

Cornerstone

Edition 13 - Christmas 2017

Sheen Park, Richmond, TW9 1UP

020 8404 1112

www.htrichmond.org.uk

Sunday Services - 10.00 and 18.30
Wednesday Service - 11.30

 HTR - Holy Trinity Richmond
 @church_htr

holy|trinity|richmond
a church with an open door

When Hope Came to Town

Christmas songs on the radio, Oxford Street and Regent Street completely decorated, a chance of a white Christmas on the horizon. Yes, as the song says: "It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas everywhere you go". The Christmas season has arrived and, with it, the busyness that only this time of year brings. However, it is also a time to celebrate. And here at



HTR there will be plenty of opportunities to join the celebration. This year's theme is *When Hope Came to Town*, a reminder of God becoming flesh

himself and deciding to dwell among us, a wonderful act of love, which fills us with hope. As written in Romans 15:13: *"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."*

We will kick off the season with our very special Contemporary Carols on Saturday 9 December at 18.30. This will be an opportunity to listen to some very talented local people expressing their gifts in many different forms. Come prepared to listen to exceptional music, poetry, readings and much more. Also, this might be your first opportunity of the season to grab a glass of mulled wine and a mince pie (if you don't like it, there will be apple pies, too!).

The season will continue with the HTR children presenting to us a fantastic Nativity play on Sunday 10 December, and a Carol Service on 13 December especially for those able to worship with us during the week. On Sunday 17 December we will have a wonderful event full of music -



our Carols by Candlelight. On Christmas Eve our Christingle Service will help us think about what God did in sending Jesus: the orange represents the world; the red ribbon symbolises the love of Jesus in being ready to die for us; the sweets and dried fruit remind us of God's wonderful creation; and the candle speaks of Jesus, the light of the world, bringing hope to people living in darkness. We will finish the season with a big celebration on

Christmas Day at our All Age Communion Service.

Between a last minute visit to Oxford Street and some online shopping which might, hopefully, arrive just the next day, we hope you will be able to join us as we come together for the biggest celebration of all: God sending His

son to dwell among us, *When Hope Came to Town*.

Joao Paulo Tavares

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A Tribute to Trevor's life

It was with great sadness that we received the news that our vicar, Trevor Patterson, died on Tuesday 10 October following a heart attack while out running. This has had a huge impact not only on our church community but also on many people near and far who were blessed by his ministry and friendship.

Trevor's Thanksgiving Service was held on the afternoon of 30 October at St Stephen's Church, Twickenham, and approximately 700 people attended. On that Monday tears were shed, but also Trevor's life was celebrated in many different ways. Beautiful and memorable words were shared by friends and family, and a real sense of how special Trevor was for each and every one of them was felt. Also, Trevor's love for God was celebrated.

The final prayer Trevor wrote in his journal says:
"Lord, Thank you that you live within me. May your amazing grace flow out of everything I do. Fill me today with the knowledge of your extravagant love and the intimate friendship of the Holy Spirit."

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Tristan Blood, a member of HTR, wrote in his tribute: *"When Paul writes in 1 Corinthians about the church as the Body of Christ, and each of us as a different part, I like to think of Trevor as the tip toes, that gave us the spring in our step, but also that lifted up every other part. Today he would be saying to us, on tip toes and arms outstretched, 'Come on church! Keep going! Your labours are not in vain! Jesus is waiting!'"* Trevor, thank you for showing us the way, for being the most Christ-like of men, and for running the finest of races with the biggest of smiles."

when I didn't deserve it. He showed me a glimpse of the forgiveness and grace which is eternally promised by my heavenly father."

The days and weeks following Trevor's death have been difficult for HTR and the wider community, but especially for his wife Kate and their boys Johnny, Connor, and Ben. However, we have seen our church come together in this time of grief and mourning. Moreover, we have experienced God's love and comfort during this challenging time as many have been praying and God's love has been poured out.

While we are without a vicar, our Churchwardens - Mark Lambert and David Ewart - become officially responsible for the smooth running of the parish. However, unlike many other churches, we are blessed to have a Curate, Alwyn Webb, and staff team in place, which both helps ministry to continue and covers things that might otherwise fall to the wardens. We are also in regular contact with our Diocese through our Archdeacon, John Kiddle.

When Paul writes in 1 Corinthians about the church as the Body of Christ, and each of us as a different part, I like to think of Trevor as the tip toes, that gave us the spring in our step, but also that lifted up every other part.

There is no doubt that Trevor will be missed hugely. He definitely left his mark not only at HTR with his 19 years of service, but also in the hearts and lives of those who had the privilege of meeting this extraordinary man. Trevor was a fantastic runner, a talented musician, a loving husband and father, a caring vicar and, last but not least, a passionate follower of Jesus Christ.

Joao Paulo Tavares



Johnny Patterson, Trevor's eldest son, shared a moving tribute, and part of it says:

"As Dad put himself in the way of grace, he grew in patience and love. I saw a tangible change each year of my life. What was behind this change? A deep belief in a God who accepted him regardless of his mess or his failings.

He used to speak with wonder of the cross: that Jesus would die for his sin, our sin ...

And as someone who had received grace, Dad extended grace to me - he was quick to forgive, never holding a grudge. I knew Dad would forgive me, even

The new kid on the block

My name is Hannah Helm, I am 19 years old and I come from Berlin, Germany. This year I am joining the incredible staff team at HTR to work alongside them as the Worship and Youth Intern.

This actually is not my first year in England. Last year I worked with an organisation called PAIS where I took part in a Christian gap year in schools and youth ministry. I worked in an international team providing assemblies, lunch clubs, workshops and other services for schools, based on Christian values. In addition to that I was also placed in a local church leading youth groups and youth events including a youth band.

Looking back on the last half year I can now smile and see God graciously guiding me through every single moment when I was confused and frustrated about what

I was going to do this year and whether to start university or join the Worship Central Academy and become part of HTR.

And I could not be happier to have ended up here! I know that God put me in this church for a reason. He always has a plan! Lastly, I also wanted to use this opportunity of introducing myself to just say thank you to all of you! I have rarely seen such a welcoming, warm and open hearted community of people. You made it so easy for me to feel right at home! Thank you!

I pray that we would all see God using us to bring his Kingdom into our everyday life and the world around us and a bit more of Heaven to Earth.

Hannah Helm



Wait upon the Lord

STRONGER was a very appropriate theme for HTR's women's Staycation, attended by over 70 ladies across the last weekend in November. It involved a rich programme of learning, singing, worshipping and praying together, interspersed with knitting and nattering, card making and 'Psalm Pilates'!

On the Friday night we started with a delicious Thai curry cooked with love by Richard Jackson and were then blessed to receive words of truth, humility and encouragement from Kate Patterson and her Mum Cynthia Peppiatt. We were also treated to - and several of us participated in - a highly animated and unrehearsed re-enactment of the story of David and Goliath! Following an evening of companionship, reflection and good humour, we each retired to our beds and met for breakfast back at HTR on the Saturday morning.

"Those who wait upon the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar..." Isaiah 40:31

We then heard from Jo Stilwell, who helps to lead a local church and is responsible for training and relationships at Kids Matter, an organisation which works with the Church to deliver effective parenting programmes within their communities, schools and prisons. We also welcomed Mary Kissell, involved in Christian ministry for over 40 years.

Jo and Mary each presented inspiring faith-based talks to encourage friendship and community, investing in one another, with the love and power of God at work

in every one of us.

I will leave the final word of our wonderful weekend to Kate Patterson, who keenly reminded us all of 'what a friend we have in Jesus'. Thank you to Kate and Kate Webb for preparing and leading us through a wonderful weekend of strength, compassion and solidarity.

Helen West

Time to Try...?

Whilst summer seems a long distant memory, fellowship and new opportunities to encounter God were the highlights of Focus 2017, a gathering of thousands of people from many churches across the country. Approximately 70 people from HTR attended in July, enjoying time away with the church family, sharing wonderfully prepared meals and, yes, braving the rain, to enjoy everything Focus has to offer: worship, talks, family fun, live music and more. So why wait? Tickets



for next year are now on sale, including weekend or day tickets, so there's no reason not to try it. Focus 2018 is on 27-31 July 2018. Early Bird Bookings can be made before 1 March, offering significant savings and the chance to spread the cost. More details can be found at <https://focus.htb.org/> See you there!

Our autumn Alpha Course was launched with a special supper and talk given by Jonathan Aitken, a former Cabinet minister in John Major's Government in the 1990's. Over 70 people on the night heard how Jonathan's own life was dramatically transformed by Alpha and about his ongoing commitment to Christ as he has led many people to the course over the years.

22 people signed up for autumn Alpha, sharing a meal together on Thursday evenings over nine weeks and gathering

in small groups to discuss topics including: How does God guide us?; Why and how do I pray?; How can I be filled with

the Holy Spirit? Alpha has something to offer everyone - from those who have been Christians all their life to those starting out on their Christian journey as well as those with no faith, agnostics or people who grew up in a different faith. What brings such diverse groups of people together is a desire to know if there is more to life and the willingness to hear and understand something about Christianity and the relevance of Jesus to their own life and to our society today.

Karen Block



Dates for your diary! An exciting opportunity to serve!

Please join us at events in the coming months

Leaders' & Preachers' Evening

Thursday 11 January - 20.00

Vision Sunday

Sunday 14 January - 10.00 & 18.30

Joint Churches Worship & Prayer

Wednesday Evenings - 20.00
on 17 January & 21 March

Giving Sunday

Sunday 21 January - 10.00 & 18.30

Church Day

Saturday 3 February - 09.00
Social evening from 19.00

Men's Breakfast

Saturday 24 February - 09.00

Riverbank Sunday

Sunday 25 February - 10.00 and 18.30

Women's Breakfast

Saturday 3 March - 09.00

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

Welcome to HTR

Are you new to HTR? We'd love you to join us at any of our events.

Why not join us for our Christmas Services during this festive season.

Or what about coming along to one of our weekly Sunday or Wednesday Services?



We would love to meet you.

Holy Trinity Richmond is an Anglican parish church, with strong links to the local community.

For more information, please contact us.

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 @church_htr

As London's largest emergency winter night shelter, Glass Door provides a safe, warm place to sleep for just under 100 men and women every night in winter, from November to early April. It does this through partnerships with churches across a number of London Boroughs. Guests experiencing homelessness can also access advice, food, showers and laundry facilities from drop-in day centres. Glass Door not only saves lives by providing refuge from the cold, but also helps guests build more stable futures. You can find out more about the charity at <http://www.glassdoor.org.uk>

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Glass Door is planning to launch a shelter in Richmond Borough in January 2018 (therefore covering just half the winter in its first year). This will involve seven churches hosting on one regular night each week. It's unclear what the level of demand will be, but there could be up to 25 guests, mostly men, with separate sleeping spaces provided for men and women. Bedding is just a mat and sleeping bag, and this is provided by the charity.



Each evening will require a team of volunteers to prepare a meal between 1800 and 2000, then serve the meal and talk to the guests who arrive at 2000. Volunteers then clear up and leave at 2200. Glass Door provides at least one and usually two workers, who let the guests in, stay all night and make breakfast in the morning. Guests then leave at 0700.

For 2018 a shelter will operate in our Borough for 12 weeks from 15 January. Although we will not be a host church, you are welcome to be involved with the scheme at another church. Further information about this will be available in the coming weeks.

List of venues:

Monday	St Elizabeth of Portugal RC Church
Tuesday	Vineyard Life Church
Wednesday	All Saints, East Sheen
Thursday	St John the Divine, Richmond
Friday	Christ Church, East Sheen
Saturday	St Matthias, Richmond
Sunday	St Mary with St Alban, Teddington

Keith Nurse

Verses to live by

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

¹⁶ Rejoice always, ¹⁷ pray continually, ¹⁸ give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

Being married to an American, and raising children with US citizenship, I have been exposed to the wonderful US holiday of Thanksgiving, a day spent with family and friends, feasting on too much delicious food, with the focus on being thankful. It is an easy scene in which to feel thankful, in the company of those you love and being fully satisfied on turkey with all the trimmings. But God wants us to be thankful in all circumstances, even when we are hungry, sick, sad or lonely. In a recent life group study we learned that the most frequent

type of command in the bible is to give thanks, to rejoice, to praise; in essence to be in a state of happiness focused on God. God wants us to be thankful even when the circumstances make that challenging. These verses in 1 Thessalonians are a useful reminder, that being thankful doesn't have to mean being fully satisfied. God's will is that we also pray continually while rejoicing and giving thanks in all circumstances. As Christmas approaches, I am reminded that to be thankful is a calling, a state of being into which I can take my hunger and my needs to a Heavenly Father who knows what we need even before we approach him, and in Christ has given us a living bread and water that will never leave us hungry or thirsty.

Tristan Blood