

## WHO ARE YOU LOOKING FOR?

JOHN 20:15

🔍 Is Jesus |

🔍 Is Jesus **the One I am looking for****Easter** @ holy|trinity|richmond  
a church with an open door

When I was a teenager, we still used the old rotary dial telephones in South Africa. Mobile phones, speed dial and caller ID were still things out of sci-fi novels, so you never quite knew who was calling until you actually picked up the ringing phone and said "Hello?"

**So you never quite knew who was calling until you actually picked up the ringing phone and said "Hello?"**

And so, it happened on occasions that someone would misdial one digit and the wrong person would be on the other end of the call. I remember a time when I answered the phone and someone started rambling off an order for half a lamb cut in a very specific way, with the chops a certain thickness and the leg deboned. I had to stop the person mid-sentence and ask, "Who are you looking for?" It turned out they had dialled the wrong number, wanting the butcher's!

We see a similar mix-up in John's Gospel, where Mary Magdalene goes to Christ's

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tomb, but finds it empty. Then Jesus appears to her and asks, "Who is it you are looking for?" probably knowing full well that she is looking for Him (Jesus).

Jesus also knows that she is looking in the wrong place. Christ, who is alive, would not be found in a tomb. He would not be found wrapped in grave clothes. He would not be found trapped in darkness behind a heavy stone. He is, however, found and recognised when he says her name:

"Jesus said to her, 'Mary.' She turned towards him and cried out in Aramaic, 'Rabboni!' (which means 'Teacher')." (John 20:16)

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What is it you are looking for this Lent and Easter time? Love? Peace? Joy? Direction? Hope? Maybe we are dialling the wrong number. Maybe we're looking in the wrong places. Maybe it's not a 'what' we should be looking for, but a 'Who' in whose life all these things are expressed.

A Muslim convert in Africa was once asked why he converted to Christianity, even when it meant persecution from his family and friends. He answered, "Suppose you were going down the road and suddenly the road forked in two directions, and you didn't know which way to go, and there at the fork in the road were two men, one dead and one alive. Which one would you ask which way to go?"

**Maybe we are dialling the wrong number. Maybe we're looking in the wrong places.**

As we celebrate Christ's victory over death this Easter, may you hear him asking, "Who is it you are looking for?" and may you recognise his voice as he says your name.

Nico Marais

# Award winners!



Towards the end of last year, we were delighted to be awarded a Bronze Eco Church Award by [A Rocha](https://www.arocha.org.uk), a Christian charity working for the protection and restoration of the natural world, and committed to helping Christians and churches in the UK to care for the environment. Its award scheme encourages churches to express their

care for God's world through their worship and teaching, their buildings and grounds, and their community and global engagement.

In recent months our Creation Care group has continued to develop our wildlife garden at the north east corner of the church. During the first weekend of March a group of keen volunteers planted the beginnings of a hawthorn hedge. This will provide cover and a source of food for birds,



as well as creating an attractive border between the church and its neighbours. We have also provided a woven willow edged path through the little garden and begun to construct a 5-star bug hotel.



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We've also started using more ecologically friendly cleaning products in the church kitchen to help minimise our impact on the environment.

One of our next challenges is to press on - towards a Silver Award!

*Penny Cox*

# News from close friends

Find out here what three charities closely linked to HTR having been doing recently ...

At [KICK](https://www.kickacademies.org) we see the reality of young people expressing a sense of hopelessness, evidenced by a post-Covid world, global uncertainty, broken home lives and anxiety in achieving in school. We'd like to give young people hope for the future and a joy in the present. Therefore, our mission is to transform young people's lives, with God's love, through sport and support. We have doubled in size in the last year, now reaching over 20,000 young people a week in schools and through church-based KICK Academies. We have moved national and operate in the West and East Midlands and the East of England. Locally we continue to work in 13 Richmond based-schools, supplying Chaplaincy and coaching. We are proud to have been founded by HTR and having it as our office base. Thank you for your faithful prayers and please continue to ask God to lead and bless us.

*Joe Lowther*



**loved · valued · able**

[LVA Trust](https://www.lva-trust.org) is a local charity delivering workshops in local schools on relationships and sex education, including one-to-one mentoring around emotional wellbeing. After employing a Therapeutic Mentoring Lead, we aim to expand this service in our partner schools, enabling us to invest more relational time with our young people, as well as supporting their emotional development and self-awareness, as they navigate life's challenges in a post pandemic world.

Lately, we have had higher demand for workshops around harmful sexual behaviour, an area of work we are currently developing, as well as continuing to support parents and local youth providers.

*Mandy Turner*

[Riverbank Trust](https://www.riverbanktrust.org) continues to bring lasting hope and help to single Mums and their families in Richmond. The reach of God's love is extending - a door seems to have opened into Ham!

During the coldest months of the pandemic the Council appointed Riverbank to distribute government financial support to help struggling Ham families access food, utilities and other essentials. Through that, Riverbank was introduced directly to new single Mums and their families in the area.

The local church (St Richard's) and school community understand local needs and have welcomed Riverbank enthusiastically. A national Christian funding organisation has also partially funded Riverbank's Ham launch.

Thank you for praying and for being part of Riverbank's story.

*Tom Todd*





# Giving away

Did you know that as well as giving to ministry and mission beyond our church through our annual Gift Day - which raised over £32,000 in 2021 - we also allocate over £20,000 of our annual budget to a wide range of people and organisations in the UK and overseas? This year, in addition to Kick, LVA Trust and Riverbank Trust (which you can read about elsewhere in this edition) we are supporting:

- [Karis Kids](#), bringing hope to the slums of Kampala by linking families and churches in the UK and Uganda, and providing for healthcare, education and other basic needs
- Sarah Casson, working with [SIL](#) to help Bible translators understand the original and intended meaning of Scriptural words and texts

- [Open Doors](#), serving persecuted Christians and churches in over 60 countries
- [International Justice Mission](#), working with police and local authorities across the world to tackle slavery and oppression
- [A Rocha UK](#), responding to global biodiversity loss by working for the protection and restoration of the natural world
- [Vineyard Community](#) in Richmond, helping vulnerable individuals overcome personal crises, and the community at large to build stronger bonds
- [Gift of Blessing Trust](#), supporting Kate Patterson's ministry, training and writing that help Christians thrive and bear fruit.

*Keith Nurse*

## With doors wide open

In our church building, we consider ourselves blessed to have rooms that can be hired by our community.

Currently, we have a nursery and a variety of groups that run activities for children and adults throughout the week. In addition, on Saturdays, our hall and adjoining playground provide a welcoming location for children's parties and family celebrations. These activities keep our Church Centre very busy, with around 250 people using our facilities each week.

The longstanding relationships we have built with regular users, as well as the flow of visitors they bring in and out of our church building, enrich day to day life on our church site and help to



strengthen our church's links with the community.

Church buildings can often appear empty and uninviting. Many who would not otherwise cross the threshold would remain unaware of the vibrancy of life-giving and affirming activities taking place inside them. As a 'church with an open door', we embrace the opportunity to welcome everyone who visits our site, for any reason.

We pray that, whatever brings you to our building, you will know the presence and the love of God through our staff team, church members and your time spent in a building that was built to worship God.

*Liz Morris*

## We need you!

Our Annual Church Meeting this year will take place during our Morning Service on 15 May. It's a chance to celebrate God's goodness over the past year and look forward to the year ahead. As part of this we will elect two Churchwardens and four new Parochial Church Council (PCC) members.

Have you ever considered serving as a PCC member? Are you a person of prayer who believes that God speaks specifically and guides our church? Do you have a good awareness of what's

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going on across the life of our church? Would you like to help us manage a financial budget of around £400,000 a year and use our resources, people and time wisely for the

kingdom of God? Then maybe this is the role for you!

Our PCC meets six times a year, helping to shape our church's vision and strategy, and making decisions about finances, property and policies that support mission and ministry at and beyond HTR. Before each meeting you'll receive papers about the items it will cover, so you know in advance what will be discussed, and you have a chance to decide what you think about them. Then in the meeting you'll be able to offer your views, hear those of others, and together take decisions about what we do as a church.

PCC members have a formal role as charity trustees, and some also serve as members of other groups that support the work of the PCC. They are elected at the Annual Meeting, normally for a three-year term. It's a really important role. To find out more, contact [Liz Morris](#), our PCC Secretary and Operations Manager.

*Keith Nurse*

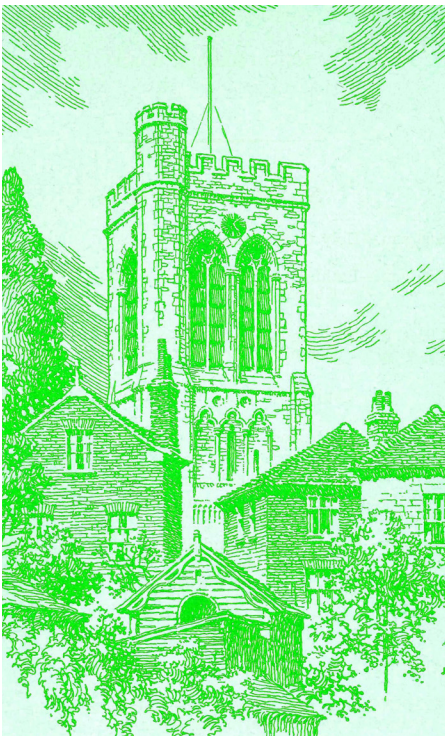
**Have you ever considered serving as a PCC member?**

## Dates for your diary!

You'll find full details of our **Easter Services and events** on a separate postcard invitation.

As Covid restrictions ease, we are pleased we can return to holding more Services and events face to face. But during this time of adjustment we're not listing specific dates for the coming months. However, our *Weekly Update* email will give details of events and activities as we firm up dates. If you don't yet receive this and would like to, then [contact the Church Office](#). We will also update our [church website](#) regularly, where you can find lots of information about how to be involved with us at HTR.

We look forward to welcoming you!



## Welcome to HTR

Are you new to HTR? We'd love you to join us at any of our events. Why not come to some of our special Easter Services and events? Or how about joining us at any of our regular weekly Services on Sunday mornings and evenings, and on Wednesday mornings?

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

☎ 020 8404 1112

🌐 [www.htrichmond.org.uk](http://www.htrichmond.org.uk)

📘 [HTR - Holy Trinity Richmond](#)

🐦 [@church\\_htr](#)

# Life + Faith

*Blog – a regularly updated website or web page, written in an informal or conversational style, where an individual or small group shares thoughts, observations, opinions and experiences.*



Did you know that our church has its own [blog page](#) on its website, usually posting contributions twice a week? We are blessed to have several church members who regularly reflect on life and the world, and are willing to share with us through the blog how everyday events and experiences relate to their Christian faith.

It's encouraging, inspiring and often challenging to read the insights and wisdom of others, and to learn from their perspectives. Some of them bring the Bible to life for us in new ways, while others help to shape how we pray and

what we pray for. Some remind us what God is like, while others help us think about how we should live out our own faith. They provide a rich variety that we can learn much from.

On the blog page you can sign up to receive weekly prompts about new postings. And if reading them inspires you to want to become a contributor, then please get in touch with our [Church Office](#) – we'd love to hear from you!

*Keith Nurse*

## Verses to live by

*Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus (Philippians 4:6-7)*

Life can be tough, and Jesus doesn't promise to make all the hard, painful, scary or anxiety-causing things go away. But what I like about this verse is that He does offer peace which transcends all understanding.

Even when things are really not okay, He can bring peace in the midst of it. It's a peace that doesn't make sense; a peace that doesn't rely on answers, or solutions, or pretending everything is okay. It's a peace that transcends all understanding; a peace which wraps us up in His love, within the storm. I pray this verse over myself and others when the storms come, and somehow there can be peace, even in the midst of life's hardest challenges.

*Louise McFerran*

