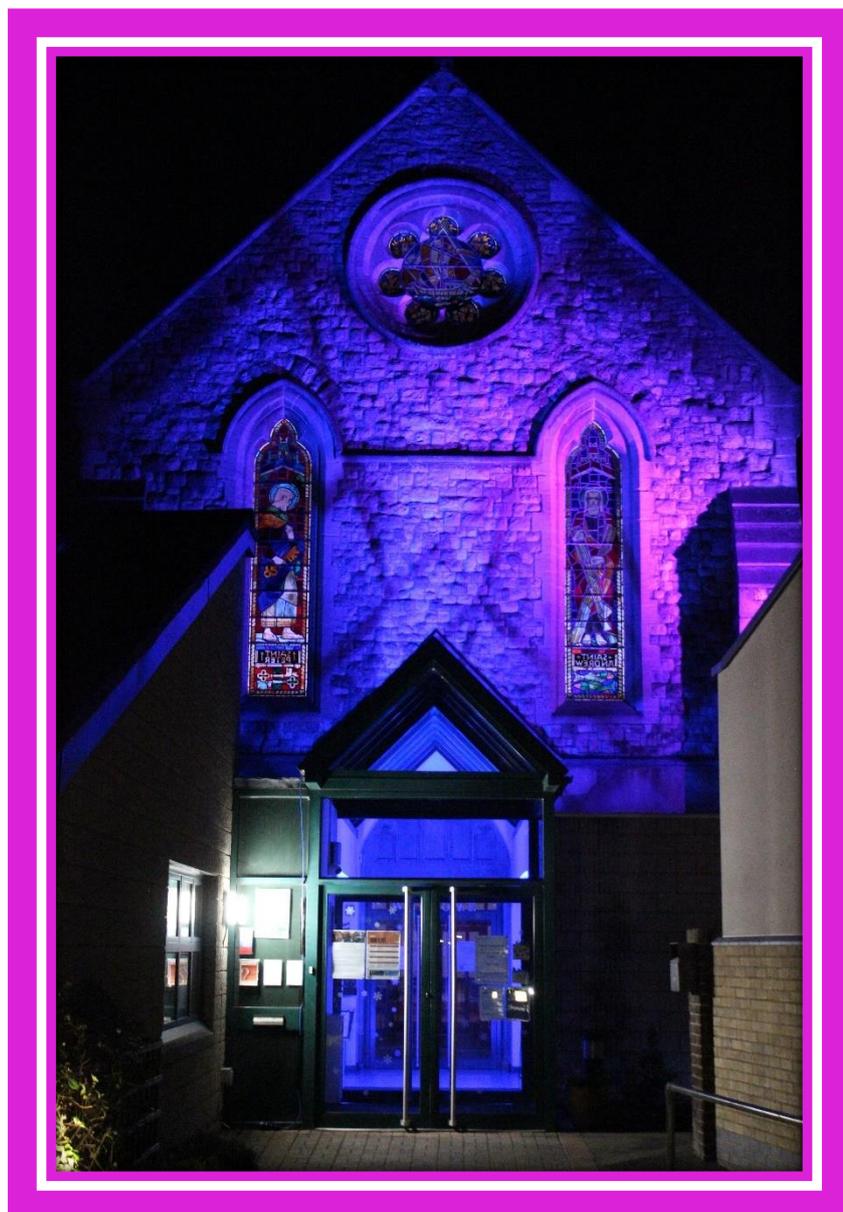


holy|trinity|richmond

a church with an open door



BOOK OF REPORTS 2021

April 2021

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HOLY TRINITY RICHMOND - A CHURCH WITH AN OPEN DOOR
REACHING OUT WITH GOD'S LOVE AND POWER ... HELPING ONE ANOTHER LIVE FOR JESUS

Introduction

This Book of Reports is produced each year in time for our Annual Church Meeting towards the end of April. We have all experienced an extended time of discovering new ways of being church and many of our usual church activities have been paused or adapted whilst restrictions have been in place. This year's Book of Reports is a bit smaller than usual but once you read through you will be surprised at how busy we have all been! It includes a new section with personal contributions from the church family about what they have learnt in lockdown and the book continues to remind us 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 through us as individuals and in new ways in our various groups and online activities. As we slowly emerge from this extraordinary time, it's important to remember how much we are loved and that He remains with us throughout every circumstance. Although we are experiencing change and disruption, we can trust in God 'for the Lord Almighty has purposed, and who can thwart Him? His hand is stretched out, and who can turn it back?' Isaiah 14:27

Vicar's Report

The idea of looking back over the events of the past year during a pandemic might seem like a strange thing to do. The effects of the Covid-19 pandemic struck home just over a year ago, in mid-March last year. During the national lockdown and the months following it, buildings were closed, church activities massively curtailed and much of our understanding of 'church' turned upside down. Our doors were closed, ironic for a 'church with an open door' and services moved online. The effects of the pandemic are still with us and may be around for a while to come. So do we really want to look back on a strange and uncomfortable year? Is there really that much to celebrate? Haven't we just been focused on simply keeping going?

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The Church continues to be alive and active, but our buildings must close in London

London is seeing a huge increase in the number of people falling sick with COVID-19. We must distance ourselves from one another and prevent the spread of infection in order to save lives.

Therefore, as well as public worship being suspended, this and all church buildings in the Diocese of Southwark are now closed.

Our worship of God and our care for each other continue but cannot be done in this building.

Our website contains details of how to join others online for prayer, worship, study, and community life. See www.htrichmond.org.uk or scan this QR code



Our staff can be contacted in an emergency by telephoning 0208 404 1112 or emailing office@htrichmond.org.uk

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength . . . Love your neighbour as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these."

To protect the vulnerable amongst us, please do not leave your home except for essential trips.

First of all, simply keeping going is an admirable achievement in the current circumstances! Perhaps you have been looking enviously at others who seem to have achieved so much during lockdown. They have started new hobbies, made progress on their goals and cooked copious amounts of banana bread at the same time. Meanwhile you feel you have done all you can just to hold things together over the past year. If that is you, give yourself a pat on the back. Keeping going over the past twelve months is something to celebrate. God calls us to run the race before us with perseverance (Hebrews 12:1). That is true for us as individuals as well as a church.



Second, God's power is not curtailed by a pandemic. Our lives have changed in immeasurable ways over the last year, but Jesus is not changed. He is the same yesterday, today and forever (Hebrews 13:8). A great deal about how we do church has been different this year, but our God and his purposes have stayed the same. The same Holy Spirit is active among us and so there is still much to celebrate.



I want to say a huge thank you to the staff team at HTR. Not only have they worked hard in so many ways, not least in allowing us to move our services online and all that has involved. They have been a huge support to so many across the church, to

me personally and to each other. This is true even though we have seen a number of changes in the staff team over the last year. We said a sad goodbye to Sheena Marx who has served God's people so well as Pastoral Coordinator. She leaves a big gap to fill. Rebecca Reynolds joined the team in March and we have welcomed back Kate Thornton onto the team as the second part-time Administrator. Despite her not being able to step foot into a church service until Easter, it had been wonderful to welcome Chloe Rotter into the role of Children, Youth and Families Minister from the start of the year.

I also want to say a huge thank you to our churchwardens, David Ewart and Penny Cox. They have been an enormous support to me personally and I know that they serve the church in such a wide variety of ways. There is no real 'handbook' for being churchwarden as such, but David and Penny have demonstrated a servant heart for God's people which I know is greatly valued and appreciated.



It is important for us to say a special thank you to David Ewart as he is standing down as churchwarden at this year's APCM. David has done the maximum six years allowed for a warden and given so much over that time. 'Thank you' doesn't seem to be sufficient for all that David has done. He has contributed to the safe and smooth running of the church and is willing to serve behind the scenes without fanfare. He is also willing to continue serving in different areas after standing down as warden which shows something of David's desire to help and build others up.

Thank yous should continue in lots of directions, from our life group leaders who have sought to keep community and connection going in whatever way worked best for their groups, to those who have cooked for Glassdoor, to those who have been in contact with others, keeping connection through phone calls and cards. There will be many stories of this community building that we are unaware of and perhaps, under God, they might be told over the coming months as we re-open.

Our ultimate thanks, of course, goes to our Heavenly Father who has proved himself faithful yet again over the past year.

Despite the difficulties of the pandemic there is much to praise God for in our life together as a church:



- We have been able to run services online, even from the very start of lockdown and keep worship and growth in God alive
- We have navigated a return to in-person services in the autumn, a careful pausing of these services over the new year, and another return to the building at Easter
- A wonderful celebration of Christmas, despite the restrictions with a joyful carol by candlelight repeated four times! Similarly we have just had a deep and reflective time celebrating Easter together
- Online meetings on Zoom to keep in contact and encourage one another. From quizzes and socials, to prayer meetings and morning prayers on a Tuesday, to life groups and many others
- We have continued to look beyond ourselves in mission with virtual visits from the Evangelical Alliance, IJM and Open Doors as well as Sundays for Riverbank, Kick and LVA.
- A gift day to support the work of mission which was met with huge generosity by everyone, despite the pressures of a pandemic
- The young people have continued to meet on Zoom and have settled into a bi-weekly gathering with an amount of fun and chaos that you might expect!
- Alpha has run twice online which has been such an encouragement, as was the Prayer Course near the start of lockdown and Big Questions in the new year
- The start of work with Glasdoor supporting the homeless and vulnerably housed with food each week, and the possibility of working together more long term
- A new Creation Care group which has started with lots of terrific ideas about how we can serve God, serve our neighbours and value God's good creation around us.
- And the myriad other things that God has been doing in and among us. My apologies for not mentioning something that has been a key encouragement for you, and I hope we will be able to share some of these encouragements together before too long.

This was not the way we planned to celebrate our 150th anniversary year. There will be a chance for celebrations and joyful gatherings when restrictions are lifted, and we can eat, drink and draw near one another again. There have also been many losses over the year: from the grief of losing loved ones to the struggle of losing jobs. Each of us has had a year where we have lost opportunities we would have liked to take.

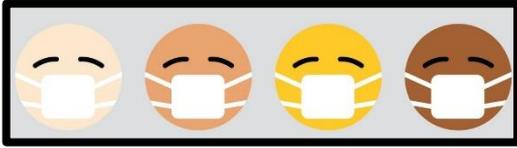


Yet through it all, God has shown himself to be faithful. This year will have looked quite different to the 150 or so that preceded it in the life of our church. But God is still the same. His love is the same. His goodness is the same. His power and grace and compassion is the same and will remain the same for the next 150 years and more. That is certainly something worth celebrating.

Dan Wells

Churchwardens' Report

As a result of the global COVID-19 pandemic caused by the coronavirus, 2020 was an extraordinary year for Holy Trinity. The church building was closed for many months in the spring and early summer, and the year ended with us going into another period of closure. The church faced many issues that it had never had to deal with before.



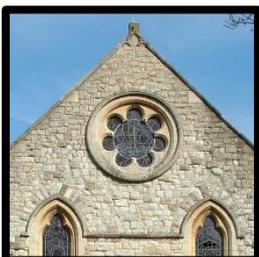
Among the duties of being a churchwarden, is a requirement to ensure that regular services are held. In 2020 and early 2021, achieving this raised many new issues. At some points in the year, the church itself had to be closed, and all services had to be held remotely. The team had to work out how this could be done, how the content could be produced, and how parishioners could access it. Even when the church could be opened for services, we had to restrict numbers and to implement special measures to maintain social distancing. These things, and lots of other new issues thrown up by the pandemic, meant that many people had to react and adapt quickly to find new ways of working. We sincerely thank everyone who has contributed to keeping the church functioning to such a high standard. A few of those who have made important contributions in particular areas are acknowledged at the end of this report.



The wardens

The 2020 APCM had to be delayed to mid-October. A consequence of this was that Mark Lambert, who would have reached the end of his term in March, remained as a churchwarden through to the autumn. We would like to thank Mark very much for his faithful service as churchwarden over the past seven years, but also particularly for his continued service during 2020. Penny Cox replaced Mark as churchwarden in October 2020. As we approach the 2021 APCM, David Ewart is now coming to the end term of his six-year term in office.

Buildings



One of the traditional roles of a churchwarden is to maintain the physical structure of the church. In 2020, work to maintain the church in a safe and secure way was continued. Details appear in other reports, but this centred on repairing and upgrading the fire alarm. However, it is becoming clear that major works to the church will be required in the not too distant future. The results of the delayed 2020 quinquennial inspection are due shortly, and we anticipate that it will confirm the level of works required. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the building project has been paused.

But we are very pleased that the Building Committee has now been reformed, and this will be able to take the lead on many of the issues arising.

We also aim to ensure that the church is organised and administered to allow ministry to those within in our church and in our wider community. During the year, the ways in which this has been achieved has necessarily been very different. The need to first close and then partly reopen the building, and all the steps taken to keep worshippers and users safe has presented new challenges and meant reducing the numbers who can attend services in person.

Work on the Peldon Court flat was also undertaken during the year.

Operational

Another major activity during the year has been the upgrading of our safeguarding policies and arrangements. We are particularly grateful to the new Safeguarding Committee and particularly Michelle Rutter and Graham Bamping for their work as Parish Safeguarding Officers, and to Liz Morris for her work in support of the committee.

A successful recruitment of Rebecca Reynolds as a part-time Church Administrator happened just before the lockdown and then Kate Thornton joined her in October.

We have also been able to recruit a new Youth, Children and Families Minister, Chloe Rotter.

Thanks

We should first take this opportunity to reflect and to thank the Lord for his great generosity to our community and church.



Thank you to everyone at Holy Trinity for the marvellous support that we have received over the year. And in particular during the difficult period when it proved necessary to close the church building (but not the church!). Everyone helped to keep the church functioning, but more than this we have even increased its mission in reaching out to all those who needed to see God's love in action. We are grateful for the way the church has been able, not only to function so well remotely, but also to reach new people.

We know that much of the work and service for the church has always been done quietly and without fuss - things like preparing meals for Glass Door; caring for sick or elderly members of the church; or setting the church up for services; running Life Groups; organising Zooms for the church youth; and much else besides. All of this makes the church run smoothly and holds us together as a fellowship. We do need to pay particular tribute to all those who have taken on so much in continuing the running of the church, even in lockdown, and the reopening of the building, such as those who help steward at services.



Many churches have struggled during the year, so we are also very thankful for the marvellous level of financial giving to support the work of the church during 2020. We are especially grateful to all the very generous members of our church who continued, and in many cases even increased their giving. This ensures the ministry of Holy Trinity continues to flourish and grow. We also express our thanks for the generosity of Kay Davidson's bequest to the church.



We were very blessed to have Sheena Marx's care and expertise supporting us for many years in her role as Pastoral Team Leader at Holy Trinity. After six years on the staff team Sheena felt it was the right time to leave this role to focus on other callings. We are enormously grateful for her service.

We thank Mark Johnston and his finance team, and particularly Thelma Pritchard, and as they step back, Coleen and Jimmie Keesing for all their diligent work over so many years.



We would very much like to thank those who have made our job so much easier, including the whole of the staff team. We are hugely appreciative of those who have taken so much of the administrative pressure from us - Liz Morris for her work as Administrator and Operations Manager since January; Rebecca Reynolds who came into post just as the pandemic started; and Kate Thornton who came on board during the lockdowns.

We are also very grateful to Nico Marais for the way he was able to first move the service online, and then to live stream services once we were able to partly open. We thank him too for his support for our prayer life and for his sets of devotions.



Welcoming Chloe to the team has been a delight. We are so blessed by all the work that Sue Jackson has done to support the children's ministry at Holy Trinity.

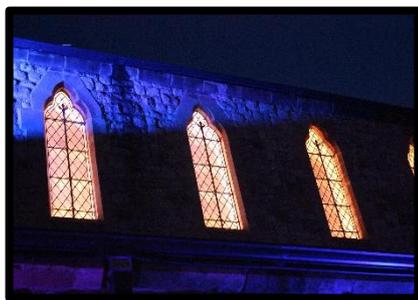
We would like to end by thanking the PCC members for everything that they have done during the year and particularly Dan Wells for all he has done in leading the church during this extraordinary year. We ask all to continue to pray for the church and for Dan and Louise and the continued development of their ministry.

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.

Penny Cox and David Ewart, Churchwardens.

Building Committee

Despite our church building being closed for most of the past year, new opportunities arose and were taken for the building to still be an open door to our community. Whilst the staff team and on-site charities began working from home and most of our church's activities moved online, our Church Centre remained in use for much of the year. The Admin team worked closely with the nursery and other educational groups to ensure government and Church of England guidelines and restrictions were adhered to. It was a unique opportunity during the pandemic for our building to be used to give support to our local community and our Centre users in difficult times by helping them stay open and provide vital support to children and families.



In addition, the church kitchen was reopened for the preparation of weekly meals for the Glassdoor season from November to April and the building became a visible beacon of light in the darkness at Christmas when a lighting company were hired to install atmospheric lighting.

Throughout 2020, a significant amount of preparation, maintenance and repairs were required to make the building safe for use when possible. The Vicar, PCC, Churchwardens, Safeguarding Committee and the Office Admin Team worked together to ensure the church building was suitably looked after. In light of the importance and volume of work involved, a decision to re-establish the Building Committee was made.

The Building Committee was re-established at the start of 2021, after a period of dormancy, and now comprises of Martin Phillips (Chair), David Ewart, Penny Cox and Robert Lucas with admin support from Liz Morris. New terms of reference for the committee have been agreed by the PCC to include giving consideration to the best use of Peldon Court. The reforming of the committee has been timely, given the Quinquennial Church Inspection and the recent formation of the Creation Care project. There are a number of other projects on which the committee has begun work; these include a fire alarm upgrade, and a review of the intruder alarm system.

The Quinquennial Inspection is a comprehensive survey and report by a surveyor of the condition of the interior, exterior and grounds of the church premises. The report is based on a visual survey and its purpose is to draw attention to the principal problems of the fabric and to form a basis for a programme of maintenance and repairs over the next five years. The inspection was carried out in February, and the full report is due imminently.

The Creation Care project, led by Penny Cox, is a really exciting new group formed to work on ways in which we can make the church more environmentally-friendly. The group has been preparing planting plans and has already done a considerable

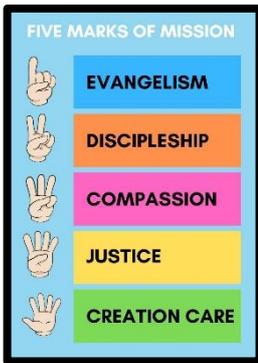


job of tidying, clearing and cleaning. Bird feeders, nesting boxes and bug hotels are planned too. A significant improvement in the church grounds has been made in a very short space of time. They aim to achieve the Bronze Eco Award with Arocha by the end of 2021.



Martin Phillips and Liz Morris

Mission Group



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 and provides the framework for the initiatives we support financially from the Mission Group budget. 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.

The 2020 Gift Day supported locally focused projects this year on four ministries especially close to HTR. Riverbank, Kick, LVA and Karis Kids. These have been initiatives often started by members of HTR as a compassionate response to some local community and global poverty issues. Each one of these organisations has been affected by the coronavirus pandemic and has challenges to face and opportunities that God is opening up.



Our ongoing connections with local and international communities 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 £39,000.

The Group seeks to not only financially support our mission partners but 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 including:

- **Open Doors** - an international ministry serving persecuted Christians and churches worldwide
- **International Justice Mission** - a global organization partnering with local justice systems to end violence against people living in poverty
- **Evangelical Alliance** - which serves and strengthen the work of the church in our communities and throughout society
- **Gift of Blessing Trust** - Kate Patterson makes deep biblical truths accessible, opening our eyes to God's unfailing intent not only to bless us but to make us a blessing

Other 2020 Mission Group highlights include creating an online advent calendar which featured a different mission organisation or person to support in prayer.



In the current context of the climate crisis, and the wider target of the Church of England to be carbon net zero by 2030, the Mission Group is excited to support the work of the creation care sub-group which aims to make the church more environmentally sustainable. To do this the church is working towards an Eco Church bronze award by end of 2021 to demonstrate we are caring for God's earth in different areas of church life, land and buildings.



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. A list of our Mission Partners are available to view on the [church website](#).

Sara Kandiah

Life Groups, Oasis and Women's Ministry

Life Groups play a key part in our church life as we continue to learn more together about what it means to live for Jesus. In an extraordinary year, most meetings have taken place online, although some Groups have managed to meet occasionally in a socially distanced way when this has been allowed.



This year Groups have been a special lifeline for people who have had to self-isolate or who live alone. But they have also been important in providing care, support and encouragement to all Group members, many of whom have faced additional challenges because of things like working from home, working extra hours and home-schooling.



While prayer has been crucial in Groups this year, many have also continued to study together, making use of a variety of online courses and material as well as printed resources. Group leaders have also met occasionally via Zoom, valuing the opportunity to share ideas and encourage each other.



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, especially at a time when opportunities to meet face to face are more limited. If you would like to link up with one of our Groups, then please contact the [Church Office](#) or one of the Group leaders.

Keith Nurse



Our aim in Oasis, our daytime Group for women, is to delve deep into God's word, encounter Jesus, encourage each other, pray, embody God's love and reach out. Suddenly we found ourselves in the new reality of not being able to meet in person, so we were challenged as to how we could function. We are certainly learning to use technology and are delighted that so many have embraced it with us. We have enjoyed a variety of online resources and continued to meet each Friday, for our new style Zoom coffee and cake, but long to be back together enjoying some wonderful baking again.



Sadly, we have twice had to postpone our planned Women's Weekend Away, something we had all been looking forward to. Hopefully we will be able to go next year. We have not embraced Zoom breakfasts but have recently been meeting on the last Friday of the month to catch up and pray together, and we did manage to do a Christmas craft evening on Zoom! So, thank you lovely ladies of HTR for all your support and encouragement throughout what has been a difficult year for us all.



Catherin Tidmarsh

Children, Youth and Families

Over the past year we have seen many great things happen within the Children, Youth and Families Ministry. Covid-19 changed how we do CYF ministry, but we have implemented various things to keep children and young people connected to HTR church while on lockdown.

Youth Zoom Sessions

Fortnightly during term time we hold youth Zoom sessions for our young people. It has been a success and we have seen their growth in the faith as they explore different subject areas. These include friendships, self-esteem, eco church, race and more. Our youth team helpers, Katy Johnston, James Clee, Penny Cox and Anna Edwards have been very instrumental and have contributed greatly to our sessions. We also had the privilege of featuring various guest speakers from A Rocha UK, The LVA Trust and Open Doors.



We plan to continue youth Zoom sessions throughout the summer term, as we believe this is safer. It brings consistency for our young people but still enables them to connect with the church while we transition out of lockdown. During the summer term we will continue to discuss various topics that affect our young people, as well as how we can grow in our faith. All being well we hope to start in person youth group sessions in the autumn term, if the circumstances are right.

HOLY TRINITY RICHMOND - A CHURCH WITH AN OPEN DOOR
REACHING OUT WITH GOD'S LOVE AND POWER ... HELPING ONE ANOTHER LIVE FOR JESUS

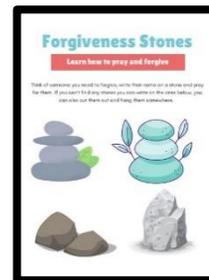
Family Slots and Activity Sheets for Children



During the past year we decided to record family slots for our children and families to be included in our services. A big thank you to Louise Wells who got these off the ground and for stepping into the temporary role of Children's Coordinator before I was in post. These have been another success that both parents and children enjoy. In our family

slot videos, staff and CYF volunteers have been able to teach the bible through stories, animations, arts & crafts and more. We will be continuing these videos throughout the summer term and when we are back to in person Sunday school (but on a monthly basis instead).

We also email weekly activity sheets that are based on our Sunday sermons and family slot themes. Families have enjoyed receiving these resources and volunteers have enjoyed creating them. Once again these will continue to be sent to families and will be reviewed in the autumn term. A big thank you to John Hutchinson who has faithfully provided many of these activity sheets over the last year.



Family Events/ All Age Services



We have had the pleasure of doing many All Age Services and our AA team have done a great job in ensuring that we involve our church family. We have our AA services once a month and we have found this to be beneficial for everybody, because of this we will continue that method. We have also had the pleasure of offering one off family events during lockdown, these include Christingle and The Nativity with the recent

Church Easter Quiz. These successful one-off yearly events have been great not just for families but for church members in general, and we plan to continue them in the future.



CYF Staff and Volunteers

Since Covid-19 we have had great input from all the CYF volunteers, they have been a huge help. Many have volunteered and led our youth zoom sessions, and others have contributed to our family slot videos and the creation of our activity sheets.



In January 2021 a volunteer zoom meeting was held to discuss plans for the CYF ministry, but also to hear what ideas or concerns volunteers may have. It was a great time to meet everyone, fellowship and discuss how we would move forward

as a team. The next meeting will be held in the summer term to discuss plans for the autumn term and more.



Lastly, we have a new staff addition, me (Chloe the CYF Minister) who joined January 2021, and we hope to expand the CYF team by employing a part-time Youth Pastor. The hope is that they will start in the autumn term, and from there we will be able to enhance what we have already been doing in the CYF ministry.

Chloe Rotter



What We Learnt in Lockdown

During a very unusual year, we thought it would be interesting and helpful to read about what we have all been learning during the last year. Thank you to everyone who responded, I am sure there will be much more to tell about what we have learnt as we continue to reflect in the coming months and years, but for now, here are the contributions that have been shared:



The silver lining of this last year for me has been, it gave me the time to reflect and the appetite to do so - the former being useless without the latter. I'm beginning to absorb what having faith really means. Something has shifted and deepened. I'm grateful. **Fiona Wade**

In brief, what I have learnt in this past year is that more than ever my relationship with Jesus is paramount to anything else. **Helen Sadler**

My lockdown lesson is from Bear Grylls' quote '*If life sends you a lemon try and turn it into lemonade*'. I have also read the following Christian based books, *Heart of a Lioness* - the true story of an Australian Grandmother, Irene Gleeson, and retired teacher who sold her house in Sydney and lived in a tiny caravan in war torn Northern Uganda. There she started by teaching orphan kids to write with their fingers in the dust under a mango tree and taught them songs about Jesus. She died in 2013 but her Foundation now cares for more than 8000 orphans some who are now doctors and nurses. *God's Smuggler* was also a great book to read during lockdown. **David Hewett**



There's always something new to discover right under your nose! **Karin Boyton**



For me, it boils down to how precious our God-given friendships and relationships are and also that Jesus walks with us in EVERY situation. **Penny Cox**

God is so kind and faithful. Many times the situation has felt impossible, but God has been faithful, helping us to find a way through every time. **Louise McFerran**

Without overlooking the sadness, separation and loss felt by many during the COVID-19 lockdowns, I found myself thanking God many times for the healing and family bonding I experienced as a consequence of withdrawing from society and the fast pace of modern life. Having been unemployed for the entirety of the pandemic, I've been able to invest in Christian resources such as The Bible In One Year app and The Bible Project; I didn't know how much I didn't know! I'm now in the process of laying a strong foundation of Christ in my life in the hope that I can remain strong as we exit lockdown. **Louisa Morris**



During lockdown I have learnt to broaden my cooking repertoire, enjoying more variety and time spent in the kitchen. I have learnt to appreciate quiet time and have developed a joy in not being constantly occupied. In addition I have reaffirmed that my needs in life are very very simple and humble. I already hugely appreciated my family and friends but more openness about feelings has benefited these relationships. **Helen West**



What has stayed with me over the last year or so is "it's not my will, but it's God's will ... thy will be done". Samson has said "Jesus is with us". **Anne Johnson and Samson Cohen**



I have learnt to list my blessings every day, no matter the turmoil in the world outside nor the turmoil in my mind inside, then thank God for them all. Unlike my husband, He never seems to get bored when I repeat myself!! **Michele burrows**

During lockdown I have learnt that I am less of an introvert than I had previously thought! I have also learnt that the Holy Spirit is not constrained by geographic distance or meeting online which has been deeply reassuring. You never quite know how important something is until you don't have it anymore, so I have also learnt just how important music and singing is to our life together as a church. **Dan Wells**

That I really love the opportunities that Zoom has provided to keep in touch, a wave or prayer across a computer screen is great. I have learnt that Dan is a really good baker, well I knew that, but he has a larger repertoire now! I have learnt that you can still know when a person is smiling even if it is from behind a mask. I have been constantly reminded that we have a Father who loves us and has walked with us through this different year. **Louise Wells**



- ✓ More time at home was not all that was needed to write that book I've always wanted to write.
- ✓ Anyone can learn something new.
- ✓ Teachers and schools are not appreciated enough for all they do.
- ✓ Teaching is a vocation I'm not called to.
- ✓ Fear and anxiety make us do odd things. Love and peace make us do the right thing.
- ✓ I don't like hearing the sound of my own voice in videos.

- ✓ Sourdough starters don't die, they just need time, attention and some nourishment to come back to life. So do we.
- ✓ Difficult times reveal our existing character and give us the opportunity to grow.
- ✓ Silence really is golden.
- ✓ Boundaries are so important.
- ✓ Birthdays, anniversaries and special dates can still be celebrated without leaving the house.
- ✓ Life is hard. God is good. **Nico Marais**



Surprisingly, I have valued enforced isolation which has given me more time at home instead of rushing around all over the place! I have appreciated the simplicity of 'staying put', even if it has been a bit boring at times and most importantly I have surrendered myself to Gods will that little bit more! **Liz Morris**



I have learnt, God is the same, yesterday, today and tomorrow. He is faithful and The Rock on which we stand. Jesus will never leave us or forsake us. Psalm 23 has been a passage that I reflect on frequently.

But there have been moments where I have, we have, been very 'wobbly' especially when hearing Covid updates on the news. I have been reminded of how much we need each other, family, community, church. Homegroups, prayer groups, WhatsApp prayer groups have been a lifeline.



Praying has increased.

I've learnt how to slow down and be thankful to God for our world, my family, church family, neighbours, community. I also have a new love for technology and I'm so thankful to God for Zoom (other forms of communication are available!) **Sue Jackson**

Deanery Synod

Like everything else this last year, the show must go on - and did! Deanery Synod ran two of its meetings online in June and November. Each time the meeting very much concentrated on churches having opportunity to feedback regarding how they were responding to the current situation. Through contributions from clergy and lay members we got to hear how we have all continued to worship and connect with our congregations, creatively yet remotely and with a regard to how elderly and less tech-savvy folk have been included.



The major difference for me was that instead of seeing the backs of people's heads sitting in pews or church seats and never really knowing who represents which church - we all saw each other's faces. Conversely, we seem to have connected in a far more meaningful way on Zoom!

Karin Boyton

Kick



This year has been like no other and despite the many challenges that we have faced, God has been incredibly faithful, and KICK have been able to provide vital support to our young people. It is truly incredible to think that despite the challenges caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, we are now working with more young people per week than ever before in our history!

KICK is committed to supporting our Schools and young people and we are delighted to have been able continue engaging with young people throughout the pandemic through our key worker Schools provision and through innovating our provision to deliver Remote Mentoring and Remote Chaplaincy provision. The incredible support of Holy Trinity Church has had a significant impact in helping us to achieve our mission of seeing young people's lives transformed with God's love through Sport and support as we seek to provide young people with a hope for the future and joy in the present.



The Covid-19 pandemic has greatly impacted young people. 1/3 of young people aged 15 identify with a mental health condition, 2 million grow up without a father at home, many are disconnected from local communities with 95% now not attending church. At KICK we aspire to see a generation of young people who will reach their God given potential; where communities have been socially impacted; and where spiritual change has transformed a nation. Our mission to transform young people's lives, with God's love, through sport and support is more important than ever.



Below are recent case studies which demonstrate the impact that KICK has upon the lives of the young people that we work with:

Key Worker Schools Provision

"Alastair 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". (Michael Schumm, Headteacher of St Stephen's Primary School)

Remote Mentoring Provision

"During the Coronavirus closure, the school is acutely aware that some of these vulnerable young people rely on the structure, routine and contact provided by the school. Our KICK Mentors have been invaluable in keeping this contact going whilst many school staff work from home and/or self-isolate. The feedback from students speaks for itself. Without KICK mentors, many of our young people would be finding this time incredibly more challenging than it currently is for them." (Stephen Burns, Head of School, The Green School for Girls)

KICK Camp Provision

"The KICK Coaches are truly incredible role models and I can't sing their praises enough. The KICK Coaches have such a deep understanding of why the children behave the way they do and they have been able to manage their challenging behaviour accordingly and support them throughout".

Joe Lowther (CEO)

LVA Trust



loved · valued · able

It's over a year since the pandemic began and during this time, we have learnt so many things as an organisation but one thing that sticks out is the resilience, flexibility, passion and creativity of our small staff team...With the closure of school's we were a little stumped as to what to do after we

had tried to rebalance ourselves, our lives, our families and our routines. However, we were quick to acknowledge that there were a lot of vulnerable young people feeling lost and suffering with their new situations, so we put together and distributed 366 care parcels which contained gifts but more importantly a handwritten card to simply give the message that they matter and are loved. These were received with such genuine appreciation.



January - March and September - December terms were extremely busy for us, being in schools and doing the front-line work that we all, as a team enjoy so much, so not being in the schools was difficult during lockdowns particularly as we knew that so many of the young people were in more vulnerable situations than may have been previously. However, we had time working from home to develop a bespoke emotional wellbeing course which we rolled out to schools in September and was hugely appreciated by the schools that booked.



We also developed a parent pack, to help navigate the difficult questions around puberty and relationships that children were missing out on by not being in school, to prepare well for secondary school. This led to us doing a live Zoom parenting event where we had around 40 people attending, we have also been publishing parenting blogs to support where we can. We adapted our small groups, so we could deliver those online and during the second lockdown we re-wrote some of our workshops so that we could also deliver those via live link to the classrooms. We also set up a youth hub to support youth

workers across the borough and we are now seeing the fruits of that with lots of collaborative work going into new and existing projects across 2 boroughs.

As we prepare to go back into schools we will go armed with our new therapeutic mentoring program and an army of volunteers to work alongside us to help tackle the emotional wellbeing of those young people that are and have been suffering for far too long.



Mandy Turner (Operations Manager/RSE Educator)

Safeguarding

Michelle Rutter and Graham Bamping have continued to serve as Parish Safeguarding Officers, working closely with Dan Wells and Liz Morris as members of the Safeguarding Committee, which meets at least once every School term and reports to the Parochial Church Council (PCC).



Clearly, over the period of the pandemic, the parish's work with children, young people and vulnerable adults has been very much circumscribed and in person group meetings have ceased. Group sessions for young people have continued using Zoom, and a Risk Assessment has been developed covering how such sessions are conducted. In July 2020, a Social Media policy was approved by PCC. More recently a Risk Assessment has been put in place to cover family Zoom events, such as the Easter Family Quiz. The Parish Safeguarding Policy has been updated to reflect COVID contingencies and other revised practices.

The Safeguarding Committee also worked on the Risk Assessment conducted in relation to the re-opening of the church to services in person after the end of the first lockdown. This was subsequently approved by PCC. The same processes were in place for the post-lockdown three re-opening in time for Easter. Liz Morris also worked closely with Centre users to ensure that their Risk Assessments were consistent with our own approach.



Some further progress has been made in relation to ensuring that all staff and volunteers working with children, young people and vulnerable adults have completed suitable training and DBS checks. This will become a focus once again when a potential timetable for the re-opening of in person groups for children and young people becomes clear. It is unlikely that this would be before Autumn 2021. We will be in touch with volunteers in the run up to that development.

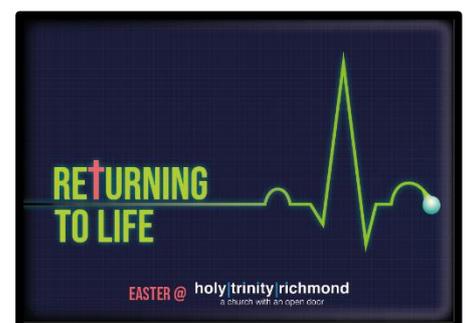
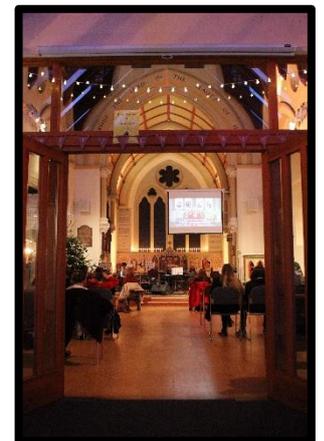
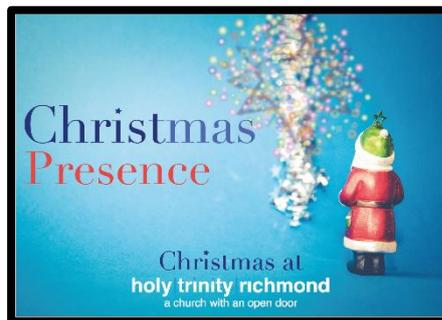
Michelle and Graham have met with Chloe Rotter, the parish's new Children, Youth and Families Minister to review the role of the PSOs and discuss Chloe's training needs and plans for the future.

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 will always be a core part of our faith and integral to church life, with the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults taking precedence over all other considerations - always.

Should 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 and Michelle Rutter (Parish safeguarding Officers)

A Few More Photos - What a Busy Year!



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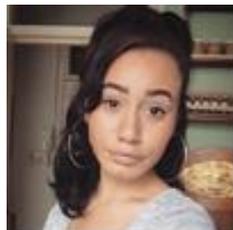
Liz Morris



Keith Nurse



Martin Phillips



Chloe Rotter



Michelle Rutter



Catherin Tidmarsh



Mandy Turner



Dan Wells



Louise Wells



Church Family