

**holy|trinity|richmond**  
together with Jesus



## BOOK OF REPORTS

Annual Parochial Church Meeting  
Sunday 12 May 2024  
10am

April 2024

## Contents

Meeting Agenda	3
Vicar's Report	4
Churchwardens' Report	6
Safeguarding	8
Building Committee and Building Repair Project Group	10
Mission Group	11
Creation Care Group	12
Pastoral Care Team	13
Life Groups	13
Alpha Course	14
Oasis and Women's Ministry	15
Men's Ministry	16
Youth Work	17
Children's Work	18
Holiday Club	21
Prayer	22
Worship	23
All Age Services	24
Wednesday Church	24
Focus	26
Deanery Synod	25
Fair Trade Stall	26
Riverbank Trust	27
Kick	28
LVA Trust	29
Karis Kids	30
Holy Trinity School	31
Christ's School	32
Easter Experience	33
Minutes of the 2022 Annual Parochial Church Meeting	34
Thank you to contributors	40

## Meeting Agenda

### Election of Churchwardens by Parishioners

1. Minutes of the 2023 Annual Meeting concerning the election of Churchwardens
2. Election of Churchwardens \*

### Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the 2023 Annual Meeting
3. Report on the Electoral Roll
4. To receive the Treasurer's Report, including
  - the audited accounts for the year ending 31 December 2023
  - the budget for 2024
  - appointing an Independent Examiner
5. To elect three PCC representatives to serve for three years \*  
To elect one PCC representative to serve for two years \*  
To elect one PCC representative to serve for one year \*
6. Any Other Business \*\*

This year we are, once again, weaving our Annual Meeting into our Sunday Morning Service, so it takes place in the context of prayer, worship, testimony, teaching and encouragement.

Please return completed nomination forms to Liz Morris

\* Nomination forms are available from the Church Office

\*\* Items to be given to Liz Morris in writing by Friday 10 May

## Vicar's Report

One of the joys of writing a Vicar's Report for the yearly APCM is that you are forced to take time to look back over the past year and think about how God has been at work. It is an encouraging thing to do since in the busy world of life and church it is easy not to stop and take stock. I would encourage everyone to do this in their own personal life and walk with Jesus each year!

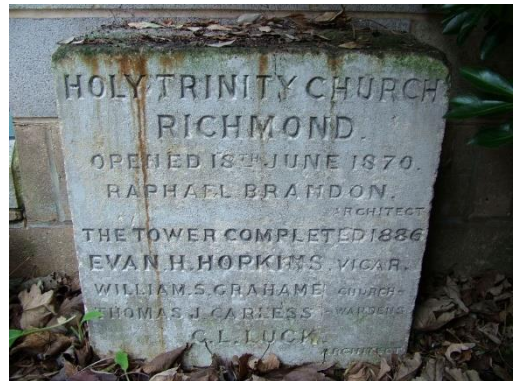


One of the key things we have done as a church this year is to look afresh at our wider vision and values. It was a fascinating exercise to go through as we gained insights from Life Groups, church questionnaires, PCC discussions and more. As we thought prayerfully about who God was calling us to

be, and what God was calling us to do, the dominant theme that came out was 'Together with Jesus.' It was such a privilege to introduce this to the church community at our Vision Launch Sunday in January.

'Together with Jesus' helps us stay grounded in where our strength as a church lies - with Jesus, who walks with us and lives in us by the Holy Spirit. It reminds us that we don't do things 'for' Jesus but 'with' him, in his power and enabling. It is also a summary of the invitation of the gospel, that Jesus invites us to come to him and be with him.

Along with this vision of being together with Jesus, we identified four key values for us as a church: *Welcome*, wanting our church to have an open door that makes all ages feel at home; *Worship*, wanting to be Jesus-centred and grounded in prayer; *Wisdom*, listening to God's word and putting it into action; and *Witness*, sharing the love of Jesus in word and deed. Those values are a helpful lens to take a snapshot of our church life over the past year.



In terms of welcome, hospitality has been a key part of our identity as a church. That can mean a whole range of things, from the welcome at the door on a Sunday to the invitation to an event, a course or a Life Group. But very often at Holy Trinity that means food, and this year has been no exception. One highlight of our welcome was the church BBQ in the summer. God blessed us with good weather and blessed us even further with good food and the company of many people from all aspects of church

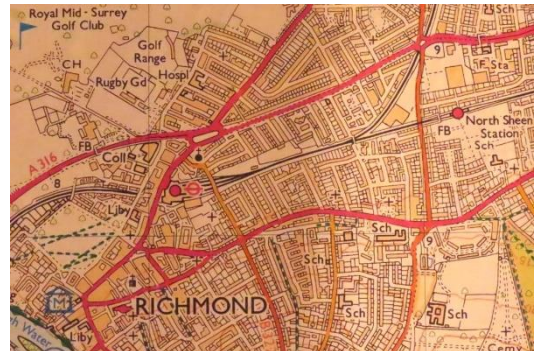
life. Our welcome also involves drawing people into faith in Jesus, and it was an absolute delight to have quite a few people baptised across a few Services in July.



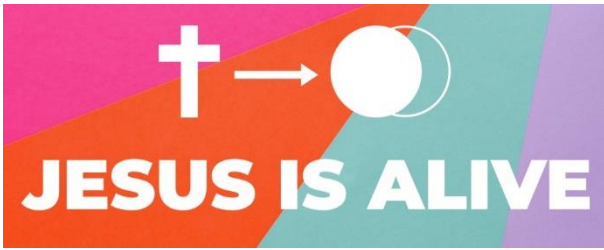
Worship is also a key priority for us as a church, and one of the things I greatly missed during my sabbatical at the start of 2024. There are so many things that could be mentioned, but one highlight was the half night of prayer in June. The church was transformed into a range of prayer stations as well as times of worship and prayer. People were free to engage in whatever way they felt led and it was so good to see church family coming and going throughout the evening. Inviting people to come and worship in creative ways also extends to our relationship with Holy Trinity School. We have continued to have a strong link with the School which has been evident at great Services at Christmas and Easter. The school Prayer Space, however, is a real highlight of the year for me. Every pupil in the school is invited to come and encounter God in prayer and even the youngest pupils surprise you at the depth and sincerity of their spiritual life.

Wisdom, I hope, permeates all that we do, and especially our Services on Sunday and Wednesday. I am particularly grateful to our team of preachers and Service leaders who put so much time and effort into seeking the Lord as they prepare and lead us with godly wisdom and insight. We have so many opportunities to grow in Jesus throughout the year, one of which is our annual trip to Focus in the summer. The chance to gather with other churches across the Holy Trinity Brompton Network in worship and teaching is a great treasure. If you haven't yet tried it out, please do think about signing up for this year!

Finally, but far from least, we want to be a church which is a witness to Jesus in a hurting world. This happens in many different ways across our church community: in a Sunday Service, through Alpha, during events like the Light Party and in conversation with friends and family. I had the privilege of leading a short [Hope Explored](#) course at the start of the year, looking at the hope that Jesus offers to us. It was a powerful time for those of us who were already walking with Jesus, and equipped us to better understand and talk about that hope to others. Christmas is another great opportunity for witness to those we know and it was encouraging to see so many through our doors during that season, with many new faces hearing the good news of the incarnation, perhaps for the first time.



A sad part of church life is that, along with welcoming new people into our community, we have to say goodbye to others. Easter saw a sad goodbye to Alison Bateman as headteacher of Holy Trinity School. Alison was well loved at the school and built strong links with us as a church. In the last couple of months we have also had the deeply sad news of the death of Fiona Wade. Fiona was a long-standing member of the church and served in various different ways. She was a great friend to so many at Holy Trinity and her illness and death continues to be a big shock. She knew and loved Jesus, however, and so the pain of loss is mixed with the hope of resurrection life.



Personally, I want to say a huge thank you to you all for allowing me to take a sabbatical during the first part of this year. It has been lovely to take time to rest and relax, knowing that the life of the church is in good hands: first of all, the hands of Jesus, and also the very capable hands of a terrific Staff Team, Wardens, Readers (Hugh Dunlop, Louise McFerran and Keith Nurse) and

myriad sacrificial volunteers. I want to say a particular thank you to Eils Osgood, who has taken the reins of clergy responsibility in my absence, and Liz Morris, who continues to have an eye on so many aspects of church life that it makes my head spin! While it has been wonderful to have the time without responsibilities to focus on my own walk with Jesus, Louise and I have missed you and look forward to hearing all about what God has been doing in your lives since we were away.

**Dan Wells**

## Churchwardens' Report

### So, what *is* a Churchwarden?



The role of Churchwarden, one of the oldest elected offices in the country, dates back to the 13th century, and is governed by Church of England law, which states 'the churchwarden shall discharge such duties as are by law and custom assigned to them; they shall be foremost in representing the laity and in co-operating with the incumbent; they shall use their best endeavours by example and precept to encourage the parishioners in the practice of true religion and to promote unity and peace among them.'

In practice the role is much more interesting and exciting than this rather dry definition suggests(!), and involves working alongside our clergy, staff team and other church leaders to care for and maintain the church building, to give them support and advice, and to make sure necessary safeguarding and administrative duties are carried out. It's a practical, spiritual, pastoral and missional role, and a great privilege to be entrusted with.

Writing a report for the Annual Church Meeting is a helpful prompt to us to consciously look back over the past year and reflect on so much for which we are grateful to God. Alongside particular highlights, like our celebrations of Christmas and Easter, and the Summer Holiday Club and Light Party, there's lots to be thankful for in church life and ministry week by week, which you can read more about throughout this Book of Reports. So many people contribute in so many ways to making HTR such a welcoming and outward-



looking community, where we see people walking with Jesus, growing in faith and finding hope.

## Leading



Our role as Wardens is made much easier by what so many others do to make things happen at HTR. We are especially grateful for such a capable and servant-hearted Staff Team, whose leadership is the inspiration behind much of what goes on. We continue to be blessed by Dan Wells' overall leadership and are pleased he was able to take a long-overdue Sabbatical early in 2024. We're grateful to Eils Osgood for stepping up to take on overall leadership while Dan was away and for all the energy, commitment and care she gives to both people and ministry.

It's been exciting to see the impact our youth and children's work continues to have in and beyond our church, much of which happens because Ese Ntefon and Sue Jackson have such a heart for children and young people, and a deep desire for them to meet and grow with Jesus. While Matt Osgood's creative and engaging worship leading is clear, he's also involved in many other significant ways, both practical and spiritual, that help our church community to thrive.

As Operations Manager, Liz Morris manages our Church Office Team of Rebecca Reynolds and Ella Baxter, who between the three of them carry out a vast range of tasks and responsibilities that support the smooth running of our church and its activities. Much of it isn't seen by others but is so important in ensuring the church is kept safe and, as a charity, has good governance in place. It was great to have Ella join us as Office and Events Co-ordinator in June 2023, and to then have in place a full Staff Team once again.

## Serving

We're very grateful to David Ewart for his support to us in his role as Deputy Warden. He continues to set us all a wonderful example as he also serves our church so faithfully as our Treasurer and in many other ways. We also really appreciate the work that Graham Bamping and Anke Marais carry out as our Parish Safeguarding Officers. Their wisdom, expertise and timely action, necessarily behind the scenes, plays a huge part in ensuring our church is a safe and secure environment for everyone.

But we're also conscious of so many others who serve in a wide variety of ways, sometimes obvious but often quietly and faithfully behind the scenes, without whom HTR wouldn't be the welcoming and growing community it is. On a Sunday morning alone, a large team of people contribute to both our worship and our youth and



children's groups, but a wide range of groups, activities and events take place throughout the week that simply wouldn't be possible without those who've stepped forward with their time and gifts to serve, which encourages us hugely.

## Buildings

While we have responsibility as Wardens to look after our building, in practice the work is done by others. Our Church Office Team arranges visits for routine maintenance and minor repairs, supported by the Building Committee and Church Council on more major repairs. We're particularly grateful to Martin Phillips for not only chairing the Building Committee but also the Building Repair Project Group, which has been doing a lot of groundwork to help us navigate the complexities of what we should do about major repairs and possible refreshing and redevelopment of our building.



## Together with Jesus

**holy|trinity|richmond**  
together with Jesus

We feel we are so blessed by being able to play our small part in the life and growth of our church. As we see community coming to life through people meeting Jesus,

growing in faith, experiencing healing, finding support in challenging times and reaching out to others with a message of genuine hope, we are excited about what God has in store for us as a church in the coming months and years, and look forward to working with you all to discern and discover what it is.

*May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit*

(Romans 15:13)

**James Thornton and Keith Nurse**

## Safeguarding



**Safeguarding**

Anke Marais and Graham Bamping have continued as joint Parish Safeguarding Officers (PSOs) over the past twelve months. Anke completed the training required as part of her induction to the PSO role in the early part of the period and Graham (along with a number of other church leaders) also updated his safeguarding training. The Safeguarding Committee (SC) continued to meet on at least a termly basis. Eils Osgood is now a member of the Committee, reflecting her vital pastoral role within the parish as Associate Minister. So, the Committee now consists of Dan Wells, Eils, Liz Morris and the PSOs. Rebecca Reynolds acts as Secretary.

SC reports to the Parochial Church Council (PCC) after its meetings, and the link between the two bodies has been strengthened by the fact that Anke is also a member of PCC. The PSOs also gave a presentation to the PCC in July 2023 covering the key elements of our safeguarding practice at Holy Trinity and pointing PCC members to the safeguarding materials and documentation provided by the Church of England, the Diocese and the parish. Key amongst these is our Parish Safeguarding Handbook (PSH), which brings together as much of our safeguarding documentation as possible in one place, as a single point of reference specific to our parish. The PSH is approved annually by the SC and PCC, and is then sent to all leaders and volunteers involved with our children and young people's groups, and with a range of other groups and activities, with a requirement that they should read relevant sections over the summer period before groups restart for the new academic year.



Work with children, young people and vulnerable adults remains a crucial part of our activity at Holy Trinity and is a significant way in which we express God's love for all. This year there have been two significant new developments, with the Summer Holiday Club and the weekend away for our Youth. The PSOs have worked closely with the leaders of these exciting new activities to develop appropriate risk assessments so that these new activities can run safely for all concerned.

We have continued to work on ensuring that all staff and volunteers have completed suitable training and DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) checks. This year we have enhanced our Safer Recruitment processes by implementing more rigorous Staff and Volunteer checklists and recommenced an annual Safeguarding training session, given by the PSOs, for all our volunteers. This session was an excellent opportunity to engage with the group in a couple of case studies, which helped to bring the topic to life and remind us that good safeguarding practice is not just about having appropriate policies in place. Indeed, safeguarding is the responsibility of all members of our community and, to this end, we have tried to ensure that it is a topic we include in Services, through references in sermons and intercessions when appropriate and relevant.

Should you ever have a safeguarding concern, [Anke](#) and [Graham](#) are your key points of contact, and a form for reporting any such concern is available from the Church Office and on the church website.

**Anke Marais and Graham Bamping** (Joint Parish Safeguarding Officers)

## Building Committee and Building Repair Project Group

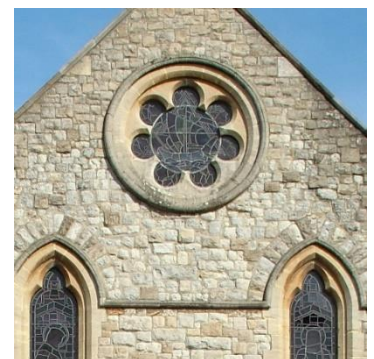


Our building continued to be a busy place during 2023, hosting events in our church calendar as well as lots going on in our Church Centre. Our Building Committee (BC) and the newly formed Building Repair Project Group (BRPG) - see details below - have been productive to ensure our building continues to be fit for purpose to run the ministries and community activities taking place now and in the future.

BC is in its fourth year of operating and comprises Martin Phillips (Chair), David Ewart and Liz Morris. Ella Baxter (Office & Events Co-Ordinator) also joined in June 2023 to take over some of the administrative support. Much of the day to day maintenance and repair is initiated and overseen by the Operations Manager and admin team and the BC supports and advises on various matters. Sadly, both Penny Cox and Robert Lucas moved away during 2023, and we have not yet replaced them. We are very grateful for all the work and expertise they invested into this committee and many other areas of church life during their time at HTR.

Throughout 2023, a significant amount of maintenance and repair was required to keep the building and grounds safe and operable. Work carried out in the Foyer and to the Worship Area heating system allowed for improvements and less problems arising in the later part of the year, which was good progress. Leaking roofs in the Worship Area remain an ongoing problem and further repair to the flat roofs over the Church Centre were required. Discovery of a new system that was able to successfully clear 100% of our gutters has reduced some of the larger leaks during downpours. This new system will be implemented annually to minimise a build-up of debris in the gutters.

Every five years the church building undergoes what is known as a Quinquennial Inspection (QI), a type of building inspection that's unique to churches or religious buildings. The inspection involves a qualified chartered surveyor visiting the church in person to conduct a visual inspection of the building's current state of repair. For some time, our QI reports have highlighted significant repairs that are needed within the building. The most recent survey took place in 2021 and a full report was submitted to the PCC, containing greater urgency for these repairs to be addressed. In early 2022, the BC began acting on behalf of the PCC to make progress on responding to this.



As work progressed, the PCC established a new group (BRPG, as mentioned above) in March 2023. This group comprised Martin Philips (Chair), Dan Wells, Matt Osgood, David Ewart, Robert Lucas (until August 2023) and Liz Morris. The role of this group is to provide an

operational lead on a Building Repair Project (BRP) of our church building and site, in accordance with the urgent repairs noted in the 2021 QI, to take instruction and guidance from Hugh Cullum Architects Ltd and as agreed by the Parochial Church Council (PCC) at each stage of the project, and to co-opt other key people or experts to the group as required at each stage of the project.



In March 2023 the PCC approved the recommendation from the BRPG to commence a Feasibility Study. This involved various contractors attending our site over the next three months to carry out surveys and complete information gathering site visits in order to prepare a comprehensive report. This report was submitted to the PCC in December 2023 and decisions about next steps are still in progress.

Whatever is decided, this will be a long-term project involving various stages over several years. The church and community will be regularly updated and included in decisions along the way. In the short term, both the BC and the BRPG continue to prioritise the upkeep of maintenance and repairs that can't wait for a bigger project.

If you would like to know more about anything in this report, then please ask one of us.

**Martin Phillips and Liz Morris**

## Mission Group

The Group consists of Karin Boyton, Mandy Lambert, Catherin Tidmarsh, Dan Wells and Gerry Stride, who all share a heart for mission both here and abroad.

Prayer is a crucial part of what we do because we are entrusted with a job on behalf of you - members of HTR. You give generously, many of you sacrificially, and, with the guidance and inspiration of the Holy Spirit, our desire is to honour you in our decisions made on your behalf.

Thanks to your amazing generosity, through our Gift Day last year we were able to give a staggering £10,500 to each of the following:

- [Mission Aviation Fellowship](#)
- [Riverbank Trust](#)
- [LVA Trust](#)



Out of our discretionary response fund last year we gave £1,000 to [Operation Forgiveness](#) (a diocesan initiative replacing the original plan for a knife amnesty bin), £1,000 to [Karis Kids](#) for their Christmas Celebration, and £400 to [World Vision](#) towards their Middle East appeal.

With our allocation this year of £23,181 we will continue to support

- our 'home' missions, each one of which was started by a member or members of HTR - [Kick](#), **Riverbank** and **LVA**
- Sarah Casson working with [Wycliffe Bible Translators](#), currently living in Sheffield, writing handbooks for translators
- **Karis Kids** - many church members support their 'link family' and, as a church fellowship, we support Karis in helping to get children out of poverty in Uganda
- [Open Doors](#) - supporting many who are suffering dreadful persecution
- [Operation Mobilisation](#) - providing opportunities to connect with global mission.

Looking forward to this year's Gift Day and after prayerful consideration we felt led to

- **Karis Kids** - It's their Summer Camp this year, serving children and young people from 9-19, sharing God's love in a relaxed and fun atmosphere. On average around 50 commit their lives to Jesus at each camp
- **Open Doors** - Around the world, Christian women and girls face persecution for their faith and their gender - house arrest, forced marriage, even murder. Every Christian woman should be seen, valued and empowered to reach her God-given potential
- **Riverbank** - We're aware that we supported them last year, but felt strongly that they operate in areas of extreme need and that we should help them carry their vision forward.



You may have noticed that we are regularly updating the Mission Board and have started a Monthly Mission Update, both of which are to keep us all informed and updated and to aid our prayers for each of our mission links.

We're grateful to God for His provision and, mindful of the responsibility of distributing the church's outreach giving, we pray that we will make wise decisions and act with Godly wisdom and discernment.

**Gerry Stride**

## Creation Care Group



Currently in its fourth year, Holy Trinity's Creation Care Group continues to evolve our garden on the north east side of the church. Now well established, the garden features a range of flora and planted wild flowers as well as several planters with a lasagne-style changing display throughout the year. The large bug hotel appears to be well inhabited and garden birds have enjoyed our birdfeeders, particularly throughout the winter months.



We are delighted to share that our preloved bench, reached via a winding bark path, has been used by at least two group members, separately, for precious prayer and quiet time in God's creation, regarding significant life decisions. You can too!

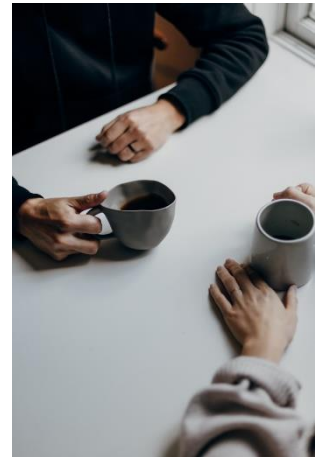


The Creation Care team is a caring, committed group. We communicate by WhatsApp to share ideas, news of eco events and to arrange times to meet up in person to work on our projects. With or without gardening expertise, if you are interested in being involved, you will be warmly welcomed.

**Helen West and Rosalind Ambrose**

## Pastoral Care Team

A fairly recent addition to our ministry structures has been the formation of a Pastoral Care Team (PCT). In practice, caring for one another is shared broadly by many, including life group leaders and ministry team leaders, but we also recognise that this does not cover everyone, and can leave gaps regarding those who are sick, housebound or facing other particular challenges. With this in mind, we have set up the PCT in order to more effectively coordinate pastoral care and do our best to ensure that those in need of home communions, home or hospital visits, regular phone calls or simply a listening ear during a difficult time do receive what they need. It also offers a forum in which those providing care for others can receive mutual encouragement and support.



The group is still in its early stages of formation, but currently includes our Lay Readers and a number of other individuals who have particular pastoral gifts and experience. If you are aware of someone in the congregation who is in need of particular support, please do make us aware so that we can do our best to respond accordingly. I hope and pray that as we continue to become more established, this team will be a real blessing to our wider church community and help us to be caring for one another in meaningful and practical ways.

**Eils Osgood**

## Life Groups

Life groups are at the heart of who we are as a church as we seek to be 'together with Jesus.' In a church the size of Holy Trinity, life groups offer the chance to invest more deeply in relationships that go beyond surface conversation; they are a place we can delve into God's

word together, sharpen our understanding of what it means to follow him, offer encouragement, care and practical support to one another, share both the joys and the struggles of life with one another, and have the chance to pray for each other and see God at work in our lives as we journey together.



The majority of our groups meet fortnightly in person on Wednesday evenings, but we hope we can provide a home for everyone, and to this end there are plenty of options, including three daytime groups and one evening group that meets online.

We have seen a few changes in life group leadership over the past year, and our huge thanks go to James Thornton and Ann Henderson who have each stepped down from leading their groups after many years of faithful service. Our thanks too go to Liz and Sean Morris and Yvonne Simmonds, who have taken up the baton to lead these groups into the next

season. Matt and I have also begun a new life group, which takes our total now to nine. We have also in the past year begun an HTR young adults group, and while not technically a life group (and some of its members are already in other life groups) this is a great addition which allows those in their 20s and 30s to connect together for regular social events, and it has been a real encouragement to see this group grow.

We have begun to meet termly as life group leaders to share learning from our groups and consider how we might develop life groups within the life of the church. We are currently working on how we can make life groups more visible and accessible to a greater proportion of the church, and we are also aware of the need to think about how we identify and develop new future leaders.

We would love everyone who would call themselves a member of HTR to be connected with a life group. If you are not in a group and would like to join one, please [get in touch](#) or find me after church one Sunday, and we will do everything we can to find you a home!

**Eils Osgood**

## Alpha Course



Alpha is one of the best ways we know of introducing people to the Christian faith. Autumn 2023 saw us running a daytime women's Alpha Course in conjunction with Riverbank Trust, and we were delighted to welcome 18 guests to our first session, a

number from the Riverbank community alongside others with a variety of different connections to HTR. It was a huge privilege to journey through the Course together, grappling with big questions of life and faith, and understanding more of who Jesus is and what it means to follow him. My thanks in particular go to Catherine Whillans who led one of our small groups and Ella Baxter who took care of all the course administration and served us with a wonderful lunch each week.

We are keen to run further Alpha Courses later in the year and beyond and in order to do this we always need people willing to host, lead and help with small groups. Would you be interested in helping run an Alpha Course? Please [get in touch](#) if you'd like to find out more and we'd love to chat further.

**Eils Osgood**

## Oasis and Women's Ministry

### Oasis



Oasis provides precious time to meet and pray with other women living in faith, a place of acceptance, and a refuge, an oasis of calm in a busy week. All are welcome, no matter where you are on your walk with God or your age. We gather at 9.30 on a Friday to drink coffee and eat cakes and fruit before studying the bible together. We have dipped

into some parables, Proverbs and Hosea, shared Communion together and been wonderfully fed by the Holy Spirit. We love to pray for each other and it's been so encouraging to hear some wonderful answers to our prayers; God has been good to us all.

Our "[Wear it Pink](#)" coffee morning was fun and raised a significant sum for Cancer Research. Not only do we eat cake but we also have baking or crafting mornings, as well as our annual much-loved trip to the Isabella Plantation in Richmond Park.

My thanks to Louise McFerran, Dot Stride and Clare Phillips for their support and encouragement this year. And to all who have baked, led studies, worship and washed up - it is truly a team effort to keep the group running.

**Catherin Tidmarsh**

### Women's ministry

As we said in last year's report, "Women's ministry is not just events, it's those small groups who meet up to support each other, go for walks, share a cuppa and listen to each other.

Chats after Services and phone calls that cheer and encourage, and above all praying for each other.” It has been great to see this happening across the church. Keep it up ladies!



We have had a number of events, including a gathering to catch up and think about the hopes and plans for the year. We have had two breakfasts, one in the autumn when Julia Cernoch spoke about being, “Seen, Known and Loved” by God, and one January when Eils Osgood our Associate Vicar spoke about “Sabbath Rest”, something we really needed to hear. Our thanks to the lovely men of HTR who cooked for us. It is always special to take time out to be together and be encouraged and pray. We also had our ever-popular Christmas craft evening, which was very well attended

and great fun. Then we had a very enjoyable evening at the local curry restaurant: the food and company were both excellent. Thank you to all who helped make these events so successful. Do keep giving us ideas for things we can do to keep us all connected.

We are looking forward to attending the [Orchard Conference](#) in Hammersmith on 12 October, “creating space for women to step more fully into all God has made them to be and do.” Tickets are available on the website, so do book yours and let us know that you are coming. Last year’s conference was wonderful!

**Catherin Tidmarsh and Louise Wells**

## Men’s Ministry



Just in time to appear in this Book of Reports, the first Men’s Breakfast for a number of years took place in April. Rev. Andy Watkins, from Christ Church, Feltham, gave an inspiring talk (available to [listen to online](#)) and a fantastic team of volunteers served up an excellent cooked breakfast - food for the soul and the body! A few weeks before that, an inter-generational group of HTR men took over Richmond Spice - to the great delight of Suman Patel, the restaurant manager - and enjoyed making new friendships and strengthening old ones over delicious curry.

Over the next year, we’re hoping to organise further men’s events to help build community, strengthen faith, and provide points of connection for those who aren’t church members. If you’d like to find out more or discuss ways in which you might be able to get involved, please [chat to me](#).

**Matt Osgood**

## Youth Work



Writing this amidst preparations for the first Youth Weekend Away in many years has me reflecting on God's kindness and faithfulness to us as a church and as Impact Youth. Since writing my last report, I have been able to see the growth of many young people and have rejoiced in their spiritual wins, and what feels like an increased confidence in their faith. In that, I have been able to have the satisfaction of seeing one of my goals begin to be accomplished - not being the ultimate go-to, but being a facilitator who, in my obedience to what God has called me to

do, encourages the young people to run with Jesus in their personal lives.

The new Bible Study group begun in June 2023, **Deeper Impact**, is still going from strength to strength, and we have gone from reading the book of 1 John together last term to the book of Daniel this term, which has felt especially poignant for the times we are currently living in. **Sunday Impact** has also seen an increased number of attendees, with Dan Wells' office (which he has kindly allowed us to use) sometimes becoming a chair-fest! Finally, **Midweek Impact** has also continued to be fun a group whereby the young people have been able to do things such as

making pizzas, singing karaoke, and playing very (long) intense games of chess!

However, none of this would have been possible without the help of my phenomenal team who have served faithfully and consistently. Many thanks of appreciation to Louis Meakin, Craig Brown, Hugh Dunlop, Tom Toledo-Hardy, Frixos Kimonis, Robert Wilson, Mandie Lambert, Steve Patterson and Katy Johnston for Wednesdays and Sundays. Many of these fantastic leaders serve in more than one group, and some in all of them, and I can't begin to express how blessed we are as a church to have each one of them as part of our congregation.

Connections with Clare Banner, the Chaplain at Christ's School, are still present, and have resulted in visits to Christ's to be on a Faith Panel, among other appointments. I hope to see more young people from Christ's School coming into church.

I am eternally grateful for the support of everyone at HTR who has prayed for the Youth Ministry, championed us and made suggestions which have helped to shape what we do. I am also grateful to the Staff Team for the prayers which are made for the Youth Ministry during our Wednesday Staff Meetings.

Ultimately, my prayer is still to see all the young people **excited about Jesus**, not doubting

His love for them, and fighting the good, beautiful, joyful, nothing-like-it fight of faith! I have no doubt that the Lord is stirring up their hearts towards this in this season!

**Ese Ntefon**, Youth and Children's Pastor

## Children's Work

*Fix these words of mine in your hearts and minds; tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Teach them to your children, talking about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates*  
(Deuteronomy 11:18-20)

This continues to be a passage that I go back to time and time again. When I read that a 'staggering 95% of children in this country don't go to church, but many of them are open to faith' (according to research by Scripture Union, this has continued to be the same number for the past few years), these verses have reminded and continue to remind me why I do what I do. Romans 10:14 says *"How can they hear, unless someone tells them?"* With the help of God, let's keep passing on our faith to our children, so they too can grow in their own faith, in Jesus' name.

### Sunday Groups and Clubs - Volunteers

I continue to be eternally thankful to God for each one of our inspirational leaders and helpers faithfully serving - Catherin Tidmarsh, Cathy Hewett, William Edwards, Helen Sadler, Ian and Jenny Trought, Anke Marais, Elizabeth Lek, John Hutchison, Nima Shrestha, Judy Mathieson, Louise McFerran, Steph Patterson, Clare Phillips, Robyn Porter, Maciel Tavares, Rebecca Reynolds, Niki McEwen, Kate Chapman, Catherine Whillans and Yega Haghgoo.

**Thank  
You**

Thank you, thank you, thank you!

### Sunday Children's Groups (50 children registered)

- Fledglings - 0 to 3 years - Meet in the Christ Church Room
- All Together - 3 to 7 years - Meet in the Main Hall
- Explorers - 8 to 10 years - Meet in the Small Hall

We use Scripture Union, and recently introduced CEP (Christian Education Publications) teaching materials for All Together and Explorers. Thank you to Cathy for resourcing this. Our sessions start with free play and then we gather for prayer, the Bible story of the day and craft activities follow. Particular thanks to David Ewart, who prepares the rooms each week for Sunday groups and always make sure that we have help to clear away.

Fledglings follow a Bible-based story and singing session. For five weeks Anke introduced a Parenting for Faith Babies & Toddlers Bitesize course that parents found helpful. See below for more information.

## Families



In May, Anke and Nico Marais ran an online eight-week course for parents, grandparents and carers that encourages connections with God in the home. This is

from the [Parenting for Faith](#) website that explains more:

**“God has placed you in the lives of your children for a great and joyful purpose, and this course is purely to empower you to release and coach your children in their heart-to-heart connections with God. It will give you tools, skills and models to use to encourage your children, whether aged 3 or 43, to step into a vibrant two-way relationship with God.”**

Anke and Nico said “We are very excited to be going on this journey alongside you, as we help our children (or grandchildren, or any children that we support in their spiritual development) develop a lasting and vibrant two-way relationship with God. As I'm sure you all know, the Parenting for Faith course is an exciting addition to what God is already doing in and through our churches. But we hope and pray that each of us will come away seeing the fruit of this course in our own personal relationship with God, and of course that of the children whom we support”.

Many parents have shared their children have grown in their relationship with Jesus following parents putting into practice suggested techniques to encourage children to talk to God and hear from God.

## Refresh - a mums-only space, Monday 1000 to 1130



Refresh, run in collaboration with Riverbank Trust, is still open to the community but particularly offers a safe space for single mums. We have places for up to 20 mums and their children.

We start the morning with free play for the children and a brunch aiming for us to all sit together. As before, we run an optional Bible Story and singing session during the morning. This has become a community event that the mums look forward to each week. It has been exciting to have a Riverbank

mum who now volunteers each week.

A special thank you to Helen Sadler, whose season at Refresh has completed.

## Bible Club @ Holy Trinity School - Monday 1530 to 1630

Our Bible Club continues to be a place where children can learn more about the Collective Worship Bible passage for the day. The hour starts with prayer, reading the Bible, biblically-themed craft activities and colouring as well as adding to a 'memory' book each week. It is a privilege to hear their questions about faith and what Jesus means to them. Run by Ese Ntefon and myself, there is space for 12 children (this is the maximum, to comply with the Safeguarding adult to children ratio) and we currently have a waiting list.

## Glow! - Friday 1900 to 2030, monthly (55 children registered)



Our Children's Club Glow remains a highlight of the month. To many children's disappointment, Glow continues to meet monthly; they would like it to be every week! The children start the evening by choosing an assortment of games and craft activities, including Table Tennis, Air Hockey, Pool Table, Xbox and 'Cooking' activity (most of the time something to do with chocolate.) At about 2000 there is a talk on the Bible; currently we're looking at the series called "Encounters with The King." The evening finishes with the opening of our

timeless tuckshop, now offering healthy options as well as the popular sweets.

It is a huge privilege to see the children listening to the Bible passage. They go home with a Memory Verse for the day and I have heard the children 'put them on their mirrors and stick them up by their beds ...' It is also encouraging and wonderful to see our young people volunteering to help at Glow.

## Light Party



We ran a successful Light Party, where we remembered that Jesus is the Light of the World. There were various crafts available, including a decorate a mini pumpkin competition to take home to cook, friendly faces only!

Geoff made a reluctant appearance as he was scared of the dark, but then understood that Jesus is the Light of the World (this didn't stop his jokes!)

There was a buffet of delicious food all organised by the wonderful Pete Boyton and Siobhan Burn. All of this was made possible by our inspirational team of volunteers who faithfully are the hands and feet of Jesus. Everyone went home with a party bag, including the message of the Good News and invitations to our Christmas Services. There were over 120 parents and children in attendance.

**Sue Jackson**, Children's Pastor

## Holiday Club



We gathered together in the last week of August for four action-packed mornings of singing, games, crafts, Bible stories, drama, prayer and so much fun, followed by a Sunday Service and BBQ. We made use of the Scripture Union 'Restoration Station' holiday club material, and each day looked at a different story from John's gospel, helping us to get to know Jesus as the

master craftsman who heals and restores broken things.

The volunteer response from the church was staggering and 42 people contributed to the week in various ways, whether building and designing the set, leading small groups of children, involvement with music and drama, helping with catering, or a whole host of other different roles. It was a glorious picture of the body of Christ coming together where each person brings their gift and plays their vital part in the whole picture, and I am so grateful to every single person who gave up time and energy to make it all happen. The buzz and excitement of the team over breakfast each day as we set up and prayed together was something very special!



We welcomed 60 children through our doors each day, the majority of whom would not usually come to church, and we had a fabulous time doing aerobics, laughing at Geoff's jokes, sending leaders to the gunge tank, eating Dot Stride's now legendary restoration buns ... and most importantly - praising God and learning about Jesus together. A

massive highlight was seeing a really good number of children come back to Sunday for the church Service and BBQ, bringing their parents with them, and being drawn into the church community.

Special thanks go to the wonderful core team - Louise McFerran, Felicity Barkus, Sue Jackson, Ese Ntefon and Matt Osgood, who put a tremendous number of planning hours in order to make it all happen, as well as Liz Morris, Ella Baxter and Rebecca Reynolds in the Church Office, who provided us with superb administrative support. Plans are well underway for another Holiday Club this year, and we can't wait ... if you think you might be around at the end of August, then please do consider signing up to help. There's a job for everyone, no matter what your gifts and skills are, and we can promise you a hugely fun and rewarding week.

**Eils Osgood**



# Prayer



A basic principle of time management is the importance of distinguishing between tasks that are urgent and those that are important. For those juggling multiple tasks or roles, the danger is always that the urgent and most pressing tasks crowd out the important ones. Prayer can sometimes feel urgent, especially in a crisis situation, but often it can slip down the priority list compared with dealing with family life, an overflowing email inbox, or any one of a number of different demands on our time. Jesus' disciples came to him and asked "Teach us to pray" - and we still need to keep coming back to Jesus and asking the same thing!

One way in which our prayer life has developed as a church this year is through the introduction of monthly Praise & Prayer gatherings on Sunday evenings. These have been really special times where we can linger in God's presence in sung worship, and bring our prayers and requests to him through creative prayer stations or simply praying alongside others. If you've never come along to one of those evenings, I really encourage you to give it a go - it might not feel like it's

something you urgently need to do, but it is important!

Alongside Praise & Prayer, there is a small group who gather every Tuesday morning on Zoom to pray - if you'd like to join in with that group, please just email the [Church Office](#) for the link. We also pray together regularly as a Staff Team and before Sunday Services - not to mention of course all the prayer that goes on in Life Groups and in individual lives. "Lord, teach us to pray!"

Finally, another aspect of our prayer life together that has been revitalised this year, is the creation of a more regular prayer ministry team who are available to pray with individuals during and after every Sunday morning Service. This is a wonderful way in which we can care for and support each other, and I do

encourage you to receive prayer when you can - you don't need to be in a crisis, just to simply want to see God more at work in your life. Prayer ministry is also a great way to serve the wider church community, and we'd love for others to join the team (especially men) - if you'd be interested in finding out more about what's involved, please do [get in touch](#).

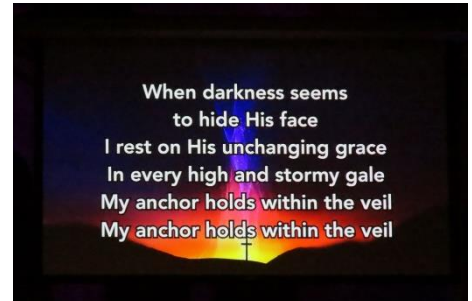


**Matt Osgood**

## Worship

Last year was a time of continuing to build on the strong foundation built by Nico Marais over several years in his time as Worship Pastor at HTR. Some of the ways in which the worship life of the church has moved forwards are

- Bringing in new volunteers to our music and tech teams, including a number of young people, which is really exciting to see (more volunteers are always welcome!)
- Improving our projection systems with an upgraded laptop and software and a new projector that has dramatically enhanced our ability to use images and videos in services and at other events
- Introducing new songs that keep our gathered worship times fresh and make sure we cover a range of themes in our Services.



We also gathered our community choir again for our traditional Christmas Carol Service, which saw the church packed out with many people who wouldn't normally attend HTR. All Age worship was another area of focus, with several new songs introduced, including a home-written theme song for our fantastic summer Holiday Club.

Easter saw a wide range of different Services and activities going on which helped us navigate the emotional ups and downs of Holy Week - palm

branches were joyfully waved on Palm Sunday; people gathered for a creative multi-sensory meal on Maundy Thursday; the church was full of both HTR members and others from the community for a buzzing All Age Activity Morning on Good Friday, which contrasted sharply with the quietness and poignancy of the Hour at the Cross Service in the afternoon; after all of which we rejoiced with confetti cannons and party poppers to celebrate Jesus' resurrection on Easter Day! We truly have the greatest story to share with others, and it is my absolute privilege to help plan and lead our Worship Services to celebrate every aspect of it.

I'm always grateful for our extremely committed team of volunteers who help to lead us in our gathered worship times, and very glad to be working as part of a fantastic Staff Team here at HTR. If anyone is ever interested in exploring the possibility of helping out with sound, projection or music, please do come and have a [chat with me](#)! Most importantly though, my hope and prayer for us as a church as we look ahead through 2024 and beyond, is that God would draw us deeper into himself - that we would experience his love for us in profound and new ways, and that we would in turn express our love for him in our worship. There is always more!

**Matt Osgood**

## All Age Services



One of the joys of coming to HTR is the chance to be part of a truly multi-generational community. While our different needs and preferences mean that separate activities are often useful for our various age groups week by week, it is nevertheless such a joy to be all-together from time to time, worshipping and learning together as the big family of God. Huge thanks go to the endlessly creative team who have made our All Age Services happen throughout the year - Anke Marais, Louise McFerran, William Edwards, Jenny Trought, Sue Jackson, Ese Ntefon and Matt Osgood - and of course Geoff the puppet should also have a mention! It has been a joy to work together over the past year, planning various Services and events around Christmas and Easter, as well as other occasional one-off Services.

Our hope is always that we are not simply delivering a Service for all ages, but that all ages are enabled to contribute and serve, and it has been a real joy to see more children and young people being involved in helping to lead

our sung worship, prayers or other aspects of the service. We have also benefitted from a wealth of learning brought to us by Anke and her engagement with 'Parenting for Faith.' Another highlight for me was the recent All Age Activity Morning which we ran on Good Friday this year, which drew a significant number of families from the Holy Trinity School community to join us as we remembered the events of Easter. The team pulled out all the stops with a great array of crafts and activities, all helping us to ponder the meaning of Jesus' death on the cross, before we joined together at the end to talk about Easter and worshipped together in song. It was very special to see that people didn't really want to go home at the end! We very much hope we can build on this style of event over the coming year, as we continue to build community and share the love of Jesus as we go.



**Eils Osgood**

## Wednesday Church

Our Wednesday Service continues to be a blessing to many who value a more traditional (shortened) Church of England Service and fellowship over lunch afterwards. Those who come range from pre-school (occasionally) to senior years. Some are there most weeks and

others come when they can. A pastoral team set up by Eils Osgood is finding ways to support those who have become less mobile and would appreciate Holy Communion at home.



There is a team of leaders and preachers, including Dan Wells, Eils, Jemima Prasad and Lay Readers. We celebrate Holy Communion twice monthly. The short sermons bring a clear message from the Word of God. We celebrate all the Christian seasons of the year. One highlight this year was Ash Wednesday, when we had a cross of ash placed on our foreheads and were prayed for. Others joined us for this solemn reminder of Christ's death for us.

As well as preachers and leaders we are supported by members of the congregation who read the Bible, pray, accompany the hymns and work the sound desk. As in all our Services, people have the opportunity for private prayer with a member of the congregation afterwards.

Church functions well when volunteers contribute in a variety of ways. 1 Corinthians 12:4-7 say *'There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work. Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.'*

This is certainly the case on Wednesdays. Generous people contribute their gifts in serving at the lunch we enjoy after the Service - cooks, waiters, washers and those who set up and clear up. If you ever have time to do one or more of these jobs, even very occasionally, [Ella Baxter](#) or [Rebecca Reynolds](#) would love to hear from you.

We love to celebrate birthdays and Christmas at our lunches. Since we no longer provide individual birthday cakes, we enjoyed 'a very, merry Unbirthday' cake one day (in an alcohol-free way!) with a huge cake baked by Richard Jackson. The Christmas lunch was a feast, thanks to our wonderful team of cooks and assistants, accompanied by musical items from Eils and Matt Osgood.

I would like to pay a special tribute to the Office staff, Ella, Rebecca and Liz Morris, without whom the lunches would not happen, and to David Ewart who does many jobs from before the Service until after lunch.



1 Corinthians 12 concludes its teaching on the variety of gifts in the church by referring to the *'more excellent way'* and explains in the following chapter that this excellent way is love. We are thankful to God for his love that is shared on Wednesdays by those who serve and those who are being served.

**Cathy Hewett**

## Focus



In July 2023 around 20 of us went camping and joined the Holy Trinity Brompton network weekend called Focus. Some of the party volunteered in various roles around the site and in the groups, others met up with friends from other churches and enjoyed some of the meetings and activities around the site, but everyone enjoyed camping and hanging out together on our church's community pitch (especially for a bit of hammock time!)

There is something for everyone and one of our first-timers said it was "So much fun, we had such an amazing time!"

It really is a great opportunity to get to know each other better, have fun and be encouraged by as many or as few meetings and sessions as you would like to attend. Another camper said "I loved my time at Focus, feeling totally blessed by the input, the worship and the wonderful, supportive company on our church pitch."



We are going again this year and bookings are already on track to be at least double the number of last year. Please do consider joining us or nearer the time you can also purchase day tickets if camping really isn't your thing! Speak to the Church Office Team for more details.

**Liz Morris**

## Deanery Synod



Deaneries are small geographical divisions of the Diocese (in our case, the Diocese of Southwark), within which parishes are grouped under the care of an Area Dean. Each Deanery has a Deanery Synod, which provides an opportunity to consider issues of common interest and to build a sense of community among churches in the same local area. Your three Deanery Synod members are Sue Reed, Cathy

Hewett and myself. Any church member may attend to listen to the talks.

You can find out more about the Deanery via [this link](#), where the churches of the 15 parishes are pictured and events are posted.

Deanery Synod meets three times a year, always in a different church in the Deanery. Meetings are chaired by Rev Alex Barrow, Area Dean, and attended by elected lay church members from each parish plus clergy in the Deanery. Members' commitment is to three meetings per year plus being on the PCC of their own churches.

As well as news about new clergy, retirees etc, the Synod receives updates on on-going campaigns and hears talks on a variety of subjects:

- the knife bin project has become a gift to [Operation Forgiveness](#), a schools-based project against knife crime. We heard a moving and positive talk by the leader
- Eco-deanery - the promotion of eco measures and events in the parishes. We have a deanery eco champion who leads a Deanery Creation Care WhatsApp group, which any church member can join. We heard talks by Crew Energy about church heating and transition to low energy and by Jack Edwards on Diocesan support for progress towards carbon net zero in our church buildings
- The Deanery is seeking a lay vocations champion to promote formal qualifications to facilitate church members to serve in our churches. They do not need to be on Deanery Synod.
- Talks by guest speakers included the role of [Parish Nurses](#), Israel & Palestine and the [Southwark Diocesan Vision 2024-2035](#).

For me, Deanery Synod means being part of a bigger whole.

**Susan Armstrong**

## Fair Trade Stall



Although Traidcraft had to cease trading in January 2023, we have been able to continue buying fairly traded food and crafts from several other Fair Trade organizations over the past year.

We can still buy the Real Advent Calendar and the Real Easter Egg from the [Meaningful Chocolate Company](#). We can buy chocolate bars, sauces, tea, coffee, cereal bars and cards and other crafts, which are available from [Ethical Superstore](#), [True Origin](#), [We are Fair Trade](#) and other Fair Trade organisations.

[Transform Trade](#), the Charity which worked with Traidcraft and was previously known as Traidcraft Exchange, is still

doing great work supporting farmers and other workers with training and information.

Last year we bought goods worth £1,581 from the Fair Trade companies. We also had some goods remaining after Traidcraft closed eg. Easter cards and some Christmas decorations. Payments received on the stall were £1,771.16 (£1,490.44 cash and £280.72 using SumUp

card payments). This year we were able to send a donation to Transform Trade of £76.50. This is partly due to the Traidcraft items we still had in stock when Traidcraft closed, so that we received additional payments on the stall this year and were able to pay for goods ordered and give a donation.

Thank you to everyone who has supported the stall this past year, whether that was to buy goods or to look at the information on the stall.

**Rosalind Ambrose**

## Riverbank Trust



[Riverbank Trust](#) supports and equips vulnerable single mums through long term emotional and practical support in partnership with the church community. In general, this year Riverbank saw an increase in referrals from the NHS social prescribing team, self-referrals, schools and

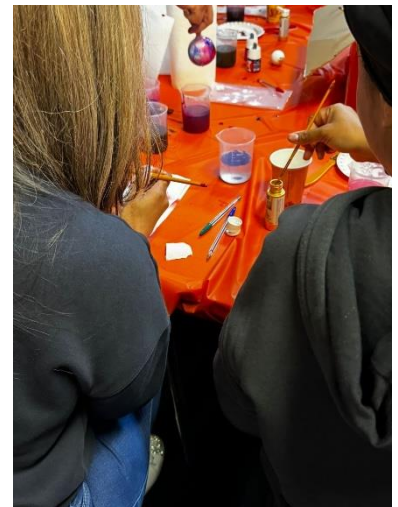
Achieving for Children. There's been a notable increase in referrals due to the cost of living and housing crises. Referrals have become more complex in the last year due to these factors and the strain on services. Riverbank has become a refuge for families in the storm, offering the love and care of Jesus through emotional and practical support during these times.

In the last year we've seen exciting developments in our partnership with HTR. We've run an Alpha Course together; it was well attended and attracted many Riverbank Mums. We've also seen many new Riverbank Mums volunteering in church as well as in Riverbank groups. The partnership has been helpful in supporting Mums to access church Services and events, including the Light Party, summer BBQ, Christmas and Easter Services. Women who attend Riverbank often comment on the warm welcome and encouragement they receive from the people at HTR - to many it feels like a second home.

HTR is making a real impact in the local community through Riverbank, as the ministry extended throughout the Borough this year to include Whitton alongside Richmond and Ham. As we know, these were long-standing visions! Thank you for being so generous in your praying, your financial giving and your support in other ways. In responding to God's call, we will also be starting a Riverbank project in Hampton Wick from Summer 2024.

Thank you again for everything you've made possible! God bless you!

**Laura Lowther, CEO**



## Kick



We are proud to have been founded by HTR, we are delighted to continue to operate from the church as our office base and we are pleased to have celebrated our 20-year anniversary this year. Kick's mission is to transform young people's lives, with God's love, through sport and support. We do this through values-driven physical education, street dance, mentoring, chaplaincy in schools and church-based Kick Academies to impact young people.

[Kick](#) has grown nationally rapidly, engaging over 28,000 young people a week across over 100 schools and 25 Kick Academies across the UK. We provide chaplaincy and coaching to Holy Trinity Richmond Primary School, where we have worked for over 20 years. This year, we have started writing a book about a number of the testimonies of God's kindness to the organisation over the years, and we hope to publish this in the autumn of 2024.



Thank you for your faithful prayers and please continue to ask God to lead and bless us. At Kick we are committed to seeing young people experience a hope for the future and joy in the present.

**Joe Lowther, CEO**

## LVA Trust



[LVA Trust](#) continues to expand and grow its work in all areas of ministry with young people, delivering workshops in around 24 schools and facilitating small groups and one to one mentoring in eight of those schools.

Since September 2023 we have appointed a youth lead, Courtney Gilead who is heading up our work with young people and families on the Meadows Estate in Hounslow, offering weekly clubs for separate boys and girls groups as well as day camps in the school holidays. Working with around 20-25 young people aged between 8-14, we give them a safe space to hang out and develop as we facilitate a sports activity and a LVA element to the sessions. Courtney has two volunteers who work alongside him to resource the Estate, with great and fun activities that the families and young people appreciate.

Our schools work is as sought after as ever, with our workshop bookings being in consistent demand, with a couple of new schools engaging with us this academic year. We have recently trained three new educators to deliver small groups and mentoring as the demand was growing. We engaged with three new schools in the borough since January, who requested our mentoring services, and have been able to train up four amazing volunteers to deliver our Therapeutic Mentoring Programme.

After a successful pilot of our parenting programme, The Village, we are happy to report that we have been invited back again to deliver a second course in the summer term and can't wait to partner with Riverbank Trust and work alongside mums and families who Riverbank faithfully serve.

We thank you for your ongoing support, love and encouragement in all that we do.

**Mandy Turner** (Operations Manager and RSE Educator)

## Karis Kids



**Karis Kids**

Founded in 2007, [Karis Kids](#) is an initiative between the Church of Uganda and a group of UK churches (including ourselves) with the vision of bringing family and a future to vulnerable children in the slums of Kampala by supporting them within a family context. Holy Trinity is linked to St Peter's, Wandegaya, and our link families live in the Wandegaya slums.

Holy Trinity is currently supporting 26 families in Kampala involving around 50 current or past HTR families. We are still looking for sponsors for three families. If you are interested in being part of this mission and supporting a family, please speak to me at church or [email me](#).

The exciting news is that this summer, August 2024, we will be participating in another trip to Kampala to take part in this year's Summer Camp. There are four members of the team going from Richmond. We are looking forward to bringing back lots of news about our families and our link church, St Peter's. It will undoubtedly be another life-changing experience.

We have been well supported in our work with Karis this year by Will Law (who has visited us a couple of times and meets with me regularly) and by Wendy Allyss, who co-ordinates news from our link families. As HTR co-ordinator, I attend quarterly meetings with the team of church co-ordinators which are led by Wendy and Will. This keeps us in touch with the bigger picture, and it is lovely to hear what the other UK churches are doing.

Over the next year we will be feeding back about our experiences at Summer Camp and we are hoping to hold some fundraising and information events here. Please look out for these if you would like to know more.

I'll finish with some words from Kampala, from Canon John Awodi, Kampala Diocesan Secretary: "This is a life-changing ministry; the greatest opportunity to see transformation in the life of a child. It will not leave your mind once you've seen it."

**Mandie Lambert**

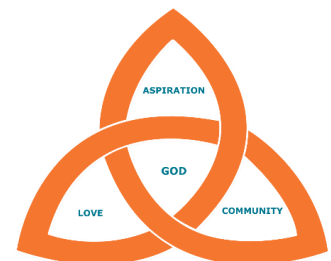
## Holy Trinity School



We are deeply privileged to have a wonderful relationship with [Holy Trinity School](#), which is reflected in the significant overlap between the church and school communities and the mutual flourishing that exists in our working together, reflected in weekly church-led collective worship, end of term Services held at church, our weekly Bible Club, annual Prayer Space week and so much more.

The last year has seen plenty of change in our School. In September, Michèle Marcus stepped down after 12 years as a school governor and four and a half years as chair, and we say an enormous thank you to her for her superb commitment and service throughout that time. I have been delighted to step up as co-chair alongside Francis Neal, a longstanding Holy Trinity School parent and foundation governor who worships at St Mary's, Mortlake. We have also bid farewell to Alison Bateman, our headteacher for the past five years. Alison has brought a clarity to our Christian vision and values, and has been a steady and reassuring presence both through lockdowns and amidst the longer lasting repercussions of the pandemic.

Our Key Stage 2 SATS results have remained consistently well above the national average, for which we give enormous thanks to the wonderful teaching staff for all their hard work and dedication. We are a diverse community known for being a warm and nurturing environment in which children thrive. We do however face significant challenges as budgets become increasingly stretched, alongside falling roll numbers as families move away from Richmond.



Our primary challenge at present is the recruitment of a new headteacher to lead the school into the next season, in a national climate where head recruitment is known to be challenging, and which our own experience so far attests to. We are grateful to Emily Evans who has come to us as an interim executive head, alongside her leadership at St Paul's, Chessington, and who brings a wealth of experience as well as plenty of energy and enthusiasm. We are seeking a bold strategic educational leader who will help us to work through the current challenges as well as building on the legacy of a close relationship with our church, and we pray that the right person will have a real sense of calling to this role.

**Eils Osgood**

## Christ's School



[Christ's](#) is our local Church of England secondary school. Under the excellent leadership of headteacher Helen Dixon, it continues to flourish and serve its community to the highest standard.

The School is consistently oversubscribed, including the Sixth Form. This oversubscription is likely to continue for a further intake next year, as there continues to be high demand for secondary school placements in the Borough.

Interestingly, we had a session with the Southwark Diocese at our last Governors' meeting, where they shared concerns about significant future declines in student numbers. A combination of socioeconomic trends and many people with younger children leaving the area through the various lockdowns has caused a drop off in enrolments in primary schools. This will take several years to impact Christ's, but the Diocese is forecasting a potential decrease of as much as 20% across all its schools. This could cause significant financial challenges for the School and the Governors are working with the finance team to budget for this eventuality.

The School recently underwent a Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools. The inspection report identifies the school strengths to include things like *"School leaders show an unswerving commitment to leading the school in a Christian way"* and that the *"Governors are determined that their strategic leadership will preserve and enhance the school's Christian identity."*

In addition, the inspection findings are summarised in the opening of the report and state that *"Christ's School's vision and its associated values of love, justice and peace are absolutely central to the life of the school. A commitment to love, justice and peace is the school's chosen way of ensuring that all are enabled to live life to the full. These values, like the vision, are known, accepted and understood by all members of the school community."*

The School continues to perform well and serve its students and our community with high quality teaching and services.

Holy Trinity Church has three representatives on the Board of Governors - Katy Johnston, Sean Morris and Michelle Prance. Penny Cox has moved from being a Governor for Holy Trinity Church to a Foundation Governor for the Southwark Board of Education.

If you would like to know more about the School, please do ask us.

**Sean Morris**

### Christ's School Vision & Values

*we are a John 10:10 school*  
who aim to cultivate 'life to the full'  
in every member of our family



*The pillars of our school:*

LOVE	JUSTICE	PEACE
We love ourselves	We speak the truth	We seek reconciliation
We love one another	We play, perform & work fairly	We live at peace with everyone
We love our environment	We challenge injustice	We practise patience

*Their biblical foundation:*

GOD IS LOVE	JESUS DEMANDS JUSTICE	HOLY SPIRIT BRINGS PEACE
Precious in God's sight <small>Psalm 138:8</small>	Jesus is 'the truth' <small>John 14:6</small>	Spirit equips us to forgive <small>Colossians 3:13</small>
All created in God's image <small>Genesis 1:26</small>	Jesus sets the standard <small>Matthew 5:48</small>	Spirit builds families of peace <small>1 Timothy 3:15</small>
Stewards of God's creation <small>Genesis 1:28</small>	Jesus broke down barriers <small>John 8:12</small>	Spirit grows fruit of patience <small>Galatians 5:22-23</small>

## Easter Experience



A new initiative for 2024 was working together with Hywel Ling-Davies from [Insight](#), our local Christian Schools Work Trust, to put on the Easter Experience. I knew from previous experience with the Kingston Insight team that this can be a great opportunity to connect with local schools, and so was keen for us to try to replicate that here in Richmond. In the end, around 80-90 Year 5 children from Holy Trinity School and St. Richard's, Ham, came to witness the Easter story, as told through five dramatic monologues, with a whole host of educational activities to follow up.

The children were deeply engaged with both the story and the activities, as could be seen from the huge range of searching questions they had at the end, which covered topics like the Trinity, the reasons for Jesus' death, the evidence for the resurrection, the problem of evil in the world, and so on (we ran out of time well before we ran out of questions!). Feedback from the staff was universally positive, including these comments from a teacher at St. Richard's:

*"Everything was so well organised and to such a high standard, the quality of the performance was outstanding, we thought they were a professional drama group. The resources were great and the pace was spot on. Absolutely amazing, we are so thankful for all of the adults that took time to make this happen. The impact on the children was so evident in the way they engaged and the questions they asked at the end."*

Huge thanks go to our drama team (Joy Toledo-Hardy, Paul & Val Smith, Matt Osgood) and to the Church Office Team and others for organising hospitality and other logistics to make the week a success. Please continue to pray for Hywel as he works to build further links with local schools - we're hoping for more schools to join us for the Easter Experience 2025!

**Eils Osgood**



# Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) held on 14 May 2023

The 2023 APCM took place within the 10.00 Morning Service on Sunday 14 May 2023. The Service included worship, prayer, a reading and talk as usual and the business items necessary as part of an APCM.

Dan Wells (DW) explained that the APCM is two separate meetings, the first concerning the election of Churchwardens and the second the Annual Meeting itself. Voting on the appointment of Wardens involves not only those on our Electoral Roll but also anyone who lives in the parish, emphasising that Wardens serve the whole of our parish and not just those who are part of our church family.

## Election of Churchwardens by parishioners

This part of the meeting was chaired by Dan Wells.

1. **Minutes of the 2022 meeting** - Approval was proposed by Mark Lambert, seconded by James Thornton and agreed by the meeting with one abstention.
2. **Election of Churchwardens** - Two nominations had been received for the role of Warden for the coming year, for James Thornton, proposed by Gerry Stride and seconded by Nico Marais, and Keith Nurse, proposed by David Ewart and seconded by James Thornton. Dan recognised that Penny Cox had served as Churchwarden for most of this year but has now moved away. He expressed his gratitude for Penny's hard work for the church and shared that flowers had been sent to her home as she was not present at the meeting. Dan thanked James for his service over the past few years, especially with the challenges in Dan's absence for part of the year as well as Liz Morris for all that she did in his absence. Both were presented with a gift and a round of applause. Dan thanked everyone else who had helped in various ways in the past year and acknowledged his thanks to Keith Nurse for taking up the role of Churchwarden. Dan expressed his thanks to David Ewart who carries out a variety of supportive tasks, some as part of a Deputy Churchwarden role and he announced that David is willing to be re-elected to this role for another year. A round of applause was given for David. Dan prayed for James, Keith and David that God would give them the energy and time as they continue to serve in so many different ways. He thanked God for their willingness to serve and asked that God would bless them with strength and energy. Dan shared a scripture that was given in the prayer meeting before the service from Deuteronomy 4:29 "But if from there you seek the Lord your God, you will find him if you seek him with all your heart and with all your soul." He encouraged everyone that in good times and difficult times, God is always there to be sought.

## Annual Parochial Church Meeting

### Business

This part of the meeting was chaired by Dan Wells.

1. **Apologies for absence** - Apologies were received from Robs and Morag Lucas, Keith Nurse, Martin Phillips, Susan Armstrong, Thelma Pritchard, Val and Paul Smith, Catherin Tidmarsh and Rebecca Reynolds.
2. **Minutes of the 2022 Annual Meeting** - Approval was proposed by David Ewart, seconded by Nicholas Smith and agreed by the meeting.
3. **Electoral Roll** - Dan explained that the Roll reflects the number of adults actively involved in our church, but that it is not the most important or the only measure of health. It is the closest thing we have to church membership and it is revised each year. People can leave or join it at any time. Our previous Roll had 129 members, while the new one has 124 members, 34 of whom are residents in the parish while 90 live outside it. Dan encouraged people to consider joining the Roll if they have been baptised, live in the Parish or have been worshipping here for six months or more.
4. **Treasurer's Report** - David Ewart shared that he is active in the role of Treasurer at this time but that there are many others contributing to the work involved with our finances. He thanked Thelma Pritchard for her Bookkeeping work, Keith Nurse for managing donations including obtaining the tax reclaim and operating payroll, and Liz Morris and the office team for supporting him in a variety of ways.

He shared his amazement at the incredible amount of giving from this church and thanked everyone for their generosity. He noted that despite several years of deficit in the budget, God has been faithful every time to provide a surplus and that from an accountant's point of view, managing church finances is very different to how you would expect. He noted that in particular, at a time when regular giving has dropped, God has blessed us through legacies and one-off donations. David expressed thanks for the new piano, one such gift purchased with part of Kay Davidson's legacy which was generously given to the church.

David showed a chart that displayed that approximately 90% of the church's income comes from giving. He showed that most of the remaining income comes from Church Centre rentals and thanked the office team who put a lot of work into obtaining that income. David showed a chart which summarised our expenditure into approximately one-third to staff salaries (David noted, in addition, we pay a half stipend toward our Associate Vicar costs), one-third to the diocese (which includes the cost of a full stipend and housing costs for Dan) and the remaining third for outreach giving (including Gift Day), the building and a few other costs.

David showed a table summarising 2022 income and expenditure and drew attention to £65,000 that we received last year in reclaimed tax through gift aid. He urged anyone who is giving and eligible to sign up to gift aid if they have not already. He noted that we finished the year with a total net income of £137,000 in our account and the discretionary

fund. He shared the balance sheet and explained that the Tangible Fixed Assets amount at zero is correct as much of what we own has depreciated in value over a long time already. There are however some new purchases that will appear on next year's balance sheet. He noted that we have approximately £1,250,000 invested in reserves which will be used towards the upcoming building project. He explained that the PCC does not own the church but that it is held in trust for the people and anything we pay for is written off as a cost. David invited anyone with questions to approach himself, Mark Johnston, Mark Lambert, Keith Nurse or Liz Morris.

Lastly, he displayed the budget for 2023 and noted that this year's budget contains a deficit of £18,000. David invited anyone to inspect the accounts in more detail either on the church website or to ask him for a copy.

- Approval of the 2022 Accounts was proposed by Mark Lambert, seconded by Nicholas Smith and agreed upon by the meeting with one abstention
- Adoption of the 2023 Budget was proposed by Karen Block, seconded by Graham Bamping and agreed upon by the meeting
- Appointment of John Helm as our Independent Examiner was proposed by Graham Bamping, seconded by Mark Lambert and agreed upon by the meeting.

Dan thanked David for his hard work. He encouraged everyone with a word that had been shared during the pre-service prayer meeting - which was a reminder of the story of the widow's mite from the gospels and that everyone's generosity, however big or small, is hugely appreciated by the church and more particularly by God.

5. **Election of PCC members** - Dan explained that the trustees of the church are elected to serve on the PCC for a three-year term. Dan thanked Sue Petrie, Craig Brown and Mark Lambert as they end their term of office on the PCC. This year we need to elect three representatives to serve for three years. There had been two nominations - Anke Marais (proposed by Susan Jackson and seconded by Louise McFerran) and Martin Phillips (proposed by Gerry Stride and seconded by David Ewart). Dan explained that, therefore, we have one vacancy and invited anyone in the room who was eligible to stand for nomination. No one stood, and Dan explained that it's permissible to have a vacancy. As there were three vacancies and two nominees, they were duly elected.
6. **Election of Deanery Synod representatives** - Deanery Synod representatives attend a local gathering of Anglican churches to represent our church and they are elected every three years for a three-year term. This year, as the total on the electoral roll was 124 we need three representatives. There had been three nominations - Susan Armstrong (proposed by Karen Block and seconded by Nima Paribag), Cathy Hewett (proposed by Nima Paribag and seconded by Rosalind Ambrose) and Sue Reed (proposed by Louise McFerran and seconded by Hazel Dunlop). As there were three vacancies and three nominees, they were duly elected. Dan thanked each of them for serving in this way and extended his thanks to Karin Boyton who had just completed a three-year term and is stepping down.

Dan prayed for all the PCC members and Deanery Synod representatives that God would help them in their decisions and make them wise stewards. He thanked God for their

willingness to serve and asked that God would give them wisdom and understanding and bless them. Dan reminded everyone that the story of the widow's mite also applies to how we give of our time, whether a lot or a little and that God loves all of our sacrificial giving.

Dan invited anyone to ask a question on church business or the Book of Reports of which the answer would be beneficial to all to hear. There were no questions. Dan invited anyone to also come and talk to him directly at any time if they would like to. There was no other business, so the meeting closed.

### **Talk - Dan Wells**

#### *Reading - 1 Corinthians 3:9-11*

Dan explained that the APCM is a time to look back and to look forward. To look back on God's presence and faithfulness over the past year, and to look forward to the ways that God is working in the coming year and beyond. He encouraged everyone to read the Book of Reports if they haven't already. He drew attention to an image James referred to in his churchwarden's report: that of a ploughed field. He explained that Covid felt like a time where everything, not just church life, was being churned up and shaken to its roots. Uncomfortable and unsettling though that was, the ploughing happens to enable growth as new seeds are sown and new crops begin to grow. He explained that the Book of Reports is a wonderful testimony of some of the ways in which we have seen growth and new life across our church community in the past year.

Dan shared that during his praying and reflecting time in preparation for the APCM, another image was on his mind: that of a building. He explained that it was not surprising as we have been preparing for a building refurbishment project for some time, however, he reflected that both the field and the building are actually images of the church used by the apostle Paul in 1 Corinthians. Paul teaches and guides the congregation in Corinth when he says, "We are co-workers in God's service; you are God's field, God's building." (1 Corinthians 3:9). Dan explained that the church is God's building, it is the structure that he is making with each and everyone one of us a part of it. And it is a glorious building!

Dan highlighted that we don't get too many weddings at our church, possibly because our building doesn't always look the best from the outside. In a similar way, we may not think of God's building, the church, as being all that attractive - not our physical building, but the true church, the people. The church can be difficult and awkward, filled with imperfect people who get things wrong and hurt each other's feelings. However, we are God's building and what he builds is mighty and magnificent, a structure more glorious than even St Paul's Cathedral or Westminster Abbey.

Dan explained that Paul goes on: "By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as a wise builder, and someone else is building on it." (1 Corinthians 3:10). Dan noted that the building is God's, and he is the chief architect. But there are many different builders involved. He referred again to the Book of Reports which helps us to see how many people are active in putting brick upon brick in the building of God's church. He noted it's impossible to list everyone as all of us play our part in it. Dan expressed that he wanted to honour and thank each and every person and that builders are not just those who have the privilege of standing

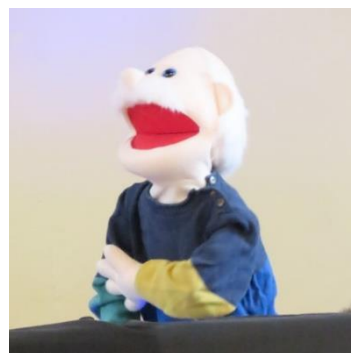
up front on a Sunday. He illustrated that each of us wears a hard hat and high-vis vest in the work of building God's glorious building, the church.

Dan posed the question 'So what of the future?' He shared that Paul warns us: "Each one should build with care. For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ." (1 Corinthians 3:10–11). He explained that our church is in the midst of a feasibility study for the physical building work to be done on the church building and that it is taking much longer than he expected which can be frustrating. However, time in this stage is important so that we build with care. We need to know what the needs are and how to fix them. Rushing in with no plan could actually make things worse! As builders together in God's work, we need to build with care.

Dan continued to explain that most important in your building are the foundations and getting them right would most likely lead to your building lasting for a very long time. As builders of God's building, we have one foundation: Jesus Christ. He noted there has been a fair bit of talk about the decline of the church in this country and others. That falling attendance and dwindling finances in some areas have led some to describe the church as being on life support. He noted that the debates and disagreements within the Church of England on matters of sexuality have not helped that opinion, but our job is to build on a sure foundation, the person and work of Jesus. He shared that he is the one we worship, the one we follow and the one we proclaim to a needy world. If we build on that foundation, we can be sure that the church will not only last, but thrive, and become the building that God has designed it to be, a wonderful, magnificent edifice that displays the glory of Him who brought us out of darkness into his marvellous light.

Following the talk, James Thornton led the church in an expression of thanks to Dan for his leadership and all that he does for our church.





Holy Trinity Church Centre  
Sheen Park  
Richmond  
TW9 1UP

[www.htrichmond.org.uk](http://www.htrichmond.org.uk)  
[office@htrichmond.org.uk](mailto:office@htrichmond.org.uk)

020 8404 1112  
Registered Charity 1129640

# BOOK OF REPORTS APCM 2024

Thank you to everyone who contributed to this  
Book of Reports



Rosalind  
Ambrose



Graham  
Bamping



Cathy  
Hewett



Sue  
Jackson



Mandie  
Lambert



Joe  
Lowther



Laura  
Lowther



Anke  
Marais



Liz  
Morris



Eseabasi  
Ntefon



Keith  
Nurse



Eils  
Osgood



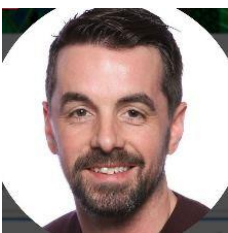
Matt  
Osgood



Martin  
Phillips



Gerry  
Stride



James  
Thornton



Catherin  
Tidmarsh



Mandy  
Turner



Dan  
Wells



Louise  
Wells



Helen  
West