

ON THE GRAPEVINE

Vineyard Lunches were set up in response to the story of a lady who was so lonely that one Sunday she saw no other option than to take her own life. Our Ros Ambrose, 33 years ago, was a driving force encouraging 15 churches around Richmond to meet the needs of the homeless, the lonely and the vulnerable by providing a place to meet, chat and have lunch every Sunday.

Each Richmond church commits to hosting the Vineyard Lunch about three times a year and enthusiastic volunteers prepare a meal, set up a space to eat, serve, chat and clear up afterwards. A core group of regulars turn up as well as others who have heard on the grapevine that there is a welcoming place to come and have food and fellowship.

HTR will next host the lunch on 9 November. If you can help as above or donate towards the meal please contact **Kate Chalker-Wye** on [katec-w@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:katec-w@hotmail.co.uk) or **Karin Boyton** on [karinboyton@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:karinboyton@hotmail.co.uk)

THIS AUTUMN ...

Autumn Launch - 19/20 September

A weekend of prayer, worship and meeting & eating together

Community Day - 27 September

Working with Riverbank Trust on a series of local projects

Morning Service - 28 September

Harvest - Meeting at Holy Trinity School

Women's Weekend - 17-19 October

At the Oasts in Sussex

Leaders' Day - 22 November

VERSES TO LIVE BY

When I was very young (probably around 8!) my Sunday school leader taught me a song and asked me to sing it to the congregation. The song was based around Proverbs 3:5-6:

*Lean on, trust in, and be confident in the Lord with all your heart and mind and do not rely on your own insight or understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will direct and make straight and plain your paths.*

That verse has stayed with me and whenever I'm facing difficult or uncertain times, I can always lean on that verse and know that he is Lord and I can completely trust in His wisdom - *Kate Thornton, Church Administrator*

WELCOME NICO!

We are pleased to welcome Nico Marais as our next Worship Pastor. Nico, who is a guitarist, is currently part time Worship Pastor at St Luke's Redcliffe Gardens. He is married to Anke, who is expecting their first child in January. His first Sunday with us will be 5 October.

SUMMER WOES

Official prayers were compiled by the Bishop of Leeds, Rt Rev Nick Baines (a diehard Liverpool fan) before the World Cup got underway, the most amusing one being: 'Prayer Four for the England football team' which simply says: 'Oh God ...' (*Daily Telegraph*)

THE LAST WORD FROM TREVOR



At a recent Sunday Service as the holidays ended, my wife Kate used a vivid illustration. She produced a camping airbed (asking if anyone had slept on one this summer) and invited someone to come and lie on it. As her volunteer lay on the airbed, she pulled out the plug and it noisily deflated. One of our sons had exactly this problem while camping on holiday this summer - not much sleep had that night! Even if you are fortunate never to endure the trials of camping, we can all feel deflated at times - especially at the end of the holidays as we face returning to the grind.

Where can we find the certain and solid hope that stops us from feeling deflated as we face the challenges of life? As we survey the situation in our world, it would be easy to despair - war, cruelty and injustice impact the lives of far too many people. But Christianity re-defines hope. Christian hope is not dependent on favourable external circumstances - a beach resort, a plump bank account or kids with great exam results. The apostle Peter says that because Jesus rose from the dead, followers of Jesus have a 'living hope' which will never 'perish, spoil or fade'. Our hope is placed in the God who makes the future!

What is this hope? The knowledge that we are deeply loved by God and because of this love we can know him today and forever. Whatever has happened to us, He can comfort us and transform our lives. Such hope can never be deflated.

YOU'RE ALWAYS WELCOME AT HTR

Will this be the year you sign up for the Alpha Course? You've seen the ads on buses and billboards? Feel someone's trying to tell you something? Then do come and join us - good food, lively debate - guaranteed!

Also, J John speaking - if you've never heard him you will not be wasting your time and, if you have, you'll want to hear what he has to say now.

Call 020 8404 1112, go to [www.htrichmond.org.uk](http://www.htrichmond.org.uk) or follow us on Twitter.



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holy|trinity|richmond  
a church with an open door

CORNERSTONE

Sunday Services  
10.00 and 18.30  
  
Wednesday Service  
11.30

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Sheen Park, Richmond, TW9 1UP | 020 8404 1112 | [office@htrichmond.org.uk](mailto:office@htrichmond.org.uk) | Vicar - Rev. Trevor Patterson

ALPHA IS FOR THE CURIOUS



ALPHA is a series of interactive sessions that freely explore the basics of the Christian faith. No pressure. No follow up. No charge. 24 million people, in 169 countries, in 112 languages, have been on an Alpha Course. Alpha runs in bars, coffee shops, prisons, homes and churches around the world. Typically, Alpha has around ten sessions and the evenings include food, a short talk with a discussion at the end where you can share your thoughts and question what you've heard. It stretches your brain, expands your horizons and it's fun!

When asked 'Why do you believe Alpha works, and what do you think is its place for the next generation?' the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, declared: 'It's accessible, it's easy and it's user-friendly. It's extraordinary. It's leading people into ... building a community that engages with the world and changes it for the better.'

At HTR, we start with a friendly get-together meal on Thursday 25 September - bring friends. Then, we will meet every Thursday from 2 October to 4 December (plus Saturday 15 November) - always with supper to start off the evening.

Will this be the year you take the Alpha Course? Contact the Church Office on 020 8404 1112 or at [office@htrichmond.org.uk](mailto:office@htrichmond.org.uk)

DON'T MISS J JOHN

HTR is delighted to host the entertaining and challenging speaker, J John this autumn.



J John is a national speaker, author of more than 50 titles and published worldwide. He achieved renown when he once encouraged his audience to surrender weapons and stolen items in an amnesty and needed an armoured truck to remove them all at the end. He also spoke at a Service on stealing and the collection included £103,000 with a note 'unpaid tax'!

Originally from Cyprus, J John's preaching style is riveting - a combination of dry wit, practical advice and direct Bible-based life-style challenge. He believes 'People in Britain are spiritual. They are interested enough to ask - is there a God? Is there an afterlife? And if so will it make a difference to me?' Join us at HTR on Sunday 12 October at 10.00.

\*York Times; \*\*Independent  
For more information go to [www.philotrust.com](http://www.philotrust.com)

SUMMER HIGHLIGHTS

HTR joined HTB (Holy Trinity Brompton) for a great holiday week at **FOCUS** in August at Camber Sands, with about 6,000 others from HTB-linked churches including Holy Trinity Barnes. It was through planting HT Barnes with David Cooke that HTR become part of the HTB network of churches (not all Holy Trinities!) and we have found it an envisioning and inspiring group to be linked to.



Archbishop Justin Welby was with us for the week, sharing exciting news about the growth of the church across London, his meeting with the Pope and his hope for the future.

Booking is already open for 2015 and we hope lots of us will go! Check it out at <http://focus2015.htb.org/>

Every year Holy Trinity faces the elements and takes a group of youth to **SOUL SURVIVOR** - a five day event where thousands of young people gather together to journey with God.

The main focus of the week is meetings where we worship God with music, learn more about Him through His word (the Bible) and wait on the Holy Spirit to change and equip us to live lives for Him. After-hours there is loads to do, from hanging out in cafés, listening to some good music, or moshing the night away in one of the music venues!

We love Soul Survivor as it gives us space to get closer to God but also to get to know one another better and meet new friends.



LINDO MARAVILHOSO!

Encouraged by Steve and Lisa at Holy Trinity Barnes, with prayers and support from everyone and a lot of trepidation, earlier this year Diane and Ian Bridges raised funds and arrived in Brazil (through Mission Direct) ready to help complete the construction of an orphanage.

‘We were a mixed group of 16 of different ages and abilities, including five teenage boys and nine year old Ben - to see these young guys pushing heavy wheelbarrows and lifting rolls of turf was truly inspirational. We very quickly became part of something quite special and although the work was hard there was fun and laughter. 1600m of turf had to be laid - Ian, as a landscape gardener, was in his element organising and encouraging us while a small team was grouting and painting inside.

Each day started with an early shift and after lunch we would visit various projects run by Christian partners. We organised games, played football, visited a drug rehab centre, day centres for children at risk and shared the aid gifts given by you at home in Richmond and Barnes.

Led by Will on guitar, singing Light Of The World with the guests at the Abba Downtown Outreach Service for the homeless, singing along in Portuguese is one of my absolute highlights.’

Diane Bridges



CLOSER TO HOME

Our first RIVERBANK TRUST BIG BOUNCE fundraiser was a great success. The kids loved the Bouncy Castle and the goal-kick drew in lots of talented young men!

Our wonderful volunteers donated, manned the stalls, baked up a storm and helped us to welcome many of our Riverbank mums as well as lots of other local people.

We very much hope to make this an Annual event with an even bigger and better Big Bounce in 2015!

KARIS KIDS

At the request of Rev Emmanuel of St Peter’s Church in Wandegeya, a small group of us went to Katanga, Uganda in April.

After five years, numbers are increasing in the church and three services now run without a break from 07.00 until 14.00. 200 people attended their last all-night prayer and praise night.

All of our Karis families, whom we sponsor and correspond with, were visited; over 183 children came to church for activities and well over 200 joined us for teaching, prayer, games, singing and dancing - the parachute and ball event turned out to be ‘pure joy’.

Prayers were also shared with people in the local area, in Mulago Hospital’s cancer ward, local police officers and families and young men in custody. Trevor spoke on the theme ‘Our God Reigns’ and people enjoyed having time to discuss issues, something new for them. Karis is making a plan to use the new sewing machines to teach sewing.

Speak to Trevor or Becky Edwards if you are interested in getting involved or becoming a Trustee for this charity.



LANGUAGE MATTERS



Sarah Casson’s day job is with SIL teaching Bible Translation at Shalom University, working directly on translating the Bible into local Congolese languages.

Presently studying in the UK for her PhD in biblical Greek and linguistics, Sarah made a brief visit in April to her Omi Bible translation team in north eastern Democratic Republic of Congo.

Sarah reports that the three Omi translators are currently drafting the books of the New Testament into their language so that Omi speakers can hear God’s Word in the language of their heart. So far, Genesis, Luke and Acts have been published in Omiti and several others are ready for printing.

While Sarah was there, she and the team were able to check and finalise 1 Thessalonians. ‘Thank God for another book ready for publication’, she says.



MORE PRECIOUS THAN RUBIES (Proverbs 3:15)

Unlimited fresh coffee, cake, snacks and drinks for children ... mmm ... ‘See and Know’ singing sessions, free play, crafts, informal coffee mornings - welcome to the world of Gems, our pre-school Christian-themed playgroup now in its eleventh year!

We are so fortunate in having an inspirational team for this group which meets at Church on Monday mornings from 10.00 - 11.30 in term time. We see Gems as an opportunity to share the Gospel and our prayer is that this will lead to parents and carers coming to our Service on Sundays. As J John has said about Christianity, if it enriches the lives of these children it will therefore enrich marriages and families and that will have ramifications for good.

Our biggest challenge is that Gems is so popular we regularly have to turn away people due to lack of space and for safety reasons - hard, especially when people have travelled quite a way. As problems go, this is a nice one to have but we haven’t yet found a solution. Ideas?

Contact our Children’s Worker Sue Jackson on 020 8404 1112 or at sue.jackson@htrichmond.org.uk (Suggested donation per family £1.50)

GOD IS NOT A GOONER!

At a football match attended by the Archbishop of Canterbury and Rabbi Sacks, both Arsenal supporters, the Rabbi says ‘You could hear the buzz going around the ground. Whichever way you played the theological wager, that night Arsenal had friends in high places. They could not possibly lose.’ They promptly suffered their worst home defeat in over 60 years - 6-2 to Man United.

The next day it was suggested that, if the combined support of the two men of God couldn’t ensure victory for Arsenal, surely this was proof there was no God. To which the Rabbi replied: ‘On the contrary, it proves that God exists - it’s just that he supports Man United.’

(Daily Telegraph)

SYCAMORE TREE COURSE

We are getting to know better the lads on the Prison Fellowship course at HM Prison and Young Offender Institution at Feltham; actually seeing a community of faith building up. Presented with an alternative way to live through the teaching of the Sycamore Tree Course, GLUE (God Life Universe Everything) Group, Sunday Services and 1:1 Bible Studies, we have seen progress from denial of their crime to real repentance.



We watch slow change occurring - the lads rise through the ranks, become ‘red bands’ able to walk corridors by themselves, who take part in and help with many of the day to day functions on the units and corridors. It is great to see these changes; boys praying for each other; people getting healed; hearing God’s voice for themselves and others!

Some quotes from the last Course: ‘It has given me a new way of thinking and a positive look on life.’ ‘It has opened my eyes. I have changed.’ ‘It has shown me a bigger picture. I am more prepared for the real world.’

Jesus said to him, ‘Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.’ (Luke 19:1-10)

Find out more at [www.prisonfellowship.org.uk/what-we-do/sycamore-tree](http://www.prisonfellowship.org.uk/what-we-do/sycamore-tree)

INTRODUCING SHEENA



Sheena Marx has been volunteering at HTR for nine years in an extended pastoral care capacity: writing and working on our new pastoral structure and procedures; supervising pastoral work and encouraging those giving care. Her input is very valuable to us and, as such, she will be a part-time member of staff, officially working one day a week.

Sheena and Roger have been married for 32 years and have two sons and a daughter. For many years they worked together running Framework, a group for students and young people, aimed at discipling youngsters and supporting Christian Unions. Sheena says ‘I have great memories of weekly bible studies, fun weekends away and ‘grub’ at Groucho’s ... not the famous club in town but the Marx family kitchen!’

Then came a very clear calling to a ministry coming alongside hurting people and she now describes herself as a ‘bringer of hope and healing, used by God to take away the isolation that we can feel during difficult times.’

Sheena’s outworking included 20 years as a Christian Counsellor in private practice and a church setting; pastoral structure advisor; trainer and a mediator to a variety of churches over the years. What started out as assisting a charity look at its pastoral care structure, turned into time as Chairman of Outreach UK, an evangelistic charity, for over 12 years.

One of the issues close to Sheena’s heart is ‘Caring for Carers’ and she loves to assist Riverbank by supervising and encouraging the befrienders. She loves to read, be with people, listen to music, watch football and tennis, and cook. Delving into the Word and speaking occasionally at Sunday evening and Wednesday Services is also something she enjoys.