as a new member of HTR it was a great way to get to know people better.

Alpha is a wonderful opportunity to invite family and friends to a welcoming and accessible environment to question and find out more about the Christian faith. No question is too simple or wrong to ask and it is thought provoking to hear the different perspectives and experiences that each person has encountered along the way. The course impacted the lives of everyone involved and continues to open the door to new faith and deeper relationships with God and each other.

Liz Morris

Pastoral Care

If you can help your neighbour now, don't say, "Come back tomorrow, and then I'll help you."

Proverbs 3:28

Pastoral Care is increasingly understood as a central aspect of the life of any Christian community. It is seen today not as something that one person does to or for another, but as a natural growth of mutual support within a loving community. We all have a responsibility to care for each other, to ensure that no-one feels isolated or neglected.

As always most of our pastoral care takes place behind the scenes. A number of people regularly give the gift of their time to support the pastoral shepherding that is exercised in the background at HTR. Life Groups and other groups that gather people continue to be amazing at giving essential support and helping their neighbour through difficult seasons. The team that ministers among the elderly continues to be a huge blessing to all who receive love and care. A simple act like giving somebody a lift to their GP, helping them get groceries, or praying and coming alongside during a time of difficulty are of value to those being cared for.

There are times when people face more complex concerns and situations. These are met by prayer, and supportive ongoing care is shown through extended pastoral care. The body of Christ engages in the suffering of others, coming alongside, supporting and offering Christ-like compassion.

We want everyone who comes into our community at HTR to find some meaningful friendships, places to serve alongside others, and a meaningful relationship with Jesus. Our plan for pastoral care revolves around these values and we work hard to make sure that there are avenues of pastoral support available where people can both receive help and contribute by giving support.

Wednesday Service and Community



The peace-filled Wednesday Service at 1130 is a wonderful blessing to all who gather together to hear God's word. We are grateful to our regular speakers and musicians who bless us richly.

Straight after gathering together to praise and worship God, we gather for lunch! This has become a lifeline for older folk in particular, who often sit alone to have lunch. A tasty hot meal has once again been amazingly provided every week by our regular chefs Richard Jackson, Thelma Pritchard, Coleen Keesing and Sue Martin. This is such a blessing to us all. The Christmas Carol Service, featuring

the delightful children from Holy Trinity School singing their Christmas songs, was followed by a tasty Christmas Lunch for thirty people!



I love to watch how the Wednesday community bursts into life around the lunch table (wheelchair-bound or not!) where the word for the day is discussed, along with gardening tips, who is on holiday next and catching up on the whereabouts of old friends. There is even a Birthday cake or too! Lifts to and from the Service are provided by Coleen Keesing and Sue Martin, along with occasional spare food to

take home, that forgotten pint of milk, and lovely cards and gifts for Birthdays and those who are unwell. It is wonderful to see friendships formed over lunch as they take away the isolation many folk feel when they live alone and family is not close by.

The Wednesday Service is growing community, including some friends from other churches and many others who have made it their church. **All** are welcome to attend this uplifting midweek Service.

Sheena Marx

Worship



The last year has been particularly challenging and exciting at the same time. We have had many members of the Worship Team move away from HTR at various stages over the summer and thereafter, which put a lot of strain on the remaining team

members to fill any gaps on the Sunday worship rotas. However, I am very proud to report that the team stepped up to go above and beyond the call of duty in this matter, often with last-minute responsibility swaps and step-ins.

It hasn't all been moonshine and roses, though. There have been various struggles and difficulties for members on the team (things like illness, family illness, bereavement, etc.) The opposition to create spaces of honest and sincere worship where all people, whether visiting or regular attendees, feel comfortable and challenged to encounter Jesus at our Sunday Services, was very real over the last year. But God prevails and I believe two things: the battle belongs to the Lord, and blessing will follow the battle.

I must add that I have the greatest respect for the Worship Team and want to publicly acknowledge and thank them for all they have done and sacrificed, and especially for the way in which they have kept the focus on God and worshipping Him in Spirit and truth.

I look forward to the year that lies ahead and to seeing the team grow, develop and become more Christ-like as we worship Him together.

Nico Marais

All Age Services

I love the family, all together worship! I love seeing the enthusiasm of the children as they sit on the mat and eagerly join in. Wonderfully put together and led by a team each time. A chance to be blessed by our children and youth, and to praise, worship and hear from God alongside all ages. I love the All Age!

Dot Stride

Co-ordinated by Nico Marais, All Age Services continue to build on the vision of an All Age Worshipping community, by encouraging young people to take part in all aspects of the Service. The All Age aims to be a place where the youngest to the oldest worship God together (and, importantly, learn how to worship God together). I'm so thankful for the inspiring team - Nico and Anke Marais, William Edwards, Jenny Trought, Georges Kesrouani - who meet regularly throughout the year (special thanks to our generous hosts, Nico and Anke) to plan and pray for each Service.

Sue Jackson

Prayer



Prayer is an obvious discipline for the Church - one that church members can easily get desensitised to. We are very fortunate to have people who are passionate intercessors (both privately and leading intercessions at various prayer meetings and Sunday Services) at HTR. This was particularly evident in the way

church members drew together to pray for one another after Trevor Patterson's death and for the integral part all who prayed (so constantly) played in the process of appointing Dan and Louise Wells as our new church leaders.

It was also encouraging to see how the wide variety of prayer meetings we offer at HTR was still being run and attended, even when it felt like a chore at times. Prayer is indeed at the heart of all we do at HTR and it shows in the commitment to praying that is evident in all we do.

The prayer ministry team has been running itself, pretty much, after Kate Patterson left last summer. We still offer to pray with people at both our Morning and Evening Services and many people are still ministered to through this and the words/pictures we pray for before every Service.



We want to continue to be a channel of God's grace and power in this way, and to have more church members involved in this ministry. We would also love to see more people come together to attend the various weekly prayer meetings on offer at HTR. For instance, we had a wonderful Joint Churches Prayer Meeting in March, the first one for a while, but only a few HTR members were there.

I believe we will see this world change through the prayers of the righteous. Not because we have the power to change things, but because we have the ear of the King through prayer. We would be silly not to use the great gift, privilege and mandate that prayer is, and to grow in the discipline of regular corporate and private prayer.

Nico Marais

Women's Ministry

In May 2018 around 15 women had a special quiet morning at the House of Prayer, East Molesey. The theme was worship. The morning included readings and worship based on Psalm 95 led by Kate Webb. Guest speaker Rosemary Bull led an Ignatius reading and reflection on Jesus, the Lamb of God. There was space for individual reflection and time in the garden, followed by lunch together.



At the end of July we said a sad farewell to Kate Patterson and Kate Webb, both amazingly Godly women and very dear friends, who have led us so well for many years. We are hugely grateful to them both and

wish them every blessing in the years to come. I am sure we will be asking them back to speak to us again.

Tina Cooke spoke at our breakfast in October about *Faith for the Future* and inspired us to go deeper into God's word and make this our source of hope and comfort, as well as the inspiration for our lives. Then in March we were treated to a fantastic full English cooked breakfast by Richard Jackson, Ian Bridges and Sean Morris; thank you so much for giving up your Saturday for us. Thank you to Helen Towers-Evans, Lizzie Green and Morag Lucas for beautiful worship. Louise Wells used stones as in Joshua 3 and 4 to take us on her journey from childhood through her training as a nurse, living in Cambridge, to marriage to

Dan and how God was patiently calling them to the ministry and then to be with us here at HTR. She spoke of her work as a neonatal nurse and how God has been so faithful throughout her life. It was very encouraging to hear that we just need to be normal and trust Him. It is God who is faithful and does the rest.

Catherin Tidmarsh

Oasis

Oasis is truly that for us all, a time set apart to hear from the Lord and be loved and encouraged by each other. We have seen that the Lord will fight for us, deliver us from trouble and give us eternal life. During the summer term we looked at the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives. We had a listening prayer morning in June, a big thank you to Rosemary Bull and her team from Ashted. It was a significant morning for us all; God spoke powerfully and gently - praise Him. We said a sad goodbye to Kate Patterson by having a pudding and Prosecco picnic on Richmond Hill.

The Autumn was spent looking at the book of Ruth; what role models she and Naomi are for us all! We were inspired by their amazing story of bereavement, heartache, redemption and the legacy that came from their obedience to God. We also had a baking session, when lots of lemon scones were made and eaten! In the run up to Christmas we looked at the ways in which Jesus showed his power over sin, nature, sickness and death - in Mark's Gospel - made decorations and enjoyed lots of coffee and cake! We have recently been studying the first few chapters of Romans, and although this has been really challenging it has been a great blessing.

We were delighted to welcome Louise Wells to Oasis and it has been a joy to begin to get to know her, as well as other new members. Thank you to Catherine Brown and Clare Phillips for their support and encouragement as we took over the leadership. And to all the wonderful women who baked, led studies and worship, and kept the group running.

Quotes from members ...

Oasis is exactly what it says on the tin. A place to refuel and be with the Lord and each other in a replenishing space.

Clear, cool refreshing water at a stop off point ...

A place of encouragement, spiritual uplift, wonderful fellowship and even yummy cake.

Catherin Tidmarsh

Men's Ministry

Men's Ministry encompasses Who Let the Dads Out? (WLTD0), men's life group, men's breakfasts, men's socials and the men's weekend away.



Highlights? - It was sad to say farewell to Alwyn Webb last year, who encouraged, supported and taught us all throughout his time at HTR, but great to kick off 2019 with Dan Wells sharing his testimony at a packed men's breakfast.

There is a separate report below from WLTDO. Men's life group has flourished (with support from

Craig Brown), both in numbers and deepening relationships, as we've studied God's Word and shared, young and old together.

Thanks also to Frixos Kimonis for regularly organising the men's socials, where we can just chill and enjoy each other's company. We recently survived our latest adventure (men's weekend away) and lived to tell the tale! We're grateful to Dan for joining us in the Cotswolds and speaking on the themes of *Being Weak* and *Being Strong*.

Roger Marx

Who Let The Dads Out?



I remember clearly a HTR Men's Weekend Away five years ago. We spent the weekend thinking and praying about how we, as men of the church, could find practical ways of reaching men in our local community. Prior to the weekend away a friend had told me about Who Let The Dads Out? (WLTDO) and explained how it was enjoying great success in churches up and down the country. I mentioned the idea of running this at HTR and was overwhelmed as numerous men came forward to volunteer.

Fast forward five years and WLTDO is going from strength to strength. We regularly welcome between 15 and 20 dads and male carers each month. On the second Saturday of the month the church is transformed as WLTDO rolls into town with its bouncy castle, toys, craft and much more. The kids love it and the men enjoy it too (bacon sandwiches and coffee always help).



We passionately believe that it is crucial to create this space for dads and their kids, especially living in Richmond where many of the men hold down busy jobs and family time can be in short supply.

I'd particularly like to thank the team of volunteers for their dedication and ongoing commitment. We've had the same core team in place for the last five years - simply amazing. I also want to thank Dan Wells for getting alongside WLTD and for regularly coming along to meet with the dads and build friendships.

James Thornton

Children's Work

He took a little child whom he placed among them. Taking the child in his arms, he said to them, "Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me does not welcome me but the one who sent me."

Mark 9:36-37

Listen, O Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord alone. And you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your strength. And you must commit yourselves wholeheartedly to these commands that I am giving you today. Repeat them again and again to your children. Talk about them when you are at home and when you are on the road, when you are going to bed and when you are getting up. Tie them to your hands and wear them on your forehead as reminders. Write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

Deuteronomy 6:4-9

When reflecting over the last year, I am constantly reminded of these two passages when I think of our extraordinary team of Youth and Children's leaders and supporters. Our teams faithfully and consistently pray, plan, run our groups and clubs, welcome, support and teach, while being sensitive to learning differences and demonstrating the love of Jesus powerfully.

I continue to be deeply thankful to God for each one of our leaders, helpers and children. In addition to our adult team, we are increasingly seeing our young people serving in Sunday groups and clubs. What a joy to see our teenagers growing in their personal faith and responding in this practical way.

My prayer would be that our children's faith in Jesus would continue to grow and strengthen, and that God by His Holy Spirit would continue to teach us how to do this.

Sue Jackson

Fledglings

Our Sunday Morning group for babies and toddlers up to three years old meets in the Christ Church Room, and we have about eight babies/toddlers attending on a regular basis.

As the children enter the room, they are invited to play freely with the toys laid out. Some parents stay with their babies and toddlers for the duration of the Service, but there are enough leaders and helpers to look after the children if a parent would like to return to the Service.

After free-play, we have 'tidy up time', and then snack time in a circle, with water and snacks being provided by the parent hosting the session. We then lead the group in a 'circle time' following a set programme for the Fledglings age group, which includes interactive singing, activities, and a Bible story.

The Fledgling programme themes for the last two terms looked as follows:

- Autumn 2018 - God made everything, and God gave us Jesus (Creation story and Christmas)
- Spring 2019 - God is a promise-keeper, and Jesus loves everyone.

Our current team consists of group leaders Ian Trought , Lindsey Jarrett and Anke Marais, alongside parent helpers Kate Chapman and Vivi Tavares. A big thank you to all for their help!

Anke Marais

Scramblers

Our Sunday group for 3 to 5 year olds meets in the Lounge. We have 15 on register, with an average of 12 attending regularly. Scripture Union material is the launch pad for our teaching session and there is always time for free play at the end of the meeting. The children actively ask for prayer and are learning how to pray! What a privilege!

I thank God for our team that continues to support, encourage and pray for our children and families; they are John Hutchison, Karen Block, Judy Mathieson, Bernie Frith, Elizabeth Lek, Angela Salmeron, Michelle Rutter, Nima Shrestha and Liga Thrower. What a blessing!

Sue Jackson

Climbers

We are having a wonderful time in Climbers this year, learning and growing together. We are learning more about our God as Creator, Shepherd, Provider, Healer and Saviour.

The children love to learn in interactive ways. Leaders and helpers are demonstrating their own walk with God as they talk with the children, teach them and do craft and games with them, acknowledging that children experience love in different ways (based on the Five Love Languages), including words of encouragement and focused one to one attention. This has been hugely encouraging to the children and adults serving.

More church members are involved in the teaching this year, each contributing their own gifts and experience.

Cathy Hewett

Explorers

Explorers continues to be a lively hour of Bible study, games, sharing news, prayer, discussion and big questions on a Sunday morning. Numbers tend to average between 12 and 15 children, the majority attending most weeks, so we know them well and vice versa. Catherin Tidmarsh, William Edwards and I continue to alternate leadership of the sessions and are supported by the willing parents who contribute and support us enormously. Slightly smaller numbers and a more even gender balance have had a positive effect on discipline and behaviour this year, so we have been able to focus on loving the children and really enjoying teaching and leading this lovely curious group.

Highlights this year include:

- Re-creating the tabernacle in the desert to scale out of upturned chairs and lengths of fabric
- Making mocktails to celebrate the wedding at Cana
- Re-enacting the Last Supper with Hovis and Ribena and realising there were 13 Explorers that week reclined around the table
- Walking around "Jerusalem" from the Sanhedrin to Pilate's house and to Herod's palace in imaginary chains as Jesus did after his arrest, then experiencing his trial
- Making flames for Pentecost.

The new format of the Scripture Union material, presented as a compendium for the whole year, has enabled me to structure the sessions better to the shape of the term. Having decided to give a more thorough focus to the Easter story, it required us to start talking about the real meaning of the resurrection from the start of February in order to fit in all seven sessions on this theme. We were therefore thinking about chocolate eggs and hot cross buns even before the supermarkets!

We pray that Explorers continues to be a safe forum for each child to learn more about their Christian faith in practical ways before entering the more judgmental and challenging world of secondary school.

Michèle Marcus

Glow



Glow, our vibrant club for 8 to 11 year olds (school years 4-6), meets on alternate Friday evenings from 1900 to 2030, and has continued to be the coolest place to be on a Friday evening! We have been moved and thankful to God for His presence as we have seen children impacted, responding to

the Bible stories and asking to be prayed for.

The number of children that attend had averaged 65, with 90 on register, However due to having to limit numbers of children on one occasion (because of the increase in the required adult to child ratio), we have seen numbers drop to an average of 45 due to the possibility of being turned away.

It is a huge privilege to serve alongside John Hutchison, Helen Sadler, William Edwards, Tom Rutter, Simon Davis, Maricar Mesina, Steph Patterson, Judy Mathieson, Katy Johnston, Fiona Brown, Kayleigh Butler, Rebecca Reynolds, Reni James and Ian Trought.

It has been hugely encouraging to see some of our year 6's make the transition to The Bridge for year 7's. That is an answer to our prayers for continued relationship. Thank you for praying and thank you Jesus.

Sue Jackson

Refresh



Now in its fourth year, our Christian-themed group for parents and their pre-school children continues to be an oasis at the beginning of the week for the parents who attend. Deliberately small (the original vision based on Matthew 18:12-13 - Jesus goes after the one) we have 16 parents registered, with the size of the group encouraging friendship and community that extends beyond Monday mornings.

The running order has stayed the same, with sharing 'breakfast' together, conversation, and playtime for the children, ending with a Bible passage and singing session aimed at both children and adults. We have also enjoyed seasonal cooking activities together and end of term Service-style celebrations.

It is a huge encouragement to see parents come to a Sunday Service and ask for prayer. All glory to God.

I'm so thankful to God for Anke Marais, Vivi Henrich Tavares, Ali Blood, Kate Thornton, Diane Bamping, Catherin Tidmarsh, Dot Stride and Kate Chapman, who constantly serve, inspire and bless this group.

Sue Jackson

Bible Club at Holy Trinity School

Our popular Bible Club meets on Mondays after school in term time, from 1530 to 1630. This year we have averaged ten children attending. We follow the teaching subjects from the Monday morning Collective Worship themes. This allows us to go deeper into the Bible Passage for the day that leads to reflection and prayer.

Sue Jackson

Youth Work

We've had another eventful year in the youth ministry at HTR, with a whole host of great things starting and continuing both in and out of our building. It's particularly interesting for me to see the face of our day to day youth work change as young people grow up and new ones step in to replace them! We have made some great new friends this year, with a great influx of new young people, particularly at Quest and The Bridge; you can read more below!

We have run two great residentials over the past year, including Soul Survivor in the summer, where around 30 young people joined together from HTR, Bless Community Church and St John's Church, Ealing. We camped together, ate together and had a really fun time getting to know each other as we spent time worshipping God and growing closer to him. It only rained once, but of course, this happened to be the time we had to pack down our site! You may have noticed the damp tents littering the floor of the Church Centre.

In November we also went on a weekend away to Saffron Walden and stayed at St Mark's College, right next to Audley End House (where they filmed bits of The Crown!). We ran a weekend programme alongside our friends at Bless Community Church called Kaleidoscope, where around 40 young people joined together to explore the themes of 'God is good', 'God is Beautiful' and how his church is called to be transformed into his likeness. We had wonderful guest speakers Matthew and Ella Read from South West London Vineyard and Geoff Lumley who was the leader of Twyford Fellowship Group and the man who first led me to the Lord. I was especially moved as some of our young people had wonderful experiences of God's love for them for the first time ever, and one has even decided he wants to be baptised as a result! We have also been experimenting with different approaches to worship in the Evening Service with young people stepping up to curate and lead Services, which is very exciting!

Georges Kesrouani

Quest

In Quest this year we have attempted to go through the Gospel of Mark, but have been immensely distracted in quite a wonderful way as the young people have explored a myriad of questions and debates that they have self-started. We have explored everything from the book of Revelation to the topic of science and religion with special guest Stephen Patterson. I am especially pleased with our new year 7's who have settled so well and have absolutely made the group their own, while the older ones have really stepped up into leadership as they spearhead the discussions and lead the entire group in games and icebreakers.

Georges Kesrouani

The Bridge

The Bridge is HTR's outreach ministry for 11-14 year olds (school years 7-9). This year we have been open to year 7's from 1800-1900 on Fridays alternate to Glow and have had steady numbers with regular faces. In September our aim is to open up another group for year 8's and 9's that will run straight after our



THE BRIDGE

Years 7-9 at Holy Trinity

1800-1900, from 1900-2000. This will allow the new inflow of year 7's to have a safe space to settle into a new style of youth group while giving our young people in years 8 and 9 the space and time they need to unwind and enjoy their youth group. We have an amazing team at The Bridge who are so faithful in giving up their time for our young people. However, come September we will

need four new team members to ensure we can go ahead with our expansion plans. The Bridge will remain small in numbers as we believe real relationships require time, consistency and authenticity. We expect to have between 10 and 20 young people in each group on a regular basis.

Kayleigh Butler

The Crossing

The Crossing continues to attract a specific community of young people who feel very at home in our church. While The Crossing is no longer the main hub of our youth work - which has moved towards the boys' and girls' groups - it is still very much home to some of our older young people for whom it is a haven away from louder arenas in our youth programme. As all of the young people who attend The Crossing are also regularly attending our small group programme, this space has slowly evolved into a setting for fellowship, and board games are the most popular activity, which in the year 2019 is absolutely fascinating. We are very much experiencing a kickback to digital culture and a re-emergence in FaceTime, which I am gleefully celebrating!

Georges Kesrouani

Boys' Group

How do you engage teenage boys in the importance of bible study? Netflix and Pizza anyone? Along with Girls' Group, Boys' Group has become one of the most thriving spaces in our youth ministry programme with a growing regular community of guys getting together fortnightly to watch AD: Kingdom and Empires, a very Hollywood retelling of the Book of Acts which we discuss and deconstruct, especially playing 'Hollywood or Bible?' about the various details of the series. Alongside this we continue to foster a sense of accountability and transparency, as we are open in discussing various topics that young people struggle with, with a load of banter thrown into the mix!

Georges Kesrouani

Girls' Group

Our Monday girls' small group takes place fortnightly during term time and is run by Liz Morris and Kate Thornton. It's an opportunity to meet together, explore the bible, pray and build caring and supportive relationships as we share our day to day lives and our Christian walks. It's lovely to see the hospitality of a home setting and the intimacy of a small group create an opportunity for encouragement and growth for all who attend.

Liz Morris

Traidcraft



TRAIDCRAFT

What a year for Traidcraft!

Traidcraft is an independent Fair Trade company with a linked development charity which was started by Christians 40 years ago in 1979, to bring justice to the poorest people by paying fair prices for their goods. For many years it has been based in Gateshead. It has produced a catalogue twice a year and has been supported by many churches, as well as individuals, and we can now order on the internet. We have a

Traidcraft stall at Church on the fourth Sunday of each month, with more stalls before Christmas and Easter. However, at one point last autumn it looked as if Traidcraft would not be able to celebrate its 40th birthday.

Traidcraft trades with and supports people who are living in the most severe poverty who cannot cope with the demands or scale of supermarkets. But over the last few years Traidcraft was not selling as many goods as was needed, and in September 2018 the directors of Traidcraft plc decided Traidcraft should cease trading on 31 December 2018 because it had been running at a loss for several years.



However, staff at Traidcraft have worked to save it. A group of staff put together a new business plan which was accepted by the directors and Traidcraft plc is continuing. It is not easy because there will be fewer items which they can buy and this is a problem for some of the producers. Fortunately, the linked charity, Traidcraft Exchange, is working with producers to find other outlets. Also, many

staff at the office in Gateshead had been with Traidcraft for many years, and many had to be made redundant. The staff has now reduced from 67 to 12. For them, it was like saying goodbye to family. Now Traidcraft is still selling basic grocery items and some lovely craft items and despite the difficulties the remaining staff have just produced the new spring/summer 2019 catalogue.

Some of the most popular items at HTR are bars of chocolate, dried mango, chocolate raisins and biscuits, plus craft goods such as small decorated boxes, bags and beautiful earrings. We also buy the Real Advent Calendars and Real Easter Eggs which Traidcraft was involved in introducing, so that children can know the real meaning of Christmas and Easter.

Thank you to everyone who has bought Traidcraft goods over the past year. In the last 12 months we have paid Traidcraft almost £1,850 from the Sunday stall. As well as our monthly stall we use Traidcraft tea, coffee, sugar, toilet rolls and paper tissues in the Church Centre, separately ordered and paid for by the Church Office.

If you would like to go and meet some of the people producing the goods that Traidcraft sells, please check the Meet the People Tours catalogue. These are

wonderful holidays where you can visit marvellous countries and also meet the people producing Fair trade goods. And please contact me if you would like a Traidcraft catalogue, to order anything or have information about the Meet the People Tours.

Rosalind Ambrose

Deanery Synod

Deanery Synod has met three times this last year, at Holy Trinity Barnes, St Anne's Kew and St Richard's Ham. Topics covered have included dementia support and how to make churches dementia friendly, Glass Door and the local night shelter, and how to improve communications through all forms of media - thanks to Keith Nurse (as ever) for completing the communications survey on behalf of HTR.

The usual round of goodbyes and hellos saw a farewell to the Area Dean Richard Sewell (St Mary's Barnes) and a welcome to Dan Wells and Simon Coupland (St Richard's Ham).

I always seem to arrive too late for the coffee and biscuits ... but try to make up by chatting to others at the end - which is one of the main reasons I signed up! Sounds flippant, but it's not ... I like to try to connect with others who worship in Anglican churches in our area. As a matter of fact, that was the remit of Wendy Robins, Director Communications & Press, Diocese of Southwark whose talk and discussion (in January this year) was titled "Meeting the challenges of achieving good communication within and between parishes."

Karin Boyton

Riverbank Trust



The walk alongside any riverbank is full of twists and turns, muddy parts and glorious views. The opportunity to walk in all weathers - rain or shine, blustery moments, grey and overcast -

reflects the walk that we experience with our families on a day-to-day basis. We have celebrated when our mums have found employment, been amazed by God's glory as some of them have come to faith and cried with them, when they recall their deepest, most vulnerable hurts and pain.

When Ellie Hughes left us in November 2018, we felt a tangible void and I believe it took each of us time to reflect on what God was calling us to do, how we might respond to this and what might be the future of Riverbank. Ellie used a helpful analogy of a book and that her chapter had come to an end. However the book was not finished yet and, with God's help, we would be writing an exciting and new chapter together.



Working and leading alongside such a wonderful team of staff, trustees and volunteers has been a real privilege and I regularly pray that I will be led by the Spirit in all the work that we do. The team are a very talented bunch and much of our work often revolves around tea and cake!

We continue to grow as a charity with the number of families that we support. This year alone, we have been introduced to approximately 15 new families. The mums bring their friends and people notice what we do and ask questions. The church building is a safe place for many of our mums and this I find a real encouragement. When we meet, they know that they will be well fed and looked after, with no judgement or condemnation placed on them. When

our families allow us to pray with and for them, this is really special and a small step in their own spiritual journey.



Last year we welcomed Laura Lowther into a new role of Mission and Ministry Manager. We wanted to put Jesus at the heart of our work and be explicit in who we are and where we believe we will see truth spoken out and lives transformed. Laura has been working closely with two of our mums who have come to faith and want to be baptised. After Easter,

Laura will be running a 'Living Waters' course for people who want to explore faith and the Bible. Bridging the gap between Riverbank and Church is something that we take seriously and we believe that we will see growth in this area in the coming years.

The past few months have been particularly busy regarding our Community Sponsorship project. Very soon we hope to be welcoming a Syrian family into the Riverbank family and we have been overwhelmed by your generosity and support. In conjunction with the Home Office and Local Authority, we have a property which is (very quickly!) being furnished and a wonderful team of volunteers representing three local churches. For those of you who have supported us in this area - **thank you**. When the pressure was on to complete the paper work, meet with volunteers and authorities and worry about if we could afford it all, I questioned why we were doing this. I was drawn to these verse in Proverbs 31:8-9:

Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly, defend the rights of the poor and needy.

As with many charitable bodies, money always remains tight. We know this is not an earthly concern of ours, however, and we regularly pray as a staff team for necessary funds. God is teaching me that it is all in His timing and not mine (I find this very hard though!) Please do continue to pray for us in this area however. We would love to grow our staff team and begin new projects. To make this viable, we need more regular, monthly givers and funds specifically towards the Community Sponsorship project.

During Riverbank Sunday recently, I reflected on the verses from Isaiah 61:1-4 that began this ministry. They are so central to all that we do and believe, and reflect God's heart and Ellie's drive for this ministry:

The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the broken hearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness the prisoners, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour ... to comfort all who mourn, and provide for those who grieve in Zion - to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of righteousness ...

Looking ahead to the future, we continue to seek how best to proclaim the good news of Christ and we are excited for the plans in store for our Riverbank families.

Michelle Rutter

Kick London



Kick London is a Christian missional charity, founded at HTR and still based at the church 16 years on. It is our mission to transform young people's lives with God's love through sport and support. We are concerned that only 4.5% of young people come to church. The fact that 95% of young people don't

come is a problem we want to counter and so our solution is to go into schools to deliver sports services laced with Christian values. We deliver PE National Curriculum, Transformational Street Dance, Solutions Focused Mentoring and our new schools-based Chaplaincy provision. Using this hook we look to build relationships and work with local churches in the area to equip them to run additional sports provision at the weekend called Kick Academies.

Today we engage over 10,000 young people a week across over 60 schools and with 25 church-based Kick Academies in London. By God's grace we have grown from 6 Boroughs to 28 in the last 4 years. It is our ambition to reach a generation for God. Our staff team has grown from 7 to 51 during this period. In the last term we grew by 15% as an organisation - so it has been a busy few months. Locally in Richmond we have been excited to work in 12 schools (7 Primary and 5 Secondary) and particularly see Tom Rutter, our founding coach, become our first Chaplain at Christ's School and this last term at Holy Trinity School also.

As just one example of what we do, Lucas is boy local to this Borough who started to get into trouble following the divorce of his parents. He started to experiment with class C drugs as an outlet for his frustrations and then this turned into dealing drugs. He was referred to us for mentoring and we worked with him, encouraging him to take a different path. We also persuaded him during one of our after school clubs to try out cricket, which he'd never got into before. He reluctantly engaged and then embraced this, opening the batting and the bowling for the school. He is now playing sport so regularly after school that he has stopped dealing drugs and is taking a different path.

Another school in Richmond Borough has recently written to us to say

The Kick London mentor adds huge value to the school giving particular children the time they need to be fully listened to and the space to problem solve and set personal targets. The impact that this has made has been significant and we have seen the personal and social skills of many of our mentees grow and develop considerably over this time. I would definitely recommend Kick London to other schools."

Our rate of growth has been both stimulating and exhausting at times, but we are inspired by what God is doing and we are expectant as to what He might do with us in future. It is our ambition to continue to grow locally in Richmond-based schools such as Marshgate, Holy Trinity and Christ's as well as in new ones. We are investing in our coaches' professional development - seeing a cohort of 12 coaches take a PGCE equivalent to not only become qualified coaches but also qualified teachers. So we are very excited about developing both the breadth and depth of the quality of our provision. We are keen to revive the Kick Academy at HTR and would love to train local volunteers to run this once more after it ran for 15 years here.

Joe Lowther

LVA Trust



LVA is a charity that teaches RSE (relationship and sex education) in schools and other youth settings. Its core belief is that we are all loved, valued and able (LVA). Its ambition is to encourage positive self-esteem and healthy relationships.

We now have a presence in nine local schools. Since September 2018 we have taught in four of our local secondary schools, delivering 23 workshops/assemblies and reaching 1,290 students. The workshops have included emotional wellbeing and mental health, self-harm, online etiquette, healthy relationships and signs of abuse, respect and boundaries, self-esteem (body image, peer pressure, etc), sexually transmitted infections and awareness, and contraception and teenage pregnancy. We have mentored 18 students (a 12 week programme of one to one work) and run five small groups consisting of between four and eight students. One of those groups was a Special Educational Needs group and another was working with girls who had attempted suicide and/or self-harmed.

Our work continues to be valued by the teachers and students we work with. As poor mental health is on the rise and Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services' (CAMHS') waiting lists are getting longer, teachers have recognised our small group and one to one sessions to be a vital half way house for students who don't make the immediate threshold for CAMHS for emotional wellbeing. One of my young girls in a group for dealing with anxiety had an appointment with a CAMHS psychiatrist. After this appointment she came to my room in tears. She felt that her feelings weren't valid because externally she was functioning, therefore CAMHS could not help her. We had the time to comfort and validate her, something that so many adults do not have the opportunity to offer in a school environment because of their own pressures.

We are able to value these young people with our time, love, understanding, expertise and the Holy Spirit within us. Another girl (who had attempted suicide more than once) stayed behind after one of our groups. She thanked me and then sat down. We sat there in silence while she silently cried. After about 20 minutes she said thank you again and explained that she was sick of people trying to fix her, but she doesn't want to be alone. Jesus constantly surprises me with His presence in these situations. Whenever a young person needs extra time it's always when I am able to give it. That is God!

Our workshops and assemblies still remain our core work, but they have opened up opportunities to grow deeper in our relationships with our schools and (most importantly) with our young people. We are ever evolving to ensure we are helping young people and the schools they're in to deal with the 21st century outworking of an age-old problem - not feeling loved, valued or able. We have also built on our parent-equipping work and have delivered over ten parent workshops in 18 months, mostly within the schools we work at.

The support of HTR means that we are able to be the hands and feet of Jesus in a culture that praises the superficial and overlooks the meaningful. We take His essence and shine His love in the darkest corners of shame, invisibility, anger, hurt, anguish and loneliness. We have felt your prayers with us, and we thank God for you.

Kayleigh Butler

Holy Trinity School

At Holy Trinity Primary School we welcome you to an exciting world of learning, discovery and friendship. We are passionate about nurturing every child, helping them to find and develop their own talents and be the best that they possibly can. Children will learn within a Christian community, surrounded by support, kindness, respect and fun; and will leave with fantastic memories to cherish forever.



The school is blessed by the involvement of many members of Holy Trinity Church. Helen Sadler is a faithful friend who comes in weekly to support and work with the children. Michèle Marcus became our Chair of Governors at Christmas. We have been delighted to welcome our vicar Dan Wells onto the

governors. Dan is now our vice-chair. Peter Frith and Dave Petrie are governors, and Claude Scott is an associate governor. Tom Rutter is our School Chaplain. We are very blessed to have Jenny Trought, who is a member of HTR, as our RE co-ordinator. The school also works with Riverbank Trust to support some of our children - so we are very well served by the congregation and team of Holy Trinity!

As many of you know, this is my final year at the school, as I have decided to move onto a different phase in my life. It has been the most wonderful opportunity, experience and privilege to serve the community in the capacity of head teacher. Thank you so much for all of your help, prayers and support over the years! I'll never forget that this is the place that I became a Christian.

Please continue to pray for God's blessing and protection over the whole school as we strive to honour Jesus. Please also pray for the appointment of the new head teacher.

If you would like to know more about the school then please visit the school website or contact me via p.cox@holytrinity.richmond.sch.uk

Penny Cox (Head teacher)

Christ's School

At Christ's School we combine our expectations for students' outstanding academic achievement with an emphasis on their personal growth as well-rounded individuals. Our aim is for students to become confident, successful, responsible young people, who love learning, have a desire to lead and to serve, and are ambitious for their own futures.

Our learning environment is inspirational, supportive and happy, and based on the Christian values of Love, Justice and Peace. We seek to provide outstanding educational opportunities and experiences for each of our students, to enable all to explore intellectually, to grow emotionally and spiritually and to achieve their full potential.



As Chaplain my primary task in school is to provide pastoral care for the students and staff, to develop the spiritual life of the school in ways that meet the needs of the school community, and to help build relations with the wider community. Each week our School considers a different theme in collective worship and Personal Development Time. These are explored in many varied and creative ways by the Chaplain, staff and students, creating an environment to set apart a specific part of the school day for reflection on our lives and our spiritual development.

In school this year I have run a prayer space course for Key Stage 3 (Years 7, 8 and 9) in the run up to Christmas, through partnerships with the Richmond Team Ministry. Here tutor groups rotated around 10 prayer stations which sparked great faith conversions and helped encourage the importance of prayer in the Christian faith. In the run up to Easter this year each Year Group will make a visit to a local church to experience the different styles of worship and

help local Churches build more regular links with the school. I continue to run Youth Alpha on a Monday lunchtime, as well as working closely alongside the music department in developing a choir and music group. Pop-up groups and activities also happen within Christ's Chaplaincy, often in response to different events in the church calendar, or to meet a particular need in school at a point in time. For example, during exam periods we may hold chill-out sessions or creative prayer opportunities. I've also provided a point of support for any students who have recently been bereaved or who want a place to talk.

I will value your prayers in my role:

- As Chaplain I am able to share the Gospel with 800+ students and staff in whole school collective worship every four weeks
- Wisdom, as the chaplaincy groups and projects change and grow in response to the needs of the school community
- Youth Alpha on Monday lunchtimes (1220-1300), for students to make steps of faith
- To develop a faith group of students at school
- To grow connections with local churches in Richmond.

If you would like to know more, please contact me on 020 8940 6982 or via trutter@christs.richmond.sch.uk

Our School's foundation is as part of the Southwark Diocesan Board of Education for Schools, the educational arm of the Diocese. Further information can be found on their website - www.education.southwark.anglican.org

Tom Rutter

Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) held on 29 April 2018

The 2018 APCM took place within the 1000 Morning Service on Sunday 29 April 2018. The Service included worship, prayer, a reading and talk as usual, but also the business items necessary as part of an APCM.

Election of Churchwardens by parishioners

1. **Minutes of the 2017 meeting** - Approval was proposed by Ellie Hughes, seconded by Sheena Marx and agreed by the meeting.
2. **Election of Churchwardens** - Two nominations had been received for the role of Warden for the coming year, for David Ewart, proposed by Karin Boyton and seconded by Helen Sadler, and Mark Lambert, proposed by Jimmie Keesing and seconded by Roger Marx. They were duly appointed. Keith Nurse thanked David and Mark for continuing to serve in this way, and especially for the faithfulness and dedication they had shown in helping us to navigate the challenges of the last few months. Keith prayed for David and Mark, our Staff Team, our whole church in a time of change, and for the process of appointing a new Vicar as interviews take place next month.
3. **Kate Patterson** thanked our church for the huge amount of support she and her boys had received since Trevor's death in October last year. She showed a picture of the Prodigal Son which had been made by children at Holy Trinity School. Trevor loved this parable, which speaks of God's immense love for us. Even in the sadness of the last few months this wonderful truth had shone through. She particularly thanked Alwyn and Kate Webb for taking on extra responsibilities in recent months, and for fulfilling them so well.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Alwyn Webb's talk

Alwyn spoke on Genesis 12:1-9 and Hebrews 11:8-10. Abram was called to leave all that was familiar to him without knowing where he was going. And this probably stirred a mixture of emotions. When we step out into the unknown, we can be sure that our faith will be put to the test. Familiarity brings comfort and security, so places and geography are important to us. Our church is like that for many of us, including having Trevor Patterson around as part of it. But we're now in a time of transition, and we're called to move on with God. He always leads us to a place of more fruitfulness, blessing and freedom, but we may need to lay down what we hold onto from the past. We are called to follow Him even when we don't know where we're going. Are we ready for this?

Alwyn amusingly described the comfort he has found over the last four and a half years in always sitting in exactly the same seat for meetings in the Vicar's Office. But familiarity and comfort can become idols which affect our decisions. God called Abram to trust Him; He had a plan to bless him, and to bless others through him. Alwyn himself faces stepping out into the unknown as he and Kate feel called to move on from Richmond, not yet knowing where they will be going. And if the future at HTR looks daunting or feels unknown, remember God's purposes for fruitfulness, blessing and freedom. We will discover that God *is* faithful.

1. **Apologies for absence** - Apologies were received from Martin Phillips.
2. **Minutes of the 2017 Annual Meeting** - Approval was proposed by David Ewart, seconded by Ian Bridges and agreed by the meeting.
3. **Electoral Roll** - The Roll is an indicator of membership of our church. Over the past year there have been 10 deletions from the Roll, as people have died or moved away, and 12 additions, giving a new total of 165, 118 of whom live outside the parish.
4. **Treasurer's Report** - Mark Johnston explained that managing our finances is a big operation that involves several people, and he thanked David Ewart, Thelma Pritchard, Coleen & Jimmie Keesing, Keith Nurse, PCC and Standing Committee for the different roles they play in this. He also paid tribute to Trevor Patterson, who had encouraged him in his role and taught him much about the part faith plays in stewardship of our resources. He showed a graph of donations over the last 16 years, which told an amazing story of growth and people's generosity. He also showed a chart of how expenditure breaks down between staff costs, the Parish Support Fund, outreach, buildings and other costs. After anticipating a deficit as we approached the end of 2017, a wonderful response to an appeal in October 2017 for donations to cover this had led to a surplus for the year, which had enabled the PCC to place £10,000 into our Building Fund.

Our 2018 budget is a break-even one. Our costs are broadly the same apart from higher cleaning costs and the impact of inflation. Donations need to increase accordingly, and so far this year planned giving is on track, and we have one-off giving and pledges of around £60,000 towards a target of around £95,000.

- Approval of the 2017 Accounts was proposed by Roger Marx, seconded by Graham Bamping and agreed by the meeting
 - Adoption of the 2018 Budget was proposed by Tristan Blood, seconded by Hugh Dunlop and agreed by the meeting
 - Appointment of John Helm as our Independent Examiner was proposed by Mark Lambert, seconded by Colin Burrows and agreed by the meeting.
5. **Election of PCC members** - Mark Lambert explained that we need to elect four PCC representatives, three to serve for three years and one to serve for two years. There were four nominations - Craig Brown (proposed by Tom Rutter and seconded by Frixos Kimonis), Martin Phillips (proposed by Tristan Blood and seconded by Mark Johnston), Tom Rutter (proposed by

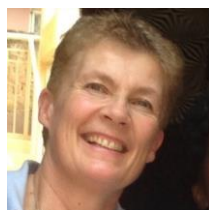
Craig Brown and seconded by Graham Bamping) and Claire Stansfield (proposed by Helen Towers-Evans and seconded by Brian Lockerby). They were duly elected. The PCC meeting in May will decide which of the four will take the two year vacancy.

6. **Election of Sidespeople** - Mark Lambert briefly explained the role of Sidespeople and said that we are electing members to serve through both our Sunday Morning and Sunday Evening Teams. Ian Bridges proposed the appointment for the coming year of Diane Bamping, Graham Bamping, Diane Bridges, David Ewart, Duncan Gibbons, Elaine Gibbons, Coleen Keesing, Jimmie Keesing, Mark Lambert, Sue Martin, Keith Nurse, Helen Sadler, Nicholas Smith, Fiona Wade, Liz Assmann, James Hallam, Brian Lockerby, Thelma Pritchard, Claire Stansfield and Helen Towers-Evans. This was seconded by Roger Marx and agreed by the meeting.
7. **Closing remarks** - Mark Lambert thanked Alwyn and Kate Webb for taking a more prominent leadership role in the last six months and said we will miss them greatly when they move on. He gave special thanks to Kate Patterson for her wonderful ministry, and to Johnny, Connor and Ben for their contribution to our church, especially through worship and preaching. And he acknowledged the huge impact of Trevor's ministry at HTR over the last twenty years. He finished with a quote from the end of this year's Curate's report, which in turn quoted the end of Trevor's report in 2017 - "Our God is good and faithful; there is so much to thank Him for as we reflect on this past year. Whatever lies ahead He calls us to come close to Him, as the writer to the Hebrews says, to hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for He who promised is faithful."

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this Book of Reports:



Rosalind
Ambrose



Karin
Boyton



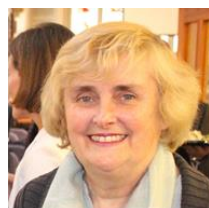
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