

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Please join us for our Easter celebrations this year and for other events in the months ahead

Maundy Thursday - 24 March - 19.00
Eating, worshipping and praying together

Good Friday - 25 March - 10.00
Morning Service

Good Friday - 25 March - 12.00
The Passion Richmond (Richmond Riverside)

Easter Sunday - 27 March - 10.00
All Age Holy Communion - celebrate with us!

Easter Sunday - 27 March - 18.30
Evening Service

Friday 15 - Sunday 17 April
Men's Weekend Away

Wednesday 20 April - 20.00
Joint Churches Evening
(St Stephen's Twickenham)

Sunday 24 April - 10.00
Annual Church Meeting

Saturday 30 April - 10.00
Women's Refresher Morning

Wednesday 18 May - 20.00
Joint Churches Evening

Sunday 12 June
Picnic after the Morning Service

Sunday 19 June
Gift Day

Saturday 25 June - 09.00
Men's breakfast

Saturday 2 July - 09.00
Women's Breakfast

Sunday 10 July
Barbecue after the Morning Service

VERSES TO LIVE BY

For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline. (2 Timothy 1:7)

This verse has been important to me since I was a teenager, and I believe God directed me towards it soon after I became a Christian due to me lacking self-confidence and caring too much about what other people thought about me. Through this verse God helps me to be confident about who I am, and it encourages me to be the person God is calling me to be.

Mark Anderson

GROWING TOGETHER



This Spring we'll be running our popular Marriage Course, hosted this year by Kate and Alwyn Webb. It's based on Christian principles, but you don't have to

be a Christian or have a church background to benefit from these evenings. Topics will include building strong foundations; the art of communication; resolving conflict; the power of forgiveness; the impact of family past and present; intimacy and love in action. It's a safe environment, so do not fear - there will be no group discussion and no requirement to disclose anything about your relationship to anyone else!

Join us on Thursdays at 19.45 (coffee and pudding) evenings from 21 April to learn how to build an even stronger marriage.

THE LAST WORD FROM TREVOR



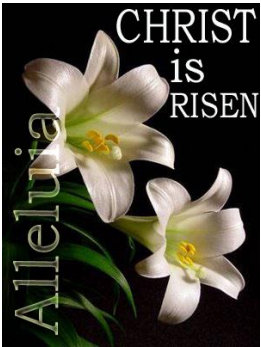
A hope that does not disappoint

"After some time he felt for his pipe. It was not broken, and that was something. Then he felt for his pouch, and there was some tobacco in it, and that was something more. Then he felt for matches and he could not find any at all, and that shattered his hopes completely."

Like Bilbo Baggins in this wonderful quote from The Hobbit , we all face disappointments in life! People let us down and situations don't turn out as we had hoped. That is why the message of Easter is such good news! Paul says in his letter to the Church in Rome that 'hope does not disappoint us...' The hope that God brings is not a vague aspiration. It is a glorious confidence that lasts forever. God loves us so much that in Jesus He came to live on earth as one of us; by dying and rising again he rescued us forever from the deathly consequences of our sin and selfishness.

People let us down but God never will. In Jesus, God removed forever the barrier that human sin had created. A holy and loving God bore the brunt of your mess so that you might come home to Him.

If you put your trust in Jesus you will enter into life in all its fullness forever, something that the apostle Peter says 'can never perish, spoil or fade.



WELCOME TO HTR

We'd love you to join us at any of our events. If you're free on a Wednesday, why not come along to our Morning Service and lunch? Or how about our Marriage Course? - it might just change the rest of your life. And there's always Sundays, morning or evening.

Call 020 8404 1112 or go to www.htrichmond.org.uk
 @church_htr HTR - Holy Trinity Richmond

holy|trinity|richmond
a church with an open door

Sunday Services - 10.00 and 18.30
Wednesday Service - 11.30

CORNERSTONE

Edition 8 - Easter 2016

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

BEING OTHERLY

At the start of each year we spend a Sunday thinking about our church's vision. We believe God has called us to be a church with an open door, reaching out with God's love and power, and helping one another live for Jesus. This year we sense He is calling us to focus especially on the *one another* part of this - being otherly.



Our church is a wonderful community to be part of. But this year we want to strength further our sense of being God's family as we walk together in faith and life. So we'd love you to consider the part you can play in this ...

We pray together ... how and where can I do this?
We serve together ... what part does God have for me to play?
We learn together ... how can I learn this year?
We eat together ... who can I invite?
We weep together ... how can I stand alongside others practically and in prayer when life is tough?
We grow together ... how can I share my life to include others in our church family?

God wants to build His church, and we see this happening already in some wonderfully diverse ways. But with our God there's always more - more to discover of his grace and mercy to us, and more ways to show His love to others because of His love for us. So join us this year on this exciting journey!

LIFE IN BARNES

But if you return to me and obey my commands, then even if your exiled people are at the farthest horizon, I will gather them from there and bring them to the place I have chosen as a dwelling for my Name
Nehemiah 1:9

Holy Trinity Barnes is over three years old as a church plant from HTR, and as one of our churchwardens said a while back, looking around at everyone gathered for our Sunday worship, 'I think we can now call ourselves a church.'

The book of Nehemiah begins with heartfelt prayer, and so it was for us when we asked for God to use us to bring a fresh start for HT Barnes and its mission to this community. I recall being asked when I was interviewed by a panel prior to the plant 'How is the church going to grow?' I am not sure I mustered a very complicated answer in replying 'We're going to tell people about Jesus.' And so it has been.

We gather on Sundays at 10.00 and now have a number of different Community Groups meeting in homes during the week. We run Alpha every term in a local café and, thus far, we have always had a few people coming to us with questions about the Christian faith. This remains the main way into church life for those joining us.



We are so thankful to God for all He has done in and through us that was enabled by HTR through their amazing generosity in sending both people and resources to Barnes. Please pray for yet more blessing on us in the months and years ahead. Recently, we have needed to buy more chairs which, as we reflect, is a very happy problem to have! However, as we are always aware - it's all grace.

David Cooke

GIVING IT AWAY



Did you realise that last year we gave away over £50,000 to support other people and organisations carrying out God's work? Locally this included Kick London, Riverbank Trust, Richmond Street Pastors and Prison Fellowship (running Sycamore Tree courses in Feltham Youth Offender Institution).

Further afield in the UK we supported Central London Vineyard Grace Church and church planting work through the Urban Action Trust. Overseas, in Uganda we were able to support both the ministry of Karis Kids and a building project at our link church of St Peter's Wandegeya. Elsewhere we provided funds for the work of Open Doors, Interserve, the International Justice Mission and Wycliffe Bible Translators.

Thank you for your tremendous generosity in making this possible!

LIFE FOR REAL

Life Groups are a great place to discover more about being otherly. Most meet on weekday evenings, although there is a Tuesday afternoon group and one for women (Oasis) on Friday mornings. Every group is different, but common to all are learning, worshipping, praying, supporting and encouraging, with food and laughter featuring highly!

We'd love everyone to be part of a group like this. To join one or find out more, do get in touch with us.

Here's a flavour of Mark and Mandie Lambert's group:

We meet at 20.00 on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month, and normally kick off with a tea/coffee and a catch-up natter ... personal/family or church news. We are enthusiastic Bible studiers and usually study a book through to completion - we take turns in preparing and leading the sessions, which usually take about 40 minutes. We always finish with prayer - health/family, whatever's on our hearts. It's personal stuff ... and of course what comes up at Homegroup stays at Homegroup.

It's great to look back and see how God answers our prayers - big and little. We've grown together and it's a privilege to be a part of each other's lives and to care for and encourage each other.

CHRISTMAS 2015



It seems ages ago now, but during December Holy Trinity was buzzing with activity! Apart from our own Nativity Service, Wednesday and Sunday Carol Services and Christingle Service, we hosted five events for local schools, which often saw queues at the door, the Worship Area packed full and people standing in the Trinity Room. It was great to share Christmas with local people in this way, and to share something of the hope we have in Jesus our Saviour.

YEEHAW!



The last Saturday evening in January saw our church transformed for a large group of adults and children to enjoy a riotous Barn Dance. Anything the dancing may have lacked in terms of finesse was more than compensated for by energy and enthusiasm, and the church was filled with the joyful sounds of people enjoying a really fun time together.

Our caller, Joe Fahey, returning after a similar event three years ago, was very patient and helpful in his instructions, even though time and time again we couldn't tell our left from our right, or spent more time crashing into each other than gliding gracefully across the floor.



As always, the success of events like this depends on people who give their time so generously. Thank you especially to those who decorated the church so attractively, provided such wonderful food, swept up the remains of the straw bales and put the church back together in time for our Sunday Services!

MEN'S BREAKFAST



Also back in January, some of the men in our church shared breakfast together and welcomed Tony Jarrett as their speaker. Tony is a former hurdler, Olympic athlete and winner of two World Championship silver medals, who now mentors young students in East London one-to-one, including motivating them to reach their full potential. He also coaches accomplished sports professionals in sprint and endurance conditioning.

Tony shared stories of growing up and family life, and the realisation he could become a great athlete. He recalled sporting memories which many of us could remember, and spoke with great humour about his keen rivalry with fellow hurdler Colin Jackson, which spurred him on to achieve more than he otherwise would. And he told us how all his success still left him feeling something was missing in life, and how meeting Jesus changed this.



He left us with the challenge that among all the blessings we enjoy in life we shouldn't forget the blessing, the life-changing God who can inspire and equip us all.

RIVERBANK SUNDAY



Mothering Sunday is a very special time for the Riverbank family, as we thank God for the wonderful mums that we support, and as we reflect on all He is doing on the Riverbank. One of our favourite ways to do this is to share our heart and vision with our 'Mother' church, Holy Trinity, which we were privileged to do once again on Mothering Sunday morning!

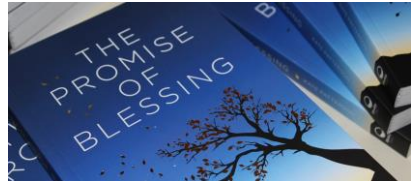


This year our theme was 'home', a concept that deepens for us year by year as we have the joy of seeing God build a precious and safe home amongst our community here for those facing very difficult and isolating situations. We were thrilled to share our hope and vision for a Riverbank 'home', a physical place in our community where mums and families would be able to visit us at any time of the day, and where we would be able to provide care and support to more families. We are excited to see what God has in store for us over the next year and are so thankful to Holy Trinity for all their continued support, love and prayers!

Ellie Hughes

THE PROMISE OF BLESSING ...

... has indeed been a blessing to many people. Kate Patterson's first book has been so popular that it has had to be reprinted! You can still buy a copy at church for yourself or friends.



THE RELUCTANT GOVERNOR

My biggest concern on becoming a Governor at Holy Trinity Primary School was whether I would have anything useful to contribute. A background in media and communication hardly seemed a good fit with responsibilities like "holding the head teacher to account," "setting the ethos, vision and strategic direction" and "overseeing the financial performance" of the school "to ensure money is well spent." For someone with little knowledge about teaching and learning beyond the children's school reports and my own vague memories, as well as a fairly cavalier attitude to credit card spending, I reckoned I would serve out my four-year term and quietly sidle away.

Of course, "He knows us far better than we know ourselves" (Romans 8: 27, The Message Bible). I found myself sitting on interesting sub-committees, attending professional training courses and reading every news article I could find on education. Next thing I knew I was chairing a committee, overseeing an area of the curriculum (humanities in fact, so nothing too crucial like maths or English!), writing the School's 5-year vision and running the School newspaper with a team of Year 6 editors.

Now approaching the end of my second four-year term, I've been elected vice chair of Governors, so I guess there's no quiet sidling away for a while yet! As Proverbs 3:5 says, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding."

Michèle Marcus

WEDNESDAY COMMUNITY

I'm writing this knowing our secret will be out once you read this! You may not have heard, but our midweek Service is amazing. Either Morning Prayer or Communion, it provides a place for thoughtful reflection. We meet in the intimate setting of the chancel and it is a haven of peace! The Service gives older folk particularly a chance to contribute, speaking, praying, encouraging and doing the reading.

As I have got to know those who attend, it makes me very grateful to many of our older folk who have given so much to our church in a whole variety of ways over the years, and add depth and wisdom to our life together as the Body of Christ. These lovely 'Elderberries' are prayer warriors, faithfully praying their way through our Church Bulletin event by event!

Afterwards we gather for lunch, a lifeline for older folk in particular, who often sit alone for lunch. A hot meal of some kind has been amazingly provided every week throughout winter months by a small number of chefs, a real blessing. At the Wednesday Christmas Carol Service, featuring the children from Holy Trinity School, thirty people shared an excellent Christmas Lunch.

It's wonderful to see friendships formed over lunch, taking away the isolation many folk feel when they live alone and family isn't close by. Lifts are provided to and from the Service, along with occasional spare food to take home, or someone to pop to the shop for that forgotten milk!

I love to watch how the Wednesday community bursts into life around the lunch table, where the 'word' for the day is discussed, along with gardening tips, who is on holiday next and catching up on the whereabouts of old friends. There is even a Birthday cake or two! The community is growing and includes some folk from other churches and many others who have made the Wednesday service their church. Do come and join us for this uplifting gathering.

Sheena Marx