

holy|trinity|richmond

a church with an open door



BOOK OF REPORTS 2020

May 2020

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Introduction

This Book of Reports is usually produced each year in time for our Annual Church Meeting towards the end of April. But because of the extraordinary events of recent months we are having to discover new ways of being church while we cannot meet together face to face. While our 2020 Meeting is currently on hold, we felt it was important to go ahead with producing this year's Book of Reports so that we don't lose sight of all the wonderful things God has done in us, among us and through us over the past year.

We hope you will be encouraged through reading stories of God at work in so many ways in individuals and in our various groups, events and activities. In a time of change and uncertainty, it's so important to remember that our God is unchanging, the same faithful, loving, gracious God yesterday, today and forever, bringing hope and transformation.

HTR is such a wonderful community to be part of, and we want to celebrate this!

Vicar's Report

One of the challenges of writing a vicar's report like this is choosing which things to highlight from a packed year at HTR. It's impossible to write down everything that has gone on, and almost as impossible to choose which few things to include. But I will do my best and attempt to pick out some highlights.



It is always a joy when the church is able to come together and spend time with one another. We did that on our 2019 Gift Day which was followed by a church BBQ in the Vicarage garden. Good weather, good food and a cheerful group of willing grillers made for a terrific

occasion. We were also able to celebrate Joan Marlow's 95th birthday in the sunshine too.

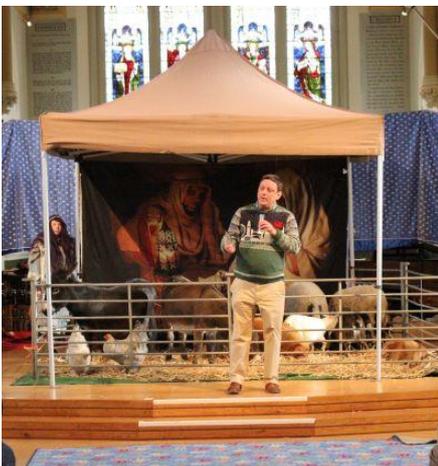
Marking people's journey of faith is also a joy and we were able to do that in July as we held a Baptism and Confirmation Service. Once again God was kind to us with the weather and the outdoor pool held together with only a few leaks! Six people were baptised in the pool and confirmed in the church by the Bishop of Kingston, Richard Cheetham.





Weddings are another source of joy, and we don't have that many at HTR, which is why it was a special joy to host the wedding of James Clee and Liz Green in June. Every inch of the church was used and decorated for the occasion, including areas being set up and reset at different times. It was such a great day and full of God's goodness and grace.

Unusual things crop up more frequently at HTR than you might first think, which lead to some strange and interesting things taking over the church. In the summer we hosted 'The Cube' for a week, where Youth for Christ installed a 360° virtual experience in the main Worship Area for children from various schools to come and take part in. It was a great success, though quite strange to see the church interior taken over by a high-tech tent!



Further novelties occurred around Christmas as we hosted the Christmas Service for the Rainbow Nurseries, one of which meets in our building each weekday. They decided they wanted to do a nativity with live animals, so we ended up with the church playing host to a pen with sheep, goats, pigs, chickens and donkeys. It was a strange experience talking to a group of parents with a small farmyard behind me! The animals were very well-behaved and by the end of the morning David Ewart had made a firm friend in one of the donkeys.

Our own Christmas celebrations were great occasions too. This year we moved the Contemporary Carols to a Sunday evening slot and invited some local groups to contribute to the performances. Our Carols by Candlelight benefitted once again from a choir of church members (including the vicar!) and Christingle and Christmas Day were lots of fun as usual. We also reintroduced a more reflective Midnight Communion Service on Christmas Eve which made for a powerful way to start the Christmas Day celebrations.



We had many other key points throughout the year, including a Thank You evening to all our church who serve in so many different ways, our Autumn Launch to get the new academic year off on the right footing, and our Vision and Giving Sundays at the start of 2020. We prayed for, heard from and celebrated the work of our connected charities in Riverbank, Kick and LVA

Sundays during the year too. We took a group away to Focus in July to enjoy great worship, teaching and time together. It was helped by terrific weather for the week too, although the only day when it rained (and rained hard) was the day the vicar came to join in!



We threw a few new things into the mix this year as well. In October we ran the Big Story course to pull our Bible knowledge together into one clear story. We also ran a tour of the British Museum one Sunday afternoon, where many of us looked at some of the physical evidence for the Bible's history in the Museum's exhibits. We ran a couple of Healing Services on Sunday evenings which were a blessing to be part of. Under the leadership of Joao Tavares we started a new ministry in [Film Forum](#), which has now run for six months or so. The opportunity to watch a

film, enjoy good hospitality and discuss some of the themes afterwards is a great way into the church and an easy invite for friends and family.

We have been blessed by a number of visiting speakers including Helen Stephens from A Rocha on Creation Sunday, Emma Worrall from Open Doors and Graham Archer from the Church Pastoral Aid Society. Simon Coupland came to preach one Sunday and update us on how things are going at St. Richard's in Ham, and Kate Patterson came to preach on 'treasures in jars of clay' in March 2020. Charmaine Muir also joined us from Wycliffe Hall college in Oxford to do a placement with us for several weeks in the summer of 2019.



We have had to say some goodbyes this year and it is always painful to lose people from our church family. Our beloved Joan Marlow, such a stalwart of HTR, died at the end of March. We were unable to hold her Funeral Service in the way we had hoped, but we look forward to a proper celebration of life and faith in due course. She will be greatly missed. Graham Bamping's mother, Margaret, who frequently worshipped with us at HTR, also sadly died in April, and we will be holding a celebration of her life soon too.

During the past year we have said goodbye and commissioned Sarah Casson for her move to Liverpool, as she took up a new teaching post at St. Mellitus College in the North West. We look forward to continuing to be connected with her and with the work in the Democratic Republic of Congo. We also sent off the Butler family to follow God's call to join the church family in Feltham.

Although we are grateful we are not losing her from our church, we also said goodbye and thank you to Penny Cox as she retired as headteacher of Holy Trinity School. It was a great occasion to thank God for all he has done through Penny at the school and to thank her for all her hard work and service. In September we were also able to welcome Alison Bateman as the new headteacher and pray for her as she began her role.





Again it was a thank you rather than goodbye as Keith Nurse retired from the Operations Manager role in January. The occasion was marked by a book of thanks with messages from across the church family, past and present. There were also cakes after the Morning Service, some of which even had Keith's face on them! It is impossible in this report to acknowledge all that Keith has done for the church in so many ways, and especially through his role as Ops Manager. We are hugely grateful for his strength, stability and calming presence through many storms, including Trevor Patterson's death. I am indebted to him for his patient help as I stepped into the role of vicar, and we miss him on the Staff Team.

Keith's retirement has brought the opportunity for Liz Morris to step into the role of Operations Manager. Liz has already provided such help and support as Administrator and has thrown herself into the Operations role with energy and enthusiasm. We look forward to all that God is going to do in and through Liz over the coming years. We are also delighted to have appointed Rebecca Reynolds as part-time Administrator and are thankful for the skills and gifts she brings to that role as she settles in. Sadly Georges Kesrouani has come to the end of his employment as Youth Minister at HTR during this year and we are grateful for all that he has given to our church and to our young people over his time with us.



I want to say a huge thank you to our two churchwardens for all they do. Much of their role is behind the scenes and unknown to many. They are willing to serve the church in this way, but I want to acknowledge their hard work and tireless service in sometimes very tricky situations. They minister to me and the whole church in such a variety of ways.

I want to particularly thank Mark Lambert for his service as churchwarden as he comes to the end of his term at this year's Annual Church Meeting. Mark has served for seven years, longer than most wardens, and covered some difficult areas of church life, not least Trevor's death and the subsequent appointment process for a new vicar. Having served as treasurer before that, Mark has given a lot of time and energy to HTR, including at Who Let The Dads Out and being a Life Group leader, and we are profoundly grateful to him. He deserves a well-earned rest and a chance to receive as well as give. I pray that God will grant him a special sense of his grace and blessing as he steps down from this role.

The past few months have been marked by the remarkable events of the coronavirus pandemic. We have seen a global emergency and a worldwide shutdown, and we have mourned the loss of thousands of people who have died across the world and in our own country and communities. Church has looked very different over recent months, with a move to online services, video

calls and online chats after Services and at other times. We are running Alpha online and have found creative ways to encourage one another as a church family.

I am tremendously grateful to the whole church for adjusting to this new format and for your patience and understanding as we have developed new approaches to being church. I'm also hugely grateful to the Staff Team who have worked tirelessly to make things work, producing videos, printing materials and posting them out, not to mention copious phone calls, emails and cards to those in isolation. At this moment, we await news about returning to 'normal', but my prayer is that God will have been so at work among us that we will not return unchanged but deepened in our relationships with one another and with our Lord and Saviour.

Dan Wells

Churchwardens' Report

We would like to begin by thanking everyone at HTR for the wonderful support we have received in this past year, particularly more recently for your love for and commitment to our Church community during this unprecedented Covid-19 lockdown period. We are all learning new IT skills and realising the art of the possible in keeping connected through our online Sunday Services, despite the closure of our Church building. In the year of our community's 150th anniversary who could have possibly imagined that our mission to reach out to all those who don't yet know the Lord would continue online? Once again, it has been 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 our Church so marvellously.

There has been much to be grateful for during the last year. With Dan Wells now very much established in post, we had to wish Keith Nurse, our Operations Manager for over nine years, a very happy and peaceful retirement. Keith has been a faithful and generous servant to our community over many years (previously also serving as Warden for six years), giving of his many talents and sharing his endless wisdom, boundless enthusiasm and can-do attitude. We have been truly blessed to work with him and we thank the Lord for all that he has done here at HTR. We have also been blessed to find an excellent and capable full-time replacement for Keith in the person of Liz Morris. We are also pleased to welcome Rebecca Reynolds as our new part-time Administrator, replacing Liz in turn. We would also like to express our heartfelt thanks to Michelle Rutter and Graham Bamping who have both graciously stepped forward to fill the important role of Parish Safeguarding Officer.

Much of the work and service for the Church is, and always has been, done quietly and 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 make our Church such a wonderful, loving and caring community to be a 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 Sundays and ensure we truly are a welcoming church! Thank you to the weekly Morning team leaders - Graham Bamping, Keith Nurse and Jimmie Keesing - and to 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 at the AV desk for their selfless efforts in providing such superb worship support to our Services. We would like to extend our grateful appreciation to Nico for his expertise and professionalism in providing the technical knowhow to make the live streaming of Services a reality during the period of the physical closure of the Church building.

We would 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. During the year, a small number of works to maintain the Church in a safe and secure way has continued to be carried out (details of which appear [in other reports](#)). However, it is becoming increasingly clear that we cannot delay the major works to the Church building much longer, to which those who attended the Morning Service during Storm Brendan and heard the roof slates falling can attest! The PCC is looking to restart the Building Project as soon as possible.

The PCC made upgrading our Safeguarding procedures and policies a priority during the year and we are particularly grateful to Michelle Rutter, Graham Bamping and Liz Morris for their hard work, wisdom and commitment in this important matter.

Finally, we would again like to thank all those who have given, served and supported the work of the Church during the past year, and ask all to continue to pray for the Church and in particular Dan and Louise Wells and the development of their ministry. Please also keep in your thoughts and prayers those in our community directly impacted by the coronavirus and all those working to keep our Church functioning during the lockdown. As we both approach the end of our respective terms of office, Mark stepping down after seven years and David entering what should be his final year, we would like to take this opportunity to reflect and thank the Lord for his great generosity to Holy Trinity Church, Richmond.

Mark Lambert and David Ewart

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**GIVING TO GOD'S WORK
 2020**



This leaflet explains our financial needs for the coming year and how you can play a part in helping us meet them

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

Building Committee



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 spoke regularly with Keith Nurse, Liz Morris and

Robert Lucas on matters that needed addressing. All routine maintenance and servicing was carried out, including the major inspection of our electrical installation, which takes place every five years. No more substantial refurbishments have been started because of the anticipated major redevelopment noted below, but there were some minor repairs to part of the flat roof at the west end of the building, and there was high-level gutter clearance on the north side of the building and renovation of some of the heaters in rooms at the west end of the building.

As in previous years we used the summer period as an opportunity to carry out tasks that are difficult at busier times of the year. In 2019 these included polishing the floor in the Worship Area and carpet cleaning. We are also grateful to a team of volunteers who gave our kitchen and its equipment a more major clean.

With increased pressure on space from a combination of our own groups and activities and from housing both Kick and Riverbank Trust on site, we have made the Small Group Room a more attractive working and meeting space. This has become possible partly because of work carried out by Sean Morris to improve and extend wifi coverage across our building, for which we are very grateful.

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 last Quinquennial inspection was carried out in April 2015 and identified the roof and stonework as areas for urgent repair and refurbishment, significant challenges we were already aware of. The next inspection is scheduled for this year. By the end of 2019 the PCC had set aside £290,000 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 were asked for their input and feedback on key themes for the architect's specification, from which the PCC made final recommendations to the Strategy Group who in turn 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 the following October. We look forward with great enthusiasm to restarting 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 express my sincere gratitude to Keith Nurse 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 has effectively constituted the Building Committee and therefore deserves all the recognition and my heartfelt thanks.

Mark Lambert

Mission Group

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GIFT DAY
 16 JUNE 2019



An opportunity to
 excel in the grace of giving

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

The Mission Group is an official subcommittee of the Church Council, its main aim being to support and promote mission in all its fullness, following the lead of the Diocese of Southwark by embracing the Five Marks of Mission - Evangelism, Discipleship, Compassion, Justice and Creation Care. Together these marks represent a holistic view of the mission of God's people that we want to pursue at HTR. The Group is chaired by Sara Kandiah with Dan Wells, Karin Boyton, Robert Lucas and Catherin Tidmarsh serving our church as members of the Group.

Mission Group makes recommendations to the PCC regarding funding for mission partners, both in regular giving through the church's budget and through the church's annual Gift Day.

Our 2019 Gift Day supported four projects locally and overseas. These were initiatives often started by members of HTR as a compassionate response to some local community and global poverty issues. They included supporting vulnerable single parent families via [Riverbank Trust](#), building positive self-esteem with young people via [LVA Trust](#), supporting people displaced due to conflict and sponsoring trauma healing workshops in Bunia, Democratic Republic of Congo, and redeveloping the church toilet facilities of our linked church of St Peter's, Wandegeya, Kampala, Uganda. 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. Once again our Gift Day reflected the amazing generosity of our church community, raising over £31,000.

The Group seeks to not only support our mission partners financially but also to raise prayer support and awareness within the church by profiling our mission partners during Sunday intercessions. We have sought to share a holistic view of mission by inviting speakers from external organisations such as A Rocha UK, a charity focusing on creation care, and the Church Pastoral Aid Society, which enables churches to help every person hear and discover the good news of Jesus. Other 2019 Mission Group highlights included changing the church coffee supplier to [Inside Ground](#), to support a local prison enterprise which champions an innovative approach in rehabilitation to transform lives on the

inside, and twinning the Church toilets with a refugee block of toilets in Bangladesh. We also supported three of our local mission partners to attend an Evangelical Alliance conference - *Healthy churches and charities run well for the glory of God*. These delegates said they found the conference relevant and inspiring, with useful learning to share with their organisations.

In the coming year Mission Group is excited to continue to explore how mission is integral to discipleship by using the helpful framework of the Five Marks of Mission.

You can find further information on our Mission Partners on the [church website](#).

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 are a Tuesday afternoon group and six other evening groups, most of which meet on the second and fourth Wednesday of the month in homes in and around the Richmond area. Many groups have found inventive ways of staying in touch during the Coronavirus lockdown.

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! Groups will continue to play a particularly important role in the coming weeks and months in providing care, support and encouragement to group members, as Coronavirus has a huge impact on our church life.

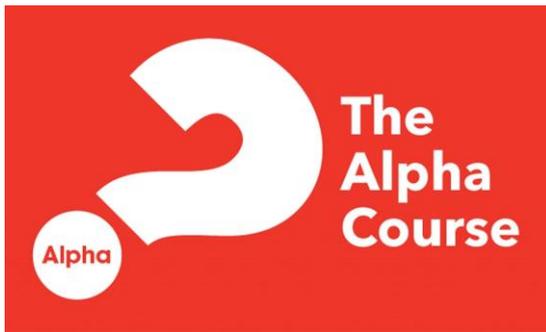
Around 100 people regularly or occasionally come along to our groups. Many have been meeting together for several years and value the deep friendships that have developed over time. But the groups also welcome new members, and they are a particularly helpful way for newcomers to our church to feel more 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.

Groups usually choose their own Bible study material, but sometimes several follow a common theme. Recently a number of groups have been looking at *The whole of life for Christ*. The introduction to this study guide says "Following Jesus is easy on a Sunday morning when everyone around us is singing his praises and listening to his word. But what about Monday morning? What does it mean to follow Jesus in your office, your home, your neighbourhood?"

Over the last year Group leaders benefited from a training evening in June and from taking part in our Church Leaders' Morning in February. And in September some attended an evening run by the Church Pastoral Aid Society on *Leading Well*.

Keith Nurse

Alpha Course



Alpha continues to be a wonderful encouragement to run and be involved with. Over the course of this past year we have seen a number of people go through Alpha, some for the first time and others repeating the experience. It is always a good sign when people want to come back for more!

Starting back in April last year, we ran a course on Thursday evenings, starting as we always do with a launch supper. We were blessed to have Jake and Kayleigh Butler speak that evening and share something of the way that God has been at work in their lives. Richard Jackson's catering was as delicious as ever and it was a terrific introduction to the course. As we went through the course we looked at the basics of what Christians believe, about God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit, prayer, the Bible and guidance to name but a few!

We ran another course in the autumn, this time on a Tuesday evening to allow those who can't normally come on a Thursday to attend. The launch supper included a testimony from Roger Marx and it was so good to hear about God's faithfulness to him during some very testing times. Richard Jackson catered for the launch supper superbly but wasn't able to do so for the rest of the course, so we are really grateful for those who stepped in to cook, cater and clean up each week. We had a very varied menu of tasty things to eat!

At the start of the new year sadly we didn't have quite enough interest to run an evening course. But that was more than made up by Alpha being run by [Oasis](#) on a Friday morning. A really encouraging number of women attended each week, watching the video presentation and then breaking out into smaller groups in the Trinity Room for discussion. The Oasis team worked really hard to make this a great occasion and it was so good to see the engaged discussions going on around the room.

Each course we have run has seen a real mix of people in attendance, which is exactly what we want. Some people come on Alpha because they don't believe but would like to know more. Some come to 'brush up on the basics' while others come because there is always something new and profound you find each time you take part. I certainly experience that myself each and every time I lead or participate in Alpha. If you haven't been part of Alpha before, I would really encourage you to sign up for an upcoming course; I am certain you will find it helpful.

Dan Wells

Pastoral Care

In today's world, and especially with what we are facing right now with COVID-19, there is an increasing need for the security of authentic community and a

desire to be part of a church community that is a reflection of the kingdom of God. We are all in need of a safe haven, a refuge in the storm that rages around us.

As always at HTR there has been much caregiving and caretaking over the last year, and never more so than in recent weeks. I have found as I have spoken to many of you that it is this bedrock of care, love and friendship that has been, by the grace of God, one of the things that has sustained us in these strange times. There has been a genuine and humbling commitment to each other that has shone like a light in dark times.

This care and support is given within the context of relationships, and for this reason we continue to encourage every member of the church to be connecting with others, either in a Life Group or within the team in which they are serving, or in some other way like prayer triplets, Oasis, Men's Group, and Knit, Natter or Knot. But the emphasis is on connecting with others.

Extended pastoral care has been given when requested and the opportunity to meet and be supported through a difficult season has been taken up throughout the last year.

We must remain mindful that God can use ordinary people like you and me to do extraordinary things in other people's lives, so keep loving each other!

So, to finish with the words of the beloved disciple John:

Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another

1 John 4:11

Wednesday Service and Community

We continue to be blessed by great speakers who bring God's word faithfully to us each week and by those who play and lead us in worship. All are welcome to join us for the Service and lunch.



The lunches following the Service are a lovely time of fellowship and we have again been blessed by Thelma Pritchard and Richard Jackson who have cooked tasty lunches, puddings and Birthday cakes! Other

times a tasty bowl of homemade soup has been prepared by Coleen Keesing and Sue Martin.

Our Christmas event once again saw the children from Holy Trinity School join our Service to sing a medley of Christmas songs. Christmas lunch was a highlight, with Thelma expertly cooking an amazing lunch for regulars and guests. I am still in awe of having food for approximately 30 and yet feeding around 45!

Coleen and Sue, who minister among the elderly, continue to be a huge blessing to all who receive care and support from them.

Sheena Marx

Worship

Worship the Lord in the splendour of his holiness; tremble before him, all the earth

Psalm 96:9 (NIVUK)



Since April 2019 we have had a lot of interest from people looking to join the Worship Team. This has been a real answer to prayer, as the Worship Team was fairly stretched at one point. Again I want to thank every member of the team who served faithfully and humbly in all areas of church life. They went above and beyond

what can reasonably be expected of them on multiple occasions. It is an immense privilege to lead this team.

With more people joining the team (or at least showing interest), it seemed that we were gathering a bit of momentum in our sung worship during Sunday Services. It reached a bit of a peak at the Carols by Candlelight Service where we had the biggest choir for some time, as well as a beautiful song written by Kate Thornton. This merely accentuated the fact that we have a lot of talented people involved with worship at HTR. Kate also released a worship album with Connor Patterson, which we celebrated in November 2019.

And then everything changed in a couple of weeks. With all the restrictions in place to fight the COVID-19 pandemic, we have been unable to meet in one place to worship. This, however, did not halt our worship, but instead revealed the true heart of HTR members - we want to worship God wherever we are, whatever we're facing.

Though the current setup for sung worship during our Streamed Services is fairly basic, we've had a lot of good feedback from people appreciating the opportunity to join in with songs. This has also created an opportunity to develop skills for music production and recording, which will come in handy when we record our HTR Worship Album, something we've dreamed of for some time now.

In short, we're worshipping God from our homes, in new and unexpected ways, because God is still the same holy, wonderful, powerful, merciful, glorious Father He has always been. So why shouldn't we!?

Nico Marais

All Age Services



Co-ordinated by Anke Marais with Nico's support, 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. Held monthly, they aim to be a place where the youngest to the oldest worship God all together.

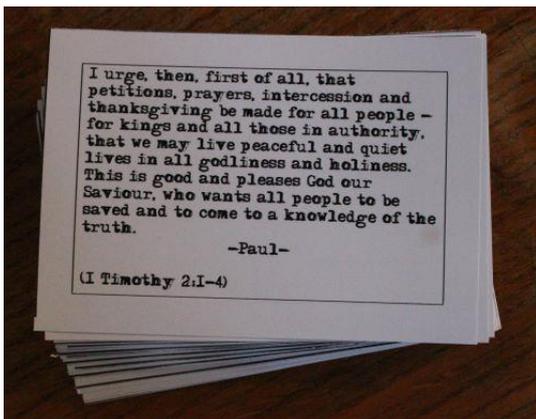
I'm so thankful for the inspiring team - Anke and Nico Marais, William Edwards, Jenny Trought and Smriti Prasadam-Halls - which meets

regularly throughout the year to plan and pray for each Service.

Sue Jackson

Prayer

Prayer has always been an important part of everything we do at HTR. However, we have not seen much growth in numbers of people joining us at all the prayer opportunities we have. Though numbers at prayer meetings aren't the best indication of how prayerful a church and its people are, we still decided to put Prayer Space (the weekly Monday evening prayer meeting) on pause as we look at what we should change to make prayer meetings and joint prayer more accessible.



One of the suggestions that came out of conversations about this was encouraging the formation of more prayer triplets. The idea is to get together as a prayer triplet once every month or two (or as often as the group wants) and pray together for one another, the church and the world.

Another suggestion was to encourage prayer around a certain theme each month, producing resources and points

for prayer to be used in Life Groups, prayer triplets, and prayer meetings. The sense is that many people don't pray because they don't know what to pray about. This idea will solve that issue and give us a focussed approach to corporate prayer at HTR.

The Prayer Chain had a bit of a clean-out as well. We updated the list of names and numbers on the Prayer Chain to include just current church members. This was because of the sensitive nature of some prayer requests and how widely people feel comfortable to have sensitive information and requests shared.

We planned a Prayer Ministry Training Evening for November, but it was postponed due to many of the Prayer Ministry Team not available, which is understandable as most on this team serve in various other ways as well. Prayer Ministry during and after Sunday Services was still going ahead until the COVID-19 restrictions were put in place.

Intercession is still a key part of our Sunday Services and we appreciate everyone who gives input into leading us all in prayer.

Nico Marais

Women's Ministry



In April 2019 a large group of us enjoyed a relaxed evening at Bill's in Richmond, chatting and getting to know each other better over good food and a glass of wine. Yes, we do like to eat! In the summer Dan and Louise Wells opened their garden to us for an evening of Pimms, pudding and prayer, focusing on a variety of areas both local and abroad, so thank you to all who helped with resources for this. Earlier in the same term Ruth Carpenter came one Friday morning and led a Psalms and Stretches

session, which combined movement and meditation using verses from the book of Psalms; I think everyone found this very helpful.

Louanne Enns from All Souls Church, Langham Place spoke on hospitality at our autumn breakfast, reminding us that hospitality is at the heart of the Gospel, the heart of "being" Christian and at the heart of evangelism. Then in December we had a delightful evening building and decorating gingerbread houses. It was wonderful to see new faces, young and old, enjoying relaxing and being creative. Some amazing houses were built and more food was eaten! It was a great way to de-stress before the Christmas season started.

Catherin Tidmarsh

Oasis

The summer term last year took us on a walk through the Psalms, when a number of us shared a psalm that has come to be special to us for one reason or another. An outing to the Isabella Plantation in May was an opportunity to chat and enjoy the fantastic floral display that surprises me every year.

We prepared for Christmas early by focusing on "The coming of the Saviour" throughout the autumn term, beginning in Isaiah and ending with the birth of Christ. It was so helpful to take a slow look at how God was so faithful and prepared all involved for the most wonderful event ever, and it certainly made Christmas very special for me.

Alpha has been a really exciting step for our Oasis group - reaching out and inviting friends to a morning presentation with our trademark coffee and homemade cakes to get us going. We all loved the videos that kicked things off each week. We got so much out of them and were often stunned into silence for a while with their impact - not like us at all! Discussions followed in two groups which were lively and full of debate, and all of us could see our faith was growing - sparks in us were flaring up or reigniting. Sadly the sudden change of circumstances cut us short and we didn't quite finish the course. It was such a worthwhile venture and I'm pretty sure we all met with God, especially on our refreshing, inspiring Holy Spirit Day ... to be continued. You can read more about [Alpha](#) elsewhere in this Book.

Oasis continues to be what it says - a place in the week to step aside and spend time with God, being refreshed and challenged, loved and cared for as we share each other's ups and downs, knowing that God has His hand on us and will never let us go.

Thank you to all who have been such amazing supports to Louise Wells and me, to our co leaders Catherine Brown and Clare Phillips, and to those who led groups at Alpha.

Catherin Tidmarsh

Men's Ministry

It's been great to see plenty of new faces join in the various men's events throughout the last year. Thanks to Dan Wells for arranging some excellent speakers at the Men's Breakfasts and, due to Frixos Kimonis' organisational skills, it's been good to see the local Pizzeria increasingly struggle to fit us all in. There's little choice but to get to know each other better when you're packed in like sardines!

Our aim is to bring guys from both inside and outside of church into community and, by doing so, grow a group of guys at HTR that brims over with the love of Christ and leads to transformed lives. The Men's Life Group provides the time and space to grow in Christ, deepen friendships and be encouraged along the way.

Come and join us once we're up and running again!

Roger Marx

Who Let The Dads Out?

WLTD0 remains a popular and well-attended event at HTR for men and their children. Now in its 6th year, we regularly welcome between 15 and 20 dads and male carers each month. On the second Saturday the church is transformed as WLTD0 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).



So why do we do it? One of the volunteers recently summed it up well - "to show men who don't come to church that we are not mad or crazy ... just regular guys who happen to have a faith in God!" Through WLTD we want the church doors to be flung open and for the men of our parish to come and spend quality time with their kids, and in doing so make the church a safe and familiar place for them.

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 six years - simply amazing - and have also seen new men come forward to help.

This year represents something of a crossroads for WLTD, as many of the original 'band of brothers' find it harder to volunteer as their own children grow up and pursue new interests. We hope and pray that the next generation of men will come forward and take up the mantle, so that this great ministry can continue and flourish.

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

As I write this we are in lockdown, so it has been encouraging and inspiring to ponder over what God has done in this last year. These two passages remind me to welcome all ages and to remember why I do what I do - *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...*

Our teams faithfully and consistently pray, plan, run groups and clubs, welcome, support and teach, while being sensitive to learning differences and demonstrating the love of Jesus powerfully. The phrase 'being the hands and feet of Jesus' comes to mind. 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.

The children that we have the privilege of teaching, whether on Sunday or in mid-week groups, demonstrate their faith in action by sharing testimonies as we gather together. My prayer is that our children's faith in Jesus will continue to grow and strengthen, and that God by His Holy Spirit will continue to teach and guide us.

Sue Jackson

Fledglings

Our Sunday Morning group for babies and toddlers up to three years old meets in the Christ Church Room, and over the last two terms we've had three toddlers attending on a regular basis, alongside a few baby/toddler visitors every now and then.

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 during 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 2019 - God made everything (Creation story), and God gave us Jesus (Christmas)
- Spring 2020 - Jesus speaks to us today, and I can talk to Jesus (including the Easter story)

Our current team consists of Group leaders Ian Trought, Kate Chapman and Anke Marais. 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 twelve on register, with an average of eight 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, Judy Mathieson, Michelle Rutter, Nima Shrestha and recently Afam Duru. What a blessing!

Sue Jackson

Climbers

We have had good attendance at Climbers this year, occasionally having as many as 16 children. It has been a delightful, though rather short year. The children are in school years 1- 3. The group has loved the ambience of the room, which now has a comfy couch and looks inviting.

We have enjoyed teaching from Genesis, Joshua, Matthew and Luke. The children benefit from the variety of the programme, with several parents having a turn at teaching. The teacher puts in a lot of preparation to enhance the learning and engage the group. The children absolutely love discussion times! We do activities that are connected with the theme and sometimes have time for board games at the end.

We enjoy our time together and pray that the children will grow in grace and knowledge of the Lord and build good friendships with each other.

Cathy Hewett

Explorers

Although we were sadly unable to celebrate Easter as a church this year, prior to lockdown we succeeded in running three sessions with the Explorers that covered many of the key elements of the story in Luke, from the Last Supper to the Resurrection, focusing on helping the children to think about the meaning of Jesus' life. As they listened at home to Dan Wells' reflection on Luke 24 on Easter Sunday, hopefully they remembered some of our conversations.

Explorers has continued to run smoothly this year, under the joint leadership of William Edwards, Catherin Tidmarsh and myself, and with the support of our enthusiastic and willing parent helpers. On average we have 14 children attending, most of whom come very regularly.

Our lessons this year have been largely based on the Gospels, but we have also led sessions from Jeremiah, learning about the prophets and some great Old Testament passages. The children have loved acting out the dramas that inevitably spring from these stories.

We continue to meet each term to pray for the group and for the children individually. Their good behaviour has been an answer to prayer. It has also been wonderful to see some close friendships forming and also a few of the more reserved children putting themselves forward. Their curiosity and their Bible knowledge never cease to surprise us, and it is delightful to see

confidence in their faith growing. Even when you think a child isn't paying attention, they can disarm you with the depth of their questions.

This group is a joy to teach, and as leaders we are blessed by them far more than the other way round.

Michèle Marcus

Glow



Changes in our team numbers (to support building a team for The Bridge) resulted in Glow moving from a fortnightly club to meeting monthly in September 2019, to the disappointment of parents and children. This decision also reflected Safeguarding ratio guidelines of one adult to six children (previously one adult to eight children) and to support the remaining team. On

average 40 children attend.

The format remains the same for the 8 to 11-year olds (school years 4-6), meeting 1900 to 2030 Friday evenings. We have been moved and thankful to God for His presence as we have seen children impacted and responding to the Bible stories, many of whom are discovering the Bible for the first time.

It is a huge privilege to serve alongside John Hutchison, Helen Sadler, William Edwards, Tom Rutter, Simon Davis, Maricar Mesina, Steph Patterson, Judy Mathieson, Fiona Brown, Rebecca Reynolds and Ian Trought. Glow also continues to support Duke of Edinburgh candidates as they complete their Volunteering, many wanting to continue supporting Glow after achieving their award.

It has been hugely encouraging to see some of our year 6s make the transition to The Bridge for year 7s and 8s. That is an answer to our prayers for continued relationship. Thank you for praying and thank you Jesus.

Sue Jackson

Refresh



Five years on, 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. We have frequent requests from families that attend

to increase the numbers as they talk about Refresh with their friends.

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 continue to enjoy seasonal cooking activities together and end of term Service-style celebrations.

It is a huge encouragement to see parents come to Sunday Services and ask for prayer, one of whom now continues to serve at Refresh even though her child is now in Primary school! All glory to God.

I'm so thankful to God for Anke Marais, Vivi Henrich Tavares, 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, and we have the time to go deeper into the Bible Passage for the day, leading to reflection and prayer.

It has been a huge blessing to have Penny Cox join us to support this group.

Sue Jackson

Youth Work

There has been lots going on in the youth ministry at HTR over the last year, with many old and new faces joining in. It's wonderful to read the reports for Quest, The Bridge, The Crossing and the launch of Youthband included in this year's Book and to hear about the work God is doing among us. None of this would be possible without the faithful service of all the group leaders, old and new, and I would like to thank Katy Johnston, James Clee and Nico Marais for taking the lead in these groups. Also, for all the new helpers who have joined our existing faithful leaders this year, without whom we could not have delivered such a full programme.

In addition to our regular groups there have been other wonderful opportunities to help our young people grow in faith. In the summer, a handful of young people attended the last ever Soul Survivor with friends and leaders from Bless Church in Ealing. They were lovingly taken under a wing in such a caring way and it was fantastic to see and hear about so many happy faces on their return. A special thanks goes to Jacob Simpson, the Youth Pastor at Bless who did an amazing job leading and organising the trip. This is what one young person said about the trip:

Soul Survivor 2019 was an amazing trip! Over the week of Soul Survivor, everyone had grown extremely close and all of us are now still great friends and the opportunities it opened up for everyone to meet with God and learn more about him were incredible and life changing for so many people. Seeing first hand friends and thousands of people stand up to give their life to Jesus

was life changing for me and my faith. They catered for every single individual and made it feel like family rather than “just some other festival.” It was truly life changing and thrilling to be a part of.

In September, we took a group of young people to *Reboot*, a youth apologetics one-day conference for 12 to 18-year-olds day held at Central Hall in Westminster. It was a great opportunity for those who attended to ask or hear big questions about God and the Christian faith answered by a huge variety of inspiring Christian speakers. The lunchtime queue for MacDonald's was slightly daunting but the group wanted to persevere anyway and it's amazing what you can learn from 30 minutes of chatter and jokes shared whilst rammed in a queue! One of the young people that came along said:

I hadn't been before and didn't really know what it was. I enjoyed it, mostly, but mostly I liked being with everyone and just having fun together!

It has been a privilege for me to see our young people coming along to the variety of groups and events over the last year and encouraging to see them grow in their faith and build relationships with each other and their leaders. Since March 2020, we have entered an unprecedented time where our meetings have been suspended during the coronavirus pandemic. As everyone has begun to adapt to new ways of connecting it's been fantastic to meet on Zoom with some of our young people and amazing to experience them sharing their gifts and talents with each other and the whole church community in our online Services through prayers, readings and even animations!

When we can gather again, I'm sure that God will continue to surprise us with new ways He wants to work in our midst and I can't wait to see how God will work all things for our good and continue to bless our young people at HTR.

Liz Morris

Quest

Quest is our Sunday morning group for young people from school year 7 upwards. Around 20 young people are registered with Quest, with often 10-12 attending on any given Sunday, plus 3 adult helpers. We've also welcomed visitors, friends and cousins. It can be quite a scramble for the sofas!

We usually start by catching up on each other's news for the week, sharing support, friendly advice and prayer for any difficult situations. Sessions usually conclude with a banquet - iced buns and salt and vinegar twirls are always favourites - and the young people enjoy hanging out together long after the Service has finished, while I am trying to Hoover up crumbs, and the vicar is trying to reclaim his office! A real blessing this year has been to see the bonds and friendship grow and strengthen between these young people.

Another blessing has been the new leaders and helpers who have committed to spending Sunday mornings with this dynamic group - huge thanks to Steve Patterson, James Clee, Penny Cox, Craig Brown and Mark Johnston. A special mention to our long-term regular, Anna Edwards, who stepped in so willingly to support the group in the weeks where we really needed it.

The bedrock of our sessions is reflection on faith and study of God's word. Our Questers are bright, perceptive and curious, and discussions are fascinating and profound. We've read Jesus' parables to challenge our thinking and discover the newness and unexpectedness of his message. Our astrophysics expert (Steve) led a session on Creation. James' icebreakers are the best I've ever played (where does he think them up?!). We were excited to hand out a personal copy of the Youth Bible to each member, in which they can doodle and respond creatively to scripture. We've used these to follow the Gospel of Luke, exploring the life and ministry of Jesus. Penny had the group working on her planned All Age Service for Palm Sunday, and they were looking forward to playing a role ... sadly this could not take place this time, but the seeds have been sown, and Quest will be leading from the front in the not too distant future...!

Katy Johnston

The Bridge



THE BRIDGE

Years 7-8 at Holy Trinity

The Bridge, which meets fortnightly on Fridays from 1800 to 1900(ish) during term time, has been described by one of its members as "an open and relaxed hangout group". The aim is to welcome young people in school years 7 and 8, many of whom were previous regulars at Glow, into the church building to enjoy pizza, hot chocolate, and a range of activities from pool and big team Pictionary to gingerbread making and a quiz night (featuring the famous Dan Wells in the celebrity picture round). Sofas are out, lighting is ambient, music is mellow ... it's the place to be!

Around 20 young people are registered, with about 8 to 10 attending in any given week, a perfect size to create a friendly atmosphere, with everyone having time and space to share and be themselves. Some attend church with their parents on Sundays, while others live locally and visit the group as friends of friends, through links with local schools or by word of mouth.

The emphasis is on fun and fellowship, with time set aside to come together for a short word and reflection from the Bible and finishing in a prayer. The young people are encouraged to be curious - The Bridge has a Big Question Pot - and our courageous and faithful Sue Jackson regularly puts herself in the hot seat to tackle challenging theological questions.

The Bridge continues to be run by a small team, but I feel that it may not have continued this year without the faithful and untiring dedication of John Hutchison to serve the Lord by gathering children and young people into the church family. He is an inspiration to us all. Thank you also to Vivi Henrich Tavares for the gentleness, charm and style she brings to the team, to Katy Dando who has recently chosen The Bridge as her Duke of Edinburgh work experience/service in the community, and of course to Sue for being the wonderful one and only Sue Jackson! It is always a privilege and blessing to share a Friday evening with this fabulous team and with God's beloved young people.

Katy Johnston

The Crossing

What could be a better start to an evening than a KitKat Chunky and Nutella toasty? This is the way The Crossing starts each Wednesday night, and has been a great way to set the scene and allow the young people to feel at home at church. In autumn 2019 we ran Youth Alpha, bringing the complete Christian message to the youth, and we had some good discussions and thoughts. Since the start of 2020 we have looked at the topics of the Trinity and Prayer, as well as playing games, obviously! The group members are mixed in their understanding of Christianity, but there has been a core group who have come most weeks, and it has been encouraging to see some local young people, who do not have any connections to church, come along too. All the young people who come to The Crossing are great. They all bring their different personalities and characters, and we pray they would each draw closer to God over the next year.

James Clee

Youthband

A couple of years ago Hannah Helm, our intern at the time, started a youth band as a crossover between Youth Ministry and the Worship Team. The hope was that some of the young talent would be drafted into Sunday Worship Teams. Unfortunately, after Hannah finished her year at HTR, we were unable to appoint another intern who would have taken this responsibility on.

In November 2019 we had our first meet-up as the Youth Band since early 2018. This was a fun night with some games, warm-ups and, of course, making music together. It was well attended and gave a good indication of the interest in worship and music among the young people of our church. Since then we have decided to bring Youthband under the umbrella of The Crossing, which meets weekly after a very successful Youth Alpha course. Once a month will be a Youthband night where we make some noise and develop some musical and technical skills along the way.

The idea was to have a full Youth Band lead worship at an All Age Service in June 2020. However this has been put on hold in light of the current COVID-19 restrictions. We hope to get back up to speed as soon as we can meet up to make some music again.

The volunteers from The Crossing and the Worship Team have been amazing in setting all of this up and maintaining the momentum after our first meet-up in November. It is a privilege to be part of this team and minister in some way to our young people.

Nico Marais

Film Forum



The idea of Film Forum started long before our first evening in September 2019, when it all came to life. Georges Kesrouani and I started dreaming about it because of many good conversations in the Church Office after one of us had watched a good film.

Do you know when you watch something and it stays with you for a while? Sometimes a film puts into words, image and sound exactly what you couldn't express. Sometimes it doesn't give many answers, and even creates more questions. Most of the time these are questions and answers about life, faith, God, humanity, love, hate, passion and so many more things we try to understand.

Conversations with church members, colleagues from work, Life Group members and so many other people are really important. They are a good way to connect with friends, ask thoughtful questions, try to find answers, explore life, look at the world around us, and especially get to know each other. The need to have a good conversation and explore these big topics which are portrayed on a big screen is the main idea behind Film Forum. It is, in a way, a cinematographic version of a Book Club. Moreover, it is a way to bring people into a relaxing environment and have something in common straightaway. This is the idea and the purpose of Film Forum.

As soon as we shared this idea during the notices at one of our church Services, asking for people to join the team, the response was great. And we couldn't be more thankful for the team which has got together.

Our first season of Film Forum started in September 2019. Every last Saturday of the month we welcome friends and guests to the church with a glass of wine, or soft drink, watch a film together and have a discussion afterwards. For the first two seasons we explored "What it means to be human", and it was absolutely fantastic. For the second season we decided to go a bit deeper, and explore the theme of Identity, in the context of what it means to be human.

Film Forum has been a great way to invite friends to church, for people just to pop in for a few hours and to experience church in a different way, sometimes in a way they have never expected. Who knew that a 4 x 2.5m screen could find its way onto the stage, and all the church chairs would give way to comfy sofas? To make the experience even better we bring comfy cushions and warm blankets, a bag of sweets and, of course, popcorn. A lot of popcorn!

It has been great to see around 25 people (and even more on some evenings) gathering and having a brilliant time together. We try our very best to keep an eye on the time, but sometimes the discussion is so good that it goes much faster than we would like, and we have to draw the evening to a close.

We have seen many church members bringing friends, having a fantastic time and coming back for more. We have been extremely happy that some people without any connection to church have turned up, and we got to know them. The comments and feedback we have received have been great and very encouraging. And people keep showing up, which is always a good sign.

We are slowly building our crowd, a crowd made up of young of age, and young of heart; mature Christians, and those new to faith; friends of friends who easily become part of the group; people who love to ask questions and talk, and people who prefer to listen and talk in small groups. We have space for all, questions from all, and films for all tastes. But more than that, we have space for God to expand his kingdom through art, image, sound and colours. We are so excited that this is just the beginning, and there will be so much more.

If you would like to know more, please do talk to one of our team members; it would be great to have more people involved in the team, or just popping in to check it out. During the films the lights are dimmed down, and if you didn't like it, you could escape without anybody noticing. But we would rather you stayed! We can't wait to be back, and very much look forward to having you with us.

Joao Tavares

Traidcraft



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. It has been supported by many churches, as well as individuals, and we can order via the internet.

Traidcraft also produces a twice-yearly catalogue in the spring and autumn. We have a Traidcraft stall at Church on the fourth Sunday of each month, with more stalls before Christmas and Easter.

Traidcraft trades with and supports people who produce items using fair trade and who are living in the most severe poverty and who cannot cope with the demands or scale of supermarkets. Traidcraft went through a difficult time in the autumn of 2018 when it was thought it might have to close because it was not selling enough, but there was huge support from people who had been buying from it. Some of the staff were made redundant but others have turned the company around.

Some of the most popular items we buy at HTR are cards for all occasions, bars of chocolate, dried mango, chocolate raisins, biscuits and honey, plus ground coffee and sugar, as well as craft goods such as small decorated boxes, embroidered purses, bags and beautiful earrings. We also buy 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.

In the 2019/20 financial year we paid Traidcraft £1,975, and the figure would have been higher if the Traidcraft stall had been able to remain until early April,

but obviously it had to be taken down when the lockdown started. We also buy toilet rolls and some other products for Church Centre use from Traidcraft, ordered through the Church Office.

If you would like to go to meet some of the people producing the goods that Traidcraft sells, please see 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.

Please contact me if you would like a Traidcraft catalogue, would like to order anything or would like information about the *Meet the People Tours*.

Rosalind Ambrose

Inside Ground

In 2019 the PCC made the decision to switch our coffee provider to [Inside Ground](#), a coffee roastery based inside Feltham Young Offenders Institute, set up to empower the young men to break the cycle of re-offending and encouraging positive lives with a brighter future in society.

As well as making a difference to the lives of young offenders, they seek to only use and provide high quality coffee with the most ethical standards possible through Direct and Ethical Trade which generally results in farmers receiving more money and social support than under fair trade standards.



All the above provided compelling reasons to switch our coffee provider, so following the approval of a Staff Team taste testing in October 2019, HTR changed coffee brands in November 2019, which seems to have been well received by our many coffee addicts - Phew!!

The service to order and deliver the coffee has been friendly and prompt and the price is good too. Our most recent delivery was back in March 2020, literally the day before the Church of England postponed catering due to the coronavirus! Rest assured, the supply is being safely stored until we are ready to resume gatherings, where we will once again be allowed to serve and share a proper coffee (unless you are a non-coffee drinker like me!)

Liz Morris

Deanery Synod

There have been four of us from HTR on the Deanery Synod this year - Karin Boyton, Judy Mathieson, Sue Reed and James Thornton - as well as Dan Wells. We have not all been able to attend every meeting but at each HTR has been represented. Over the course of a year various topics for discussion are included in the meeting - some more relevant / interesting to me than others! Here's a taster ...

I thoroughly enjoyed the meeting held at the Parish Church in Richmond Team Ministry and seeing the amazing refurbishments at St. Mary Magdalene. They are stylish, classy and in keeping with the long history surrounding that place of worship. It was encouraging to hear how they plan to connect with the museum and to reach out to the local population.

We heard from the organisers of Glass Door about the winter night shelter project in Richmond Borough within the wider context of homelessness.

My initial response to a proposal for an appeal to locate a knife bin (to allow young people to dispose of knives safely) was "What?... Richmond has the second lowest rate of knife crime in London." However, it is a sobering thought that a few miles away are churches who need to pay for one of these.

Being part of the Deanery Synod gives us a chance to hear and learn from other local churches and initiatives.

Karin Boyton

Riverbank Trust



As I write this report I'm working from home like many others up and down the country and even across the world! I'm thinking about how we are delivering our services differently and

how we can still best support the families that we know and love. One thing I am reminded of however is that

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever

Hebrews 13:8

As we move towards our 10-year anniversary in September 2020, I am being taught to rely on God and His provisions even more than ever.

This year Riverbank has continued to build relationships, equip others and be community. We introduced a new group called *Riverbank at Home* on a Tuesday morning each week during term time and this quickly became a popular, informal place to share breakfast and meet with other families. We have continued to run the successful *Kids Matter* parenting programme and recently were asked to pilot the new national *Babies Matter* programme.

We continue to visit the Queen's Road Hostel once a week and now have a mum volunteering alongside Anke Marais. Herself a past resident of the Hostel, she saw the need to offer her own experience of life beyond the Hostel and build new relationships with the mums being placed there. What a blessing she will be to so many others.

Our work in the three local schools continues to be met with much enthusiasm and we know that the children love the time spent with our outreach workers. This year we have been writing our own units of work based on themes such as listening, following instructions, raising self-esteem and anger.

In the summer of 2019 we welcomed our first Community Sponsorship family from Syria. Working with and supporting them has been an absolute blessing and they have taught us so much. They are all absorbed in learning English, have settled well into school and college and have really enjoyed making their flat feel like home. The volunteers in the team have been amazing and really gone over and above helping, teaching and loving them on a daily basis.

This year we said goodbye to Karen Block, our Finance and Fundraising Manager. Karen left us to pursue a new job with SPCK, the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge. We will miss her after many years of faithful service with Riverbank. As I write this report we have not managed to fill her position and, with lockdown on the horizon for a while yet, this important job is without an experienced worker to lead us into, through and beyond the next 10 years of Riverbank. Finances always remain tight, but with prayer, careful diligence and hard work, we continue to see God's grace abundantly fill the gaps which allows us to continue doing His work.

It was with sadness that we heard recently about the death of Joan Marlow. Joan was an avid supporter of Riverbank and always had the biggest smile for us. Right up until her final few weeks she was knitting baby clothes for our mums, even taking on the 'double pom pom' woolly hat approach - as favoured by the royal baby Archie! What a lady. She will be missed by so many.

We are continuing to build relationships in Ham and have begun the interview process for a new member of staff. With the Coronavirus and lockdown in place however, interviews have had to be stalled so we are again relying on God and trusting in His timing. We do continue to be excited however at the prospect for our first Riverbank Hub in Ham and for the partnership with St Richard's.

We are currently working with approximately 70 families on a very personal basis. Since lockdown we have continued to maintain contact and have written to each family personally. In addition we have introduced a newsletter for our families so they can stay up to date with news from Riverbank and from each other. Many of our families have little or no other support networks, so having regular contact with Riverbank is vital.

We are looking at ways to stay in touch with our families digitally and plan to introduce video calls with the children that we work with in school. Our presence within the local authority and children's services continues to grow and we are more involved than ever with statutory and non-statutory services. Riverbank is an amazing ministry that seeks to serve some of the most vulnerable families in

Richmond, and having this recognised in a more professional capacity really allows the church to step up and serve in ways that others may not be able to.

In the first week of lockdown and with very little food on the shelves, many of our families struggled to buy food and basic supplies. With our own personal links to the Food Banks and Hygiene Banks, the Riverbank staff team really excelled themselves in coordinating and delivering 40 Food Bank parcels. The families were overwhelmed and extremely grateful for this very practical provision and it has been a humbling experience to yet again be the hands and feet of Jesus.

As with every year that passes, we never really know what is around the corner. Six months ago we had no idea that we would be in lockdown and be planning on how to be a socially distant support to our families, but this is where we are and so we continue to be of service in a way that best works for our families and honours Jesus. There will no doubt be many difficult days ahead, but we are all holding on to the hope that when this is over, we can reunite, hug, exchange stories, eat together again and approach life in a radically different way.

Michelle Rutter (CEO)

Kick



Kick is a Christian missional charity, founded at HTR and still based at the church 17 years on. Our mission is to transform young people's lives with God's love, through sport and support.

We are concerned that a third of 15-year olds identify with a mental health condition, only 4.5% of young people go to church and of those young people, you are more likely to survive being on the Titanic than you are as a child in church to still be attending into adulthood. Therefore, our solution is to go into schools to deliver PE National Curriculum, Transformational Street Dance provision, Solutions Focused Mentoring and Schools-based Chaplaincy, innovatively sharing the Good News.

In five years, Kick has quintupled in size to engage more than 12,200 beneficiaries a week across 75 schools and 27 Kick Academies. We have innovated new services in schools to develop our provision from six sports to our current provision in which we offer 32 different sports and dance disciplines. Our mentoring provision has grown from 22 learners in 2015 to an incredible 699 in 2020. At our Kick Tournament last summer we saw 25 young people give their lives to the Lord.

KICK sits between public, voluntary and private sectors, and is well placed to respond with dynamic solutions to see young people hear about Christ. Our vision is to reach a generation of young people and make a transformational difference.

Locally in Richmond we have been excited to work in 12 schools (seven Primary and five Secondary) and particularly see Tom Rutter, our founding

coach, become our first Chaplain at Christ's School and more recently at Holy Trinity School also.

We are encouraged by the recent feedback from the headteacher of St Stephen's Primary School during this period - "Our Kick Coach has contributed so much to the school and the staff during this Coronavirus crisis. He has played a massive part in boosting morale for the school. In a difficult time, he's providing our students with normality and as a committed Christian man, he is a powerful image bearer of Christ."

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.

Joe Lowther (CEO)

LVA Trust



We opened our January 2020 Trustee meeting with the words *O taste and see that the Lord is good*. The Lord was very good to LVA in 2019. Thanks to the support of HTR and our other funders, LVA Trust has grown relationships with new schools in the Feltham area and been able to double the number of young people it reaches in a year. Perhaps even more important than the number of students we reach with our educational programme is the number of students we are working with in small groups and mentoring. This is the context where we can reach out to young people in difficulty and really make a difference to their lives.

The issues we dealt with in 2019 ranged from child sexual exploitation to anxiety disorders. In the words of one of our mentees *"These sessions have really made me feel like my anxiety matters and that I'm not just being dramatic. Other services couldn't help me as I didn't reach the threshold for help, but LVA did. I felt heard"*. A highlight of our year was our LVA Service at HTR when one of our mentees bravely shared a poem she had written about her journey through depression. Seeing young people's lives transformed is what motivates our amazing team, led by Kayleigh Butler and Sue Petrie, to keep going. This year we were joined by a new Trustee, Iyabo Oba, who brings digital and charity fundraising experience to the board. Please continue to pray for growth and secure funding as we seek to reach more young people in 2020.

Alice Huntley (Chair of the Board of Trustees)

Holy Trinity School



At Holy Trinity CE Primary School we value each child as a unique individual. We work hard to get to know our children so that we can provide the best opportunities for them to love learning and make exceptional progress.

In July 2015 Ofsted recognised Holy Trinity as an 'outstanding school'. Inspectors stated that "Achievement is outstanding because pupils make exceptional progress throughout the school" and "Pupils' behaviour is impeccable. Their extremely positive attitudes to learning have a strong impact on the progress they make." Read more in the [About Us](#) section of the School website.

In February 2020 we had a SIAMs inspection (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools) which is carried out in Church schools every five years. We were graded as 'Good'. The report states that Holy Trinity "is a caring, nurturing school with a positive learning environment in which everyone flourishes" and where there are "high standards of pupil behaviour, positive attitudes to learning and strong academic achievement".

Holy Trinity Primary School is a vibrant, creative, successful and inclusive school set in beautiful secluded grounds. We have very high standards and expectations, and we are passionate about nurturing every child - helping them to find and develop their own talents and "be the best they possibly can be".

Please continue to pray for God's blessing and protection over the whole school as we strive to honour Jesus, particularly for all the children and staff as we adjust to a new way of 'doing' education at the moment. It has been tough being away from one another during lockdown and it will require further adjustments as and when we return after lockdown.

If you would like to know more about the school, please visit the [school website](#) or contact me via trutter@htprimary.com

Tom Rutter (Chaplain)

Christ's School



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 is to provide pastoral care for the students and staff and to develop the spiritual life of the school in ways that meet the needs of the school community. Each week at Christ's we consider a different theme in Collective Worship and Personal Development Time. This time helps us as a school to create an environment to shift the focus away from ourselves and the busyness of our daily lives and to instead take a moment to seek God's wisdom for our lives and challenge ourselves as a school community to live differently and distinctly in our communities.

No day is ever the same in school Chaplaincy. Three out of four days are taken up with specific and various pastoral needs within school, while the fourth is filled with mentoring and working with students referred to the Kick London 'Solutions Based Mentoring Programme'.

It has been really encouraging to see the work of the school's lunchtime Christian Union club grow this year. It has been particularly encouraging for me to see specific students invite their friends along on a Monday and, even more encouragingly, then invite their friends to some of HTR's church-based youth work programmes.

I would really value your prayers for the following:

- The 25 students that I see throughout the week and ministering to them in God's strength and not my own!
- The once a month (but sometimes more!) I am able to share the Gospel with 900+ students and staff in whole school Collective Worship. Please pray that these are significant times of God's blessing for the school
- Every two weeks I teach a Year 12 or 13 Elective course "Christianity in the Modern World." Please pray for the students and I as we discuss issues of ethics and apologetics
- The Monday lunchtime club for Years 7-11 to explore the Christian faith. Please pray for more opportunities for students to plug into some of the youth work at HTR
- To grow more 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

Tom Rutter (Chaplain)

Safeguarding

Michelle Rutter and Graham Bamping were appointed as Parish Safeguarding Officers in late 2019. Since then they have been working with Dan Wells, Liz Morris and, until recently, Keith Nurse on the Safeguarding processes at HTR. A Safeguarding Committee has been established, which reports to the Parochial Church Council and meets a minimum of three times a year.

A key focus has been ensuring that all staff and volunteers working with children, young people and vulnerable adults at HTR have completed necessary training and DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) checks. A great deal of progress has been made with this but it is still a work in progress. We appeal to all such volunteers to take the necessary action in relation to their activities at HTR, whether or not they have completed such actions in other contexts. Michelle and Graham have themselves completed their training and have attended relevant conferences.

Another focus has been the development of church policies and procedures, including one on photography. We are in the process of developing a church policy on the use of Social Media. This is a complex area but initial thoughts on dos and don'ts have been shared with staff and activity leaders. We would like to consult on this policy with church members, including children and young people, but have yet to decide how to do this.

The Church of England and the Southwark Diocese have provided a range of Safeguarding materials which are available for consultation in the Church Office. These include a Parish Safeguarding Handbook, a Code of Safer Working Practice and a manual of policies, procedures and guidelines for parishes entitled [A Safe Church](#). Safeguarding is a core part of our faith and integral to church life, so we seek to ensure that our practice reflects these documents. In particular, the welfare of the child, young person or vulnerable adult takes precedence over all other considerations - always.

If you ever have a safeguarding concern, Michelle and Graham are your key points of contact, and a form for reporting any such concern is available in the Church Office and on the [church website](#).

Graham Bamping



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



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