

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Please join us at events in the coming months

**Autumn Launch Evening - 9 September - 19.30**  
Eat, worship and pray together

**Harvest Sunday - 25 September - 10.00, 18.30**  
Celebrating God's goodness to us

**Joint Churches Worship & Prayer - 20.00**  
Evenings on 21 September & 16 November

### Alpha Course

A chance to explore the meaning of life

Launch supper **29 September - 19.30**

Course **9 Thursdays from 6 October - 19.30**

### Women's Weekend - 7 to 9 October

Time away together at the Oast Houses, Sussex

### Vineyard Lunch - 6 November - 12.30

Hosting the weekly lunch run by local churches

Please see our Weekly Church Bulletin and website for details of prayer meetings, breakfasts, socials and lots of other events.

## VERSES TO LIVE BY

*Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers* (Galatians 6:9,10)

Our Staff Team sensed this was God's verse for me when I joined the Team some years ago. Serving is a privilege and a joy, at least most of the time! Paul knew from personal experience that serving can be a real challenge. So when it's more of a struggle for me, these verses are an encouragement to press on, and a helpful reminder of who I'm serving, why I'm serving, and what I'm called to.

**Keith Nurse**

## WELCOME TO HTR

We'd love you to join us at any of our events. Why not come along to one of our weekly Sunday or Wednesday Services? Or how about exploring the big questions of life on our Alpha Course this autumn? Or maybe your kids would like to join our groups for children and young people, and meet some of our new leaders?

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

 @church\_htr

 HTR - Holy Trinity Richmond

## TRANSFORMING POWER



This summer I spent three weeks working for St Stephens, a Christian ministry serving and caring for the poor in Hong Kong. From mopping floors to praying through the night for a young woman withdrawing from crystal meth, my time in Hong Kong barely scratches the surface of the rhythm of life in this ministry which, since the 1960's has witnessed Jesus setting people free from addictions and transforming the lives of many living in poverty, hopelessness and despair.

I shared their home, now a beautiful site in the hills of the new territories of HK, for a few weeks and attempted to be a helpful pair of hands where needed, which led to all sorts of tasks and experiences! As well as caring for addicts as they recover, they minister to young families, care for and raise teenagers who can for various reasons no longer live at home, and outreach all across Hong Kong to the poorest of communities.

I cannot sum up my time there in a few paragraphs but I have returned home challenged by the call of Jesus on the Christian life that we would first of all be servants to those in need, more in love with the God who reaches out and embraces the poor and the broken with such compassion, and with a greater faith for the transforming power of Jesus in our community and city when we place our trust in Him.

**Ellie Hughes**

## THE LAST WORD FROM TREVOR



**The Lord would speak to Moses face to face, as a man speaks with his friend** (Exodus 33:11). What an amazing comment in the book of Exodus! - the idea that anyone could be that close to Almighty God.

It is very easy to think that God came close to special people in the Bible, but when we examine their lives more closely we see that many of the heroes in the Bible were ordinary, flawed people like us all. What marks out people like Moses is that they deeply trusted and loved God and were willing to be used by Him and the only way they could do this was to stay close to Him.

You might think that even if there is a God why would He be bothered with me? Surely there is too much going on in the world for Him to want to know me? The truth is that *everyone* matters to God. Our sin and mess has separated us from God, but He loves us so much that He came to earth in His Son Jesus; He lived among us, died on the cross and rose again to open the way for us to know Him. He wants to speak to us 'like a man speaks with his friend.' The Bible regularly repeats the promise that because of Jesus if **'we come near to God, He will come near to us'** (James 4:8)

This term, why not explore with us how you can know God, by joining us on our Alpha Course.

**holy|trinity|richmond**  
a church with an open door

Sunday Services - 10.00 and 18.30  
Wednesday Service - 11.30

# CORNERSTONE

Edition 9 - Autumn 2016

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

## TOO BUSY NOT TO PRAY

Martin Luther said: "I have so much to do that I shall spend the first three hours in prayer." At first glance this may seem like a "holy" way of dodging responsibility. However, when we realise the power of prayer and the impact it can have on every part of our lives and the whole world, we really can be *Too Busy Not To Pray*.

At HTR we believe that prayer plays a central part in living out our vision - to be *a church with an open door, reaching out with God's love and power, helping one another live for Jesus* - and so we have many wonderful opportunities to pray together. Here are a few:

**Pre-Service** - Half an hour before every Sunday Service

**Early morning prayer** - Every Thursday morning, 07.30

**Pray for the nations** - Every Friday, 14.00

**Prayer Space** - Every fourth Monday of the month, 20.00

**Call To Prayer** - Every first Wednesday of the month, 20.00

**Joint Churches** - Every other month, 20.00 (watch the notices)

**Autumn Launch** - 19.30, 9 September 2016.



The following quote by Gary Haugen (CEO of the International Justice Mission) reminds me that God truly wants to involve us in changing the world:

*"By inventing the phenomenon of human prayer, God has decided to allow our asking to make a difference in the events of the world."*

**Nico Marsa's**

## Begin the adventure



## IS THERE MORE TO LIFE THAN THIS?

We'll be running another Alpha Course this autumn, but this time with an exciting new approach. Warning - it could change your life!

The Alpha Film Series is an updated, relevant and engaging resource that will take the audience on an epic journey exploring the basics of the Christian faith. Nicky Gumbel and two new presenters, Toby Flint and Gemma Hunt, will walk through the regular Alpha material in a way that everyone can relate to. The episodes feature inspiring stories and interviews from around the world, as well as visual illustrations and motion graphics.



The first film in the series reflects on the hundreds of thousands of hours we have available to us in life and the sorts of things we might do with them, and then offers a simple challenge - Why not spend 24 of them asking life's biggest questions?

Our Autumn Alpha Course kicks off with our introductory supper on Thursday 29 September when we will share food and wine followed by a brief presentation. The course runs for the following nine Thursdays at our church, always starting with a meal and followed by a film and discussion in small groups. It will be great if you can join us for this. Better still, bring along a friend. For more details contact our Church Office.

## GIFT DAY

We've been hugely encouraged again this year by a wonderful response to our Gift Day in June. We received over £35,000, which will be split evenly five ways:



**Karis Kids** - Secondary/Vocational Educational Fund

**Kick London** - Expanding their work into more schools

**Riverbank Trust** - Developing their community group work

**Shalom University, Bunia** - Helping finish ten dormitory rooms

**Transform Europe Now** - Supporting their Refugee Crisis Appeal.

Thank you for your tremendous generosity!

## FOCUS ON ... FOCUS!

**Kate Patterson** writes ... Why go camping? There are fine reasons people live in houses rather than tents - like my superking bed and my own shower. But despite being a not very hearty indoor type, I signed up to go camping for the 12th year in a row because I have discovered that the gains can outweigh the costs!

This year about 60 of us attended Focus, an amazing week of faith-building encounter with God, hosted by Holy Trinity Brompton in the New Forest. We had our own HTR camping pitch, superbly catered for by Richard Jackson. Eating together was a highlight and I won't forget watching the kids toasting marshmallows round a fire-pit.



There were many powerful talks. The Archbishop challenged us to reach out with the love of Christ. We

heard Shane Taylor's story of transformation from being one of Britain's most dangerous inmates to introducing others to the living God in our prisons. Archie Coates reminded us that God invites us to be his friends.

What did others think of Focus? **Catherine Brown** said, "Focus was a real encouragement for our faith with inspirational speakers and fantastic worship. It was also a chance to get to know people better and enjoy Richard's yummy cooking." And **Paula McAvoy** couldn't be more glowing, "For me Focus was my favourite place to be. I literally did not want to come home."

If you feel you missed out, talks from the week are on HTB's website. And do come next year!

**Karen Block** said ... "I went to Focus expectantly, praying that I would encounter God in new ways but, if I'm honest, crossing my fingers (rather than relying on faith) that He would help me cope with areas in my life that were becoming overwhelming.

The camping took me right out of my comfort zone but the weather was good and with all meals supplied, this was really more like glamping. There were practical challenges of trips to toilets and showers, but I encountered Jesus in a powerful way - from the thoughtfulness and support I received from fellow members of HTR and a real sense of community, to the fun that my daughter had, in spite of not being a regular at church.

I experienced physical, emotionally and spiritual healing. Needless to say, I'm already planning for Focus next year with family and friends."



First timers **Mark and Mandie Lambert** had this to say ... This was our first visit to Focus, and what a treat - great guest speakers with uplifting messages of hope, love and purpose; testimonies and worship in a circus big top in a typically idyllic English meadow in the New Forest; enthusiastically led morning and evening sessions for children of all ages, village camping with 60 of HTR's congregation; and at the heart great food wonderfully prepared by Richard Jackson. And we were right next to our friends from HT Barnes.

What about the wonderful bar in the walled garden? And did we mention the glamping toilets and showers?! What a wonderfully refreshing and invigorating holiday with likeminded people. Sign up for Focus 2017 quick!

**Sue Jackson** said ... "Me? Camping in the New Forest? No thank you!

Oh how thankful I am that our church family persuaded me to give it a try. Although I have been camping before, and this time it was glamping (there are so many different options for accommodation to suit everyone), I hadn't expected the week to be as inspiring, encouraging, challenging (so many seminars choose from) and equipping, with delicious food, (my husband was cooking for all of our church) and ... a lot of fun! What a blessing it was to spend a whole week with our amazing church family.



This was our son's first experience of Focus. In his words "The week was full of amazing testimonies of how Jesus is transforming lives, and I love that there was a community of 7,000 at all different stages in their faith, all united by the same reason ... God"

Now, where's that booking form for next year ..."

**Joao Tavares** said ... "Focus was one of the biggest excitements of my first year at HTR, and one of the activities that took most of my time with all the preparation. So my expectations were very high!

As it was the first time I attended Focus, before the event I confess I was apprehensive about how the week would be (it would also be my first time camping for a very, very long time). However, from the very first second until the very end, the experience was fantastic.

The Somerley Estate is an extremely beautiful piece of land, the atmosphere on the campsite was great, and God blessed us with a fantastic weather on that week. But the highlight for me was definitely the people. A week camping with God's people is great fun! The meals together, laughter, prayers together, and talks around a fire pit will stay in my mind, and I look forward to having all it again next year.

## NEW TERM, NEW FACES

This month we welcome three new people to HTR, who tell us a bit about themselves here.

**Georges Kesrouani** has joined as our Youth and Children's Minister:



I have just come from a pilot project working with vulnerable young women in West London, and had been working in Church ministries at St Michael's, Paris and St John's Ealing before that. I also spent time working alongside UCYC, a Camp Ministry in Arizona, and the Fusion Community Church in Las Vegas, partnering in local and international mission.

I have a degree in Youth Work and Ministry from Oasis College and a Cert. HE Theology from Heythrop College, University of London. I'm also an Accredited Member of the Institute for Youth Work at Level 6.

I'm adventurous at heart and love to explore, and my favourite achievement is completing a three day expedition, with a few friends, rafting the Colorado River at the Grand Canyon. However, after living in Paris, I've picked up some less than intrepid habits and still buy my coffee from *Fauchon* at Place de la Madeleine when I get the chance! I enjoy cycling and am particularly excited about living so close to Richmond Park.

I'm passionate about seeing God move in community, and excited to partner with the Church to see the Kingdom come among our children and young people. I believe that God always has more for His people, and I look forward to dreaming big dreams with HTR.

**Txaila Meyer** is spending a year with us as our Worship Intern:

I was raised in a German/Brazilian household and spent my childhood moving around Germany, New Zealand and Brazil. But Munich, the original place of Oktoberfest, the best breweries and every German cliché ever invented, is home to me.



In recent years I went to design school and finally graduated in graphic design this summer, and played in the worship team in my home church in Munich. Some random facts about me: I don't drink coffee, even though I'm half Brazilian, but never say no to a good cup of green or herbal tea. I love music, art, books, blueberries, cheesecake and shortbread. I look forward to learning more about God and worship, to be able to dedicate more of my time for His church, and to finally learn how to speak English with a British accent!

**Abbie Robertson** is spending a year with us as our Youth Intern:



I was born on the Isle of Man, which is home to the TT races, Manx kippers and cats with no tails! I have just completed A levels in History, Sociology and English. My passion is to serve young people, and to pass on the truth that we are loved and cherished by God.

For the past two years, I have been a young leader with Younglife, a Christian Youth organisation reaching out to those that do not yet know of God's love for them. Last year I had the privilege to serve for a month at a Younglife camp in America and witnessed hundreds of young people give their lives to Christ! I love music and dance and particularly as an expression of worship. I am so excited and blessed to be able to join the family at HTR and look forward to seeing what God has in store for us all!

## MEN'S WEEKEND AWAY

Back in April, a group of men from church spent a weekend of bonding, banter and teaching in the Cotswolds! We decided that our theme on this occasion would be 'Being BrOtherly', the inspiration for this coming from Mark Lambert. The theme expresses an aspiration that remains at the heart of our vision and values here at HTR.

As such, our teaching sessions focussed on key strands related to this, such as love, service and accountability, along with the question of what does being BrOtherly mean for us, as a group of men at HTR?



The times of worship and teaching were sandwiched between walking, talking eating and laughter. The highlights included a trip to the pub on the Saturday evening for a meal, followed by 'Quiz Night' back at the cottage. Once again, the weekend was instrumental in forging new friendships and in many cases rekindling a new passion for intimacy with, and commitment to, Christ.



It also provided a space for reflection away from the noise and pace of life in London. All in all, it was a pleasure to be part of, and again I'd like to thank all those who participated and made the weekend such a success.

*Alwyn Webb*

