

The Way To Life

It is very hard to get lost these days. Most of us carry phones

in our pockets to tell us where we are and where we are going. Sophisticated maps, GPS and route planners direct us to the places we need to be. Unless we are hiking up a mountain or exploring uncharted territory, the possibility of getting lost anymore is very low.

Yet, despite all our sophisticated technology we can often *feel* lost. We may know our physical location, but we can be very unsure about where we are as human beings. Who am I? What is my purpose? How do I find the way to true life? These are questions that connect with each of us, and they are questions that no expensive gadget or technology can begin to answer.

Celebrating Easter is a way for us to tackle some of these important

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because, in the Easter story, God shows himself to us. If we want to know God,

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we see him most clearly in the person of Jesus of Nazareth. The Christian faith also claims that we see Jesus most clearly in the events and meaning of his death and resurrection.

Easter shows us

questions. It is a way for us to get our bearings as human beings, and to find our course and direction. That's

the way to life. We remember that each Easter time with flowers, bunnies and eggs. Each one represents new life. Yet it's in Jesus' journey at Easter, through death and out the other side, that we see the real way to new life. Chocolate eggs and vibrant flowers are enjoyable signs of life, but there is something much better and deeper on offer.

We would love to invite you to any of our Services over the Easter period to stop, reflect and think about Jesus' way to new life. We are also running an Alpha Course, which offers a great opportunity to consider these important questions and ask any questions of your own. You'll find the dates for our Alpha Supper and Course on the back page,

and we would be delighted to invite you along. I hope that this Easter is full of life and love for all this year.

Rev Dan Wells

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Christmas nostalgia

It seems ages ago now, but last December was a busy but joyful time when we welcomed hundreds of local people to HTR. As well as our own Nativity Service, Wednesday and Sunday Carol Services and Christingle Service, we hosted six events for local schools, which often saw queues at the door, the Worship Area packed full and people seated out in the Trinity Room. It was great to share with them something of the hope we have in Jesus our Saviour.

Keith Nurse

Focus on Focus

Join HTR on our trip away this summer to Focus from Thursday 25 July until Tuesday 30 July at the Somerley Estate in Ringwood in the New Forest. It's a superb opportunity to share time away in

worship, fellowship and fun.

Please go to <https://focus.htb.org> to find out more and book your tickets. Remember to tick HTR as we camp together in our own area with a communal eating and food prep area.

Helen West



APC... What?

APCM is our Annual Parochial Church Meeting, and will take place during our Morning Service on 28 April. It's a chance to celebrate God's goodness over the past year and look forward to the year ahead.

As part of this we will elect Churchwardens and three new Church Council (PCC) members. Have you ever

considered serving as a PCC member? If you are a person of prayer who believes that God speaks specifically

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and guides our church, a committed member of HTR with a good awareness of what's going on across the life of our church, and would like to help us manage a financial budget of well over £400,000 a year and use our resources, people and time wisely for the kingdom of God, then maybe this is the role for you!

Keith Nurse

Embracing for two years or more

The world is facing a refugee crisis on an unprecedented scale. More than 65 million people have been forced to leave their homes due to war or persecution.

Riverbank seek to befriend, love and support families in the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames who are in challenging and vulnerable situations.

As part of our vision ... , we are committed ... to directly support a newly resettled refugee family from Syria for a minimum of two years.

As part of our vision to see love and community wrapped around each family in need, we are committed to a Home Office Community Sponsorship programme that enables us to directly support a newly resettled refugee family from Syria for a minimum of two years. We are working in partnership with local organisations and individuals,

supported by the Borough.

We are excited to have secured a house in the Borough for our family that we have started renting and a team of paid staff and volunteers that are co-ordinating this project - from interpreters, English tuition and home furnishings to identifying local support services and schools.

We have an ongoing need to fund this work. Please consider making a donation at <http://bit.do/RiverbankCS>

Karen Block

Uganda - Growing together

I've just returned from my first trip to visit our link church, St Peter's Wandegaya and the 20 families that live in the slum area who we support through Karis Kids. There are many experiences that will continue to impact me over the coming weeks, months and years and there are a few I would like to share.

As we chatted and prayed together it was clear that only Jesus could truly transform their situations, and it was humbling and wonderful to see this in action in many of their lives.

First, it hugely surprised me to see how much our visit meant to the staff and members of St Peter's and I could see how much they had anticipated it. Their welcome was sincere and our being there



was continually celebrated throughout the week. It became clear to me that, as much as our time and gifts were an encouragement to them, their hope, love and joy were a wonderful gift to us. Spending time together was mutually

faith-building and I realised it is essential for the body of Christ in different parts of the world to be connected.

Secondly, to visit a city with its poorest occupants living in such cramped, hazardous and unsanitary areas was heart-breaking, and nothing can prepare you to witness and walk among the hardships these families are facing. As we visited each Karis family's home, it was astounding to receive huge welcomes and generous hospitality, which was largely due to the relationships built and support given by our church over the last ten years.

As we talked and prayed together, we shared in their sorrows and triumphs. We could see clearly how vital our financial support and gifts are to them and the difference they make. However, when we listened to the testimonies of some of the families who expressed what

Jesus had done in their hearts, we could see the love of God shine out from their faces. It was humbling and wonderful to see, and the difference in these homes clearly showed that only Jesus could truly transform their situations.

Finally, as I return to my family and comfortable life, I don't want to forget the people I've met and the situations I've seen. One member of the church staff in Uganda stays at the forefront of my mind. He accompanied us on every family visit, graciously guided us to each home and translated our conversations. I observed his quiet, respectful rapport, not just with the families we met but the many others

we passed on the way.

I discovered that he grew up in this place of hardship, yet had found hope in Jesus and managed to rise above his humble beginnings. He now lives with his wife and two children nearby in much better surroundings. Despite having the ability to move on and not look back, he has chosen to work for the church and return regularly to help these families in their daily struggles. On top of this, to further progress, he spends four hours a night studying psychology at the University. He never once showed tiredness, he patiently answered our many questions and showed



a constant, gentle love towards everyone around him.

In a world where ambition and success leads to bragging, hoarding of wealth and a misuse of power, it is refreshing to see the lifestyle that Jesus lived and taught manifested so beautifully in the life of this man. My hope is that many more people, both here and all over the world, will encounter the love of God, lay down their worldly ambitions and follow Jesus' example to live lives that will transform their hearts and the world around them.

Liz Morris

Bridge building

The Bridge is HTR's school year 7-9 youth outreach ministry, where I have recently begun to serve as team leader. The vision for The Bridge is to leave our young people wanting to know more about Jesus and become part of our Sunday church family. It runs term time on the alternate Fridays to

4-6). We currently have a year 7 group (18.00-19.00) and from September we aim to run a year 8 & 9 group straight afterwards (19.00-20.00). This should help new year 7s settle in to their new group and give years 8 and 9 the space they need. To do this we need to build a bigger team! Please contact me via

Glow (our group for children in school years

The vision for The Bridge is to leave our young people wanting to know more about Jesus

thebridge.htr@outlook.com for more information on how to get involved.

Kayleigh Butler

Dates for your diary!

Please join us at events in the coming months

Prayer in Holy Week

Monday 15 to Thursday 18 April - 07.30

Monday 15 and Wednesday 17 April - 13.30

Maundy Thursday Communion

Thursday 18 April - 20.00

Good Friday Walk of Witness

Friday 19 April - 10.00 (Whittaker Avenue)

Good Friday All Age Service

Friday 19 April - 11.00

An Hour at the Cross

Friday 19 April - 14.00

Easter Concert for Riverbank Trust

Saturday 20 April - 15.00

Easter Day All Age Communion

Sunday 21 April - 10.00

Alpha Supper

Thursday 25 April - 19.30

Followed by 9 Thursdays

Women's Evening Out

Friday 26 April

Women's Retreat Day

Saturday 15 June

Church Picnic

Sunday 16 June - 12.00

Pimms, Pudding & Prayer (for women)

Friday 5 July

Men's Breakfast

Saturday 6 July - 09.00

Thank you celebration

Friday 12 July - 20.00

Baptism and Confirmation Service

Sunday 14 July - 18.30

Please see our Weekly Church Bulletin and website for details of prayer meetings, 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 come to one of our Easter Services. Holy Trinity Richmond is an Anglican parish church, with strong links to the local community.

For more information, please contact us.

020 8404 1112

www.htrichmond.org.uk

 HTR - Holy Trinity Richmond

 @church_htr

"You, me... and a faithful God"

Where to start?

Lots of good conversations

over a fantastic breakfast cooked by our amazing men folk - thank you so much; what a treat for us all, and they even did the washing up! 50 women gathered on the first Saturday in March at HTR for beautiful worship songs, followed by Louise Wells sharing some of her journey of faith using Joshua 3 and 4, where the Israelites cross the River Jordan after the Ark had entered and ... *its waters flowing downstream were cut off and standing up in a heap ... They took twelve stones from the middle of the Jordan, according to the number of the tribes of the Israelites, as the Lord had told Joshua; and they carried them over with them to their camp, where they put them down. Joshua set up the twelve stones that had been in the middle of the Jordan at the spot where the*

priests who carried the ark of the covenant had stood. And they are there to this day.

Louise used stones to take us on her journey from childhood through her training as a nurse, living in Cambridge, to marriage to Dan and how God was patiently calling them to the ministry and then to be with us here at HTR. She spoke of her work as a neonatal nurse and how God has been so faithful throughout her life. It was very encouraging to hear that we just need to be normal and trust him. It is God who is faithful and does the rest.

Catherin Tidmarsh

Verses to live by

Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me ... For when I am weak, then I am strong.

2 Corinthians 12:8-10

I wrote this down and took it with me

on A-level results day. I constantly look back to it. I love how personal Paul is. After the furious intensity of chapters 10-11 he calms and recasts weakness, rather than strength, as when God is most powerfully at work. When I succeed it keeps me grounded. When I fail it helps reframe my disappointment and reminds me of my need for God's grace.

James Hallam

