

WELCOME TO HTR!

Please join us for our Christmas celebrations this year



Sunday 14 December - 10.00
Nativity Carol Service

Wednesday 17 December - 11.30
Weekday Carol Service. Holy Trinity School will be singing during the Service. Followed by lunch

Sunday 21 December - 18.30
Carol Service with mulled wine and mince pies

Christmas Eve - 16.00
Christingle Service

Christmas Eve - 23.00
Holy Communion

Christmas Day - 10.00
All Age Holy Communion - celebrate with us!

RICHMOND’S HIDDEN CHURCH

Holy Trinity Church is tucked away in Sheen Park. From Richmond Circus, go up Church Road and turn left at the traffic lights into Sheen Road. You need the fourth turning on your left (there are two Sheen Park roads) to get to our Church.

The Laying of the Foundation Stone was performed by HRH The Princess Mary Adelaide of Teck, mother of Queen Mary, on 26 August 1869. 2,000 people turned up and the Princess, who shortly after came to live at White Lodge, Richmond Park, attended services at HTR on one or two further occasions.

VERSES TO LIVE BY

The whole of Psalm 91 has helped me in times of trouble. In particular, verse 3 (*For he will rescue you from every trap and protect you from deadly disease*) has seen me through depression and verse 4 (*He will cover you with his feathers. He will shelter you with his wings*) helped me when I was suffering with kidney stones.

The Psalm says that if you seek Him, He will protect you and send His angels to hold you up. In times of need, my family, friends and Church family have been like angels to me. Verses 14-16 reiterate how the Lord is with me protecting me, pointing forward to the great promise of salvation in Jesus.

Judy Mathieson

ADVENT SUNDAY



Advent Sunday, the season before Christmas and the beginning of the church’s year, is celebrated on the Sunday closest to 30 November. A candle is lit on each of the four Sundays leading up to Christmas Day: the first represents Hope, then Peace, Love and Joy. On Christmas Day we light one to remember the Birth of Jesus.

THE LAST WORD FROM TREVOR

One of the things that many of us will do over this Christmas period is **feast!** Jesus left the comfort of heaven, was born as a baby, lived among us and died for us because God wants to us to be re-united to Him and enjoy His presence forever - to be His welcome guests at the greatest feast of all forever.

Free - God invites us to freely come - it is a gift from Him. You don’t have to be good enough; Jesus welcomes us all.

Everlasting - God invites us to join the party of all parties forever. He will **never** leave us.

All - The invitation is for all people everywhere. *To all who received Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God* (John 1:12)

Satisfying - Only God can satisfy our deepest hunger because we are made for Him.

Taste and see - This Christmas, God invites you to taste and see how good He is. Jesus says that if you open the door of your life to Him He will come in.

CHRISTMAS JOY

Thank you God for the joy you give us. We ask, as we wait for all your promises to come true and for Christ to come again, that you would remain present with us.

Help us, today and every day, to worship you, to hear your Word and to do your will by sharing your joy with each other. We ask it in the name of the one who was born in Bethlehem. Amen.

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



@church_htr

holy|trinity|richmond
a church with an open door

Sunday Services
10.00 and 18.30

Wednesday Service
11.30

CORNERSTONE

Edition 4 - Christmas 2014

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

OFF WITH A BANG!



We launched an exciting new venture - Who Let The Dads Out? - on Saturday 4 October and it’s taken off with a Bang! Our aim for this toddler group, for dads or father figures and their children (aged 3-7), is to provide a safe, fun environment for dads in the community to come together and spend quality time with their kids. Through this, we hope that men will build a strong network of local friends and help bind together our local community.

Already, after only two sessions, we have attracted 26 dads, 15 of whom had never been into our Church and, last time, we had 30 children all asking if they could come back! The dads had a good time and plans are being hatched for a curry night out - dads only!

£3 for the whole family gets you admission, bouncy castles and games for the kiddies, refreshments including fresh coffee and, wait for it ... bacon sandwiches! Just follow the smell of sizzling bacon on the second Saturday of each month (next one 13 December) from 09.30 to 12.00.

For more information, or to be added to the mailing list, contact **James Thornton** on jamesathornton@hotmail.com

CHRISTMAS PAST ...

It seems a long time ago, but last year’s **Carol Service** is still a vivid memory for me. A wonderful blend of the old and new, with a brilliant choir and soloists, and inspiring testimonies. I wanted to jump up and hug the whole church!

What a **Christmas Day Lunch** we had with mountains of food, games, a magic show and of course, crackers with corny jokes, thanks to the many, many people who did all the cooking, entertaining, organising and tidying, not forgetting the washing-up! It was so appreciated. One of the many good things about it was that there were people who would otherwise have had a simple meal alone.

AND CHRISTMAS PRESENT

So here we are at that time of year again! Our **Carol Service** will be on Sunday 21 December at 18.30 and will include thinking back to Christmas 1914, singing Silent Night as they did on that remarkable occasion.

THE CHRISTMAS TRUCE



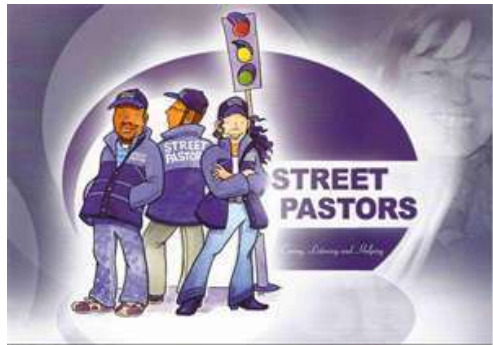
The Christmas Truce was a series of widespread, unofficial ceasefires that took place along the Western Front during the Great War in 1914. During the week before Christmas Day, parties of German and British soldiers exchanged seasonal greetings and songs between their trenches.

On occasions, the tension was reduced to the point that individuals, bearing gifts, would walk across to talk to their opposite numbers and many soldiers from both sides, including some from French units, independently ventured into No Man’s Land where they mingled, exchanging food and souvenirs.

As well as joint burial ceremonies, several meetings ended in carol singing (Silent Night was the favoured choice) and some even joined together to play football.



STREET PASTORS



Richmond Street Pastors were recently joined by Police, local Councillors and the general public to launch their all new wagon! This wagon will most certainly become a local haven for those suffering the effects of alcohol or feeling vulnerable on a night out in Richmond.

You will probably have seen the Street Pastors in their royal blue fleeces patrolling the streets of Richmond on Friday evenings. A typical evening involves being on duty from 20.30-04.00 - out on the streets for two hours, having a break and debriefing session, and then spending a further two hours on the streets. Street Pastors work in teams of three or four, a mix of men and women. They carry out their role every week although it is hoped more people will train so the team can expand. Five Street Pastors come from our Church and have wonderful stories to tell.

AUTUMN ALPHA



Over 20 people began our latest Alpha course, a series of informal sessions to discuss the Christian faith.

We've followed our usual format of supper together, followed by a talk and then small groups to chat. We've been blessed by the wonderful food served on these evenings - a big thank you from us all to the various groups and individuals who've provided these meals!

Many of us at HTR have found Alpha a helpful way to explore the big questions of life in a safe environment. If you want to know more, contact our Church Office or go to www.alpha.org.

RIVERBANK COMMUNITY DAY



One Saturday in September we joined forces with Riverbank Trust to reach out to single mums in a very practical way. Fuelled by a hearty breakfast and some Starbucks-sponsored coffee, three teams set out to do some home makeovers.

Our largest team tackled a neglected and overrun garden, filling four van-loads destined for the local dump and the garden was transformed into a lovely space which the family can now use.

Our second team redecorated an entire living room much to the delight of the mother of two who still can't get over how beautiful her 'new' lounge looks. Last but not least, a small dedicated team undertook several painting and decorating tasks, including repainting a bathroom, and some general repairs for another mum.

This was a wonderful way to bless the community, get a workout and get to know each other, and we look forward to our next Community Day.

Our Supermums Day, with a crèche, breakfast, crafts and general Christmas cheer, is on Saturday 6 December from 09.30, for all single mums.

AUTUMN LAUNCH WEEKEND

We had a great start to the autumn in September with a weekend of prayer, worship, learning together and food! On Friday evening around 60 people gathered to eat and to pray for HTR and the wider world. On Saturday morning, we prayed on the streets for our town before meeting to learn more about how to pray. In the afternoon we put some of this into practice as we prayed with people we met in Richmond.

WOMEN'S WEEKEND AWAY



What a treat! The most charming property in the most stunning setting, The Oast Houses are just that, with the most beautifully-furnished rooms made to fit their shape. The beds were made up with crisp linen, the food was delicious, the chapel exquisite ..

Anyway, to the point! A group of women from both HT's Richmond and Barnes spent an inspiring weekend in East Sussex with wonderful talks while jewellery and Christmas decoration sessions competed with going walking or swimming in the pool. The theme was 'Inspiring Grace' and a few of us remarked that we stayed in that bubble of fellowship all the way home. If you get the chance in the future - sign up!

BAPTISM SERVICE



This was the most uplifting service, with Jake Butler being baptised, and Ian Bridges and James Thornton renewing their Baptism promises by immersion in the pool. It was so moving to see our men giving their testimonies and setting such a positive example to their children and families.

So wherever you go, make disciples of all nations: Baptise them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Teach them to do everything I have commanded you. And remember that I am always with you until the end of time (Matthew 28:19-20).

WE CAN AND MUST DO BETTER*



It may surprise you to know that levels of child poverty in our Borough have doubled in less than two years, with 15% (October 2014) of our children living below the poverty line, up from 7% (February 2013).

Today, people across the UK will struggle to feed themselves and their families. Redundancy, illness, benefit delay, domestic violence, debt, family breakdown and the additional costs of heating during winter are just some of the reasons why people go hungry - hence the need for Foodbanks. A simple box of food makes a big difference in helping prevent unnecessary crime, family breakdown and mental health problems.

Food is donated by the public and sorted by volunteers. Frontline care professionals such as doctors and social workers identify people in crisis and issue a food voucher which entitles that person to receive three days of nutritionally balanced, non-perishable foods. It also allows time to chat, provide support and signpost people to other helpful services.

The Trussell Trust partners with churches and communities to open Foodbanks nationwide. To date there are 420. Recently, the Trust has piloted 'Eat Well, Spend Less' courses that teach people how to cook on a low budget. They are now looking for funding to roll out this scheme and, if you or your company could help fund this necessary project, please go to www.trusselltrust.org

Our nearest foodbanks are in Richmond (*The Vineyard Community Centre, The Vineyard, Richmond, TW10 6AQ - 020 8940 0274*), Isleworth and Barnes, and collections are organised at supermarkets on dedicated days. Go to www.vineyardcommunity.org for addresses and lists of food. You can also leave donations at HTR.

**David Holmes, Chairman, End Child Poverty (Richmond & Twickenham Times)*

HAVE YOU THE PASSION?

The **Passion Richmond** is to be performed on Richmond Riverside on Good Friday, 3 April 2015 from 12.30-14.30. The free outdoor performance will be directed by former BBC Head of Series, Peter Creegan, and a large cast with music and choirs will be assembled. Required are cast, technicians, stage hands, musicians, set designers, make-up artists, tea makers, stewards, prayer supporters etc. To find out more and how you can help or take part, pick up a leaflet from our Welcome Desk, go to www.thepassionrichmond.org.uk or contact enquiries@thepassionrichmond.org.uk

BOOK REVIEW - GOD ON MUTE - PETE GREIG

Whilst many books on prayer tell a reader how to gain more from their devotional times, or give practical instructions on how to spend time with God, *God on Mute* is different. It faces up to one of the most difficult challenges a Christian must face - what to do when God is silent?

The way Pete structured the book was particularly helpful. We follow Jesus' journey from Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday and eventually Easter Sunday to contrast our own suffering and the loneliness that can accompany unanswered prayer. The part of the book that really spoke to me was Holy Saturday. Pete makes an excellent point - "Holy Saturday seems to me to describe the place in which many of us live our lives: waiting for God to speak. We know that Jesus died for us yesterday. We trust that there may be miracles tomorrow. But what of today - this eternal Sabbath where heaven is silent? Where, we wonder, is God now?"

Pete shows his vulnerability and candour in describing just how hard unanswered prayer can be. In my own life I have been dealing with this. You do wonder where is God and how can He leave me this way for so long.

God on Mute doesn't claim to offer foolproof answers or solutions to unanswered prayers and the silence of God, but it does provide encouragement, insight and some practical advice, along with a 'big picture' interpretation of the reasons why this may be happening to us at any given time. It is also written humbly and with great grace, not demanding any more of the reader than the author would expect of himself.

This book above all is rooted in hope - hope for unanswered prayers and difficult questions, hope for individuals and for our world, hope that can only come through the suffering of Good Friday, the silence of Easter Saturday and then finally the glory of Easter Sunday. If you are struggling with unanswered prayer, with silence, with hopelessness, then I encourage you to get your hands on a copy of this book, but perhaps more importantly begin to engage with the silence. Don't draw away but begin to seek God even in the silence, with all your heart.

Tom Rutter

NEVER, EVER, DO ANY OF THIS AT HOME!

350 people a year are injured by their fairy lights, through burns, shocks, children swallowing bulbs. 1,000 people a year are hurt by their decorations including children biting glass baubles, and adults falling off ladders and out of lofts whilst looking for boxes.

Source: Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents

