

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Please join us for our Easter celebrations this year

Maundy Thursday - 13 April - 20.00
Supper, Communion and Worship

Maundy Thursday - 13 April - 22.00
Watch and Pray (until 07.00 Friday)

Good Friday - 14 April - 10.00
Walk of Witness from Whittaker Avenue

Good Friday - 14 April - 11.00
Informal Service for all ages

Good Friday - 14 April - 14.00
7 words from the Cross; listen, reflect and pray

Easter Sunday - 16 April - 10.00 and 18.30
Alleluia - Jesus is risen!

Look out for the following later in 2017

Friday 21 - Sunday 23 April
Men's Weekend Away

Sunday 30 April - 10.00
Annual Church Meeting

Saturday 20 May
Women's breakfast

Sunday 11 June
Picnic after the Morning Service

Sunday 18 June
Gift Day

Saturday 24 June
Men's Breakfast

Saturday 24 June
Riverbank Trust Charity Concert

Sunday 9 July
Barbecue after the Morning Service

VERSES TO LIVE BY

'For I know the plans I have for you', declares the Lord, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.'
(Jeremiah 29:11)

This verse was prayed over me when I first became a Christian and continues to give me encouragement and reassurance throughout life's ups and downs. It speaks of God's Promise and the Hope we have in Jesus. No matter what doubts we may have about ourselves, God has a good plan for all who trust in him and seek his guidance.

Karen Block

THE LAST WORD FROM TREVOR



An anchor for the soul

The mission statement for Holy Trinity Church is 'A church with an open door.' Jesus, God's son, is our open door; he is an open door to God and our open door to heaven. When Jesus rose from the dead he proved that the way to God was open; death, the consequence of human sin, was defeated! Hope was born!

Now this is not a "I hope I will meet God" sort of hope, but a "I know I will meet God" sort of hope. How can this be? Because Jesus died and rose again. The moment I turn to follow him he will come to me by His Holy Spirit and make himself known to me!

In the Bible the writer to the Hebrews describes this hope as **an anchor for the soul, firm and secure**. Anchors hold incredibly large boats very secure. I remember being very impressed by the size of an anchor in the Thames once when the tide was low. Christian hope always holds firm through the storms that life throws at us.

Also in the Bible, the apostle Paul says that this hope will **not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love by His Holy Spirit whom he has given us**. The message for each of us this Easter is that we can know God's love for certain because he is with us. Jesus is alive today, he is our way to God our Father and he gives us unshakeable hope.

THY KINGDOM COME



In 2016 the Archbishops of Canterbury and York invited parishes across England to join a great wave of prayer between Ascension and Pentecost. This year they are joining with the Presidents of Churches Together in England to make the call to churches across all denominations in England and beyond.

So between 25 May and 4 June communities and churches around the world will be gathering to pray that their friends, families and neighbours will come to know Jesus. A huge range of events will take place across the ten days, including 24-7 prayer rooms, prayer days, prayer walks and half nights of prayer. The hope is that people will pray individually, in families and together as churches. Watch out for more news about this in the weeks ahead, or go to www.thykingdomcome.global

WELCOME TO HTR

How about joining us this Easter? Or if you're away, come along to any Sunday Service. If you're free on a Wednesday, why not try our Morning Service and stay for lunch afterwards? And we have lots of other regular and special events that you can find details of on our website - we'd love to have you with us!

Call us on 020 8404 1112 or go to www.htrichmond.org.uk



@church_htr



HTR - Holy Trinity Richmond

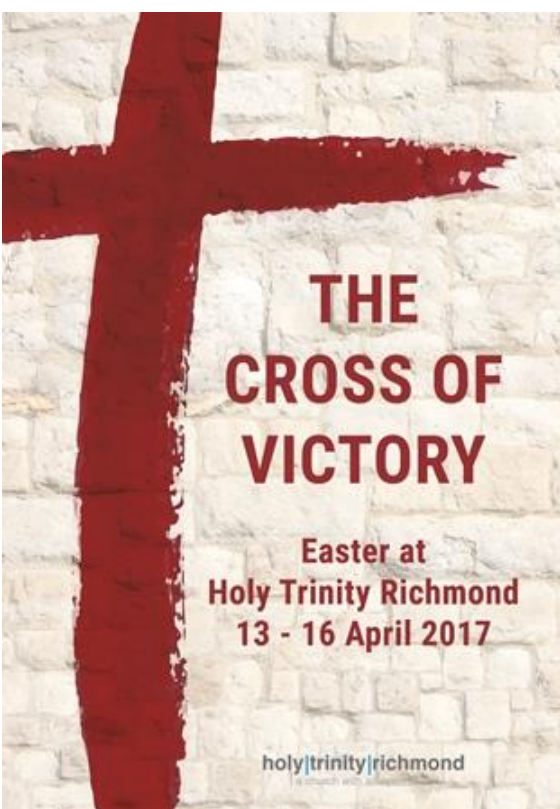
holy|trinity|richmond
a church with an open door

Sunday Services - 10.00 and 18.30
Wednesday Service - 11.30

CORNERSTONE

Edition 11 - Easter 2017

Sheen Park, Richmond, TW9 1UP | 020 8404 1112 | office@htrichmond.org.uk | Vicar - Rev. Trevor Patterson



See more details on the back page

LONDON CALLING



Trevor, our Vicar, has a place in this year's London Marathon! He writes "I am running for the wonderful Open Doors UK. Open Doors is an international charity serving persecuted Christians and churches worldwide. They supply Bibles, leadership training, literacy

programmes, livelihood support and advocacy services to Christians under pressure across the world." You can sponsor him by going to uk.virginmoneygiving.com/trevor or by signing a list at church.

RAISING THE ROOF

Back in January HTR hosted a wonderful concert in support of our forthcoming Building Project. Soprano Regina Gössel, one of our church members, was joined by singers Anna Huntley and Lucinda Scott and pianist Joseph Middleton for an evening of classical music featuring a mixture of well-known and less familiar works by composers including Schubert, Puccini, Mozart and Handel.



It was a privilege to enjoy such high quality singing and musicianship, with the performers helping the audience along the way by explaining the background to many of the pieces, and the humour that we may otherwise have been missed. The evening raised over £1,100!

FOCUS 2017



Last summer we shared another brilliant week away with Holy Trinity Brompton and churches linked with them. We plan to join in again this year, on the Somerley Estate in the New Forest, where you can camp, stay in a

caravan or go for one of the luxury accommodation options! Lots of people have already booked, and if you'd like to join them, find out more and book at htb.org/focus

FOOD FOR THOUGHT



At the end of March around thirty men met for a hearty full-cooked Saturday morning breakfast and an opportunity to listen to Oz Alashe, a former soldier and Commanding Officer

in the Parachute Regiment. Oz is a veteran of several tours in Afghanistan and also served as a Squadron Commander in Special Forces. He spoke about army training being built around the idea of *Serve to Lead*, which was very much the example of Jesus. While feelings of inadequacy and fear of failure can be a very real part of an army role, God is gracious and so much bigger than our mistakes; he can take the little we feel we have to offer and do great things with it. A lesson for all of us and for all of life!



Breakfasts like this are a great opportunity to spend time with friends, make new ones and be inspired and challenged. So join us when we meeting again on 24 June.

SUNDAY STROLLING

A few Sundays ago a group of sixteen (and Basil the dog!) met after the Morning Service to explore part of central London by walking from Hampstead to Oxford Circus via Primrose Hill. The weather was somewhat mixed, with wind, driving rain and hail(!), but also bright sunshine at times and a lovely double rainbow over Regent's Park.



Gentle walking, enjoyable company and a determination to arrange another outing, which we've already set up! Join us if you can on 14 May to walk from St James's Park to Camden along part of the Jubilee Greenway. Look out for more details in the Church Bulletin.

HOW'S IT GOING?

Georges Kesrouani, our Youth and Children's Minister, has been with us now for six months. Find out here how he's been getting on ...



You had quite an eventful start with us! - I did indeed! After moving all of my things across the Thames, ready to go, I ended up having to move a load of them back again (well, my parents did!) when I broke my collar bone less than two months into my job! I was cycling along the towpath near Kew on a rainy Sunday when my wheel ended up slipping on the wet ground and I went shoulder first into a lovely wall. I needed surgery, and am now a bit of a cyborg, but the worst bit is that I had to take a couple of months off to recover.

So how's the shoulder now? - Much better thank you! The consultant told me to expect not to be discharged for six months from the orthopaedic clinic and up to a year from the physiotherapy team. However after my last x-ray eight weeks after the operation, I was discharged from both! Loads of you have been praying for me, including young people and children, and I give all the glory to God. Connor Patterson and a load of youth prayed for me at the Carol Service last Christmas, and I instantly gained 45 degrees in movement. It's all been uphill from there.

What's surprised you most so far? - I thought I was taking a lovely job in Richmond where all the lovely young people would be much better behaved than the rascals of Ealing, and alas, how wrong was I! The truth is that, all the social media spamming aside, loads of the young people I have been working with are chasing after God, and this has been both joyful and surprising. I had anticipated potentially years of laying foundations before being able to get to the meaty stuff, but God has been moving among them. I had thought breaking my collar bone and being off for two months was going to be a huge setback, but it wasn't at all. God repays what is lost, always!

And what's encouraged you most? - Our youth weekend away absolutely blew my mind. When I returned to work, I almost cancelled it. It just seemed too difficult to convince a good number of people to get booked on, and I had fallen so far behind in its organisation that I just couldn't see it happening. It not only happened, but God came with a vengeance (for the collarbone, that is!). By the Saturday evening, we might as well have been at Pentecost itself. There was such a powerful move of the Holy Spirit among the young people. We had Year 7's prophesying, people weeping, people dancing, and lives immeasurably changed, and it was only the beginning!

What are some of your hopes for the coming months? - To allow God to keep doing what he's doing. Aslan is on the move, and nothing can stop him. We just remain faithful, pray, and build community together. He does the rest. I want to see more of our young people being released into ministry, and we are specifically working around that as a primary objective. My biggest hope however is that the people of HTR will get excited and partner with us in this harvest! We are always looking for fun-loving, wise people to join us in our ministry to teenagers!

COOKING UP A STORM

Every Sunday churches across the Borough take turns to cook and serve a meal for people who are homeless, lonely and vulnerable. On Mothering Sunday we welcomed 24 guests to the Vineyard Lunch, many of whom have become regular faces over the years.



An enthusiastic team, under the watchful eye of Karin Boyton, helped to prepare a meal, set up a space to eat, serve, chat to guests and clear up afterwards. We host twice a year, and if you'd like to be part of the serving team then speak to Karin or contact her via karinboyton@hotmail.co.uk

BLESSINGS FROM KARIS



Our link with families in Kampala through Karis Kids has been a blessing not only to them but to us too. The group from our church who visited Uganda at the end of last year came back with generous gifts made by one of the older lads in a family we support, which have certainly brightened up the lives of three gentlemen in our congregation!



FRIENDS BECOME FAMILY ON THE RIVERBANK



It's become something of a tradition for us to spend Mothering Sunday each year hearing about and celebrating the work of Riverbank Trust as it seeks to love, support and befriend local single mums and their families. Amazingly Riverbank is now seven years old, and during this time has had a huge impact in our local schools and community. Ellie Hughes, who leads the Trust, spoke at our Morning and Evening Services, and told us stories of how people are finding a new sense of hope and belonging as Riverbank reaches out to them, sits with them in their pain and brokenness, and shows something of the compassion of Jesus.

Ellie spoke powerfully about the Bible story of Ruth, a woman who became a widow while still young and whose family faced poverty. She explained how a man named Boaz recognised Ruth's vulnerability and need for protection and, moved with compassion, did something very practical about it. Ellie challenged us all to reach out with this sort of compassion, whether by serving through Riverbank or in life generally. The story of Ruth is a reminder that costly love transforms families, brings blessing to the community and can change eternal history.



Riverbank is currently looking at how it might work with refugees and reach out to single dads. Pray for the Trust as it explores these possible new avenues and builds on its existing work. And consider whether you might have a part to play in it!

A GREAT DAY TOGETHER!



On the first Saturday of February we spent a day at church eating, worshipping, praying, learning and having fun! We began the day with bacon rolls and lively conversation before a morning of teaching for the adults and special activities for the children.

John Valentine, Rector of St George's Church Holborn, led two morning sessions on our calling, reminding us of what God has called

each of us to be and do and challenging us to discover and live out the particular calling God has for each of us. Special thanks to friends from Holy Trinity Barnes who helped lead the children's group.

The evening saw much rivalry and laughter as Colin Burrows led us through one of his legendary quizzes, which once again revealed both embarrassing gaps in knowledge and an ability to remember useless facts! All in all a great day of learning and encouragement.