

Home for Christmas

How are your preparations for Christmas going? There is often far too much to do in the run up to the festive season. It may be known as 'the most wonderful time of the year' but it can easily be the busiest time of the year too! There

are presents to buy and wrap, food to prepare, decorations to put up, and guests to prepare for. Christmas is often a time for having guests to come and stay. Perhaps you have family descending on you on Christmas Eve, or friends coming to stay for a festive celebration. Or maybe you are going to be a guest in someone else's house for the Christmas season. It can be hard work getting ready for guests to arrive and we may be concerned not to be a burden to others

There is often far too much to do in the run up to the festive season. It may be known as 'the most wonderful time of the year' but it can easily be the busiest time of the year too!

Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us' (John 1:14). God comes to us in human form in the person of Jesus. He enters our world and enters our home. He comes not to be a burden to us, but to lift the burdens from our shoulders.

One of the ironies of the Christmas

if we are guests ourselves. Receiving guests is an important theme of the Christmas story. One of the most famous Bible passages, read at many carol services, is the opening passage of John's Gospel. There we are told that 'the

One of the ironies of the Christmas story, then, is that Jesus finds no home for him to be born into!

story, then, is that Jesus finds no home for him to be born into! Mary and Joseph on their journey to Bethlehem find 'no room in the inn'. God comes to visit us, and the only place he finds is an animal's feeding trough, full of rough straw. God comes to us in Jesus, but will he find a welcome into our homes and into our lives at Christmas? I hope you enjoy having guests, or being a guest, this Christmas time. And we would love you to be our guest at one of our many Christmas Services. You can find all the information about

the various events on the back page and you would be very warmly welcome to any of them. We would love to make you feel at home as we think about the

Christmas truth of God coming to make his home with us.

Rev Dan Wells



Fair Trade! Concept accomplished

'Fair Trade'. Now a familiar concept, but back in 1979 when several Christians wanted to show God's love and justice to those trying to make a living in the Third World, Fair Trade was not known. Traidcraft was set up as a Company, to help people to sell their work in a way

that was just, so that they were paid fairly. It was not Aid, but payment for work produced.

Traidcraft has worked to make Fair Trade accepted, and it has worked with small organisations which cannot produce enough for supermarkets, to help those most in need. Items are mainly sold through stalls held in churches and schools, using catalogues, and now with an on-line shop which everyone can access.

However, in September this year the directors of Traidcraft plc announced that Traidcraft would cease trading on 31 December 2018 as it has been running at a loss for several years. But a subsequent consultation happily led to a decision to continue Traidcraft plc as a 'slimmed down' version in 2019. With established core grocery lines, fewer craft lines, and working with communities to buy co-operatively and in bulk to reduce packaging, it will also offer discounts through a membership scheme.

Traidcraft has some wonderful crafts and food items this autumn which it has

already purchased from the producers. Please look to see if you would like to buy anything from our stall which is set up every Sunday morning until 16 December. It would be a huge support to the staff and producers if Traidcraft can have its best autumn trading ever.

Now a familiar concept, but back in 1979 when several Christians wanted to show God's love and justice to those trying to make a living in the Third World, Fair Trade was not known.



TRAIDCRAFT
Fighting poverty through trade

Please pray for the producers who are facing the loss of jobs with an organisation for whom many of them have produced items for some years. Also for the staff at Traidcraft office, who have been with Traidcraft for many years, and who are now facing redundancy in an area of the UK where there is serious unemployment.

Only 12 staff posts at Traidcraft office in Gateshead will continue, compared with 67 jobs currently.

The linked charity Traidcraft Exchange is continuing. Both it and Traidcraft plc are working with as many producers as possible to help them with the change. If anyone would like to go to visit the producers and see how they work and what they produce, there are wonderful 'Meet the People' Tours organised through Saddle Skedaddle who have been working with Traidcraft for over 10 years. I have been on several of these holidays and they are wonderful.

Rosalind Ambrose

Dads & Kids, this way



Who Let The Dads Out? (WLTD) is now in its fourth year. Where does the time go? The play event for Dads and kids takes place on the second Saturday of each month. WLTD is designed to be FUN! We have an enormous bouncy slide, play cars, craft, train tables and much more. Dads get to enjoy unlimited coffee, (limited) bacon sandwiches and newspapers, whilst getting to spend some quality time with their children. With many Dads having to spend long hours away from their families at work, we believe passionately that there is no substitute for spending quality time together as a family.

We believe passionately that there is no substitute for spending quality time together as a family.

Why no mums? Well, we also recognise that mums need a break. It's amazing how half a day of peace and quiet can restore someone! Furthermore, some men lack confidence as parents and can find the presence of other mums a bit intimidating at times. We therefore like to create a safe space for Dads to take the reins and spend time with their children. WLTD has been a great success. We've had nearly 100 dads from the local community through the door since launching. But perhaps the best judges are the children themselves; there's nothing better than seeing them arrive running through the doors with unbridled excitement, and leaving content and tired in Dad's arms!

James Thornton



Life, Faith, and Meaning at HTR

We're currently coming towards the end of our 10-week Alpha course at Holy Trinity Richmond. We usually run the Alpha course at least once a year and together each week we share an evening meal, listen to a 30-minute talk/film as we walk through the basics of the Christian faith in a way that everyone can relate to. Alpha courses are open to our families,

They provide a safe place for folk to ask absolutely any questions they wish to.

friends, neighbours and work colleagues with the idea being that they provide a safe place for folk to ask absolutely any questions they wish to regarding the Christian faith and can say what they think. It's low key, unpressurised and great fun. We're always a varied group of all ages and I never cease to be amazed at how many longstanding friendships are

formed each time we run the course, when at the start of the course folk often don't know each other that well. I'm really enjoying helping run the course as it's been a few years since I last attended. I've also been impressed with the quality of the updated material that's relevant to today. There's no pressure, no follow up and no charge. Please do say if you'd be interested in coming to Alpha; you'd be most welcome to join us.

Roger Marx



New waters on the Riverbank

Riverbank is a registered charity bringing hope to families living in Richmond who are in need of support. But it is much more than that. Riverbank is a vision that our Founding Director, Ellie Hughes, shared with leaders at Holy Trinity Richmond eight years ago - a vision of

Riverbank is a family of faithful staff, volunteers, trustees and the church, coming alongside the vulnerable

what unconditional, loving Christian community wrapped around these families might look like. As Ellie stepped down as Riverbank's Director in November and becomes a trustee,

we welcome Michelle Rutter as our new Chief Executive Officer. Michelle has worked for Riverbank for four years and brings her heart for our families to her new role. Riverbank is a family of faithful staff, volunteers, trustees and the church, coming alongside the vulnerable - focusing on single parent families who face challenges such as domestic abuse, addiction, homelessness, debt and bereavement. Riverbank's story is about bringing Jesus' light into dark places and

sharing times of pain, tears and hardship as well as times of joy.

Our vision of bringing hope in community remains as we begin a new chapter. As Michelle says, "Indeed, we know that our work is not yet done and in this time of change, we cling to the verses from Isaiah 61 spoken over this ministry at the start: 'He has sent me to bind up the broken hearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives... to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of

ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness...' " You can find out more or make a donation

Riverbank's story is about bringing Jesus' light into dark places and sharing times of pain, tears and hardship as well as times of joy.

to help continue our work at www.riverbanktrust.org

Karen Block



Dates for your diary!

Please join us at events in the coming months

Contemporary Carols Service

Saturday, 08 December - 19.30

All Age Carols Nativity Service

Sunday, 09 December - 10.00

Wednesday Carol Service

Wednesday, 12 December - 11.30

Carols by Candlelight

Sunday, 16 December - 18.30

Christingle Service

Monday, 24 December - 16.00

Christmas Day All Age Communion Service

Tuesday, 25 December - 10.00

Vision Sunday

Sunday, 13 January - 10.00

Men's Breakfast

Saturday, 19 January - 09.00

Giving Sunday

Sunday, 20 January - 10.00

Leaders' Morning

Saturday, 02 February - 09.30

Women's Breakfast

Saturday, 02 March - 09.00

Riverbank Sunday

Sunday 10 March - 10.00 & 18.30

Men's Weekend Away

Friday 5 - Sunday 7 April

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

Welcome to HTR


Are you new to HTR? We'd love you to join us at any of our events. Why not come to one of our Christmas Services during this festive season. Or how about coming along to one of our weekly Sunday or Wednesday Services?


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

For more information, please contact us.

020 8404 1112

www.htrichmond.org.uk

 HTR - Holy Trinity Richmond

 @church_htr

Women's Gathering

On a Saturday morning in early October 30+ women from HTR gathered to share a good breakfast and equally good chatter. Tina Cooke, a local actor and presenter (formerly on Blue Peter!), spoke to us about her journey of faith. We enjoyed hearing her story and her strong sense of "I can

feel the walls of this building (HTR church) soaked with the love of Jesus" reminded us of the heritage we have in this place and

led us into an intimate morning in God's presence.



Thank you to Catherin Tidmarsh who organised this women's breakfast and who also co-leads Oasis with Catherine Brown and Clare Phillips. Oasis is the HTR women's group who meet on a Friday morning

for fellowship and prayer. All are welcome.

Helen West

Verses to live by

Psalms 139

'O Lord, you have examined my heart and know everything about me...'

Psalms 139 is a psalm that I come back to time and time again. It's a psalm that comforts me as well as teaches me. The psalm begins by talking about creation and, as a neonatal nurse, I have seen first-hand the beauty of creation often born too early.

I am comforted by the fact that God has a plan for my life and for those around me. He had one before my parents even thought about me and knows all the plans he has for me.

It comforts me that he knows how many breaths I will take and, although amazingly hard at times, he knows how many breaths the babies that I care for will take.

This psalm also teaches me that I am not alone. I can ask God to help me, to test me and to change me. These words are easy to write, but hard words to pray. Only with the help of the Holy Spirit am I able to pray them. With all the comfort that this psalm gives me, it also challenges me to allow God into my life to be the heart surgeon that I so desperately need.

Louise Wells

