



Holy Trinity Church

Richmond



BOOK OF REPORTS

Annual Parochial Church Meeting
Sunday 10 May 2026
10am

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Meeting Agenda

Election of Churchwardens by Parishioners

1. Minutes of the 2025 Annual Meeting concerning the election of Churchwardens
2. Election of Churchwardens *

Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the 2025 Annual Meeting
3. To receive an Electoral Roll report
4. To receive the 2025/26 Book of Reports
5. To receive the Treasurer's Report, including
 - the independently examined accounts for the year ending 31 December 2025
 - the budget for 2026
 - appointing an Independent Examiner for 2026
6. To elect three Deanery Synod representatives to serve for three years *
7. To elect three PCC representatives to serve for three years *
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.

* Nomination forms are available from the Church Office
Please return completed nomination forms to Liz Morris

** Items to be given to Eils Osgood in writing by Friday 8 May

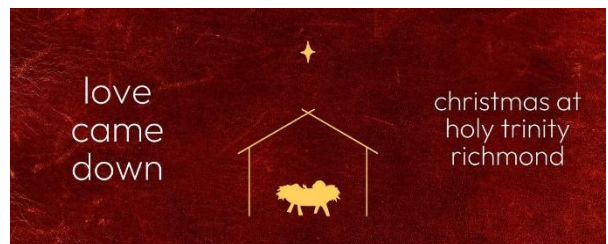
Vicar's Report



This past year has been one full of so many things to thank God for. At last year's APCM, we launched HTR's new Vision which sums up where we feel God is calling us for the season ahead - that we want to be a vibrant, growing church at the heart of our local community, where people will encounter Jesus, find a home in a loving church community, know God's transforming work in their own lives, and be part of his transforming work in the world. The staff team and PCC have sought to clarify our strategic priorities in journeying

towards that vision, and this has brought a sense of momentum and focus to all that we do.

There have been so many encouragements to note - we had our fullest Alpha course in several years after Christmas, and almost every week sees new people coming through our doors on a Sunday morning. Our annual Holiday Club, and all our Christmas and Easter services, have been particular moments to share the love of Jesus with many from our wider community, and this continues day to day in all kinds of ways, and particularly through our partnership with Riverbank Trust and through our various youth and children's ministries. It is a huge joy to see people going on to discover faith in Jesus and starting to get involved in the life of the church.



Within the staff team, it has been a year of change and transition. Liz Morris, our Operations Manager, was off work for a significant portion of the year as she journeyed through cancer, and we thank God for her ongoing recovery. We have said farewell to a number of key staff members - Ella Baxter and



Ese Ntefon back in the Autumn, and then Sue Jackson and Rebecca Reynolds over the past couple of months. Each of them has made a huge contribution to the life of our church, whether up front or behind the scenes, and we give thanks to God for them. Alongside the sadness of saying these goodbyes, and the moments of uncertainty as to how things might pan out, we have been amazed at God's faithfulness in bringing us some wonderful new staff members - Catherine Timmins as our Office Administrator and Devan Fleetwood as our Youth Pastor, who have both

brought fresh vision and energy to the team. We look forward to welcoming Karen Metcalf in September as our new Children and Families Pastor, and continue to trust in God's goodness and provision.

I am indebted to our two churchwardens, Keith Nurse and Louise McFerran, who both go above and beyond in serving our church, being an endless source of wisdom and support, covering all manner of gaps that arise and generally keeping so many things running smoothly. I am likewise deeply grateful for the commitment of so many volunteers who lead life groups, serve on our PCC or serve on all the various teams that enable our ministry and mission to happen. Every person's contribution is vital and hugely valued, much of which is reflected in this book of reports.



As I shared on Vision Sunday back in January, our focus for 2026 is around 'making space to grow' – first and foremost as disciples of Christ, that we might each be growing in love, in faith and in our understanding of his plans and purposes for us, while also thinking practically about our gatherings and our buildings, and how we can make space to grow in

number as we seek to share our faith and serve those around us.

I believe we can feel hopeful and expectant as we look to the year ahead. While there has been plenty of change, God's love and faithfulness remains constant! And my prayer for all of us is that we would not simply be busy, but be fruitful, as we fix our eyes on Jesus and seek to walk in his ways and know his Spirit at work in us and through us.

Eils Osgood

Churchwardens' Report

Our role as Churchwardens involves us working alongside our vicar, staff team and other church leaders to care for and maintain the church building, to give them support and advice, and to make sure necessary safeguarding and administrative duties are carried out. It's a practical, spiritual, pastoral and missional role, and we have been privileged to serve in this way over the past year in such a wonderful church community.

People

So many good things have happened in our church life over the past year, for which we are hugely grateful to God. Alongside particular highlights, like our celebrations of Christmas and Easter, Focus 2025, the Summer Holiday Club and Light Party, we're very encouraged by the regular and faithful

ministry that goes on week by week, which you can read more about throughout this Book of Reports. As we see people joining our church community, finding a living faith in Jesus, growing as disciples and taking on leadership roles, God is so clearly at work in the lives of many people.



It has been a year of significant change for our staff team, but we're grateful for such a servant-hearted group who have handled this so flexibly and graciously. Both Ella Baxter and Rebecca Reynolds stepped down from their administrative roles, having carried out a vast range of tasks and responsibilities (some more exciting than others!) that support the smooth running of our church and its activities. Much of what they did was unseen but was so important in ensuring our church is welcoming and kept safe and, as a charity, has good governance in place.

Catherine Timmins has joined us as Ella's replacement and has quickly become an indispensable part of our day to day operations. We're currently looking at the best way of shaping the second administrative role so that both our church and specifically Eils as our Vicar have the level and type of support they need to function well. And we have been really pleased to see Liz Morris back in her Operations Manager role after a challenging period of ill health, a time that made us realise just how grateful we are for the vast range of responsibilities she covers on our behalf.

While we knew it would happen at some stage, we were very sad to see Sue Jackson retire from her role as Children's Pastor early this year after well over twenty years of faithful and wholehearted service, during which she showed a remarkable commitment to helping children find friendship with Jesus. And Ese Ntefon stepped down from her role as Youth and Children's Pastor, having done much to reestablish our work with young people after Covid times and build a group keen to learn about Jesus and live out their faith.

Devan Fleetwood has joined as our Youth Pastor, and his energy and creativity are already having a big impact, not only on our young people but across the life of our church, notably through his work on our communications. And we're looking forward to welcoming Karen Metcalf as our new Children and Families Pastor in the autumn, who will be joining with a wealth of experience of working with children and in ministry more broadly. Matt Osgood began training for ordained ministry last autumn and now combines this with a broader role as our Associate Pastor. He continues to be involved across our church in so many significant ways, both practical and spiritual, that help our church community to flourish.



We're very grateful to David Ewart for his support to us, continuing to set us a wonderful example as he serves our church as our Treasurer and in so many other ways. We also really appreciate the work that Graham Bamping and Anke Marais carry out as our Parish Safeguarding Officers. Their wisdom, expertise and timely action, necessarily behind the scenes, plays a huge part in ensuring our church is a safe and secure environment for everyone.

But we're also conscious that so many others serve in a wide variety of ways, sometimes obvious but often quietly and faithfully behind the scenes, without whom HTR wouldn't be the welcoming and growing community it is. In our contacts with other churches, both as Churchwardens and as Licensed Lay Ministers, we hear about the huge challenges that many other churches face. This helps us realise just how blessed we are at HTR to be part of a community where so many people offer their gifts, time and money so generously.

Buildings



As Wardens, we have a responsibility to look after our building and make sure it is safe and welcoming. However, in practice, much of this work is done by others. Our Church Office Team ensures regular routine maintenance takes place and arranges visits for minor repairs. We're particularly grateful to Martin Phillips for his role in chairing our Building Committee, which oversees more major repairs. During the coming year we plan to make significant progress with a project to repair, refresh and redevelop our building, and a series of visits to other churches in late 2025 and early 2026 gave us some practical and creative examples of how buildings can be designed and used to help churches bring their vision to life. While a project of this size will bring many challenges, we're excited to see how another chapter of HTR's life will unfold!

Vision

At our 2025 APCM, Eils Osgood shared our vision to be a vibrant, growing church at the heart of our local community, where every person has the opportunity to encounter Jesus, to find a home in a loving church community, to know God's transforming work in their own life, and be part of his transforming work in the world. We've been encouraged by the many ways in which this has come to life over the past year, not least of all because of the inspirational overall leadership that Eils provides. Her life is a living example to us all of the values we want to show as a church - welcoming, authentic, wholehearted, joyful and courageous - and we're hugely grateful for who she is and all she does for us.

As we see our church community coming to life through people meeting Jesus, growing in faith, experiencing healing, finding support in challenging times and reaching out to others with a message of genuine hope, we continue to be excited about what God has in store for us in the coming months and years, and look forward to working with you in being part of it.

Louise McFerran and Keith Nurse

Safeguarding



Safeguarding

We have continued as joint Parish Safeguarding Officers (PSOs) over the past twelve months. The Safeguarding Committee (SC) continued to meet on at least a termly basis. The committee consists of Eils Osgood, Liz Morris and the PSOs. With the departure of Rebecca Reynolds, secretarial arrangements are under review, with the Admin team providing cover in the near term. Other personnel (such as the Youth and Children and Families Pastors) may attend SC from time to time, depending on the relevance of the Agenda to their roles.

SC reports to the Parochial Church Council (PCC) after its meetings, and the link between the two bodies remains strong, with Anke also being a member of PCC. Our Parish Safeguarding Handbook (PSH), remains key to our Safeguarding practice. This brings together as much of our safeguarding documentation as possible in one place, as a single point of reference specific to our parish, and is available to members of our church community on the parish website. The PSH is approved annually by the SC and PCC, and is then sent to all leaders and volunteers involved in ministry to children, young people and vulnerable adults, with a requirement that they should read relevant sections over the summer period before groups restart for the new academic year.



Work with children, young people and vulnerable adults remains a crucial part of our activity at Holy Trinity and is a significant way in which we express God's love for all. The PSOs continue to work closely with leaders to consider proposals for new activities and to develop appropriate risk assessments so that those that proceed can be run safely for all concerned.

We have continued to work on ensuring that all staff and volunteers have completed suitable training and DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) checks. The Diocese has recently introduced a new provider ([Thirtyone: eight](#)) for processing DBS checks. This follows a cyber attack on the previous provider. This change appears to be resulting in a good service, which is more efficient and streamlined than that of the predecessor organisation. The Diocese has also introduced a new Parish Safeguarding Dashboard process (a Church of England-wide initiative), with the intention of making Safeguarding administration simpler and more reliable. Parishes were given one year from September 2025 to begin using this tool. We have been signed up since October 2025 and the PSOs are working their way through the various levels of the new Dashboard.

We also continue to work through the action points resulting from the Safeguarding Self Audit process which the Diocese asked all parishes to undertake last year, with a view to continuing to enhance our Safeguarding processes.

In June 2025, we held another Safeguarding training session, given by the PSOs, for all our volunteers, including those who only volunteer in the context of the Summer Holiday Club. Feedback received suggests that this session provided a valuable opportunity to update volunteers on Safeguarding practice and, particularly, to bring this to life by engaging the group in a couple of case studies, which help remind us that good safeguarding practice is not just about having appropriate policies in place. Indeed, safeguarding is the responsibility of all members of our community and, to this end, we have tried to ensure that it is a topic we include in services, through references in sermons and intercessions when appropriate and relevant. This year, for the second time, we held a Safeguarding



Sunday, with the intention of bringing consideration of what safeguarding means in our parish to the centre of our Sunday morning service. On this occasion, in November 2025, we participated in the national Safeguarding Sunday initiative (which is organised by [Thirtyone: eight](#) and supported by the Church of England). We feel this worked well and, therefore, intend to participate again this year (on 14 November 2026).

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. Any such Cause for Concern form logged on the website continues to be notified and forwarded directly and automatically to the PSOs for review and action.

Anke Marais and Graham Bamping (Joint Parish Safeguarding Officers)

Finance

This report gives an overview of the church's finances. It is a simple summary for last year and this year to date. A full set of accounts for 2025 and the budget for 2026 will be presented to the APCM and posted on the church website.

It is not easy to give a simple explanation of how the church's finances work, but it may be worth stating that we receive no financial support from the Central Church and everything we spend we have to raise ourselves.

I would like to start by saying a very big thank you for, as can be seen from the table below, over 81% of the church's income last year was given by church members. Without this extremely generous level of giving, much of the other work of the church outlined in these reports would not be possible and it is something we are extremely grateful for. Church Centre rents, interest and a grant for building works make up most of the rest of our income.

Expenditure is dominated by the cost of running the church, primarily though the cost of the staff team and our contribution to the wider Church, through the Parish Support Fund, which aims to cover the cost of the Vicar and their housing (we give above the amount required to cover our costs, in order to support the wider local Church). Including Gift Day, we also give over £50,000 to a number

of Christian charities such as [Riverbank Trust](#), [LVA Trust](#), [Karis Kids](#) and the [Vineyard Community Centre](#).

A summary of the church finances (not in the format required by the Charities Act, but in the format used to budget internally) is set out below.

	2025 Outturn	2026 Budget
	(£'000)	(£'000)
Total Income	548	517
Regular and one off giving (including tax reclaimed)	402	400
Gift Day	42	30
Church Centre rentals	32	36
Interest	53	46
Grants	12	0
Other income	7	5
Total Expenditure	515	543
Parish Support Fund payments	136	143
Staffing costs	179	215
Church ministries	31	30
Regular giving beyond our parish	23	20
Gift Day	42	30
Running costs of the Church	72	74
Other expenditure	32	31

2025 was a most encouraging year. It began with a budgeted deficit, but to a large extent due to church members' generous giving, ended with a surplus of over £30,000.

2026 is proving to be another year exceptional year. With the amazing response to Giving Sunday in January 2026, the budgeted deficit has been more than overcome. We have also been informed we are to receive a generous legacy which should result in us ending the year with a surplus. I am most grateful for all the support we have received.

I am also thankful for all the support of the Finance Team - Keith Nurse, who works tirelessly on giving, tax reclaims, payroll and pensions, Thelma Prichard, who keeps the accounts, Liz Morris for all she does and massive thanks to Rebecca Reynolds for all her support as she now moves on.

David Ewart (PCC Treasurer)

Building Committee



Over the past year, the Building Committee has continued to focus on the careful stewardship of our church property, mindful of our longer-term vision to undertake a significant building project within the next few years. In light of this, our approach has been to maintain the building in a safe and functional condition while keeping expenditure to a necessary minimum.

Routine maintenance has formed the core of our work. Key activities have included servicing and maintaining the boilers to ensure reliable heating, addressing blocked drains to prevent further complications and carrying out essential repairs to toilet facilities. In addition, attention has been given to the church grounds, including the removal of trees and saplings where required, and cutting back overgrown greenery, particularly at the east end of the church (Townshend Road side), improving both safety and appearance.

Alongside these practical tasks, we have also been looking ahead. Members of the Building Committee, together with the Churchwardens, have visited several churches that have recently undertaken building projects. These visits have been invaluable, providing insight into the challenges and opportunities such projects present, and helping us to gather ideas and learn from the experiences of others.

We remain committed to maintaining the building responsibly while preparing thoughtfully for the next phase of development.

Martin Phillips (Chair, Building Committee)

Mission Group

Once again, Mission Group is so grateful to members of the church who, through your generous giving, make it possible for us to support missions at home and abroad.



This year we have been able to continue supporting Sarah Casson in her work with [Wycliffe Bible Translators](#), writing handbooks for translators. Wycliffe do a vital work enabling people to have the Bible in their own language. We have also supported [Karis Kids](#) through link families, enabling children and families to get out of poverty in Uganda. As an ever-increasing number of Christians face severe persecution, we have been able to support them through the work of

[Open Doors](#). We have also continued to support [Tearfund](#), which works with local churches and organisations in more than 50 countries to tackle the complex challenges of poverty and injustice.

It's also always a huge pleasure supporting our three home missions, all birthed by past members of HTR and continuing to grow and develop their various ministries. [Kick](#), having grown phenomenally, now works almost the length and breadth of Britain transforming lives through sport. [LVA Trust](#) is serving schools across four London Boroughs, delivering high quality, inclusive relationship, sex and health education via fun and interactive classroom workshops, assemblies and mentoring small groups. [Riverbank Trust](#) continues to support vulnerable single mums through practical individual support, larger groups or hubs in different churches in the Borough of Richmond and using different community partners and programmes to help equip and support them.



As a result of the great response to Gift Day in 2025, we were able to give nearly £14,000 each to [Wycliffe Bible Translators](#), [LVA Trust](#) and [Tearfund](#). As a group we always keep a surplus, depending on our annual budget, so that we can respond to different appeals. This year we were able to send £1,000 to [Open Doors](#) Nigerian Emergency Appeal and £500 to [Tearfund](#) for their Myanmar DEC Earthquake Appeal.

We, as a group, are very conscious of the fact that we are custodians, entrusted by the church to recommend to the PCC the distribution of the money generously given by members of the congregation. Please continue to pray for us that we would make wise and Godly decisions on how this money should be distributed.

Karen Boyton, Mandie Lambert, Eils Osgood, Gerry Stride, Catherin Tidmarsh

Creation Care Group



Do you know we have a Creation Care garden? If you follow the path from the front of the church around the side of the church to the Townshend Road entrance, and then continue on the path around the back of the church, you will pass flowering areas, a big trough with more flowers, shrubs with bird feeders, and then arrive at an open garden which is planted up for wildlife. This is our Creation Care garden!

The Creation Care group started five years ago and was the suggestion of Penny Cox, a former Churchwarden and former head teacher at Holy Trinity School. We want to remember that God cares for his creation and wants us to care for it too. We decided to make a garden that was more available for birds, insects and other wildlife. We took up all the gravel in that far corner of the church grounds and put down compost and soil. Then we sowed wild flower seeds and other plants that

were suggested. We made a big "Bug hotel" of wooden pallets and other wood offcuts so that insects were attracted. The garden has a seat with a little path leading up to it through the plants, so that anyone can go and rest.

One change that has recently been suggested is that we shall not put out bird seeds or peanuts in our feeders over the summer and early autumn, as the RSPB are advising not to do so due to a disease that birds can catch from each other on the feeders. We are now putting flowering plants in the small flower bed by the Townshend Road entrance and the flower bed by the front entrance.

We are a small, friendly group, who keep in touch by WhatsApp and who try to meet up from time to time to keep the garden looking good. Please let me know if you would like to join us. No great gardening knowledge required!

Rosalind Ambrose

Pastoral Care Team



We believe that pastoral care is at the heart of what it means for HTR to be a loving church community. Care happens across the church in all sorts of ways, through life groups and ministry teams, and informally through the friendships and relationships between those in our church community. Alongside this, we have a Pastoral Care Team (PCT) which consists of our Vicar Eils Osgood, our Lay Readers and a couple of other individuals who have particular pastoral gifts and experiences. We meet every few weeks and aim to do our best to ensure that those in need

of Home Communion, home or hospital visits, regular phone calls or simply a listening ear during a difficult time are being cared for.

As a PCT, our prayer is that *"the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus"* (Philippians 4:7.) It has been a privilege to walk alongside individuals in our church community and pray for those in some of life's toughest seasons. If you are aware of anyone in our church who is in need of pastoral care and help, or you would like this for yourself, please contact me or Eils and we will do our best to help.

Louise McFerran

Life Groups

Life Groups are at the heart of what it means for us to Build Community as a church. They are places of friendship, support, Bible study, prayer, laughter, real honesty and lots of cake! We are encouraged

so many times in the New Testament to do things with and for “one another”; to be kind to one another, to bear with one another, to teach one another, to forgive one another, to encourage one another and build each other up, and so on. Although we are always grateful for all the ways God works in and through us as we gather on Sunday mornings, it is often in the deeper conversations and prayer times possible in a Life Group setting that God’s deepest work is done.



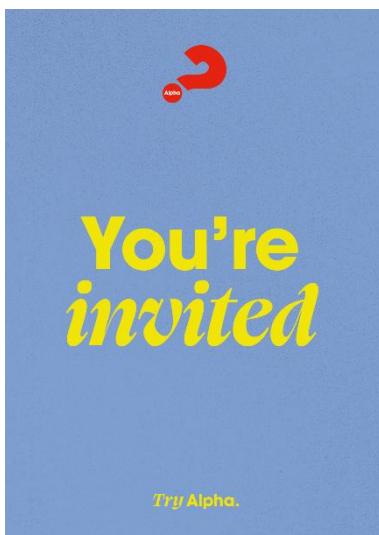
Most Life Groups meet fortnightly on Wednesday evenings, though there are other daytime groups and a Thursday evening online group as well. We’re really grateful to all our Life Group leaders, who diligently serve their groups in various ways, including organising, hosting, leading Bible studies and spiritually and practically caring for their groups. We have met together as Life Group leaders a couple of times in the last year, and one encouraging theme

has been an increase in sharing leadership with others – so if your Life Group leader asks for a volunteer to lead or host the next gathering, please do step forward!

We’re also encouraged to see a number of new people joining in with established groups and would love to see even more of this. If you’re not yet part of a group but would value having a small community of people that you can receive support from, and support them in turn, all while growing in your faith, please get in touch with me or Eils.

Matt Osgood

Alpha Course



One of the most exciting statistics about mission that I’ve seen in the last several months is the fact that last year the number of Alpha courses run in the UK rose to 10,000, compared with 8,000 the previous year. The reason this is so encouraging is because Alpha remains one of the best ways in which to introduce people to Jesus and to help them experience something of the love and community that is at the heart of the church.

We started our Alpha course in January 2026 with nine guests signed up, who were a mix of people who’d been coming to HTR for a while and wanted to find out more, people who’d encountered us over the Christmas season, and others who’d found us through the main Alpha UK website. As is often the case, a few people dropped out over the first few weeks for various reasons, but we were delighted that various others joined us and we (very unusually!) ended the course with more people than we’d started with. Although we can’t claim to have answered every theological conundrum posed during our nine weeks together, we had some wonderfully honest conversations,

made new and deeper friendships, and had the privilege of being able to pray with many of the guests.

Huge thanks go to all those who catered for us and served in the kitchen throughout the course, to Anke Marais, who led the course alongside me, and to Catherine Brown, Kelly Goodrich and Jake Gustafson, who made up a fantastic Alpha team.

If you've ever wondered about doing Alpha yourself or know people who are interested in exploring matters of faith, please get in touch to find out more about signing up for our next course.

Matt Osgood

Women's Ministry and Oasis

Women's Ministry

Psalms 133 is one of my favourite Psalms and it sums up what we see in the women's ministry here at HTR - "How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!... For there the Lord bestows his blessing, even life forevermore."



We come together to support and encourage one another in so many different ways, be it chatting and praying after the service, meeting up for coffee and walks or coming to the events that take place throughout the year. It is such a joy to be part of this ministry, to see our lovely women enjoying each other's company and growing in faith together.

In July we had our strawberry and fizz evening, which is always a lovely way to enjoy the summer evening in the vicarage garden. Again, a fun time was had at our Christmas craft evening, so wonderfully masterminded by Karin Boyton and a great team of helpers. Sadly I missed it, but I heard how great it was, with chatting, eating and a little drinking, and lots of amazing decorations were made. Thank you everyone who has helped to make these events such fun; I know it is a lot of hard work. The event that was easier to organise was a Curry night at Richmond Spice, which has become a bit of a habit, but if you have an idea for a different cuisine let me know, as not everyone likes curry.

We have had a variety of Breakfasts, one being quite small, but we got to delve deeper into the bible in small groups, and then Ali Levell came in October and Ellie Hughes in March. Both are really inspirational speakers. You can listen to Ellie's talk online.



Thank you to everyone who has helped with these events; they couldn't run without you. There is always room for you if you would like to help the team out in any way. We are looking forward to our next garden social on 26 June.

THE ORCHARD WOMEN

A group of us went to The Orchard Conference at HTB in October last year and we had a wonderful time; we would love you to join us again this autumn. It's on 17 October 2026 at Troxy, Shadwell, London. You can get tickets [here](#), but don't dither as they are selling fast and last year a few ladies were unable to come. Please speak to the Church Office if the price is putting you off - we would love you to come!

Oasis

Oasis provides precious time to meet, study the bible and pray with other women living in faith. It's a refuge, a place of acceptance, an oasis of calm at the end of a busy week. All are welcome, no matter where you are on your walk with God or your age. We gather at 9.30 on a Friday during term time, to drink coffee and eat cakes and fruit before studying the bible and praying together.

We have been thinking about the Images of God and Christ, following study guides by Dale and Sandy Larson. We have shared communion together and been wonderfully fed by the Holy Spirit. Then last term we used a video series by Tyler Staton - *Praying like monks, living like fools* - which was a great series and he is so easy to listen to. We love to pray for each other and God is always faithful and has been so good to us all. It's been so encouraging to journey with each other through good and tough times and hear some wonderful answers to our prayers.

My thanks to Louise McFerran and Dot Stride for your support and encouragement this year. And for all who have baked, led studies and worship, and washed up. It is truly a team effort to keep the group running.

Catherin Tidmarsh

Youth Ministry

Finding the Heartbeat: A Season of Discovery

I am completely flabbergasted by the fact that it has already been seven months since I joined the HTR team! A lot has happened in that time and Sian and I are deeply grateful for the way you have all welcomed us. We are so aware that God has got awesome plans for the young people in Richmond and, for the last seven months, that's been the mission.

I've been finding my feet, building relationships, and trying to align everything we do with our church's heart: **Encounter Jesus, Build Community and Seek Transformation**. It's been a season of

figuring out the heartbeat of our mission amongst young people in this community. In many ways I feel like I've got a good idea of this heartbeat and in others I am still discovering different and new ways to explore where this heartbeat lies. But, here's a breakdown of some of the things the youth team has explored over the last year to offer the best opportunities for young people to Encounter Jesus, Build Community and Seek Transformation.

Sunday Impact



We've spent the beginning of this year looking at the "Foundational Basics", and we've recently dived into the *Sermon on the Mount*. My hope is that these aren't just history lessons, but moments where the youth start asking, "What if this Jesus guy actually meant what He said about how we live?"

The team has been a rock through a lot of change. We were sad to see Craig Brown step down in September and we've missed Steve Patterson's presence while he was on a short hiatus. We are also deeply appreciative of the consistency provided by our stalwarts, Mandie Lambert and Rob Wilson. During the transition months before my arrival, we were incredibly lucky to have the support of Sue Petrie and Louise McFerran, whose help ensured Sunday Impact remained a steady space for our youth. My wife, Sian, has also jumped into the Sunday rotation.

Midweek & Deeper Impact

If Sunday is the "teaching", Impact is the "family dinner". The fun group energy that Ese Ntefon (the previous Youth Pastor) mentioned in her report last year is still the core of Midweek Impact and we've made sure to still go deeper in Deeper Impact (sorry, not sorry). We've also made a point of starting every session with a meal, which has been a great space to get to know the young people who have been joining us on Wednesdays.

- **Midweek Impact:** We've kept a steady crew here, even after losing a few legends to university, and Midweek remains a space where friendships are formed over games, tuck shop treats and Bible talks. It is a joy to see school friends reunited and new bonds formed. This space currently thrives thanks to the dedicated help of Sian, Hugh Dunlop and Frixos Kimonis
- **Deeper Impact:** We have maintained the original vision of Deeper being a space to do some solid Bible Study and ask some of the deeper questions (sorry, that time was unintentional). We did a deep dive into spiritual disciplines earlier this year, and it was incredibly fruitful to see the youth realise that walking with God isn't just for Sundays, and that there are multiple ways to walk out this pilgrim journey
- **The Master-Chefs:** A huge shout-out to Dot Stride, Val Smith, Sian Fleetwood, Catherin Tidmarsh, Karin Boyton, Nima Shrestha, Judy Anderson and Catherine Brown, who have all helped with the cooking for Wednesdays

- **The Inbetweeners:** A massive thank you to Eils Osgood, Louise McFerran, Catherine Timmins and Sue Petrie for stepping into the gap during the transition between Ese and myself. You guys are legendary.

Christ's School



I have been blessed with the gift of HTR being connected to Christ's School through their chaplain, Ada Rugg. We've been working together regularly, and I've been in the

school almost every week for *Youth Alpha*. We're seeing about 25 young people asking the big, messy questions of faith. Not to mention the opportunity to talk to the whole school regularly at the Collective Worship assemblies. God's doing some awesome work in the schools and I cannot wait to see what kind of fruit that yields in the next year.

I've also been networking with *Youth for Christ* and other local youth workers. We're building a network of leaders who want to work together to support youth work in greater South London and see this whole area transformed.

Youth Serving Sundays (YSS)

We've kept YSS going once a term, and honestly? The youth have blown me away. They haven't just "helped out"; they've served with a deep vigour. They are active agents in this church and seeing them jump into tasks wholeheartedly is a glimpse of the ways that we are building community within HTR.

Special Events & Trips

While I am still settling into the rhythm of planning trips and everything that comes with it, the summer of 2025 (just before I arrived) was a highlight for many.

- **Summer BBQ:** A huge thank you to Val and Paul Smith for hosting the youth barbecue at their home. It was a fantastic afternoon of food and fellowship that the young people still talk about
- **Worship Evening:** We also saw another powerful Youth Worship Evening in the summer term, continuing the vision of young people leading their peers in adoration of Jesus
- **Youth Weekend Away (YWA):** The young people arrived at the site by van, while some volunteers drove separately and arrived early to set up. The site itself is set within a woodland which is divided into areas for different groups. There are also sports facilities such as an indoor swimming pool and sports hall, all within short walking distance. The accommodation had bedrooms on the ground floor and a small hall and kitchen on the first floor. The bedrooms were fairly basic sleeping groups of four young people in bunk beds.

A typical day involved planned meal times, activities and worship time. The young people helped lead the worship themselves, writing talks and prayers or helping out with the music. Some activities were purely for fun, such as swimming, whilst others involved a faith-based theme such as the prayer walk that I led through the forest where nature-themed passages were read out along the way. The young people really enjoyed toasting marshmallows around the camp fire, which I lit each night.

Unfortunately, we couldn't do the low ropes activity because of safeguarding and first aid reasons and we really needed more volunteers, particularly another man to help out and more people with first aid training. We had the volunteer capacity to split into two groups to supervise two different activities, such as a more sporty activity and a more relaxed activity.

Val Smith did a great job organising the catering and planning of meals each day. If we ran out of anything, the shops were a short drive away.

Overall the young people seemed to really enjoy the weekend away. It was pretty full on for the volunteers and a lot of work, but all the effort was worth it.

Looking Ahead



I'm currently on a mission to double our volunteer base. We have a whole bunch of ideas for ways to make the work we do amongst the youth a lot more effective and we'll need a few more hands to do so. If you want to be part of a team that chases after God's heart and has a bit of a laugh along the way, please come and talk to me.

Once again, God is doing some awesome stuff in and around Richmond and I cannot wait to see where he leads us throughout the next year! Please do keep us in your prayers as we discern this direction and, more importantly, keep our young people in prayer as they navigate faith in the world that is constantly developing around them!

Thank you for all your support!

Devan Fleetwood (Youth Pastor) [Youth Weekend Away written by Robert Wilson]

Children's Ministry

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these" (Matthew 19:14)



Our children's ministry in 2025 was led by the wonderful Sue Jackson, our Children's Pastor at HTR for 22 years. She very much lived this Bible verse in her generous and loving welcome of children. She has built up a wonderful children's ministry where children have felt known and loved by the church and come to know the love Jesus has for them. Sue retired from this role in early 2026 but leaves a wonderful legacy.

Children's Ministry at HTR is a vibrant and energetic part of church life, with Sunday Groups, Glow, special events like the Light Party and, of course, our summer Holiday Club. None of these ministries would be possible without our amazing kids' team who so faithfully give of their time, energy and talents.

Thank you, you are much appreciated!

Sunday Groups

We have three children's groups on a Sunday - Fledglings (ages 0-3), All Together (ages 4-7) and Explorers (ages 8-10), who meet each week to have fun together and discover the love Jesus has for them.

Fledglings - we can have anything between one and five families come along to Fledglings on a Sunday. We meet in the Trinity Room, where parents/carers can stay with their children, whilst the children play with toys set out for them and parents/carers can still participate and watch the service whilst enjoying a coffee/tea. After the sermon, the Fledglings leader takes the families into the Christ Church room for a short group time of singing and a Bible story. The morning always ends with bubbles and a worship song!



All Together - we usually have around 15-20 children come along to All Together each Sunday. We meet in the Hall where the children can enjoy free play, followed by snacks and drinks, a Bible story and game or craft activity. It is wonderful exploring different Bible stories with the children in All Together, hearing their questions and watching them grow in their understanding of God and what it means to be a follower of Jesus.

Explorers - we usually have around 8-10 children come to Explorers each week, and they are such a lovely group of children. We have fun digging into the Bible with them and we learn as much from them as they do from us! It's a joy to spend time with them. More than half of the group are currently in year 6, so it will be a big change for us as they move up to Youth in September (we will miss you!) but we're very much looking forward to welcoming a large group of year 3s from All Together as they move up!

Holy Trinity School



Our church has a wonderful relationship with Holy Trinity School. Every Monday Eils Osgood, Matt Osgood or, until recently, Sue, will go into the school for a collective worship assembly. The children really enjoy this time, particularly when Geoff the puppet comes to visit! The whole school comes to visit the church every term for end of term services and it's lovely to see how comfortable the children are in their church. When the children sing worship songs it is such a beautiful time.

The church craft room at the Christmas and Summer school fairs is always a highlight, and we've really enjoyed getting to know more parents. But my favourite week is when we run Prayer Space at the school. Every child in the school, from nursery right up to year 6, comes to visit the room and pray creatively with our prayer stations. Every year I'm blown away by their prayers and how enthusiastically they engage with it.

While Sue was our Children's Pastor we ran a weekly Bible Club after school which was thoroughly enjoyed by the children, though in her absence this has paused. We look forward to what new ventures we can develop with the school in the future.

Glow!

A graphic with the word "GLOW!" in large, colorful, glowing letters. The letters are in shades of blue, purple, and yellow, and have a soft, ethereal glow around them. The background is dark and slightly blurred.

Glow is the place to be on a Friday night if you're in years 4-6 at school! It happens once a month and often we have more than 60 very excited children coming along! The children enjoy playing games, getting sticky making edible craft, painting their nails, playing on the Wii and, of course, enjoying the mystery bags at the tuck shop! But most importantly they get to discover more about God and enjoy time in a loving church community space. A huge thank you to the team who embrace and enjoy the energy and enthusiasm of the children and are ready to

offer great ideas on ways to tweak and improve what we do each month!

Good Friday Craft Morning and the Light Party



We love to welcome families from our local community to our church and the Good Friday Craft Activity morning and the Light Party on 31 October are always highlights.

Our Good Friday craft activity morning has become a wonderful part of Holy Week at HTR. We welcomed local families, many of whom don't usually come to church, to join in with Holy Week and Easter-

themed crafts and hear just how much Jesus loves them. The edible Easter Garden is always a hit and it's been lovely getting to know local families better.

We had over 100 people come to the Light Party in 2025, where we celebrated the light of Jesus on a night that often has a different focus. Crafts, bouncy castles, glow in the dark biscuit decorating, a delicious dinner and, of course, Geoff the puppet helping us to get to know Jesus better made this a brilliant evening!

Refresh



Refresh is a playgroup provided for mums with babies and pre-school children, in partnership with Riverbank Trust, and runs during term time on Mondays. It's open to the church and local community and offers a safe space for Riverbank Mums and their children.

We start the morning with free play for the children and a brunch, encouraging everyone to sit and eat together. As before, we run an optional Bible Story and singing time towards the end of the morning. It has been wonderful having a Riverbank mum continue serving on team every week, and specifically prepare the brunch and refreshments for everyone.

Refresh has truly become a community event that the mums look forward to each week, with mums commenting on how welcome and included they feel.

Recruitment of a new Children and Families' Pastor



As we look forward to Children's ministry in 2026, we are pleased to announce the recruitment of a new Children and Families' Pastor, Karen Metcalf, who will begin the role in September 2026. Karen comes with loads of experience from her previous roles as a teacher and a church leader, but most importantly she comes with a heart full of love for Jesus and a passion for sharing this with children and families. We're excited to see what God will do in this new season for HTR's children's ministry.

Louise McFerran and Anke Marais

Holiday Club



For Holiday Club 2025 we entered the Wonderzone! Four wonderful days near the end of August were themed around science and creation, and involved some time-travelling Bible characters telling us about all the ways they'd met with God (sadly, none of them wanted a job as Professor Val's Lab

Assistant!) There were also games a-plenty, incredible crafts, lots of songs, truly terrible jokes from Geoff the puppet, quizzes, time to chat about the Bible stories and pray in small groups, and, of course, the infamous Messy Game / Gunge Tank combo that seems to have become a highlight of the year for many local children!



We had over 50 children with us over the course of the week, many of whom wouldn't normally attend HTR, and it was a joy to see many of them come back for a fantastic Holiday Club service on the following Sunday, followed by a BBQ. All this could only take place because of the incredible team who took part in all kinds of ways - leading small groups, helping with tech, preparing crafts, leading games, providing wonderful snacks and refreshments for everyone including the legendary team breakfasts every day, helping with registration... the list is

almost endless, and we couldn't have done it without a whole load of people pitching in and getting involved. Holiday Club 2026 is coming up fast, and we're already planning and preparing for it - all we need now is YOU to join the team! And the good news is that you don't have to get gunged - unless you really want to! If you're interested in playing your part in one of the best events of the year, you can sign up via the link in the Weekly Update, or talk to me, Louise McFerran, Anke Marais or Eils Osgood. It's not only huge fun, it's hugely rewarding as well, and is a fantastic opportunity for us to serve our local community and share God's love with them.



Matt Osgood

Worship and Prayer



Our first and highest calling as Christians is to "Love God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength", and spending time with Him in worship and prayer is a crucial part of expressing our love and devotion. Over the last year we have expanded our song repertoire, including adding a number of new All Age songs, and experimented with ways in which we

can bring together all generations in worship. Other highlights include a fantastic Carols by Candlelight service with an excellent community choir and a wide variety of services and celebrations over Easter - many thanks to everyone who got involved with those events.

Prayer is foundational to all that we do as a church, and our regular Kingdom Come meetings have been a wonderful opportunity to pray for specific ministries, as well as for the wider world and for HTR in general. We have also enjoyed more time and space to not only sing God's praise but to listen to Him speak to us as well. These have been really special times, and I do encourage everyone who considers themselves to be a member of HTR to join us to worship and pray where possible. We also have a weekly online prayer meeting on Tuesday mornings (contact the Church Office if you'd like the link to join) and are looking at other ways in which we can encourage and facilitate prayer across the whole congregation - watch this space!

Prayer ministry is another crucial aspect of our prayer life, and a great way of blessing and encouraging each other. Huge thanks to all those who serve on a regular basis in this way; please do get in touch if you're interested in joining the team (especially men). If you're interested in finding out more about what's involved, then drop me a line.

Our corporate worship and prayer life is supported and facilitated by the many volunteers who give of their time, skills and passion to run AV, play in the band, pray in our services and in many other ways. I am really grateful for all the musicians and tech team members who freely give their time and skills to enable us as a congregation to praise God in song, with particular thanks to Nico Marais and Kate Thornton for all their help and support. We're always looking for new people to join the various worship and prayer teams, so if you have any skills or interest in the above areas please get in touch!

Matt Osgood

All Age Services



We continue to be grateful for the truly multi-generational community that we have at HTR. While it is wonderful to grow as disciples of Jesus in our various age groups on most Sundays, it is a joy to gather all ages together, 3-4 times a term, worshipping and growing in our relationship with Jesus together, as the big family of God. Our All Age services take place around Christmas and Easter, as well as other occasional one-off services, and often involve games, drama, creative prayer activities, interactive elements, multimedia, and occasionally balloons and confetti cannons!

Huge thanks go to the endlessly creative team who have made our All Age services happen throughout the past year - Louise McFerran, William Edwards, Sue Jackson, Matt Osgood and Devan Fleetwood - and of course Geoff the puppet! Thank you also to Paul and Val Smith,



and Mark and Katy Johnston, who have contributed to and enriched our All Age services with their acting talents!

Our hope is always that we are not simply delivering a service for all ages but that all ages are enabled to contribute and serve, equipped to play their part in the life of our church community, and that we will see the fruit of a truly inter-generational church.

Anke Marais

Wednesday service

Our Wednesday service continues to be a small but highly valued community, meeting each week for a quieter service of sung worship, spoken liturgy and a short sermon. Every other week we also share in communion together. The service offers an opportunity for a variety of church members to lead and preach, and we are grateful to every person for their contributions, as well as to Rev'd Jemima Prasadam who offers us unwavering support as a retired priest in presiding at some of our Communion services.

We have taken a few steps to simplify some aspects of this service over the past year - one of which has been to move away from hosting a weekly cooked lunch, which had become very difficult to find enough volunteers who could help to provide this. Time for fellowship before and after the service is still a treasured aspect of this gathering, however, and the chance to spend quality time together over tea or coffee, and excellent snacks remains essential to our community life.



At Christmas we threw simplicity out and enjoyed a fabulous Christmas Lunch with all the trimmings, which Richard Jackson catered for wonderfully. This followed our annual Wednesday Christmas service, which included a visit from Holy Trinity School choir who sang beautifully to us. We saw a great swell in numbers for this event, with plenty of visitors, and it was a great joy to celebrate together.

This service continues to be an important midweek anchor for those who attend, a quieter space to recharge and reconnect with God and with one another. We are grateful for this special community and look forward to continuing our journeying in faith and friendship together.

Eils Osgood

Focus



Trying to describe Focus to those who haven't been there is always a challenge: "Yes, we're camping on a field with 9,000 other people... No, the bathroom facilities aren't what you'd call luxurious... Yes, the youth venue is pretty loud and goes on pretty late... Yes, you can survive on Pot Noodles for a surprisingly long time..." (!!)

None of this discussion of the logistics of Focus comes close to describing the heart of it, which is JOY! It is a JOY to spend time with our brothers and sisters from HTR over early morning still-in-pyjamas coffees and late-night drinks and toasted marshmallows around the fire pit. It is a JOY to worship God together with thousands of other passionate people and to hear extraordinary teaching from the Bible. It is a JOY to realise that God is at work all over our nation, and to hear from churches that ten years ago were a small group of people in a dilapidated building, who have now grown so much that they are planting new churches themselves. It is a JOY to experience all the fun of Focus, whether that's the climbing wall, the Fun Fair, the football tournament (Go Alex!!), the soft play café, the formidable HTR Quiz night, the fantastic kids' work...



If you've never been to Focus before, it's a JOY! We had an amazing time at Focus 2025 and are super excited to be looking forward to this year - it's not too late to book, come and join us if you can! If you want to know more about it then chat to Matt or Eils Osgood.

Focus 2026 is 23-26 July. You can find out more [here](#).

Matt Osgood

Deanery Synod



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. Any church member is welcome to attend Deanery Synod

meetings, which take place three times a year. They include worship, prayer, Holy Communion and a talk.

Our three lay Deanery Synod representatives over the past year have been Susan Armstrong, Cathy Hewett and Holly Morris, all of whom are standing down as Deanery Synod and PCC members at this year's Annual Church Meeting. Synod meetings are chaired by Eils Osgood, who became Area Dean during the past year. We thank Rev Alex Barrow for his service as our previous Area Dean and Paula Brackenridge, who has retired as Secretary. Archdeacon Rev Bridget Shepherd attended the first meeting after Eils was appointed Area Dean and gave her priorities for churches as mission and strategy, and removing things that make being part of a church challenging for people.

Eils explained the purpose of Deanery Synod is to bring to life in the churches the Diocesan vision to be Christ-centred and Outward-focused. Our next step is to build the Deanery Synod Leadership team by appointing a Lay Chair, Deanery Secretary, Assistant Dean, and Children and Youth Champion. We already have an eco-champion who provides updates and leads in that area. We are also looking to replace one of two treasurers after long service.

For mutual learning and encouragement, we heard from Christ Church East Sheen who, with dwindling children and family attendance, seized an opportunity to start 'Messy Church' – Church done differently. This has been a success in identifying and removing barriers to being part of church, and Synod members shared their own experiences of the challenges of removing barriers.

Similarly, for mutual learning and encouragement, Rev Jonathan Hayes gave a presentation on the 40-year long and recently revitalised Diocesan link between the Kingston Episcopal Area and Matabeleland. A video celebrating the link can be viewed [here](#).

Specific issues raised by members over the past year have included

- Highlighting that Southwark Diocese have removed themselves from the social media platform X. An explanatory statement can be read [here](#). Parishes were invited to review their use of the platform and consider following this example
- Christian Climate Action published a document entitled *Stop Crucifying Creation* which calls on the Church of England to exemplify radical and transformative Christian living to protect creation in the face of climate breakdown. The document can be found [here](#).

The deanery website can be found [here](#). It gives details of past and future local events, many of which are advertised in our Weekly Update.

Susan Armstrong

Fair Trade Stall



Many thanks to everyone for continuing to support our Fair Trade Stall. Although Traidcraft had to cease trading in January 2023, other organisations have continued their work. We can buy fairly traded goods from [Ethical Superstore](#), [The Meaningful Chocolate Company](#), [We Are Fair Trade](#), [Fair2All](#), [True Origin](#) and some other companies. We also regularly receive information from [Transform Trade](#), the current name for the charity formerly known as Traidcraft Exchange, which supported Traidcraft's work and is continuing to support farmers and artisans to be able to work in a Fair Trade environment. Transform Trade also produce greeting cards for many occasions which we are able to buy at £1 each. They have recently produced new birthday cards which we now have at the Stall – do take a look.

We were able to celebrate Easter recently with the Real Easter Eggs from [The Meaningful Chocolate Company](#), which each have a booklet with the Easter story, and several organisations produced Easter cards. We have just received a new delivery of Divine Chocolate bars with some new flavours – these are good value at £2.70 for a big chocolate bar.

This past year we have ordered £1,674 from several Fair Trade organisations, and we have received £1629 in payment for goods bought at the stall, plus we have a float of change in our Honesty box. Payment can be made in cash at the Honesty Box on the stall, or by a payment card machine on Sundays and at other Church events.

Thank you again for your support.

Rosalind Ambrose

Riverbank Trust



Riverbank supports and equips vulnerable single Mums through long term emotional and practical support in partnership with the church community. This year Riverbank saw an increase in referrals and is now serving 137 vulnerable families in the London Borough of Richmond.

With the support of Holy Trinity Church Riverbank continues to grow and cement the work of its Hubs in Ham, Whitton, Hampton Wick and Richmond. This has increased Riverbank's capacity to support families struggling across Richmond and beyond. 80% of Riverbank families live in poverty, with many experiencing homelessness and domestic abuse. Riverbank has seen a rise in homelessness throughout the year due to an increase in Section 21 'no fault eviction', leading to a number of

families living in temporary accommodation. Riverbank has looked to support families in this process, offering small grants for moving costs and white goods as well as emotional support and community groups. In addition to this, Riverbank also partnered with Richmond Housing Partnership to offer drop-in sessions at Riverbank community groups for those facing housing issues.



Over the last year HTR support and encouragement has enabled the charity to continue growing. Riverbank has been able to host Christmas and Easter gatherings at Holy Trinity Church with volunteers to show and tell of the love of Jesus. This year we have seen even more of our families start to attend services and groups at HTR. The Riverbank team have been able to share their testimony at events and have had open conversations about faith.

HTR is an important church for vulnerable families in the community and its impact goes further than the location it is in. It is known as a welcoming church for all those in need. We are grateful for the support and prayer for Riverbank and the families we serve. We know they are also grateful for the support the church gives through Riverbank and see that Jesus is different to anything the world offers. Next year we look forward to starting our Hounslow Borough Hub, supported through connections with Holy Trinity. Thank you for all the support you give Riverbank and the families we serve. We value the relationship we have with HTR. Thank you again!

Laura Lowther (CEO, Riverbank Trust)

Kick



Thank you for continuing to host our office base at HTR and for being on mission with us, for which we're very grateful. [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. We are committed to seeing young people experience a

hope for the future and joy in the present.

Thank you for your faithful prayers. Started in 2003 by Tom Rutter, a member of HTR, KICK has grown nationally rapidly, now engaging over 31,000 young people a week across over 100 schools and 30 church-based KICK Academies in 8 regions of the UK. In particular, we provide chaplaincy and coaching to Holy Trinity Richmond Primary School, where we have worked for over 20 years.

A story which encouraged us recently concerns a local young person of Asian heritage who was facing a really challenging time and being bullied. Teachers struggled with him. KICK mentoring and coaching sessions were the motivation for him to be in school. Now he has started going to church

and has found faith. He told us that KICK has helped him have purpose in life and get through Secondary School.

May God bless you.

Joe Lowther (CEO, KICK)

LVA Trust



Over the past year, [LVA Trust](#) has continued to deliver focused, relational work with young people, families and schools. We are sincerely grateful to HTR for your ongoing support of our ministry. Since last May, we have worked in 20+ schools across four London Boroughs, delivering 150+ RSHE workshops to over 4,500 young people from Year 7 to Year 13, addressing emotional well-being, self-esteem, body positivity, healthy relationships, consent and coercion, online behaviour, and reproductive and sexual health.

Schools continue to request repeat provision, valuing our safe, honest, and age-appropriate approach.

Alongside classroom delivery, we have continued to expand our mentoring work in response to increasing need. Over the year, we have delivered 400+ Therapeutic Mentoring Programme and reactive mentoring sessions, offering one-to-one spaces where students can be heard, supported, and helped to build resilience and confidence. This work has been described by schools as an essential layer of pastoral support. This year, 12 volunteer mentors were trained and supported, alongside ongoing safeguarding and trauma-informed professional development.

We have also delivered two Parent Village courses, equipping parents to support their children through the teenage years, particularly around emotional well-being and the online world, while building supportive community connections.

As we mark ten years of LVA Trust, we remain deeply thankful for HTR's partnership, which enables this work to continue.

We ask for continued wisdom, provision and protection as we support young people to know they are loved, valued and able.

Kayleigh Butler (CEO, LVA Trust)

Karis Kids



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 in the slums of Kampala 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.

Holy Trinity is currently supporting 26 families in Kampala involving around 50 current or past HT families. Last year, Karin Boyton completely updated our sponsors list, and we are very grateful to her for the time she has given to do this. We filled most of our vacancies and Holy Trinity School took on the sponsorship of a brand-new family. There is always room to expand, however, and if you are interested in being part of this mission and supporting a family, please speak to me at church or [email me](#). Currently we are working towards an update for all our families so that we can understand where they stand, and which families are on the path to finishing well. We are working closely with the team in Uganda to achieve this and will report back when the work is complete.

This year is once again Summer Camp year in Kampala. Owing to circumstances we are unable to send a team from the UK on this occasion. Instead, we hope to organise a visit to Wandegeya next year to visit St Peter's and our families in the slums. We are sad to have said goodbye to Reverend Moses, who has been moved on by the Diocese, but are excited to work with Reverend Esther, his replacement. We look forward to meeting her sometime soon.

The Ugandan team is currently dealing with some challenges, with Ketra having had to take a back seat for a while and Solome stepping up. We continue to be supported in our work with Karis this year by Will Law, who is getting married next month, and we pray for him in this exciting new chapter in his life. We are very glad that Wendy Alyss has revived her role as prayer co-ordinator. Julie and Nick Winning are retiring as Directors and Karis is currently seeking replacements for them.

We will continue to work with the teams in Uganda and in this country, and we are excited about a trip next year.

Mandie Lambert

Holy Trinity School



It continues to be a great joy and privilege to have a wonderful relationship with Holy Trinity School, and the shared sense of our both adding real value to the other. Andy George has been in post as headteacher for almost 18 months and has been keen to build on that reciprocal relationship for which we are very grateful.

I continue to be co-chair of Governors, alongside Francis Neil who worships at St Mary's, Mortlake. In September 2025 we said a big thank you to Dave Petrie who stepped down as a foundation governor after seven years of wonderful service to the school, latterly chairing our resources committee. I am grateful to Nico Marais who represents HTR on our board of governors and it is good to have representation from other local churches as well, although we would always welcome a few more from our own church – do let me know if you would be interested in finding out more about this interesting and varied role.

This time last year we had just had our Ofsted Inspection, and were delighted with our results which were either good or outstanding in all categories. The inspectors praised our early years provision in particular, and noted the caring environment and rich experiences that children receive at HT, where both academic and pastoral support are prioritised. We are hugely grateful to all the wonderful staff at the school who pour so much into their work and enable our school community to be all that it is.

We made the hard decision this year to move to being one-form entry in reception next year; a falling birth rate across Richmond Borough is affecting many schools locally, including ours, and this was a necessary move in order to remain financially sustainable. Funding for education remains tight but we are committed to managing our resources with both prudence and creativity. Our priority remains ensuring that these necessary structural changes do not diminish the outstanding quality of our provision, but rather provide a stable foundation from which the whole school community can continue to thrive for years to come.

Preparations are now well underway for our SIAMS inspection (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools) which is due in the next couple of years. Our Vision remains that 'children at HT are nurtured to love learning, love one another and love God' – we want to provide a space where they can flourish academically, socially and spiritually. We have recently changed our school Bible verse to 'Jesus said, "I have come that you might have life, life in all its fullness"' (John 10:10) which we feel sums up our vision well, and it has been so good to see the children exploring this wonderful invitation. As a church, we particularly seek to invest in the spiritual life of the school, which is seen through church staff leading Collective Worship every Monday, end of term services held at the church, our annual Prayer Space week, the church stand at Christmas and Summer school fairs and various other activities and events. It is wonderful to be working closely with Mandie Lambert on all of this, who now leads on RE and Collective Worship at the school, and I'm also grateful to Louise McFerran for her input into the Faith Group (a sub-committee of the governing body), and to all the church staff and volunteers who support us in so many different ways. We hope that in due course the inspectors will see the rich impact of the deeply embedded Christian vision and values that are the heartbeat of our school. Thank you for your continued prayers for the whole school community.

Eils Osgood

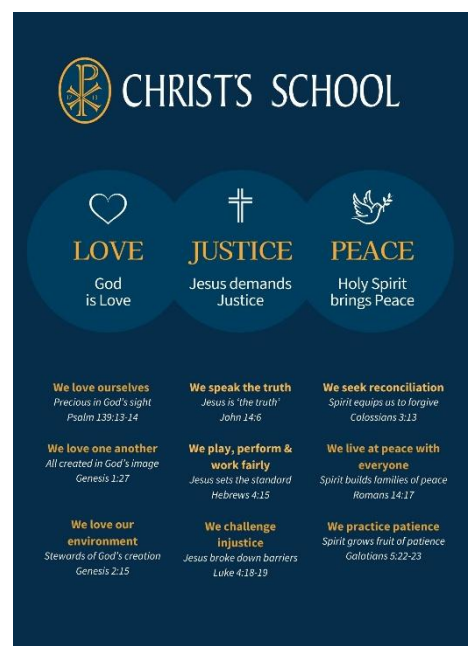
Christ's School



It is a great joy for us to continue serving as governors at Christ's School. We are both deeply encouraged by the life of the school, the dedication of its staff, and the way it serves its community. Katy has been asked to take on the role of Chair

of Governors and is looking forward to working closely with Headteacher Helen Dixon and the leadership team in the years ahead.

This year the school welcomed a new Chaplain, who has brought fresh energy and vision to the spiritual life of the school. The Chapel has quickly become a lively, welcoming hub. Chapel Chat at lunchtime regularly draws over 20 students for fellowship, games and friendship-building, creating a vital safe space, especially for younger pupils. The Christian Union groups (*The Way*) are thriving, with three weekly meetings, including a growing after-school discipleship group now numbering 12 students as they study the Gospel of Mark. Youth Alpha on Wednesdays consistently fills the room with around 25 students exploring deeper questions of faith. The Chaplain also offers regular one-to-one support to about 15 students and is available throughout the day for on-the-spot pastoral care. Strong links continue with local churches, including valuable partnership with HTR as Devan Fleetwood supports Youth Alpha weekly, and Eil Osgood led the Year 10 Easter service. Prayer stations, staff prayer times and a full programme of Easter services have helped the whole community pause and reflect during Lent. We give thanks for this vibrant chaplaincy that supports students and staff in their faith journey.



In February 2026 the school underwent a full Ofsted inspection. We are delighted with the overwhelmingly positive outcome. Safeguarding standards were fully met, with inspectors noting an open and positive culture in which safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. Strong standards were highlighted in achievement (with GCSE English and maths results and Attainment 8 scores well above national averages), curriculum and teaching, inclusion, leadership and governance, personal development and wellbeing, and post-16 provision. Pupils progress very well, behave respectfully in a calm and orderly environment, and are well prepared for their next steps. Attendance is a continued area of focus, particularly for disadvantaged pupils, and leaders are already strengthening work in this area. Overall the report affirms that Christ's continues to provide an excellent education where pupils flourish academically, socially and spiritually under Helen Dixon's dedicated leadership.

In late January we were saddened to learn that our Deputy Headteacher, Matt Morris, had suffered a stroke and is currently receiving medical care in hospital. Matt has been a central and much-valued

member of the Christ's community for many years. As a school family we have come together to support Matt and his family with our prayers and best wishes, and we continue to pray for his full recovery. In the meantime, Djamal Sedour has stepped in as Acting Designated Safeguarding Lead.

We are grateful for all that God is doing at Christ's School and wish the staff, students, governors and the new chaplain every blessing and success in the year ahead.

Katy Johnson (Chair of Governors) **and Sean Morris**

Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) held on 11 May 2025

The 2025 APCM took place within the 10.00 Morning Service on Sunday 11 May 2025. The Service included worship, prayer, a reading and talk as usual, as well as the business items necessary as part of an APCM.

Eils Osgood (EO) explained that the APCM is 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, whereas voting on the appointment of PCC and Deanery Synod members is restricted to those on our Electoral Roll.

Election of Churchwardens by parishioners

1. **Minutes of the 2024 meeting** - Approval was proposed by David Ewart, seconded by Graham Bamping and agreed by the meeting.
2. **Election of Churchwardens** - Two nominations had been received for the role of Warden for the coming year:
 - Louise McFerran (LMcF), proposed by Catherine Whillans and seconded by Catherine Brown
 - Keith Nurse (KN), proposed by Nico Marais and seconded by Karin Boyton.

EO expressed her thanks to both LMcF and KN for being prepared to step forward into this role. With two nominations for two vacancies, they were duly elected.

EO expressed her huge thanks to James Thornton for serving as a Warden for the last four years and for the time and commitment he'd given to the role. James shared some reflections on his time in the role, what he felt he had learned through it and how he had been blessed by seeing God at work. He said that he continues to be excited by what he senses God has in store for us.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

1. **Apologies for absence** – Apologies were received from Lisa Davidson, Hazel Dunlop, Hugh Dunlop and Elizabeth Lek.
2. **Minutes of the 2024 Annual Meeting** – Approval was proposed by David Ewart, seconded by Mark Lambert and agreed by the meeting.
3. **Electoral Roll** – Eils Osgood (EO) explained that the Roll is the closest thing we have to church membership and is revised each year. Every six years there is a complete revision, with existing members also needing to apply to rejoin, and 2025 was one such year. Our previous Roll had 127 members, and this year's has 117 members, 33 of whom live in the parish while 84 live outside it. While this shows a decrease from 2024, a fall in numbers is typical in years with a complete revision, and it is encouraging that the reduction is only small. EO asked people to consider joining the Roll if they have been baptised, and if they either live in the parish or have been worshipping here for six months or more; they can join at any time in the year.
4. **Treasurer's Report** – David Ewart (DE) presented a series of charts that summarised both our income and expenditure in 2024 under a number of key headings, and our budget for the current year. In presenting the figures, he explained the following:
 - we are able to both do so much as a church and provide financial support to other charities primarily because of the generous and committed giving of church members, for which we are very grateful
 - we set a 2024 budget with a deficit of around £25,000 but were roughly breaking even as we approached the end of the year. However, a legacy and a generous grant from Richmond Church Charity Estates late in the year led to a surplus of around £22,000
 - while the amount we spend on staffing may seem high, it reflects both the breadth of our ministry and mission, and the challenge of finding volunteers to lead and serve
 - we have set a 2025 budget with a deficit of around £31,000. However, the generous response to Giving Sunday earlier this year, in terms of both regular and one-off giving, suggests we could be close to breaking even by the end of the year.
 - Receipt of the independently examined 2024 Accounts was proposed by DE, seconded by Holly Morris and agreed by the meeting
 - Appointment of John Helm as our Independent Examiner was proposed by Mark Lambert, seconded by Thelma Pritchard and agreed by the meeting.

DE explained that he is supported in his work as Treasurer by a number of people, and expressed thanks to Thelma Pritchard, KN, Rebecca Reynolds and Liz Morris for all they do in their various roles. He also thanked God for the financial health and generosity of our church. EO acknowledged and thanked DE for the huge level of input he makes to planning and managing our finances.

5. **Election of PCC members** – EO explained that this year we have three vacancies for people to serve a three-year term as trustees of the church. She thanked Joy Toledo-Hardy, who is stepping down this year and has now moved away from the local area.

There had been three nominations in advance of the meeting and EO invited any further nominations. As no-one responded, the nominations were:

- Lisa Davidson, proposed by Alison Morin and seconded by Matt Osgood
- Mark Lambert, proposed by Thelma Pritchard and seconded by Regina Gössel
- Matthew Lambert, proposed by David Ewart and seconded by Craig Brown.

As there were three vacancies and three nominees, they were duly elected.

6. **Election of a Deanery Synod member** – EO explained what Deaneries are, what they do and how they fit within Church of England structures. We are part of Richmond and Barnes Deanery.

EO further explained that we have a one-year vacancy on Deanery Synod as a result of Sue Reed stepping down. She thanked Sue for her many years of faithful service in this role. Holly Morris is willing to fill the vacancy, and had been proposed by Louise McFerran and seconded by David Ewart. She was duly elected.

7. **Any other business** – EO explained that the meeting should formally receive the Book of Reports that accompanied the paperwork for the meeting, as they contain, among other things, reports on our fabric and finances. The Book continues to be available on our church website. She said that it is packed full of exciting stories of what God is doing in and through our church, and demonstrated how we are working together to serve Jesus and our wider community.

Receipt of the Book of Reports was proposed by Keith Nurse, seconded by Mark Lambert and agreed by the meeting.

There was no further business.

Although not a formal part of the meeting, a brief summary of EO's talk on vision is provided here.

EO reminded those present that, earlier in the year, we had spent some Sunday Services looking at the life of Nehemiah and what it means for us to build God's kingdom here. She referred back to Nehemiah 1, and the importance of prayer, and to Nehemiah 2, and the importance of knowing where we're going, being intentional about where God is leading us and having a clear strategy.

She also said that the PCC had tasked her with leading on the development of a longer-term vision and strategy for our church. Over the last term she has been reflecting on this, with input from the staff team and PCC, and drawing on the considerable work that Dan Wells had initiated towards the end of 2023. This had led to the following:

- Our purpose (why we exist) – summarised as Encounter Jesus, Build Community and Seek Transformation
- Our vision (where we are heading) – to be a vibrant, growing church at the heart of our local community, where every person has the opportunity to encounter Jesus, to find a home in a loving church community, to know God’s transforming work in their own life, and be part of his transforming work in the world
- Our strategy (how we get there) – a number of specific initiatives, facilitated and underpinned by work to renew our building and redevelop our operational structures.

She read Ephesians 3:14–21, which she said is an invitation to us to step into all God has for us. She quoted a variety of secular and Christian sources that have recently highlighted dramatic increases in church attendance, especially among young people, and a fresh openness to coming to church, reading the Bible and the reality of prayer. She had had very recent personal experience of God changing lives dramatically and people being open to the Gospel and encouraged those present to be bold and seize the opportunities God is placing before us.

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