

holy|trinity|richmond

a church with an open door



BOOK OF REPORTS

Annual Parochial Church Meeting
Sunday 14 May 2023
1000

April 2023

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Meeting Agenda

Election of Churchwardens by Parishioners

1. Minutes of the 2022 Annual Meeting concerning the election of Churchwardens
2. Election of Churchwardens *

Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the 2022 Annual Meeting
3. Report on the Electoral Roll
4. To receive the Treasurer's Report, including
 - the audited accounts for the year ending 31 December 2022
 - the budget for 2023
 - appointing an Independent Examiner
5. To elect three PCC representatives to serve for three years *
6. To elect four Deanery Synod representatives to serve for three years *
7. Questions on church business
8. Any Other Business **

This year we are, once again, weaving our Annual Meeting into our Sunday Morning Service, so it takes place in the context of prayer, worship, testimony, teaching and encouragement.

Please return completed nomination forms to Liz Morris

* Nomination forms are available on the Welcome Desk

** Items to be given to Liz Morris in writing by Friday 12 May

Vicar's Report

As we come to the Annual Church Meeting once again, we have the opportunity to reflect on the past year. There are lots of things to remember and to celebrate in the life of a busy and active church such as ours. There are also sad moments to recall as well, which is part of sharing a common life together. But more than anything, reviewing the past year gives us a chance to recognise God's faithfulness. Covid-19 is still around, but the extremes of lockdown and social distancing are already fading in our memories. Yet it is good to remember how good God has been to us as a church, and that we have come through that time a strong and healthy community of believers. Over the past year, in our church life and as individuals, through good times and harder times, God has continued to show himself to be faithful to his people.

Every year seems to be a time of change. As the seasons remind us of change in God's creation, so we have had many changes in our church. We have said goodbye to some members of our congregation and welcomed others into our community. Our Staff Team has also had quite a few changes over this past year.



In the summer we said farewell to Nico Marais as our Worship Pastor. Nico had been on staff for seven years at HTR and seen the church through some difficult times. Throughout the Covid lockdowns, Nico's technical expertise allowed us to move our Services onto YouTube, and then later into live streaming. We will have all appreciated his musical talents and prayerful leading and preaching in various ways, not to mention his example of godly humility and service. Thankfully, although Nico was stepping back from the role of Worship Pastor, he and Anke, Madeleine and Ruben are still part of the church and we have continued to benefit from his worship leading even as he moves into a new career.

The summer also welcomed Ese Ntefon into our Staff Team and church family. Ese joins us with a wonderful passion for Jesus and love for children and young people. As Ese gets ready to take over the running of the Youth and Children's work, Sue Jackson became Acting Youth and Children's Minister, with Ese stepping in as Youth and Children's Worker for the time being. It has been lovely to get to know Ese over the past months and to see her becoming well known and well loved by children and youth here at HTR, and across at Holy Trinity School and Christ's School as she gets involved there as well.



God often acts in surprising and unexpected ways, and we certainly experienced that in the autumn. As we advertised for a Worship Pastor, we not only found a terrific person in Matt Osgood, but God also brought us Eils Osgood to be our Associate Vicar. They, along with



Jemima, Noah, Joel and Phoebe, have quickly found their home at HTR and it has been a delight to share life and ministry with them. Not only have they found their home at the church, but they also needed housing for them as a family, so although time was short God graciously provided an opportunity for the Osgoods to move into the Vicarage, and for Louise and I to move into a house just the other side of the church. We have quickly seen the particular gifts and talents that Matt and Eils bring with them, with a community choir at

Christmas and Easter, Geoff the puppet making various appearances, not to mention their willingness to be involved in all aspects of church life.

The autumn also saw Louise McFerran officially licensed as a Reader in the Church of England (a Reader is someone who has been trained in various areas of ministry and is officially recognised by the Diocese). She joins Keith Nurse and Hugh Dunlop as Readers at Holy Trinity. Louise has been involved in a wide range of activities at HTR, from leading and preaching, to helping lead Oasis and involvement with Holy Trinity School. It was lovely to see her sense of calling and equipping for ministry recognised at her Licensing Service at Southwark Cathedral back in October.



As we welcomed new people onto the Staff Team, we also lost another team member in Kate Thornton. Kate has been dealing with Lupus for some time but a flare up in the early autumn made her extremely unwell. Sadly, she made the decision to step back from being part-time Administrator in order to focus on her recovery. We miss her greatly as part of the Staff Team but it has been encouraging to see her strength grow. As she is able to be more involved in church life again, we look forward to what God might do in her through this next chapter.

In more recent weeks we have also said goodbye to Penny Cox who, along with husband Steve, has moved down to Dorset. Penny is not only a long-standing member of the church and, until recently, headteacher at Holy Trinity School, she has also been Churchwarden for the past few years. We are so grateful for all that Penny has contributed to our church life, some of which has been visible to all, but much has been unseen. Penny has humbly served the church family in numerous ways, which was demonstrated by the fact on her final Sunday at HTR she was found stacking chairs after the Service! There are lots of skills you could list for a Churchwarden, but more than anything else Penny has a love for the people of this church, and that is the best qualification of all. She will be sorely missed but we look forward to welcoming her back as often as she is able!

I also ended up having a period of time off sick in the past year, missing last year's APCM and returning to work during the summer. I am so grateful to the church for their prayers and concern for me while I was off sick, and since I have returned. Despite having struggles with my mental and physical health, I can assure you that HTR is a wonderful church to be part of

and the love I have felt during this time has been amazing. I want to recognise the extra work and effort that has been put in by many while I was off sick. I particularly want to thank James Thornton and Penny Cox as Churchwardens who (as the Archdeacon was keen to remind them) officially held the reins when the vicar was absent. Immense thanks go to our amazing Operations Manager, Liz Morris, who looked after so much on a day to day and week to week basis, along with the rest of the Staff Team in many different ways. I don't know the full extent of their service while I was away, but you will and we all thank God for them.



Particularly since the autumn, there has been a renewed sense of energy and expectation at HTR. Covid is not exactly behind us but, as most freedoms return, so there is an excitement about what God might do in this new season. Indeed, there have been many things for which we thank God over this time.

Our connections with Holy Trinity School have strengthened even more over recent months and it has been wonderful to welcome them once again into the church building for Christmas and Easter. We are building more links with Christ's School as a church too, working with Clare Banner, the new Chaplain. We are grateful to have a strong team of governors from the church for both Holy Trinity Primary and Christ's, and for those who serve the schools in many and various ways.

We had an encouraging Quiet Day in October, and the regular Tearfund Quiz in November. Christmas felt as if it was back to its full energy again after Covid with lots going on, including Carol Services for Rainbow Nursery and Marshgate School, as well as Holy Trinity Primary and Christ's. From our own Services there were many highlights: the community choir coming together for Carols by Candlelight, ably led by Matt and Eils; a more reflective Service on the Sunday before Christmas, a brilliant Wednesday Christmas Service followed by a delicious Christmas lunch, our All Age Nativity, which is always a highlight, along with a very busy Christingle Service. We were back with live flames at Christingle and we are thankful to God that there were no casualties!



The situation in the Church of England has been somewhat volatile over recent months, as the church came to the end of the six-year [Living in Love and Faith](#) consultation about sexuality and gender. As the General Synod met to discuss these matters, we looked at them together as a church. I have been so encouraged by the way in which we have been able to talk about these issues, and disagree in some areas, with maturity and respect. Our hope and prayer is that the Church of England is able to do the same over the coming months and years.

More recently we have relaunched our Evening Service with a focus on worship and discussion, and we have enjoyed another meaningful Easter. We saw the community choir reform for our Easter Reflection Service, taking in the whole Easter story in words and music, which was very powerful. All Age Services on Palm Sunday and Good Friday were complemented by a reflective Service on Maundy Thursday and creative prayer stations on Good Friday afternoon. On Easter Sunday we remembered again that as Christians we are Easter people, standing on the truth and wonder of the resurrection.

That truth is especially important when we grieve those who have died from our church community. This year we have said goodbye to John Richards, Rosie Legg and Gladys Seymour, all long-standing members of the church. Each one of them has served and loved those in HTR over the years and while they have experienced the difficulty of old age and illness, their faith in Jesus has remained strong and vibrant. They are examples to us all of the hope that Jesus' resurrection brings.



Of course, in the autumn the nation grieved as we lost our Queen, Elizabeth II. A national figurehead, she was also an example of faithful service and humble faith. As a church we opened our doors for those who were grieving and had some moving Services as we gave thanks for her life and faith. In turn, we gained a new King in Charles III and celebrate his Coronation just before our APCM.

What does the next year have in store for us? More exciting things, I hope, and more surprises from God I expect as well! We are now moving into a Building Repair Project that, God willing, will be starting work before our next APCM. We have a children's Holiday Club happening in August, as well as a Youth Venture in the summer too. There are many opportunities in store for us, some that we can see now and many that God has yet to reveal. But through it all, we will know, I hope, precisely what we have known this year: that God is good, and that God is faithful through it all.

Dan Wells

Churchwardens' Report

Introduction

What a difference a year can make. In May 2022, we found ourselves having to run the APCM without our Vicar, Dan Wells, as he took a step back from his duties to focus on his health. The Staff Team and volunteers were stretched, and to confound this, we were facing a future without Nico Marais, our beloved Worship Pastor. We were also recruiting for a Youth

and Children's Worker position. I remember praying and asking that God would give us courage and wisdom to face such challenging times.

Twelve months on and things look and feel very different. God didn't just answer our prayers; He exceeded our expectations and blessed us with lavish generosity. We were thrilled to appoint Ese Ntefon as Youth and Children's Worker in the summer. Ese has made a wonderful impact since joining the church and has quickly become part of the church family.

Dan then made his return to work over the summer and one of his first tasks was to onboard Matt Osgood as our new Worship Pastor and Eils Osgood as Associate Vicar. Having witnessed close-hand the sequence of events that led to this, I can assure you God's hand was very much over all aspects of this move.

The church family continues to grow, and we find ourselves better equipped to do the one thing that matters most: share the good news of the gospel with as many people as possible. What a wonderful and generous God we have who so generously sustains us and provides for us.



Churchwardens



Penny Cox is stepping down as Churchwarden from May 2023. Penny has moved to Dorset with her husband, Steve. It's hard to put into words the contribution Penny has made to this church. As fellow Churchwarden, I have learnt so much from working with Penny. I was always struck by her wisdom, her grace and her ability to patiently look for the good in all situations.

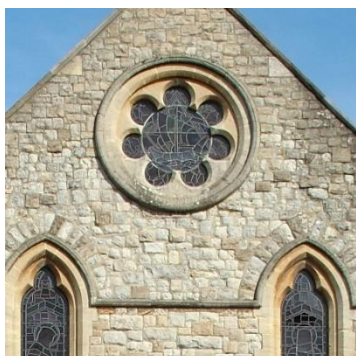
Aside from being a Churchwarden, Penny has served our church community in so many different ways. First coming to faith 20 years ago whilst Deputy Head of Holy Trinity Primary School and then giving so selflessly to numerous groups and causes, Penny has touched so many people in their lives and on their journey of faith. I

can speak for everyone when I say that we are very sorry to see Penny go ... but something tells me we will still see her on a regular basis, just as a visitor, not as a Churchwarden!



We would also like to thank David Ewart for his role as Deputy Warden, which became extremely important during the Autumn term as James Thornton had to step back from some Churchwarden duties to care for wife Kate during a period of ill health. David serves our church in so many ways and we are very grateful for all he does.

Buildings



The Building Committee, led by Martin Phillips and supported by Liz Morris, has done a phenomenal job gathering the requirements of two different, but closely connected projects - the immediate repair/renovation works and the longer term building project. Projects of this nature are complex and require that many different stakeholders and groups are consulted. The Building Committee has done a fantastic job engaging with experts and feeding back advice and recommendations to the PCC. It is no small undertaking and we thank Martin and the team for their time and effort. We are excited to see the first phase of the building renovations begin and thank them for all their hard work.

Operational

We continue to be richly blessed by the work of our Parish Safeguarding Officers (PSOs) for the work they do to keep our church safe and inclusive. This year we had to say goodbye to Michelle Rutter as PSO and we want to extend our heartfelt thanks for everything Michelle did to help to establish the safeguarding practices at HTR.

Graham Bamping continues to act as PSO and we are very grateful for his leadership and guidance over this part of church life. Graham is joined by Anke Marais, who has kindly stepped up as the new PSO, replacing Michelle. Thank you, Anke, for giving your time and energy to this role.

Thanks

We continue to be amazed by God's generosity and how richly we are blessed as a church. Not only is the Staff Team growing, but we continue to be supported by a vast network of volunteers who selflessly give their time to help people encounter Jesus. The simple fact is this: without you, the church, we would not be able to do many of the great things we do.

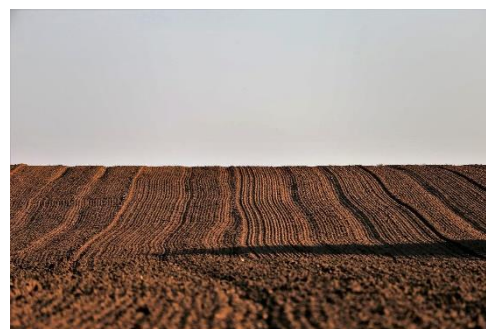
The Churchwardens would like to pay a special tribute to Liz Morris, and the rest of the Staff Team, who carried extra responsibilities during the Spring and Summer of 2022. So much of the work they did was unseen and was integral in keeping the church functioning and prospering.



A special thanks must also go to Kate Thornton, who regrettably had to step down from her role as Church Administrator for health reasons in December 2022. Kate served in her role with love and humility. She was often the first person people would meet when coming into the church, and she always met everyone with compassion, warmth and love. We are very glad that she is starting to make a recovery and is back at church on Sundays. It is also wonderful to see her back doing the thing she loves most: worship!

The ploughed field is bursting into life!

At last year's APCM, James reminded us of the picture Dan had for the church in 2021: the ploughed field. On the surface, a ploughed field can appear somewhat barren and bleak, but under the surface amazing things are happening and seeds will soon burst into life. Dan's sense was that, despite some difficult times brought about by Covid, God was working to plant new seeds and bring new life to our church. It seems that God had spoken to Dan in a profound way through this picture. The ploughed field is no more, instead the field is full of crops and is ready for the harvest. New life has come into our church and we are so grateful for everything God has done.



James Thornton and Penny Cox

Building Committee

Our building was back in full swing during 2022, with an increased calendar of church events as well as lots going on in our Church Centre. After a tentative start to the year, everyone was more than ready to return and enjoy a greater freedom to engage with in-person events. As a result, our Building Committee has been very busy and productive to ensure our building continues to be fit for purpose to run the ministries and community activities taking place now and in the future.

The Building Committee comprises Martin Phillips (Chair), David Ewart, Penny Cox and Robert Lucas, with administrative support from Liz Morris. This Committee is in its third year of operating and has dealt efficiently with various issues as they have arisen in either the building, car park or church grounds. Throughout 2022, a growing amount of maintenance and repair was required to keep the building and grounds safe and operable. Most notably, the heating system in the Worship Area required several repair call-outs and parts-exchanges, causing some disruption to use. However, we are grateful that for now it carries

on working. Leaking roofs in the Main Church were an ongoing problem and further repair to the flat roofs over the Church Centre were required. Due to the age of the building, these and other larger and significant repairs have become more pressing.



Every five years the church building undergoes what is known as a Quinquennial Inspection (QI), a type of building inspection that's unique to churches or religious buildings. The inspection involves a qualified chartered surveyor visiting the church in person to conduct a visual inspection of the building's current state of repair. For some time, our QI reports have highlighted significant repairs that are needed within the building. The most recent survey took place in 2021 and a full report was submitted to the PCC, containing greater urgency for these repairs to be addressed. Since early 2022, the Committee has been acting on behalf of the PCC to make progress on responding to this.

In previous years the church had hopes of beginning a Building Development Project and as part of this to address the repairs at the same time. For various reasons this project was delayed and the repair work with it. In light of the increased urgency of the repair work, the PCC agreed to the Committee's recommendation to pause the Building Development Project and instead move forward with a Building Repair Project to prevent further delay. The Building Development Project will be revisited at a later stage and the scope of work undertaken in the meantime will ensure that repair work carried out will complement possible future developments. The PCC approved the Committee's proposal to engage Hugh Cullum Architects Ltd to oversee the new project and the early stages of organising it have begun. This will be a long-term project involving various stages over several years, and the church and community will be regularly updated and included in decisions along the way. In the short term, the Committee continues to prioritise the upkeep of maintenance and repairs that can't wait for the bigger project.

Finally, the Committee continued to act on legal advice to exercise our right of way in the car park along the neighbouring boundary with Richmond Sound Studios. Following the legal establishment that the neighbours only have a pedestrian right of way and that permission for vehicle access must be obtained from the church in advance, measures to reinforce this were considered and a gradual implementation of these measures is still in progress. Part of this was recommissioning the painting of white lines in the car park to indicate that all spaces are available for Church Centre users at all times, even the space which blocks the gates. Signage will be put up in due course. Arrangements to exercise our right to close access to the car park and pedestrian path at any time when required will also be put in place.



If you would like to know more about anything in this report, then please ask one of us.

Martin Phillips and Liz Morris

Mission Group

The Mission Group is a small group consisting of Karin Boyton, Robert Lucas, Catherin Tidmarsh, Dan Wells and Gerry Stride. One of its key responsibilities is to make recommendations to PCC on how to spend HTR's annual outreach budget. The majority of this (£22,440 in 2023) is to enable regular support of missions, but the Group has flexibility to spend the remainder (a Response Fund, this year increased to £2,500) to react quickly to specific needs. We don't meet often, but in one sense we see ourselves as ears and eyes, keeping abreast of current needs, many of which are brought about by natural disasters or wars, which often in themselves result in economic and personal hardship.

Our 2022 Gift Day focused on three organisations:

- [Leprosy Mission](#) - supporting the rebuilding of the Anandaban Research Centre in Nepal which is in a state of disrepair
- [FEBA](#) (Far Eastern Broadcasting Association) - supporting radio stations in Ukraine, one recently opened in Kyiv, which in turn supports listeners with prayer, phone messages and psychological support
- [Open Doors](#) - supporting their 'See Change' campaign, a project helping Christian women persecuted for their gender and their faith, ensuring they are seen, heard and empowered to see change.



Thank you to everyone who gave so generously. We were able to give each mission the princely sum of £9,400.

Out of our 2022 Response Fund we gave

- £200 to Jemima Prasadam for a village in India
- £1,000 to [Innovista](#) for churches in Ukraine offering practical help and support
- £800 to the [Disasters Emergency Committee](#) appeal for floods in Pakistan.

Looking forward to 2023, the Group felt that we should focus the outreach budget on supporting fewer missions well and giving greater support to those aiming to meet specific needs in the current financial crisis. Support is therefore focused on proclaiming the Good News of the Kingdom, reaching, baptising and nurturing new believers, and responding to human need by loving service. With that in mind we felt it was right to recommend to PCC an increase in our giving to Karis Kids, Riverbank Trust, LVA Trust, Kick, [Vineyard Community Centre](#) and via the Response Fund.



We have a passion for persecuted Christians so have a strong link with Open Doors from whom Emma Worrall has spoken, giving us a powerful picture of the hardships many of our brothers and sisters in Christ face. We continue to support Sarah Casson, a former member of HTR who works with [Wycliffe](#). A few of us attended her wedding in Liverpool last summer when she married Nick Cocking; it was a hot but very special day. This year we have also included [Operation Mobilisation](#) in our giving.

We're grateful to God for His provision and, mindful of the responsibility of advising on the distribution of our church's outreach giving, we pray that we will make wise decisions and act with Godly wisdom and discernment.

Gerry Stride

Creation Care Group

Holy Trinity's Creation Care Group has continued to meet to tend to our garden on the northeast side of the church. What was once an expanse of barren gravel has now flourished into a garden rich with foxgloves, red champions, daffodils, wild dog violets and tulips. To create environments for insects and other wonderful creepy crawlies we've constructed a large "bug hotel" made of stacked pallets stuffed with leaves, straw, bamboo canes and pine cones. We've also made the habitat more attractive to humans by adding an upcycled preloved bench!

Throughout winter the bird feeders have been replenished with food and now spring is with us we are hopeful that some nesting birds will make their home in our birdbox.



New planters have been donated and cared for by the team. One of these is planted with five "Silver Queen" heathers in memory of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

The Creation Care team is a caring, committed group. We communicate by WhatsApp - sharing ideas, news of eco events and organising times to get together to work on our projects. If you'd like to join you will be warmly welcomed.

Penny Cox

Life Groups



Life Groups are an essential part of our life together at Holy Trinity. It is great to chat after a Sunday Service, or over lunch on a Wednesday, but small groups are places where we can really get to know one another. Life Groups allow us to share our lives with each other, be honest about the highs and lows, care for one another and pray for one another.

At the time of writing we have eight Life Groups (including Oasis) and we are hoping to start a couple more over the coming weeks. Most of our groups meet every two weeks on a Wednesday evening, but some meet on a different day and one currently meets mostly online. Every group is different, but

each has the same key ingredients: food and friendship, where we can catch up with one another over coffee and cake; encouragement, usually by studying a Bible passage together; and prayer, where we can bring each other and our needs to God. Most groups meet in people's homes, but some meet in the church building. Our aim is to have a group that's right for everyone!

We would love every person who feels that Holy Trinity is their church to be part of a Life Group, so we can each be helped in our walk with Jesus and help others in turn. If you are not in a group and would like to join one, please either contact the [Church Office](#) or visit [our website](#), where you can fill in an online form. We realise that not everyone is currently able to join a Life Group for various reasons, but if there is anything we can do to help you be part of a group, do let us know - we will try our best to find a group that's right for you, or start one if it doesn't exist!

Dan Wells

Alpha Course



We welcomed eight guests onto our spring term 2023 Alpha course from a range of backgrounds: a few would definitely describe themselves as Christians, but had questions they were wrestling with, or aspects of the Christian faith they wanted to know more about; others were

considerably more sceptical. We nevertheless all enjoyed our time shared together over several weeks of excellent meals (thanks so much to all those who catered for us so

brilliantly!) and some deep discussions about matters of life and faith. One guest described being prayed for for the first time as “powerful and moving,” while another said that the course had been “quite literally life-changing.” Overall it was a very positive experience for all involved, and our thanks go to Anke Marais, Barnaby Chapman and Claire Arthur for being fantastic helpers on the course, welcoming guests week by week and inputting into our times of discussion. as well as to Liz Morris and Rebecca Reynolds in the Church Office, coordinating a great deal behind the scenes.

In our experience, Alpha is one of the most consistently helpful ways of introducing people to Jesus, so please do look out for details of our next Alpha course which will be running soon, and do consider if you'd like to attend, or who you might be able to invite.

Eils and Matt Osgood

Oasis and Women's Ministry

Oasis



Oasis is a group for women of all ages, meeting at 0930 on Friday mornings during term time. All are welcome. This year we have studied Ephesians and some of Proverbs, as well as taking part in [The Big Church Read](#), when we read Kate Patterson's book *Promise of Blessing*, and enjoying a spring

walk in Richmond Park. In October we supported the [Wear it Pink](#) campaign again and raised a significant amount. My thanks to Louise McFerran, Dot Stride and Clare Phillips for your support and encouragement this year. And for all the baking, leading of studies and worship. It is truly a team effort to keep the group running.

Oasis is best described by some of our wonderful ladies:

- “Oasis - that moment of respite from it all! Coffee and homemade cakes and chatting to catch up is amazing each week and always starts us off - but then gathering around God's Word with Bible Studies that speak into our lives is so uplifting and inspiring - hearing from God and then praying for one another - not to be missed!”
- “For me, Oasis provides precious time to meet and pray with other women living in faith. I'm so grateful for the friendship, support and nourishment on offer.”

- “Oasis means so much to me. A safe space where I can meet with true and devoted fellow Christians who demonstrate how great life can be when you follow Jesus closely. We share life stories and pray; we study the bible together. I truly treasure the time I have in Oasis.”
- “Oasis is literally an ‘oasis’. It’s a safe, calm place where I can come and experience love and warmth. It enables me to step away from the busyness of life and I always come away feeling like I’ve received a big warm hug. Oasis nurtures friendships, encouragement and helps me explore the bible and know God better.”

Our youngest member aged 3 says “Oasis is cake and friends!” Her Mum writes, “For me I would add Jesus to that list! It’s also a place of acceptance, and a refuge, an oasis of calm in a busy week.”

Catherin Tidmarsh

Women’s ministry

If you were to ask us “What does the women’s ministry at HTR look like?” we would have to say looking back over the last year, a lot of food, craft and fun, overlaid with deepening of relationships and sharing our faith both with each other and guests who we have been able to invite to a variety of events. Such a contrast to the last couple of Covid years. Praise God!

We’ve enjoyed a Mexican themed evening, with Mojitos and mockitos and dips, and in the summer we had a Spanish evening with Sangria and tapas. A breakfast was enjoyed in the autumn, a precious time to connect and pray for each other. November saw us getting crafty for Christmas, using recycled materials to make decorations from Nespresso pods - very creative and amazingly effective! - as well as cards and the inevitable cocktail-making table, which was very popular.



Women’s ministry is not just events; it’s those small groups who meet up to support each other, go for walks, share a cuppa and listen to each other. Chats after Services and phone calls that cheer and encourage, and above all praying for each other.

We are looking forward to doing all sorts of things in the coming year; the ministry is what you lovely ladies make it. So, thank you everyone who has had ideas and worked so hard to make things happen; it truly has been a team effort.

Catherin Tidmarsh and Louise Wells

Youth and Children's Work

Fix these words of mine in your hearts and minds; tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Teach them to your children, talking about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates
(Deuteronomy 11:18-20)

This is one of six passages in Deuteronomy where Moses mentions his concern, even urgency, that the Israelites pass on their faith in God to their children and young people. When I read that a 'staggering 95% of children in this country don't go to church, but many of them are open to faith' (according to research by Scripture Union), these verses have reminded and continue to remind me why I do what I do. Romans 10:14 says "*How can they hear, unless someone tells them?*" With the help of God, let's keep passing on our faith to our children, in Jesus' name.

It has been hugely encouraging to have Ese Ntefon joining us as Youth and Children's Worker in training, to take the position of Youth and Children's Minister going forward. Ese started in July 2022 and quickly settled in while joining in all groups and clubs. Ese's training has been supported by Josh Felstead, Youth Minister at St Stephen's Twickenham, who mentors her in this year of training. We are grateful for this support.

Concentrating initially on establishing our Youth ministry, Ese has also been involved in Children's groups and clubs, including planning, preparation and leading, in addition to preaching at and leading an All Age Service.

The past year has seen growth in attendance in all our groups, but also growth in the children's and young people's personal faith in Jesus. We have approximately 70 children and young people registered on Sundays. Across our Youth and Children's clubs we have 50 registered. Within this growth, it has been a privilege to see an increasing number of children and young people with Special Educational Needs / learning differences finding Holy Trinity a safe place to be. It's our prayer that each group and club would continue to be the accessible place where they learn that God has a plan for their lives and they are loved as they are.

We have run a successful Light Party where we remembered that Jesus is the Light of the World. There was a buffet of delicious food all organised by the wonderful Pete Boyton and Siobhan Burn. All of this was made possible by our inspirational team of volunteers who faithfully are the hands and feet of Jesus. Everyone went home with a party bag including the message of the Good News and invitations to our Christmas Services. There were over 120 parents and children in attendance.



Sue Jackson, Acting Youth and Children's Minister

Youth Work



As the new Youth and Children's Worker, it has been a blessing to see God in every aspect of Youth and Children's work during my time here so far! From seeing the joy on the faces of the young people as our new name - *Impact* - was revealed during one of our Wednesday sessions, to deep theological and not-so-theological conversations (about the existence of platypuses?!) during Sunday sessions, Holy Trinity is so clearly a space

where joy, friendship and spiritual growth all exist in harmony for the children and youth. All that is done in our groups has been geared towards making the most of this, in order to draw the children and youth closer to God so that they can develop their own personal relationships with Him.

Impact

During our Sunday Impact sessions, we have gone in-depth into topics such as the Gospel and what that means for the believer, the importance of reading the Bible, and are now on the cusp of coming to the end of a very rich and fruitful Youth Alpha series. We will then



be moving onto equipping the youth with ways to live out their faith in real life. With our Midweek Impact sessions being more geared towards outreach and unchurched youth, we have been exploring a series called *Stir* that focuses on drawing the young people's minds to explore the things in their life that highlight their spiritual nature. This has engendered very deep, meaningful and insightful conversations that have further bonded the group; all this has gone alongside generous helpings of pizza, paninis and new menu introductions such as DIY pizza rolls and chicken wraps! All this has been made possible by a fantastic volunteer team that has helped all the cogs run smoothly, so a huge thanks to Craig Brown, Katy Johnston, Mandie Lambert and Steve Patterson for Sundays, and (the phenomenal) Sue Jackson, Frixos Kimonis, John Hutchison, Naomi Ramsubhag, Craig Brown and Hugh Dunlop for Wednesdays! Also, a special thank you to Penny Cox and Liz Morris for supporting youth groups to ensure their continuation before I arrived.

In addition to all this, we have also recognised the need for the young people to be discipled in a deeper way, with some of the older youth requesting something 'more', and so we have proposed to begin soon a Bible Study Group called *Deeper Impact*. We believe that this will be a time in which questions can be answered and faith can be discovered / grown so that those that attend are ready to face the world more confident in their faith!

Due to the desire to not just pour into the lives of the young people at Holy Trinity, but also in the community, I have had a series of meetings with the Chaplain of Christ's School, Clare Banner. I am pleased to say that there has been great success from this liaison and I will be participating in Collective Worship at the school next term. I have also been given the opportunity to be a helper for the new Youth Alpha sessions that will be undertaken there.

For me, the verse that encapsulates all that takes place in Youth and Children's work is Psalm 127:1 - *Unless the Lord builds the house, they labour in vain who build it; unless the Lord guards the city, the watchman stays awake in vain.* I pray that all that's done regarding the youth continues to grow and thrive as I step back and let the Lord build and guard this very essential ministry.

Eseabasi Ntefon, Youth and Children's Worker

Sunday Groups and Clubs - Volunteers

I continue to be deeply thankful to God for each one of our inspirational leaders and helpers faithfully serving - Catherin Tidmarsh, Cathy Hewett, William Edwards, Ian and Jenny Trought, Anke Marais, Elizabeth Lek, John Hutchison, Nima Shrestha, Judy Mathieson, Louise McFerran, Steph Patterson, Clare Phillips, Robyn Porter, Fernanda Machado, Maciel Tavares, Rebecca Reynolds, Niki McEwen, Kate Chapman, Angela Salmeron, Catherine Whillans and Helen Sadler.

Thank
You

Sunday Children's Groups

- Fledglings - 0 to 3 years - Meet in the Christ Church Room
- All Together - 3 to 7 years - Meet in the Main Hall
- Explorers - 8 to 10 years - Meet in The Lounge (Small Hall)

We use Scripture Union teaching materials for All Together and Explorers. Fledglings follow a Bible-based story and singing session. Our sessions start with free play and then we gather for prayer, the Bible story of the day and craft activities follow.

Particular thanks to David Ewart, who prepares the rooms each week for Sunday groups and always make sure that we have help to clear away.

Refresh - a mums-only space, Monday 1000 to 1130



On 13 June 2022 Refresh joined with Riverbank Trust to relaunch a mums-only space, still open to the community but particularly offering a safe space for single Mums. We have places for up to 20 Mums and their children.

We start the morning with free play for the children and a brunch aiming for us to all sit together. As before we run an optional Bible Story and singing session during the morning. This has become a community event that the mums look forward to each week. It has been exciting to have a Riverbank mum who now volunteers each week.

Finally, as their season at Refresh has completed, I would like to say a huge thank you to Catherin Tidmarsh and Diane Bamping who tirelessly and faithfully served at Refresh and at Gems, its predecessor, every Monday morning. They made a lot of coffee over the years - thank you.

Bible Club @ Holy Trinity School - Monday 1530 to 1630

Our Bible Club continues to be a place where children can learn more about the Collective Worship Bible passage for the day. The hour starts with prayer, reading the Bible, Biblically-themed craft activities and colouring as well as adding to a 'memory' book each week. It is a privilege to hear their questions about faith and what Jesus means to them.

Run by Ese and myself, there is space for 12 children (this is the maximum, to comply with the Safeguarding adult to children ratio) and we currently have a waiting list.

Lighthouse Club @ Holy Trinity School

The Lighthouse Lunch Club is a 30-minute session of sung worship, thinking about what it means to be a Christian, and responding through chatting, craft and prayer. It started in October 2022, runs weekly, and over 200 children from years 1-6 have taken part! Over the last two terms we've been thinking about the fruit of the Spirit and have enjoyed decorating heart-shaped squishies to give to our friends, praying for peace, making joy-filled Christmas decorations, and colouring stones with symbols of our faith. We've been blown away by how engaged the children have been and have had lots of fun spending time with them and God each week.

Louise McFerran

Glow! - Friday 1900 to 2030, monthly

The logo for the 'GLOW!' club features the word 'GLOW!' in a bold, sans-serif font. Each letter is a different color: 'G' is blue, 'L' is purple, 'O' is pink, 'W' is yellow, and '!' is green. The text is set against a dark, circular background with a soft, glowing effect.

Our Children's Club Glow relaunched to much excitement in October 2022. To many children's disappointment, Glow meets monthly; they would like it to be every week!. As before the pandemic, the children can choose an assortment of games and craft activities including Table Tennis, Air Hockey, Pool table, Xbox and 'Cooking' activity (most of the time something to do with chocolate.) At about 2000 there is a talk

on the Bible. This term we have been looking at Jonah. The evening finishes with the opening of the timeless Tuck Shop.

It is a huge privilege to see the children listening to the Bible passage. They go home with a Memory Verse for the day and I have heard the children 'put them on their mirrors and stick them up by their beds ...' It is also encouraging and wonderful to see our young people volunteering to help at Glow.

All Age Services

Building on the vision of an All Age Community worshipping together, our All Age Services are a time when the whole family of God can come together to learn from each other and grow together by encouraging all ages to take part in all aspects of the Service.

I'm eternally thankful for Anke Marais who has coordinated and steered the All Age Team, and equally eternally thankful to Eils Osgood taking over the planning and coordinating in September 2022! Thank you also to Cathy Hewett for all her contributions to the All Age, and Nico Marais.

I'm so thankful for the team which include Eils Osgood, Matt Osgood, Anke Marais, William Edwards, Jenny Trought, Ese and myself. We meet to pray and plan in advance of an All Age, including the Harvest Service, Nativity Service and, of course, Christingle.

We have been introduced to Geoff, and it's wonderful to get to know him as a regular attendee! It has also been so encouraging to see the young people lead us in Christmas Carols during our Nativity Service.

All Glory to God.

Sue Jackson

Worship

I took over the role of Worship Pastor in September 2022 and I am hugely grateful to Nico Marais for all the work he has done over the past several years to lay strong foundations in all areas of our corporate worship life - and indeed for staying involved with our Sunday Worship Team as a volunteer. Much of my first term in post was dominated by preparations for our various Christmas Services, including gathering a community choir for our very popular Carols by Candlelight Service. The



choir had so much fun that we didn't want to wait a year to gather again! We therefore reformed for an [Easter Reflection Service](#), which was very well received despite being the first time for an event of its kind at HTR.

There have been several other areas of focus in my role:

- Working with Holy Trinity School, particularly in the lead up to Christmas, when Eils and I ran their singing assemblies for several weeks. We also assisted with the launch of the lunchtime Lighthouse Club and contribute regularly to collective worship at the school
- Making various tweaks to our technical systems to ensure greater clarity and consistency in both audio and video aspects of our corporate worship. Work is underway to make further improvements as part of the forthcoming Building Repair Project that will hopefully ensure we have the right equipment in place for many years to come
- Contributing to Services in other ways besides music, particularly in preaching and leading Services more generally. I have also joined in with the All Age Services planning team, which has resulted in appearing in a few different guises including Geoff the puppet and the Palm Sunday donkey!
- Eils and I ran a prayer ministry training evening early in 2023 and have another evening planned for the summer. We would love to see this area of our church life revitalised and for praying for each other to once again be a "normal" part of what it means for us to worship together.



Matt Osgood

Going forward in 2023, my main areas of focus will be looking to develop and increase our current team of volunteers (new members of our technical and musical teams are always welcome!), and looking to provide opportunities for us to engage more deeply with God in worship and prayer, both within and outside of our Sunday Services. I am hugely grateful to be working as part of a fantastic Staff Team, and alongside a wonderful and committed team of volunteers - thank you all!

Prayer

Prayer should rightly be at the centre of all we do as a church. None of our activity at Holy Trinity will be worthwhile or effective unless the Lord blesses and empowers it. We always

face the danger of being busy with many things but forgetting the one thing that is most important - spending time with our God.

Thankfully there is a great deal of prayer that happens across our church. People meet to pray as friends, after Services, within Life Groups, during meetings and so much more. The organised prayer that happens in the church's diary is just the tip of the iceberg of prayer going on across HTR.



A small group meets weekly on a Tuesday morning to pray at 0730. We meet together via Zoom, which makes it even more convenient to pray first thing in the morning (and the technology works most of the time!) We take it in turns to lead, choosing a psalm as a way to structure our prayers but also

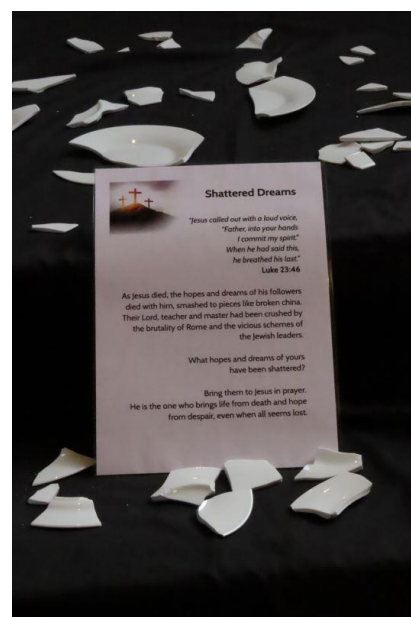
praying for anything the Lord puts on our hearts. Anyone is welcome to join; just contact the [Church Office](#) for the Zoom link.

Over the past year we have continued to have monthly times of prayer and worship, gathering usually on a Wednesday evening in the Trinity Room. These have been opportunities to hear from God as well as pray for ourselves and the needs of the world. We have also had some specific times to pray for the work of the [International Justice Mission](#) and the health of the Church of England.

Every Sunday we meet to pray before the Sunday Services, lifting up before God the different parts of the Service and those who are involved in various ways. We also listen to God and share any words or pictures that we have received, so they can be mentioned in the Service. Everyone is welcome to come and join those times of prayer: 0930 for the Morning Service and 1730 for the Evening Service.

Often when we come to a Service, we come with a lot of different things on our minds and in our hearts. We would love anyone who wants it, to have someone pray with them before they leave. This often happens naturally - friends turning to friends and asking them to pray. Not everyone is able to do that, however, which is why prayer ministry is so important. We are in the process of reforming our Prayer Ministry Teams for Sunday Services, and we continue to offer that opportunity to pray with someone after each Service on Sundays and Wednesdays.

There are times of creative prayer too, whether as part of an All Age Service, or at occasions such as Good Friday. This year we set up creative prayer stations for anyone to come and use in the church during the afternoon of Good Friday, and we



hope to explore other ways we can do similar events in the future.

At our [Giving Sunday](#) in February, we highlighted prayer as a way to first of all give ourselves to God, before we give of our time, talents or money. Lots of people responded, asking for ways to pray and offering suggestions about how to pray as a church. We hope to take those ideas and expand our prayer life even further in the year ahead.

Dan Wells

Wednesday Church

Wednesday Church is the most traditional of our Services. Twice monthly we have Holy Communion, and on other weeks we use a short version of Morning Prayer. Our readings and most short sermons are from the Church of England set readings. Our worship includes traditional hymns, eg. by Charles Wesley, and more contemporary worship songs. Most members of this Service are in their senior years, but some are much younger.



Kay Davidson was an enthusiastic member of our congregation, with a strong singing voice even in old age, and we are delighted that because of her bequest we have the beautiful new grand piano that aids us in our worship. Over the past year, two of our congregation have died - Rosie Legg and Gladys Seymour. We thank God for their life and faith.

We have a team of Service leaders and preachers, including clergy and Lay Readers, supported by the Worship Pastor and other piano players, and someone at the sound desk. There is an opportunity to receive prayer ministry at the end of the Service. Two highlights of the past year have been the Christmas Service and Lunch, attended by over 40 people, and a mid-winter Guest Service in January.

Following the Service, the congregation and church staff meet for fellowship over lunch. A team of volunteers provides meals, washes up or waits on tables. This is labour-intensive and we really appreciate their kind service and the invaluable support of Church Office staff.

We love this Service and the time of fellowship afterwards, and thank God for it.



Cathy Hewett

Deanery Synod



For those who do not know, Deaneries are small geographical divisions of the Diocese (in our case, the Diocese of Southwark), within which parishes are grouped under the care of an Area Dean. Each Deanery has a Deanery Synod, which provides an opportunity to consider issues of common interest and to build a sense of community among

churches in the same local area. Our church belongs to the [Richmond and Barnes Deanery](#) and the Synod has met 3 times since our last APCM.

The evenings consist of an agenda with a few rolling items for discussion, and updates on anything pertinent to the Anglican churches in our Deanery. There is always a particular focus for the evening, with a presentation/speaker. Recent subjects have been as varied as prayer vigils and pilgrimages, ministry among families and, at the most recent meeting, a presentation on the work of Riverbank Trust.

Only meeting three times a year and facing the front sitting in rows does make getting to know each other rather challenging, so small group work and latterly the return to singing a hymn collectively to start, does help to join us all together and for me reminds me of the things we have in common.

Karin Boyton

Riverbank Trust



Last year lives were impacted by the grace of God through [Riverbank](#), and HTR continued to help make that happen.

We have seen an increase in the impact and growth of community groups and 1:1 work. In response to our encouragement, Riverbank Mums have taken on more volunteering roles and contribute more in group work. The vulnerable single mother families we serve feel a real sense of community and 'family' and often talk of the profound impact the church has in their life through the work of Riverbank.

Riverbank updated its logo and website and has seen even more engagement as a result, with a constantly growing number of online self-referrals from vulnerable single mother families in the area. Riverbank's successful expansion into Ham has developed well with a

strong partnership with the local school and church community, and with vulnerable single mother families receiving support from Riverbank's dedicated Ham outreach worker.

In 2022, for the first time, a Riverbank Mum joined the charity's staff team, which helps deepen Riverbank's understanding of and ability to support local vulnerable single mothers with the love and wisdom of Jesus.

The charity is increasingly relied upon by local government, schools, other civil society agencies and churches. The lasting impact in local lives is a witness to the role of the local church in addressing challenges faced by Britain's communities today. Riverbank was born of Holy Trinity Richmond and continues to see generous support from the church, as well as quality volunteering from church members who make an impact through the charity's mission work in the local community.



Thank you for all your support and please continue praying for God's grace upon this ministry!

Laura Lowther, CEO

Kick



[KICK's](#) mission is to transform young people's lives, with God's love, through sport and support. We do this through values-driven physical education, street dance, mentoring, chaplaincy in schools and church-based KICK Academies to impact young people. KICK has grown national rapidly, to engage over 25,000 young people a week across over 120 schools and 30 KICK Academies across the UK.

We are proud to have been founded by HTR and continue to operate from the church as our office base. We provide chaplaincy and coaching to Holy Trinity Richmond Primary School and also mentoring at Christ's School Richmond, both of whom we have worked with for 20 years. Thank you for your faithful prayers and please continue to ask God to lead and bless us. At KICK we are committed to seeing young people experience a hope for the future and joy in the present.



Joe Lowther, CEO

LVA Trust



Thank you for your ongoing support for [LVA](#) and the love, prayers and welcome that you extend to the team and organisation. It is felt by all of us and so important for the work that we do.

This past year has been a good year in many ways as we continue to widen our reach and the depth of work that we offer. We continue to offer three streams of work - RSE (Relationships and Sex Education), Mentoring and Youth Work - and we also support parents/carers by way of school and community talks. However, we are happy to report that due to our Christmas campaign with the [BigGive](#), we have been working on a programme to deliver some parenting workshops that will help us set up some support hubs for parents and carers. We are currently in the development stage and in collaboration with Riverbank Trust hoping to run our pilot group with them in June and launch fully in September, with a mix of online and in person delivery. So, thank you for your support in allowing us to be innovative and get these things out of the blue sky and on the ground.

Our classroom workshop schedule is as full as ever, and we are now reaching 22 schools across three boroughs, speaking into sexual and reproductive health, as well as sexual harassment, the damaging effects of pornography and online culture, along with the rest of our catalogue of workshops. We have fantastic relationships with all the schools we work with and offer a professional service in all aspects to support those communities.

We finished developing the Therapeutic Mentoring programme and are now coming to the end of our pilot year and have data to show that this work is really needed for our young people, and we will be developing this further. We have one mentor on staff team, who has been part of leading that project, and Kayleigh Butler and Lydia Anderson are also in schools mentoring but in a more reactive way. After the Easter holidays we will have our first volunteer placement in a Richmond school. We are praying that will bear much fruit going forwards and encourage others to be part of the team.

In our youth stream, we are now focusing on community groups and handed over the club at Christ Church Feltham to the leadership team. We have planted a girls' group in the heart of The Meadows estate in Hounslow and are starting up a boys' group after the Easter break. We see real fruit here and are excited to be working with the young people from this community.

We put on a wonderful event in October, LVA TalentFest ... We had stage entertainment from Groove Academy, who mentor young people musically, other young people selling their creations - whether baked goods, jewellery or cards and art - and overall a really special evening bringing the community together. We aim to do this again on 14 October as our annual event. We really see the value in working with young people in this arena too.

We have grown our team and now have a Fundraising and Communications lead, and will be training two new educators to facilitate workshops to enable us to fulfil our strategic vision of growth and reaching more young people.

Kayleigh started a 3-year journey to an eMBA through the senior leader apprenticeship scheme. She is currently splitting her time between leading LVA and studying. LVA has supported her through the scheme so that she can bring her learning to the organisation and be the best leader she can be for the team and LVA alike. This feeds into our strategic growth plan to expand across London and beyond. HTR has been such a blessing and a major part of Kayleigh's growth in faith and in life, and we are excited about the next chapter.

A prayer request from Kayleigh - "Please pray for me as I balance being a wife, mother and leader while on this learning journey. The MBA is a tough gig (I am the only person out of 60 that is from a non-profit), I often struggle with the language used and have serious imposter syndrome. But with God by my side, I know I can do it. God gave me a beautiful vision of my whole family watching me graduate and it's the one thing that gets me through the tough days. This journey is so much more than a qualification; it's breaking our family's generational struggles in education, and 'giving me back the years the locusts have taken.' I always feel it when I'm being held in prayer".

From a very thankful team at LVA - Kayleigh, Mandy, Lydia, Corinna, Ziad and soon to be Sarah & Angie, and our trustees.

Mandy Turner (Operations Manager and RSE Educator)

Karis Kids



Karis Kids

Our church has been connected with [Karis Kids](#) for some years now, with many families sponsoring and supporting families who are surviving in the slums of Kampala. Founded in 2007, Karis Kids is an initiative between the Church of Uganda and a group of UK churches (including ourselves) with the vision of bringing family and a future to vulnerable children by supporting them within a family context. Holy Trinity is linked to St Peter's, Wandegeya and our link families live in the Wandegeya slums.

Last summer, I had the privilege of visiting Kampala and attending the first summer camp since the pandemic. I won't say I was helping - the Kampala team is highly efficient and really doesn't need any help, other than the supplying of resources - but we were made very welcome as guests and were privileged to get to know the Ugandan team and the children. I came back with an insight into where our money goes and how important it is to these families that



they have our support. I also came back with renewed faith and joy in God for the work that he is leading there.

Having made this trip, in the autumn last year I took over from Penny Cox as the Karis link co-ordinator for Holy Trinity. We both attended the Karis Conference in Winchester in early November, which was helpful in providing vision for the coming year. This was followed by Ketrach's visit to our church and to Holy Trinity School; Ketrach is the Family Link Director for Karis in Uganda.



Rev Moses at St Peter's accepting a gift from HTR



The team in Uganda
Aloysius, Ketrach, Steven and Solome

Over the next year, as a church, we will be doing some fundraising to continue to support the work of Karis at St Peter's as our link church. We will also be undertaking a project with Holy Trinity School to raise funds to support children so that they can afford to go to school. We would like to increase the number of link families we have; please do [let me know](#) if you are interested. And finally, we will also be starting to consider putting a team together

to go out to Kampala for summer camp 2024. It will undoubtedly be a life-changing experience.

"This is a life-changing ministry; the greatest opportunity to see transformation in the life of a child. It will not leave your mind once you've seen it" - Canon John Awodi, Kampala Diocesan Secretary

Mandie Lambert

Holy Trinity School



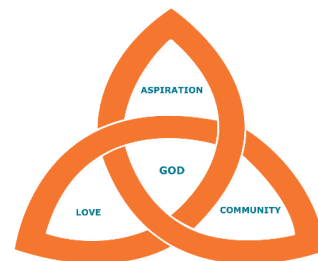
We know from the press that children have continued to feel the impact of the pandemic. Among primary-age pupils at our link school, Holy Trinity, this can be seen among the younger children in their social skills and ability to concentrate; in the older children handwriting and stamina for learning have been affected. However, thanks to the excellent online teaching, pupils caught up faster than elsewhere and this was reflected in the excellent Key Stage 2 SATS results achieved last

summer by Year 6 children. Richmond schools were among the top performers in the country and Holy Trinity significantly out-flanked the average for Richmond Borough - in the key indicator, which is Reading, Writing and Maths combined, Holy Trinity came out 12

percentage points ahead of the local average for 'above the expected standard.' This is in no small measure down to the dedication of our school's teachers.

However, the academic year has thrown up several challenges. Pupil illness has been a factor and StrepA did the rounds before Christmas; there was also a lot of staff absence in the autumn term due to postponed medical procedures being reinstated at short notice. The recent teacher strikes have had only a limited impact as Holy Trinity has fewer National Education Union members than some neighbouring schools. However, the staff pay rises have had a significant effect on budgets and like all schools, Holy Trinity is endeavouring to maintain standards and resources in the face of falling liquidity.

Another challenge for schools is falling pupil numbers, as families move away from Richmond; Brexit, changing lifestyles and house prices have been contributing factors. Our Reception applications have been declining for the last 2-3 years and entry classes are no longer full. This also has a huge impact on the budget as pupil numbers dictate the amount of government funding received. On the plus side, we have attracted a lot of families further up the school who recently moved into Richmond, particularly from Hong Kong, and now have 35 different first languages spoken in school.



The Christian ethos continues to be strong at Holy Trinity, with the Faith Group planning another Prayer Week for the summer term, a new weekly Bible club, a new Chaplain in place and the Church hosted a wonderful Carol Service organised by Matt and Eils Osgood in December.

I shall be standing down as Chair of Governors at the end of the school year after four and a half years in this role and over 12 years as a governor. It has been a privilege to serve in this way, a joy to work in such a wonderful school and a pleasure to support two such faithful and committed head teachers.

Michèle Marcus

Christ's School

Jesus said, "I have come that they may have life, life in all its fullness" (John 10:10)

Christ's School is our local Church of England secondary school. Under the excellent leadership of headteacher Helen Dixon, the school continues to flourish and serve its community to the highest standard. The school is consistently oversubscribed, including the Sixth Form. Through the hard work and dedication of the students and staff the school was able to achieve exceptional results in the GCSEs and A-Levels taken last summer.



This September the school was delighted to welcome Clare Banner as the new school chaplain, replacing our very own Tom Rutter due to his move to Cornwall. Clare works in the school three days a week to provide pastoral care for the students and staff, to develop the spiritual life of the school in ways that meet the needs of the school community and to help build relations with the wider community. Before joining Christ's, Clare spent five years in Cambridge; three of these she spent as a student, and the other two doing Student Ministry at a busy, city centre church. Here she enjoyed working closely with students, providing pastoral support, biblical wisdom and sharing her knowledge of Cambridge's best coffee shops. She brings a wealth of ministry experience from her time in Cambridge, many summers spent volunteering on youth camps, and her clergy husband, who is based in a Central London church.

Holy Trinity Church has three representatives on the board of governors: Katy Johnston, Louise Stevenson and Penny Cox. If you would like to know more about the school, please do ask us.

Penny Cox

Safeguarding



Safeguarding

Following Michelle Rutter's move to Cornwall in early 2022, Graham Bamping continued to serve as Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO), working closely with Dan Wells and Liz Morris, and, together with them, forming the Safeguarding Committee (SC). The SC meets at least once each school term and reports to the Parochial Church Council (PCC). With Michelle's departure, the PCC was keen to appoint another PSO to work within the above structure, as it is considered best practice to have more than one PSO. It is, therefore, excellent news that the PCC has recently appointed Anke Marais as joint PSO, together with Graham. Through her work with Riverbank Trust, Anke has (like Michelle before her) experience of safeguarding-related matters. Anke and Graham have worked together on Anke's induction into the PSO role, which requires a number of training courses to be completed. Later this year, they hope to undertake together a new course provided by the Diocese for PSOs.

As mentioned in last year's report, we now have a Parish Safeguarding Handbook (PSH), which brings as much of our safeguarding documentation as possible together into one place, as a single point of reference specific to our parish. Soon after its approval by both the SC and PCC, the PSH was sent to all leaders and volunteers involved with our children and young people's groups, with a requirement that they should read relevant sections. This process worked well as the parish's "face to



face” Youth and Children’s work restarted fully following the COVID hiatus. The PSH also forms an important part of the induction process for all new staff and volunteers. The SC will review the PSH in June this year, and the revised version will then be sent to staff and volunteers to read over the summer, ready for our youth and children’s work to recommence at the beginning of the new school year. We have continued to work on ensuring that all staff and volunteers working with children, young people and vulnerable adults have completed suitable training and DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) checks. This remains a crucial part of our safeguarding practice, and we thank volunteers for engaging with the process.

It is exciting to see potential new developments being considered, such as the Summer Holiday Club and participation in a residential course for young people provided by an external party. The PSOs have been engaged in thinking through the safeguarding aspects of these developments with the team members who are looking to organise them.

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

Anke Marais and Graham Bamping (Joint Parish Safeguarding Officers)

Traidcraft and our Fair Trade stall



TRAIDCRAFT
Fighting poverty through trade

Sadly, Traidcraft plc, which was started in 1979 and which brought the idea of Fair Trade to us all, had to go into Administration in January 2023. The interim Chief Executive, who had been trying to help Traidcraft plc to keep going, explained to Fair Traders in a Zoom meeting on

24 January that it was going to happen. He said that Covid had hit Traidcraft hard as Fair Traders were such a large part of the sales and we could not sell much at all during Covid. Unfortunately, there were low sales during the autumn period in 2022 as well. The staff had been kept informed and had all worked amazingly to try to keep it going.

We at HTR owed only £14.42 to Traidcraft at that time and I was able to pay this on 27 January 2023, before Traidcraft plc had gone into Administration. So, we had paid for all the goods we had ordered.

The charity which is linked to Traidcraft plc, and which is now called Transform Trade (previously Traidcraft Exchange) is continuing to do the work of helping producers to get more contacts and to have training and expertise. We still had stock to sell, and people still wanted to buy Traidcraft items, so we have continued the stall, and I have sent the proceeds to Transform Trade, as they are doing the work Traidcraft started.

Also, I have found the details of several Fair Trade companies who sell some of the products which were very popular with people in our Church family. So, I have been able to order the



Just 5 cereal bars, the Real Easter Eggs and some other items. The problem is that different companies sell some of the items, so I have to order from several different places.

Moving forward, Fair Traders received an email at the beginning of March from the previous Chief Executive to say that he has started a Company called We Are Fair Trade Ltd. It is possible that this may be able to trade as Traidcraft. They would try to have the range of products so that we can order everything directly from them. A group of Fair Traders are in contact and we are praying that Traidcraft will be able to survive and go forward.

Meanwhile, please continue to tell me of any products you used to enjoy from Traidcraft and I will try to order them from one of the other Fair Trade companies at present.

Rosalind Ambrose

Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) held on 15 May 2022

The 2022 APCM took place within the 1000 Morning Service on Sunday 15 May 2022. The Service included worship, prayer, a reading and talk as usual, but also testimonies and the business items necessary as part of an APCM.

Penny Cox explained that the APCM is really two separate meetings, the first concerning the election of Churchwardens and the second the Annual Meeting itself. Voting on the appointment of Wardens involves not only those on our Electoral Roll but also anyone who lives in the parish, emphasising that Wardens serve the whole of our parish and not just those who are part of our church family.

Election of Churchwardens by parishioners

This part of the meeting was chaired by Louise McFerran.

1. **Minutes of the 2021 meeting** - Approval was proposed by David Ewart, seconded by Mark Lambert and agreed by the meeting.
2. **Election of Churchwardens** - Two nominations had been received for the role of Warden for the coming year, for Penny Cox, proposed by David Ewart and seconded by Ann Henderson, and James Thornton, proposed by Nico Marais and seconded by Sue Jackson. Louise thanked Penny and James for their service over the past year, especially with the challenges for church life against the background of Covid and in the absence of our Vicar Dan Wells for part of the year. Louise prayed for Penny and James, and for God's provision for and sustaining of our church. She thanked God for all those who serve our church in so many ways, especially Dan and Louise Wells, and prayed that God will continue to be at the centre of our church life, with everyone serving actively.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Testimonies

Mark Johnston is standing down as our Treasurer after serving in the role for ten years. He explained that he had come to faith later in life through an Alpha Course and had joined our church about fifteen years ago as a fairly new Christian. Initially he had been on the fringes of our church, but Trevor Patterson had invited him to consider becoming our Treasurer. In this role he has had the privilege of seeing the breadth of church life and has been really encouraged to see just how many people give so much of their time and money to support what we do. He said that our finances operate very differently to the business world in which he works, as we consider what we believe God is calling us to do and then look at the

finances we need for this. Time and time again, God has provided wonderfully for us, which Mark has found very encouraging.

Louise McFerran said that she is coming towards the end of her training as a Lay Reader and explained something of what this has involved. She explained that her journey towards this ministry had started some twelve years ago through a conversation with her then Vicar. She had said she didn't know how she should be serving God and her Vicar had said, "Why don't you ask Him?" Louise said this was quite a revolutionary idea for her at that time and it took her ten years to respond! But she has sensed God addressing all her practical questions about how she would be able to do the training and then minister as a Reader. He had been a consistently faithful God, who has been there every step of the way, just as He is for all of us.

Talk - Nico Marais and James Thornton

Reading - John 1:43-46

James explained that it would normally be Dan Wells who would be giving this talk and he encouraged everyone to continue to pray for Dan while he is away from his role. He reflected on a challenging year for HTR and society in general. For our church it has meant making lots of important decisions quickly and he acknowledged particularly what Dan and the Staff Team have done to steer us through Covid. As a church we have faced the sadness of some people dying and others moving on, but we still have so much to be thankful for.

Being a Warden over the past year had given him a new appreciation of all that people contribute to the life of our church. He mentioned in particular the assurance, grace and dignity that Mark Johnston has shown in his role as Treasurer, and the maturity, wisdom and humility he displays. David Ewart will cover the Treasurer role until we find a permanent replacement, and James acknowledged all that David contributes to our financial management and in so many other ways. He also paid tribute to our Staff Team - for the wonderful organisational and administrative support of Liz Morris, Rebecca Reynolds and Kate Thornton through our Church Office, for Sue Jackson as our Children's Worker who is so loved by the children she works with, and for Nico Marais, whose skills in setting up and maintaining livestreaming of Services over the last couple of years have been so vital in helping us to continue to be a worshipping community.

While he recognised it is Dan's responsibility to set our future vision, he had been reflecting on our wish to be "a church with an open door, reaching out with God's love and power, helping one another live for Jesus." What had struck him particularly was the sending out aspect of what we do, and he mentioned specifically the establishing of a church plant at Holy Trinity Barnes and the launch of three charities from our church - Kick, Riverbank Trust and LVA Trust. He also highlighted Kate, Connor and Johnny Patterson, Alwyn Webb, David Cooke, Mark Anderson, Erin Gilmour, Adam Rylett, Ellie Hughes and Tom Rutter, all of whom have moved on in recent years to minister elsewhere in a variety of significant ways. He said he longed to see this sending out continue and he had been encouraged over the last year to see many people stepping up in our church in many ways. He reflected on Dan's mention at our 2021 APCM of a ploughed field and said that his prayer is that the many seeds that have

been sown will continue to grow and flourish; we have the potential to have a huge impact in so many ways.

Nico began by recalling a job interview where the interviewer, on discovering where Nico lived, asked if anything good could come out of his home town. This echoes Nathaniel's response in this morning's reading when Philip tells Nathaniel that he has found Jesus - "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" A question for us today is "Can anything good come out of the church?" The answer is yes, or at least it should be. But, like Philip inviting Nathaniel to come and see Jesus, what exactly are we inviting people to see? There are a variety of things we do which we would like people to see, but above all we want them to come and see Jesus Himself, Christ crucified. All we do must be focused around this. The Cross brings freedom from sin and the Resurrection brings hope for the future, and people need to see and know this. In all his ministry, St Paul's focus was on knowing Christ crucified, and we need to have the same focus, and desire the same for others.

To invite people into church, we must be where they are. Jesus had around 132 gospel contacts with people, 122 of which took place outside a religious setting, in mainstream life. Being a church with an open door certainly means inviting people in, but crucially it also means going out into the community and world. The church plant, charities and people that James mentioned are very helpful examples of this. The door must work in both directions.

Francis of Assisi invited a young monk to join him one day. At the end of the day, the monk was confused because he hadn't seen Francis preach or engage with people. But Francis' response was "We are all called to live lives honouring Jesus. It is of no use to walk anywhere to preach unless we preach everywhere as we walk." This is something for all of us to do, not just a select few; we all have a part to play. At the start of his first letter, John says "We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ." We need to get to know Jesus better, to learn to walk more closely with Him, to follow Him throughout the week, and then testify to his power, grace and love.

Business

This part of the meeting was chaired by Penny Cox.

1. **Apologies for absence** - Apologies were received from Liz Morris, Paul and Val Smith, and Gerry Stride. Dan and Louise Wells would also have loved to be with us on this important occasion.
2. **Minutes of the 2021 Annual Meeting** - Approval was proposed by Judy Mathieson, seconded by Ian Bridges and agreed by the meeting.
3. **Electoral Roll** - Penny explained that the Roll is an indicator of membership of our church. Our previous Roll had 143 members, while the new one has 129 members, 36 of whom are resident in the parish while 93 live outside it. Penny encouraged people to consider joining, which they can do throughout the year.

4. **Treasurer's Report** - Mark Johnston explained that, in practice, David Ewart has carried out much of the financial management behind the scenes this year, as he has done for several years, and he expressed huge thanks to David for this. Mark also thanked Thelma Pritchard for her Bookkeeping work, Keith Nurse for managing donations and payroll, and Liz Morris for supporting in a variety of ways.

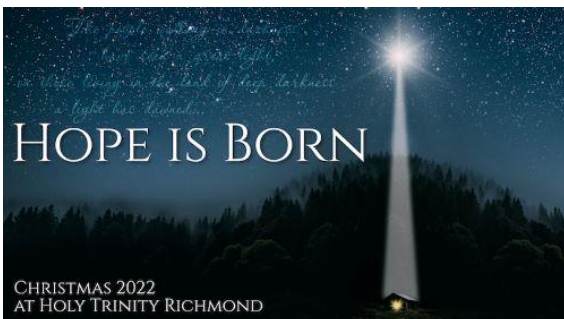
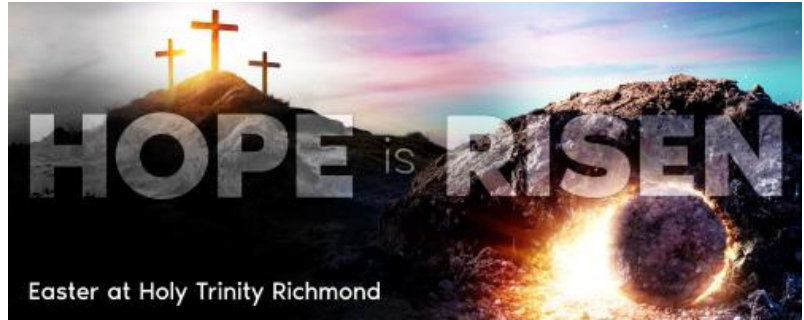
Mark showed an encouraging chart of how giving has grown since 2002. Even in 2021 giving had held up very well in difficult pandemic circumstances and he expressed huge thanks to all who have donated. In 2021 the vast majority of our income was from personal donations, which is typical. Expenditure covered our Staff Team, the Parish Support Fund, Outreach giving (both Gift Day and through the main church budget), Buildings and Other items. While we budgeted for a deficit we achieved a surplus of around £7k, partly because of Staff Team vacancies during the year.

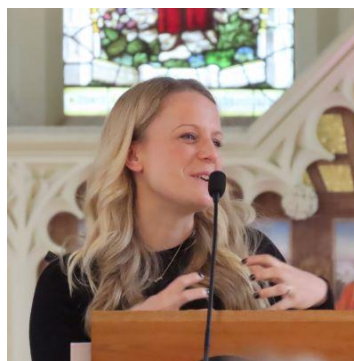
At 31 December 2021 we had assets of £1,141,000, boosted during the year by the sale of our Peldon Court flat. While this may seem a large sum, we know we face a significant Building Project soon. In 2022 we are budgeting for a deficit of around £28,000, Factors for this include some donors having moved on from our church, our hope to bring our Staff Team up to full strength, and greater use of our building post-pandemic.

- Approval of the 2021 Accounts was proposed by Penny Cox, seconded by Tristan Blood and agreed by the meeting
- Adoption of the 2022 Budget was proposed by Graham Bamping, seconded by David Ewart and agreed by the meeting
- Appointment of John Helm as our Independent Examiner was proposed by Mark Lambert, seconded by David Ewart and agreed by the meeting.

5. **Election of PCC members** - Penny thanked Mark Johnston, Mark Lambert and Robert Lucas as they end their term of office on the PCC, although Mark Lambert is eligible to stand again immediately because he has been occupying a less than three-year vacancy. This year we need to elect three representatives to serve for three years and one representative to serve for one year. There had been four nominations - Louise McFerran (proposed by Catherin Tidmarsh and seconded by Liz Morris), Gerry Stride (proposed by Keith Nurse and seconded by David Ewart), Holly Morris (proposed by Sean Morris and seconded by James Thornton) and Mark Lambert (proposed by Thelma Pritchard and seconded by Claire Stansfield). As there were four vacancies and four nominees, they were duly elected.

A few more photos!





**Holy Trinity Church Centre
Sheen Park
Richmond
TW9 1UP**

www.htrichmond.org.uk

office@htrichmond.org.uk

020 8404 1112
Registered Charity 1129640

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



Rosalind
Ambrose



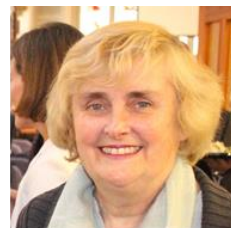
Graham
Bamping



Karin
Boyton



Penny
Cox



Cathy
Hewett



Sue
Jackson



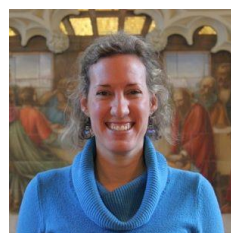
Mandie
Lambert



Joe
Lowther



Laura
Lowther



Anke
Marais



Michèle
Marcus



Louise
McFerran



Liz
Morris



Eseabasi
Ntefon



Eils
Osgood



Matt
Osgood



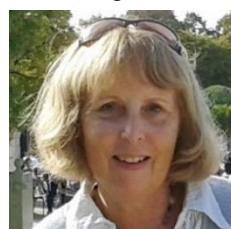
Martin
Phillips



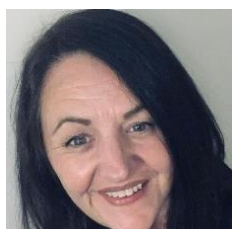
Gerry
Stride



James
Thornton



Catherin
Tidmarsh



Mandy
Turner



Dan
Wells



Louise
Wells