

Cornerstone

Edition 21 - Easter 2021

Sheen Park, Richmond, TW9 1UP

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www.htrichmond.org.uk

Vicar: Rev Dan Wells

Sunday Service - 10.00

Wednesday Service - 11.30

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RETURNING TO LIFE

EASTER @ **holy|trinity|richmond**
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The coronavirus pandemic continues to affect us in deep and profound ways. It also causes us to ask deep and profound questions as a consequence. Probably the most common questions on our lips right now are "When will things get back to normal?" and "When will life be able to restart once again?"

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I don't think any of us could have predicted all that has happened over the past twelve months. It has been a time full of grief, worry, loss, anxiety and uncertainty. Whatever your experience of lockdown and quarantine has been, I imagine every single one of us will be happy to see an end to restrictions and a return to some kind of normality. The question is: when will this be and what will it look like?

Whether or not we move out of covid life in the coming weeks, Spring is a good time to think about returning back to life. Plants and flowers begin to bud and bloom as a visual reminder of life returning

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from the cold. Seeds and bulbs which had laid dormant through the winter months spring to life once more.

Spring also brings with it the Easter celebration and a reminder that the church has had a message of returning to life long before Covid-19. Easter in particular tells us that there is more to regaining life than returning to pubs, gyms and restaurants (however great those things are!)

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Easter in particular tells us that there is more to regaining life than returning to pubs, gyms and restaurants (however great those things are!)

Being cut off from friends and family, not being able to see those we love in person, has certainly been a blow to most of us. But perhaps we have come to realise that there is something more to life that we need, something that perhaps we are missing. As we consider returning to life again there is a deeper and richer life that we would like to experience.

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Whatever restrictions we are under during Easter, why not take this time to consider what a truly fulfilled life looks like. Jesus said of himself, "I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full." Why not look into what Jesus says and offers this Easter? Whether we are meeting in person or online, you are more than welcome at Holy Trinity Richmond's Services - I hope to see you there.

Rev Dan Wells

News from close friends

The last few months have been especially challenging for charities. But they have also been a time for new opportunities. Below you can read how some of our local charities have been getting on ...

Kick work to transform young people's lives, with God's love, through sport and support, and have sought to be innovative to be missional in a Covid-19 world. By the grace of God we have been able to maintain much of our schools' provision, by repositioning to deliver Key Worker provision. Much of our mentoring work has been delivered remotely, reaching children locked up by lockdown, and encouraging mentees in home schooling, coping with stress and anxiety, and facing bereavement. Our five Chaplains are playing a crucial role in schools, supporting headteachers, staff and parents as well as young people. We are stepping out in faith with exciting plans to go national in September this year!

Joe Lowther



Riverbank Trust celebrated their 10th anniversary last September and continue to share God's love through serving vulnerable families both practically and emotionally. In recent months we have supported over 200 people, around 70 families, including coordinating food bank parcels, liaising with the Hygiene Bank, delivering lockdown parcels to children we would normally see in school, sharing news and information through a regular newsletter, delivering gifts, writing to parents individually, groups and catch-ups via Zoom, one to one walks, talks and coffees, sending out parenting packs with gifts and encouragements, and providing face masks. Our Staff Team has been maintaining professional relationships, training, keeping in contact with statutory services, working remotely with churches and linking up with community partners. A very busy time!

Michelle Rutter

LVA Trust deliver workshops on healthy relationships and sex education, also facilitating small groups and one-to-one mentoring. Since lockdown began we have had a focus on emotional wellbeing and delivered our bespoke course, which was gratefully received by schools. During the



loved · valued · able

Covid-19 pandemic we have adapted to new ways of working to support young people, parents and schools, which have included the delivery of hundreds of care parcels, live streaming into classrooms, parent blogs and a parent pack to help them have conversations that matter. We facilitate a youth providers' hub over the borough to share ideas and offer mutual support, an initiative which is now growing into something much bigger to help support young people to navigate this stage of life. More news to follow!

Mandy Turner

A Christmas and a year like no other



The pandemic has meant that many of our church activities have stopped. But it has also given opportunities to do some new things and meet online. Our Alpha Course has run twice via Zoom, providing a way to chat about the Christian faith. We ran a Prayer Course, with groups thinking about what it means to pray. And in January we ran Big Questions, with three sessions covering questions about faith. We hope to run more courses in the future, so do join us if you can!

We have also adapted to new ways of staying connected with young people in our church. We began fortnightly Youth Zooms in May 2020, and by popular demand they are still going! Each session is around 45 minutes and

consists of a welcome, a game, a thought and a prayer. It's been a joy to be part of these, a lot of fun and surprising to learn fun facts from our younger generation!

Christmas 2020 had a very different feel to it, but we still managed to celebrate at church and online in creative ways. We held two Christingle Services and four Carols by Candlelight Services, the latter including the joy of live music for the first time in several months and featuring home recordings by a children's choir and an original animation with harp accompaniment. Our Nativity production involved many young people recording contributions at home, with



lots of memorable moments! The [church building was illuminated](#) as a reminder to our community of light shining in the darkness, which drew many positive comments from local people.

**Dan Wells,
Liz Morris and
Keith Nurse**



In the pressure cooker

Many people have faced extra responsibilities over the last year. Here's a taste of what life's been like for some of our church members ...

The last ten months have been, by far, the most challenging of my twenty years as a primary school teacher. Using new technology is not something that comes at all naturally to me, so being forced by the pandemic into using an online classroom was extremely daunting.

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However, technology has also provided the greatest encouragement to me. Through our live online lessons, I can see the children, hear their news, support them in their learning

and celebrate their progress with them. For me, teaching is about relationships, and technology has meant that these precious relationships continue to be built.

Jenny Trought

For many, the pandemic has meant being forced to slow down as they were told to 'stay at home.' Working in healthcare, I have seen a very different picture, as everyone has pulled together to provide services while resources have been thinly stretched. We have tried our best to hide sheer exhaustion, stress and anxiety behind our face masks, but there has remained a strong sense of commitment and hope that we will get through these unprecedented times together.

Working in healthcare, I have seen a very different picture.

Life is short, and no one is invincible. But we have a good and faithful God. The pandemic has taught me to be grateful and appreciate things that really matter - good health,

family, friends, home, job, and food enough to last another lockdown!

Maricar Mesina

It's wonderful being part of a community which strives to reach out with God's love and power.

When I joined the HTR Staff Team in October, we were planning for the Christmas season, not knowing if another lockdown was on its way. This certainly wasn't a 'normal' time to join the team, but it was a time of blessing for me.

Alongside balancing being mum to three children, wife, cook, housekeeper, homeschool teacher - and dog owner! - I have really cherished working in a role where I can be useful serving others whose needs are greater than my own. It's wonderful being part of a community which strives to reach out with God's love and power.

Kate Thornton

The latest addition to the team

Chloe Rotter joined us as our Children, Youth and Families Minister in early January. The role is crucial as young families form the largest part of our regular congregation. Her appointment gives us the chance to build on the good work that's already happening among children and young people, as well as to step out into new areas of mission and ministry.

She studied journalism at university, and still loves to write, but it was her mum's work with children and young people that inspired her own involvement and passion in ministry. She was previously at Trinity Church in Harrow, where she led Children's and Youth Ministry, serving alongside a Children's Worker, a Youth Worker and a team of volunteers.

"My move to HTR has been great considering the current circumstances. The church has been very welcoming and I am looking forward to doing ministry in person with the children and young people."

Chloe spent her time at Trinity communicating vision for youth and children's work, planning Sunday and youth sessions, recruiting and training volunteers, and encouraging input to what she was doing from both other leaders and parents. She was also

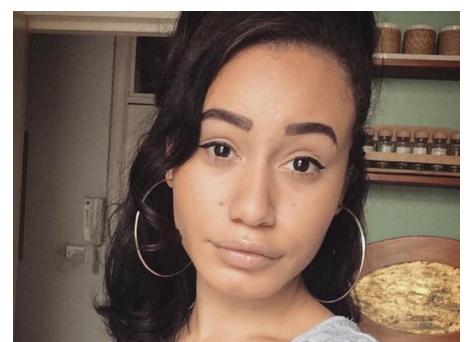
involved in a variety of outreach work through the church. She really enjoyed her role and loved seeing children and young people learn about God through the Bible in a safe environment.

Chloe says: *"My move to HTR has been great considering the current circumstances. The church has been very welcoming and I am looking forward to doing ministry in person with the children and young people."*

Outside of work, Chloe enjoys travelling - and looks forward to restrictions easing - with a special love of Jamaica, her mum's home. She likes music, content creation and socialising, and admits to binge-watching series on Netflix! Please pray for her as she settles at HTR at an unusual time, and especially that she'll be able to both have a positive impact through her ministry and to develop good relationships with people of all ages in our church.

Keith Nurse

Some of her passions include music, content creation, travelling, Lord of the Rings and cider.



Dates for your diary!

We're only listing Easter dates in this edition due to the uncertainty we still face. But there are lots of ways you can be involved with what's happening and keep up to date with life at HTR.

Palm Sunday

Sunday 28 March - 10.00

Mundy Thursday Service

Thursday 1 April - 20.00

Good Friday All Age Service

Friday 2 April - 11.00

Good Friday An hour at the Cross

Friday 2 April - 14.00

Church Family Easter Quiz

Saturday 3 April - 15.00

Easter Sunday Service

Sunday 4 April - 09.30 and 11.30

From 28 March we will resume Sunday worship in church at 10.00, but will also livestream the Service. But if you miss the livestream, don't worry - the video will also be available throughout the week. From 24 March Wednesday Services will also resume in church, at 11.30. We pray together online each week at 07.30 on Tuesdays and once a month on a Wednesday evening; [contact our Church Office](#) for a Zoom link to join these.

Our *Weekly Update* email provides regular information, especially about Services and how to book for them, and extra emails give more details on specific events and activities. If you don't yet receive these and would like to, then [contact the Church Office](#). Our [church website](#) continues to provide lots of information about life at HTR; look out particularly for our [twice-weekly blog](#).

If there are other ways you think we can help you keep in touch with us, then please let us know.

Welcome to HTR

Are you new to HTR? We'd love to link up with you. If you would like more information, please contact us.

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Verses to live by

*I sought the Lord and He answered me;
He delivered me from all my fears (Psalm 34:4)*

This is a verse which has helped me over many years, ever since it was on a picture given to me when I was aged 11. I quickly realised that I wasn't going to have a charmed life with no fears! But the verse did encourage me to turn to God when I was frightened and felt alone, and to know that He heard me and was with me.

This past year has been another time in my life when this verse has helped me. It has been a frightening and

distressing year for us all, and some have suffered illness, grief and loss. It is good to know that God is with us in the difficulties and distress. He hears



and answers us, He can deliver us from all our fears, and He will comfort us and bless us.

Rosalind Ambrose

GLASS DOOR

Glass Door Homeless Charity coordinates the UK's largest open-access network of emergency winter shelters and support services for people affected by homelessness. Due to the pandemic the shelter in Richmond Borough hasn't provided overnight accommodation this winter, but some of HTR's members have volunteered to provide a community dinner service, alongside other churches in the area. The shelter provides a hot meal to those affected by homelessness, served at the Vineyard Community Centre seven nights a week from November to April.

The uptake of the service has steadily grown, with over 1,000 meals cooked by the churches and gratefully eaten so far!

The speedy response of willing volunteers from our church and beyond to adapt to the changes, and to cook and serve, was fantastic and reflected a keen desire to help those less fortunate at this difficult time. The uptake of the service has steadily grown, with over 1,000 meals cooked by the churches and gratefully eaten so far! It's wonderful to be part of a practical and helpful service, and the hope is to continue working with Glass Door in this way and more in years to come.

Liz Morris

