

All you need is...

“But I need it ...” is a cry that every parent has heard from their child. Usually elicited by something spotted in a shop window or advertised on television, a sudden, desperate need blossoms in the child’s mind. Almost certainly it doesn’t stem from a real need, but rather from a desire brought on by clever marketing.

As adults, of course, we have grown out of such things ... or have we? There’s nothing like a pandemic to expose what we think we need, and perhaps reveal what we truly need.

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Let’s be honest - how many of us indulged in an online shopping spree during lockdown? Our purchases might have been out of good intentions (“exercise equipment to work out at home!”), genuine interest (“try-at-home sourdough

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baking kit!”) or simply to occupy our time and mind (“box set of fifteen seasons of that TV show? Don’t mind if I do!”). I wonder, however, how many of the things we thought we needed to buy now lie dormant in garages and cupboards?

Having our world shaken up and turned upside down exposes what we really need. Many things that we thought were essential turn out to be more expendable than we realised. At the same time, things we took for granted are shown to be things we really need when they are taken away. Have you felt a deeper need to connect with family when you are able to travel to see them? Is the office actually a much more necessary place than we ever thought possible? Do we fundamentally, deep down, really need a hug?

The disruption of daily life reveals the things we really need, and the things we really don’t. It also exposes the bigger

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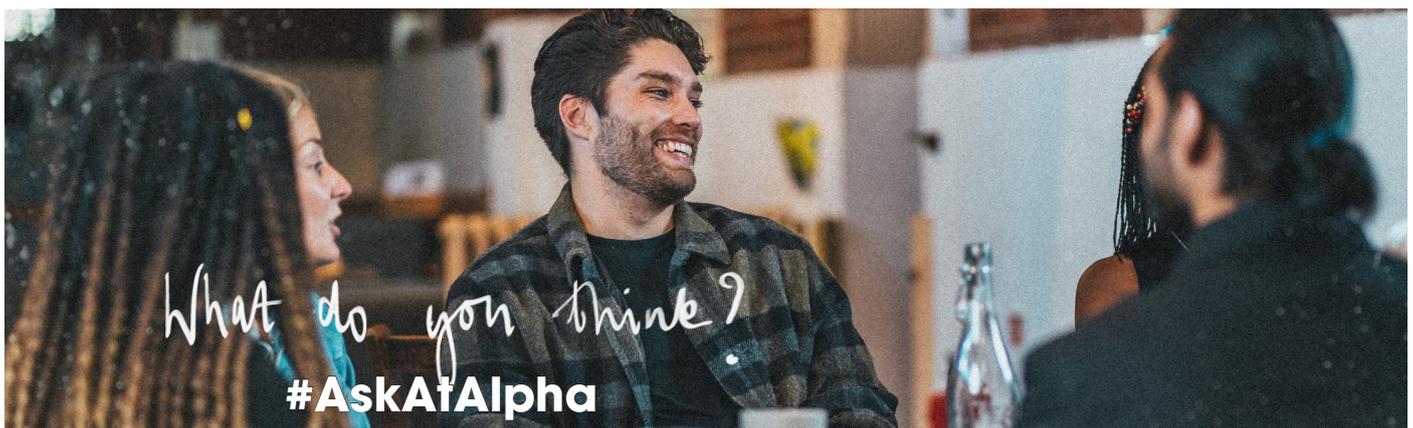
questions of what we need that we rarely take time to consider. Who am I? What am I here for? Is there more to life than this?

We all have a need for meaning and purpose in our lives.

We all have a need for meaning and purpose in our lives. Perhaps you’ve found yourself thinking about these things in times of forced isolation. As a church we would love to help you consider these big questions and see if there are answers to be found. We run a course called Alpha that can help you do just that. It tackles big questions, like our meaning and purpose in life, and the big claims of Christianity. Each week there is good food, a video presentation and opportunity for discussion. Nothing is assumed, and everyone is welcome.

Our next course begins soon, and we’d love to invite you along. Why not come to the first session on Thursday 30 September and see what you think? You can find out more information and sign up at htrichmond.org.uk/alpha. Take a look - you might find you need it more than you think!

Rev Dan Wells



A pandemic far from over

Many church members support families with vulnerable children in the slums of Kampala through [Karis Kids](#). Here's an update on some of its work ...

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Imagine how things would have been for us throughout the pandemic if we hadn't had access to free health care and the furlough scheme! If you live in Uganda, this is the reality of everyday life.

After a rise in the number of Covid cases, the country went into a six-week lockdown



in the middle of June, with a complete curfew at night time. This had a severe effect on the families that are supported by Karis, who are very economically vulnerable at the best of times. Most of them get by on their meagre income from small scale businesses such as laundry, dressmaking, selling street food, or from casual labour. But now that everyone's priority has shifted to being able to buy food, these family businesses are struggling to survive. And understandably, there has been very little work for labourers.

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Children have been unable to attend school which, as well as depriving them of their education, means they also miss out on the much-needed meal that is provided there at lunchtime. So, our families have suffered much-reduced income, while at the same time facing a greater need to keep their children fed.

Our link church, St. Peter's in Wandegaya, had to close during lockdown. Its vicar, Reverend Moses, has been able to deliver Services online, but his salary is paid from the weekly collection, so his income has



been dramatically cut. And on top of this there is fear of Covid. Almost everyone we have contact with knows of someone who has died of the disease. Throughout this continuing time of hardship, Karis has been able to provide money for medical fees as well as extra food, not only for the families that we are linked with, but for their neighbours as well - a great blessing.

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If you are interested in finding out more about Karis then please contact me (penny.cox@htrichmond.org.uk).

Penny Cox

Accelerating Church Growth



The last eighteen months has been a time of change and uncertainty for churches across the UK, with the need to close completely at times, or limit numbers attending because of the need for social distancing, or stop many of their other groups and activities. But there have also been many encouraging stories of transformation and growth too, which have shown that God's Church is very much alive!

At the start of the pandemic, lots of

churches rapidly moved online, providing weekly Services not only for their existing members but also for others who have been stirred by the pandemic to consider life's

big questions or who were looking for a sense of hope in dark times. As Covid restrictions have eased, it's been great for our church and other churches to begin to meet up face to face with those who've discovered us online.

But, amazingly, new churches have actually started since Covid struck! The Church Revitalisation Trust (CRT) was formed in 2018 to help accelerate church growth through church planting, which

sees new Christian communities set up to speak and live out the message of hope that comes from faith in Jesus Christ. In 2020 CRT saw 9 churches launch, with a further 21 planned for this year, from Gosport to Grimsby, from Wrexham to West Ham. Some are based in existing church buildings while others make inventive use of other properties, like the Great Western Railways Pattern Store in Swindon.

Stephen Cottrell, Archbishop of York, has said "In our own day we are beginning to remember how to plant churches. This is a great movement of the Spirit and a huge blessing to the nation we are called to serve."

You can find out more exciting stories and news on [CRT's Website](#).

Keith Nurse

An enthusiastic green group

If you have ever asked yourself the question 'Why should Christians care about the environment?' then you may already have found that there is a ready answer right at the very start of the Bible. In Genesis, we are told that God saw all that he had made, and that it was very good. If something is pleasing to God, then surely, we should care for it?

'Why should Christians care about the environment?'

For many years now, individual Christians have been supporting initiatives to care for God's creation. But in recent years there has been a groundswell of groups organised to further this work, for example A Rocha, Green Christian, and the Church of England's own environmental campaign.



Here at HTR, we started a Creation Care initiative in the winter of 2020. Since then, an enthusiastic group has been meeting (via Zoom of course!). We'd like to let you know about one small but important step that we are taking on our journey to becoming a more sustainable church. We have identified an area at the north east corner of the church grounds that is currently covered in gravel, which we are going to transform into a small wildlife garden. We have already had some great donations of bird feeders and a bird box that were put in place in the spring. We plan a bug hotel, a log pile and a contemplation area. We recently grew some plants, which we have now planted out, and we'll let you know when the area is ready for viewing!

If you'd like to find out more or get involved with what we are doing, please contact the Church Office.

Penny Cox

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Introducing our Wardens

Congratulations to Penny Cox and James Thornton, who have both taken up the role of Churchwarden within the last year. Here's a chance to meet them ...



Penny - I'm very honoured to serve as a Churchwarden. I began attending HTR over 16 years ago, when I started working at Holy Trinity Primary

School, where I was struck by the worship assemblies. I attended a Harvest Service with some pupils and felt incredibly drawn, so I did an Alpha Course and became a Christian - praise God! I no longer work at the School,

HTR is a very special place; I love our fellowship and am delighted to serve the congregation, Staff Team, our Vicar Dan and God in whatever way I can.

but spend my time looking after my grandson, being involved in several organisations affiliated to our church - [Christ's School](#), [Kick](#) and [Karis Kids](#) - meeting with friends and family, walking and rowing.

HTR is a very special place; I love our fellowship and am delighted to serve the congregation, Staff Team, our Vicar Dan and God in whatever way I can. If I haven't met you before, please do come and say hello, I'd love to get to know you.



James - I'm delighted to serve as a Churchwarden at HTR. When asked to consider this, I realised I didn't fully understand what was involved.

Following a quick online search, I discovered it involved things like maintaining "order and decency" in the church! Far more helpfully, I then spoke to Dan and former Churchwardens. At its heart, it's about supporting the Vicar and representing the views of the congregation.

I'm really enjoying the role. It's wonderful to think about and contribute to issues that affect

church life. A big theme of discussions recently has been the lifting of Covid restrictions and what this means for our church. This has shown just how complex and delicate church matters can be and how important it is to represent the congregation in the best way possible.

When asked to consider this, I realised I didn't fully understand what was involved. Following a quick online search, I discovered it involved things like maintaining "order and decency" in the church!

As a long-standing member of HTR, I care deeply about our congregation and feel honoured that I can play this small part in the day-to-day running of our church.

Penny Cox and James Thornton

Dates for your diary!

Here are some important dates for the autumn. You can find out more and how to get involved at htrichmond.org.uk/relaunch.

Relaunch Event

Wednesday 15 September - 19.30

Alpha

Thursday 30 September - 19.30

followed by 7 Thursdays

(not 28 October)

Alpha Day Saturday 6 November

Newcomers' Evening

Wednesday 6 October - 19.30

Worship & Prayer Times

Wednesday 20 October - 20.00

Wednesday 17 November - 20.00

Light Party

Sunday 31 October - 16.00

Tearfund Big Quiz

Saturday 20 November - 19.30

Please see our Weekly Church emails and website for details of prayer meetings, socials and lots of other events.

Welcome to HTR

Are you new to HTR? We'd love you to join us at any of our events.

Why not come to our Relaunch Event? It will be the first time many of us will be back at church after a while.

Or how about coming along to one of our weekly Services?

Holy Trinity Richmond is an Anglican parish church, with strong links to the local community.

020 8404 1112

www.htrichmond.org.uk

[f HTR - Holy Trinity Richmond](https://www.facebook.com/HTR-Holy-Trinity-Richmond)

[@church_htr](https://twitter.com/church_htr)

Ready for take off

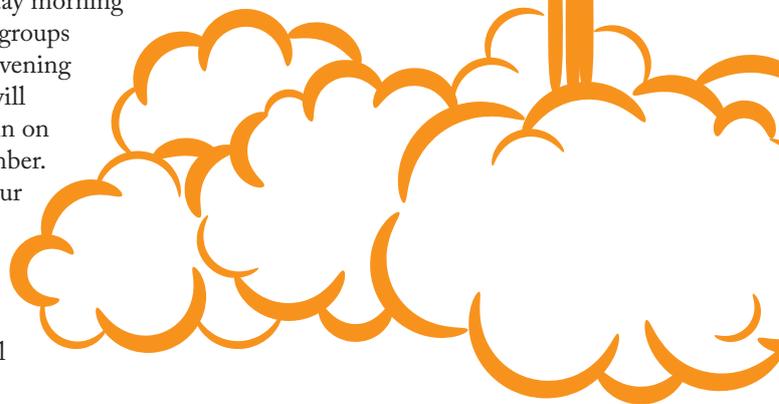
It's been great in recent weeks to resume many things that we value so much, like refreshments after church on a Sunday morning, lunch after our Wednesday Service and being able to sing again! After the prolonged period of disruption caused by the Coronavirus pandemic, this autumn brings the opportunity to relaunch other church events and activities that have either been postponed or adapted throughout this time. It's also a chance to refresh and renew the way we do things, and we invite you to come and join in with this next chapter of our church life.

Our Sunday morning children's groups and our Evening Services will begin again on 12 September. Refresh, our group for parents and their pre-school

children, restarts at 10.00 on 13 September, and our Youth Group will meet weekly at 18.00 during term time from 22 September. We'll be running an evening Alpha Course from 30 September and there will be a variety of other events going on throughout autumn. But there will be even more, including Glow, our club for children in school years 4-6, which will return early in 2022.

We hope to see you soon!

We can't wait for it.

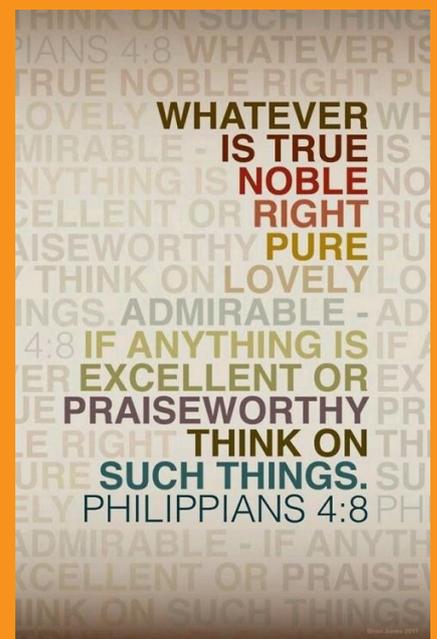


Verses to live by

Whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable - if anything is excellent or praiseworthy - think about such things.
(Philippians 4:8)

I have read many books telling me how to choose the right paths in life. Some were religious books, but others were books written by the great and the good. Finding the right paths in life is challenging. Taking the wrong ones could lead me to disaster. Truth is precious and often hard to find. As a scientist I continually seek for scientific truth. I meditate on truth, whatever its origin.

I seek loveliness that inspires and enriches my life. Nature inspires me via the lovely things I perceive with all my senses - a blackbird's song in early morning; beautiful trees in full leaf; the wildlife I see when I am out walking, and when sailing or canoeing. I also



enjoy loveliness in art in all its forms of expression. I admire creativity, courage, and determination. Being a good, faithful friend is a character quality I admire and seek to emulate.

Hugh Dunlop