

Cornerstone

Edition 26 - Christmas 2022

Sheen Park, Richmond, TW9 1UP

020 8404 1112

www.htrichmond.org.uk

Vicar: Rev Dan Wells

Sunday Services - 10.00 and 18.00
Wednesday Service - 11.30

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holy|trinity|richmond
a church with an open door

What are you hoping for?

Christmas is a time for hope. For many of us that begins when we are children, hoping for just the right present on Christmas morning.

I remember when I was a boy putting together my list of all the things I would like for Christmas. This usually involved scouring through Christmas catalogues back when that was a thing! Once I had compiled my list with

Would I get that thing I was really hoping for on Christmas Day?

serious thought and consideration, it was handed over to my parents. Then came the time for hope: would I get that thing I was really hoping for on Christmas Day? Would I get any of the things on my list? The days running up to Christmas morning were spent in hopeful anticipation.

As adults we may not compile Christmas lists in the same way as we did as children (or perhaps you do) but we still hope. Our hopes are less fixed on toys and games, and more on

larger realities: a hope for peace, or safety, or stability in our world; a hope for joy in the coming year; a hope that all will be well.

Hope is never more clearly seen than when you are expecting a baby. Nine months of waiting is filled with hope and expectation - hope for the life yet to be revealed, hope for who they might be and what they might achieve, hope for their relationship with you, their parents, and the world around them.

I imagine Mary and Joseph were filled with hope as they made their way to Bethlehem on that first Christmas long ago. I expect they were hoping for a better place for the birth than a dirty old stable too! But as Jesus is born on that night, the hopes of Mary and Joseph are fulfilled. And not only theirs, but ours too,

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world

since Jesus comes as the hope of the whole world.

As the classic carol *O Little Town of Bethlehem* puts it, in Jesus "the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight." Our hopes and fears - about safety and security, joy and sorrow, purpose and peace - meet in that infant Jesus born in Bethlehem. He comes to answer our fears, speak into our worries and to bring hope for you and me.

Why not take a bit of time to think about your hopes and fears

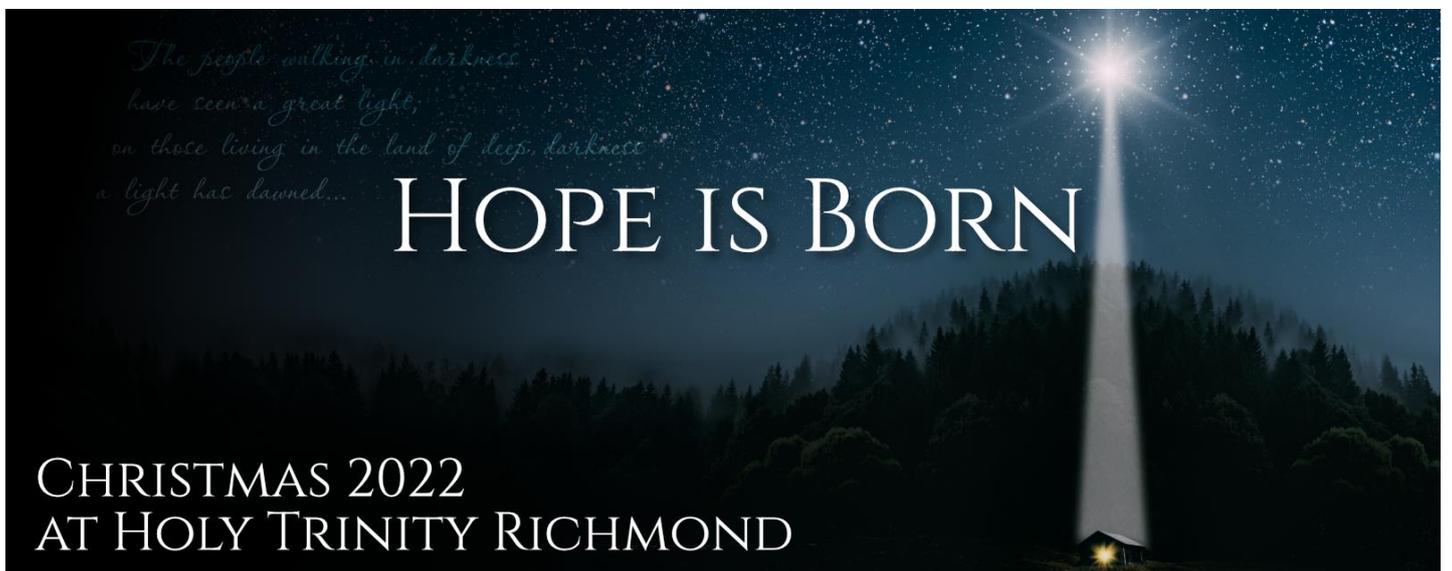
At Christmas, hope is born. In the busyness of Christmas why not take a bit of time to think about your hopes and fears, and hear how Jesus speaks into both of those this Christmas. You are warmly invited to our various Services over the festive period, and I hope you have a happy and hope-filled Christmas.

Rev Dan Wells

*The people walking in darkness
have seen a great light;
on those living in the land of deep darkness
a light has dawned...*

HOPE IS BORN

CHRISTMAS 2022
AT HOLY TRINITY RICHMOND



Catching up with the news



Our church building came alive on the final day of October for our ever-popular Light Party, a positive alternative to the increasing trend of celebrating Halloween. Instead of tricking and treating and scary costumes, children enjoyed a fun time with arts and crafts, games, bouncy castles, face painting, plenty of food and a goody bag to take home. The party celebrated the truth that Jesus is the light of the world, a light that shines in the darkness - an important message for children and adults alike.

GLOW!

We were very pleased to be able to relaunch Glow this autumn, our Club for children in School Years 4-6. Each evening has a Christian theme and input, with games, craft, sport, art, computer games, chillout, table games, tuck and plenty of fun! Around 20 children have been coming along, and we expect numbers will grow.



**BREAST
CANCER
NOW** The research
& care charity

Oasis, our weekly group for women, hosted another *Wear It Pink* morning, providing coffee and cake to fundraise for [Breast Cancer Now](#).



This year we once again packed shoe boxes to support [Operation Christmas Child](#), which shows God's love in a tangible way to children in need across the world by providing simple Christmas gifts.



Our 2022 Gift Day raised a wonderful total of just over £28,000, which will help to rebuild [The Leprosy Mission's](#) Research Centre in Nepal, support radio stations in Ukraine through [FEBA](#), and enable [Open Doors](#) to help women across the world who are persecuted for their faith and their gender.



After two years of learning, Louise McFerran was licensed as a Lay Reader in Southwark Cathedral in October. Louise is already involved in the life of HTR in many ways, and we now look forward with her to seeing new ways in which she will serve our church family.



We took part again this year in [Tearfund's](#) Big Quiz Night, joining hundreds of other churches for a fun evening while raising money to help end extreme poverty. While this year's total has yet to be finalised, the four previous quizzes have raised over £800,000. Tearfund works in more than 50 countries around the world, working through local partners to help individuals, families and whole communities reach their God-given potential.



At our annual [Vision Sunday](#) this autumn, our Vicar Dan used this image of a flourishing and fruitful tree to remind us of what God wants to do among us - to give us life through Jesus, so that we, in turn, as a church can offer everyone life in Jesus. For the coming year we will focus on *welcome* and *wellness*; we want to be able to welcome people into every part of our church life and remove the barriers to them finding that life that Jesus offers, and to ensure our spiritual lives are healthy and growing.



A small group of church members took part in a Quiet Day at the [Kairos Centre](#), which is set in beautiful grounds in Roehampton. Christians have used silence and quiet throughout the ages to wait on God and it's a precious thing to take time to be quiet before the Lord in our busy and hectic age. Those who were there appreciated a special time, and sensed God speaking to them in significant and personal ways.

Welcome to the Osgoods!



Back in September Eils joined us as our Associate Vicar and Matt as our Worship Pastor. Here we have a chance to find out a bit more about them ...

Eils and Matt, tell us a bit more about yourselves!

Eils: We've just moved here from New Malden, so we haven't come too far! We have four children between us, ranging from nearly 15 years old to just 18 months, and we are all really excited to be here at HTR.

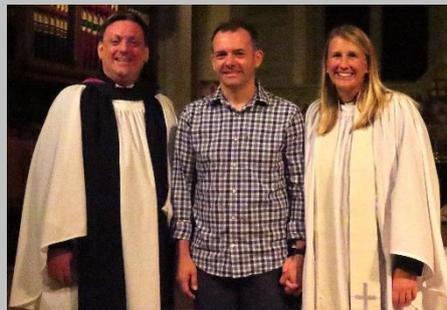
Matt: We are both musicians and in fact in the past we have even done the same worship pastor role at the same church (St. John's in Harborne, Birmingham) - but at different times! We both enjoy getting outdoors, whether running or taking our dog Oscar for a walk, and we love getting together with friends over a good meal.

we have both really felt very much 'at home' here from the moment we arrived

What has the journey been to the roles you are both doing now?

Eils: Growing up I never imagined that I would end up becoming a vicar, but I now can't think of anything else in the world I

would rather do! I studied music at university and then took a gap year to work for a church while I worked out what I really wanted to do ... it turned out that was it! I'm never happier than when I'm sat with a decent cup of coffee, having a chat with someone about the hope, joy and purpose that Jesus brings us amidst all the ups and downs of real life.



Matt: I've done various different jobs over the last couple of decades, including being a primary school teacher (very briefly!), teaching piano and running a home recording studio, but leading people in worship has been a common thread in my life since I was a teenager. It's a joy to be in a place now where I can devote more time and energy to thinking about how we can grow in our knowledge and love of God in worship and prayer.

What are your first impressions of HTR?

Eils: The wonderful thing is that we have both really felt very much 'at home' here from the moment we arrived. We've been made to feel so welcome and it is such a joy to find

ourselves among people who clearly have a passion for Jesus and for sharing his love with our local community and beyond. We are really thankful to God for bringing us here to share in that with you all.



What excites you about the future?

Matt: We're excited to see what God is going to do next! We both feel very much that God has called us to HTR and so we want to do our best to listen to what he's saying about how he wants to guide us as individuals and as a church. We are sure that he has plans for his church to grow in every way, including new people coming to know Jesus, and we want to play our part in that.

We're excited to see what God is going to do next!



Can you tell us a fun fact about the Osgood family?

Matt: Our dog is a national TV star! Oscar had serious issues with his elbows as a puppy and we ended up being treated by Noel Fitzpatrick, aka Channel 4's "Supervet". You can still find the episode [online](#) (season 11, episode 4) which features a very cute little Oscar, a heavily pregnant Eils, me being seemingly very grumpy (I blame the editing, I'm not like that really!) and the older two of our children looking a lot younger than they are now!

Dates for your diary!

You'll find full details of our Christmas Services and events below. Our Weekly Update email will give full details of events and activities over the coming months, so if you don't yet receive this and would like to, then contact our [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!



SUN 11TH DECEMBER
10am Nativity Service
6pm Carols by Candlelight

SUN 18TH DECEMBER
10am All Age Service
6pm Christmas Reflection

SAT 24TH DECEMBER
4pm Christingle Service
11.15pm Midnight Communion

SUN 25TH DECEMBER
10am All Age Celebration

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Try Alpha

The last two or three years has been a very turbulent time for our world. In 2020, COVID-19 turned our daily lives upside down in ways we had never imagined. And just as we felt we were emerging from the pandemic, war broke out in Ukraine. On top of this we're now facing an economic crisis that's impacting all of us in different ways.

Faced with all this uncertainty, where do we turn for any sense of stability or reassurance? We believe this can be found in Jesus, and that the Christian faith offers hope both now and for eternity.

We're pleased to be able to run our first Alpha Course for a while in the New Year. Alpha is a series where you can explore the basics of the

Christian faith in a welcoming, open and friendly environment. It's free and there's no pressure or follow-up. Each session you'll be hosted in a group where you'll hear different topics on Christianity, and have time to chat through any thoughts. You can say anything you like or nothing at all. Everyone's welcome - no matter your background or beliefs, you're invited!

The Course runs on Monday evenings, from 19.30, starting on Monday 23 January 2023. You can sign up via our [church website](#).



Welcome to HTR

Are you new to HTR? We'd love you to join us at any of our events, but especially for our special ones over Christmas. Or how about joining us at any of our regular weekly Services on Sunday mornings and evenings, and on Wednesday mornings? We also run a wide range of groups and activities for people of all ages.

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

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Verses to live by



Praise the name of God forever and ever, for He has all wisdom and power. He controls the course of world events; He removes kings and sets up other kings.
(Daniel 2:20,21, New Living Translation)

I have just been hugely blessed reading Daniel. In these days of uncertainty, challenges, ruthless leaders and fearful threats, Daniel gives us a wonderfully confident heavenly perspective - 'He has all wisdom and power.' He makes it easy to imagine that leaders are like pieces on the Creator's chess board, placed, moved and removed by the hand of Almighty God. He permits their victories, successes, failures and controls their destiny. Evil will ultimately be punished.

May we rest in the knowledge that He is in absolute control and live in the assurance that, like Daniel, we will receive His rich reward in the life to come.

As for you, go your way until the end. You will rest, and then at the end of the days, you will rise again to receive the inheritance set aside for you.
(Daniel 12:13)

Gerry Stride

