

Transformation

THE ANNUAL REPORT OF HOLY TRINITY & ST MATTHIAS TULSE HILL

Living, Loving, Learning.



Could YOU help produce TRANSFORMATION next year? Or perhaps write up interviews for our parish newsletters? Talk with Richard if you're interested.

You've heard of the "Three Rs" - well here are three Ls for 2015.

Jesus said "I have to come to give **life**, life in all its abundance." Yet so many things restrict our ability to fully take hold of this life. Even church can smother the life God wants for us. That's why, in the first part of the year we had a sermon series called "What's Good about the Gospel?" We don't want Holy Trinity to be a place that smothers life, but one in which life is fully released.

In June (26-28) we will have a Parish Mission weekend - a great opportunity to invite new people to discover the life Jesus offers, through a series of special events. Will you take part?

Jesus said, "**Love** one another as I have loved you." Love isn't just about emotion; it's also about commitment and action. When I observe relationships at Holy Trinity I see people of all ages going the extra mile or more for others. I've also seen it in our giving - both to the straw-bale project, and in response to our general church needs - and on our church cleaning days.

Loving God and loving our neighbour are what Jesus called the two greatest commandments. They should be at the heart of any church, especially one named after the Holy Trinity!

Jesus said, "**Learn** from me." If I said I was a disciple of David Cameron you might be a bit worried. It would mean I was finding out as much about him as possible; making every effort to get to know him; meditating on his sayings. You might fear for my state of mind! Yet that is the very word used in the Bible, of Christians: disciples!

That's why we're handing out the Bibles in church again - to remind ourselves to focus on God's word. That's why we've started a new page on our website, "This Week's Learning". Take a look - it's all about discipleship.

Richard



Go on - take some time to look around our new website: www.htth.org.uk - and then, make it your business to return again and again! But why should you keep returning?

The reason is that our website is fast becoming a dynamic and growing resource for discipleship - with plenty of items specifically designed to feed you spiritually.

- The home page is a blog - constantly updated with current events.
- Living Prayer highlights a current situation to pray about or give thanks for: use it!
- This Week's Learning highlights key points from the (downloadable) Sunday Sermon.
- The Calendar is an instant notice-sheet, reminding you of what's on.
- The rest is full of information about the church and our vision for Tulse Hill.

So let's integrate use of the website into our commitment to be a learning church!

Contents

Page 1

Living, Loving, Learning.
www.htth.org.uk

Page 2

Trinity Social Club
Running the Race Together
Experiments in Prayer

Page 3

We Can Build Our Church!

Page 4

Trinity Kids
Youth Learning More About God
Bricks etc.
Free From Debt!

Page 5

Music
Balancing the Books!

Page 6

Imagine Family - 10 Years Old
Senior Citizens
Kwik Stats

Page 7

Restart
So Does the PCC Do Anything?
Holy Trinity School

Page 8

Remember This?
Mission Action Plan
Annual Meeting Date
Who Are The PCC?

APRIL 2015

Trinity Social Club

Trinity Social Club meets every Monday from 12-3pm in the church undercroft. We have a team of eight volunteers and thirty members. Most weeks there are about twelve of us in the group.

Each time, we have lunch together and a different activity from a program made by the members. In the last year we have been on trips to the Horniman Museum, South Bank, Imperial War Museum and down the river to Greenwich.

It can be quite hard to come to the club at first, but over time members have become confident and made friends.

Dave Petit has been coming to the club for about two years along with his friend Ray. "Big Dave", as he is known, is an excellent musician and plays our church organ and piano. He also brings his keyboard to the group so we can sing along.

Dave says 'I like coming to the club because it encourages me. It is good to meet, socialise, and do things together. I like everything about the club and I appreciate sharing our situations.

'The last trip we went on was fantastic. I hadn't been on a boat since I was six years old and my dad took me. I enjoyed every minute of it; it was a great experience and good to be with everybody else.

'This club is really fantastic. I look forward to coming, always feel welcome and there is plenty of great food to eat. It's inspiring and spiritual. I like playing the organ there too.'

Anne-Marie Harrison



Pete & Big Dave at Greenwich



RUNNING THE RACE TOGETHER

In October last year, Richard ran a marathon around Greater Tulse Hill to raise money for our straw bale community hub. He was joined along the way both by running enthusiasts and some slightly "less enthusiasts" who nonetheless wanted to show their support! Richard said, "I was expecting it to be a gruelling and painful experience, but the company and camaraderie actually made it easy – a word I never dreamed I'd be using of the marathon. What it really shows is the power of doing things together – which is what this project is all about."

That's why we on the Project Team want to take this opportunity to thank all the people who are helping us along the way towards the finishing line.

- Thank you to Richard and Lucy who offered their expertise to help us refine our planning application - *nearly* ready for submission!
- Thank you to Heath who helped Richard to complete a survey of the drains – that's real dedication!
- Thank you to Kev and friend who did our crucial topographic survey.
- Thank you to Hilary and Purnima who measured all the boundary fences.
- Thank you to Farah who got her employers to donate £500.
- Thank you to local businesses, Fulham Timber, Norwood Rd Vets, & Eden Harper, who have supported us financially.

We were also thrilled to receive a £40k grant from the Walcot Foundation spread over 2 years, as well as £7k from Allchurches. The Marathon raised approximately £10k as well.

Thanks for running with us - let's press on to finish the race!

Bethany Eckley

Experiments in Prayer

At Holy Trinity we offer a range of resources to support those with pastoral ministries. One highlight was a morning of creative prayer, using the whole church space and offering several new ways of praying.

In our own time we moved between various stations to experiment with each activity; this was more about making our prayers than saying them.

I enjoyed praying with a string of beads and using simple percussion shakers to represent how I wanted to lift a particular person or situation before Godde.

We chatted about how we had found the experiences after about an hour. Not all the activities suited everyone but all had enjoyed a new way of praying.

We aim to repeat this morning later in the year so that more people can participate. Watch out for the publicity and if you would like to join in please let Ruth or Aileen know.

Ruth Dormandy

These are *hopefully* the final drawings for our **Straw Bale Hub**, that will be sent to planning.

- 1 gives an idea of what the building will look like from Trinity Rise
- 2 gives an idea of what it will look like from the west end (ie from the path to St Martin's School).
- 3 is a "Section" (cutaway) looking through from the west end.
- 4 shows the ground floor, with kitchen, toilets, hall and entrance.
- 5 shows the basement, and landscaping of the east & peace gardens.



1

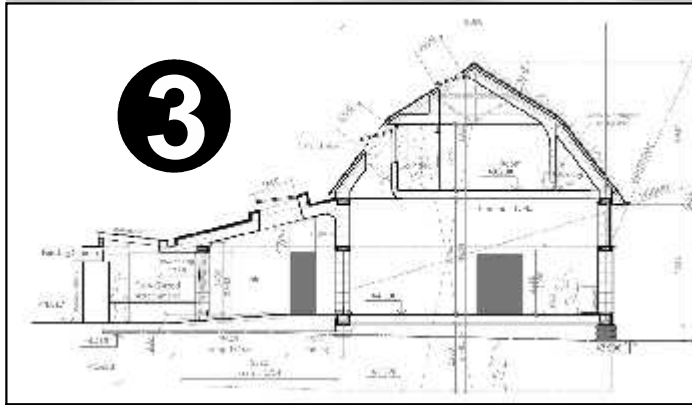


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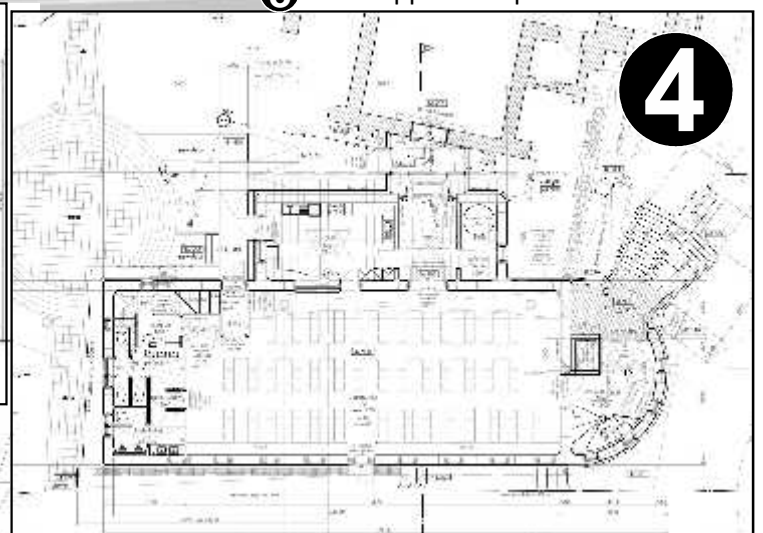
6 is the south elevation (view from St Martin's). The things that look like chimneys in pictures 2 & 6 are air vents for our passive ventilation system.

7 is a section from the south.

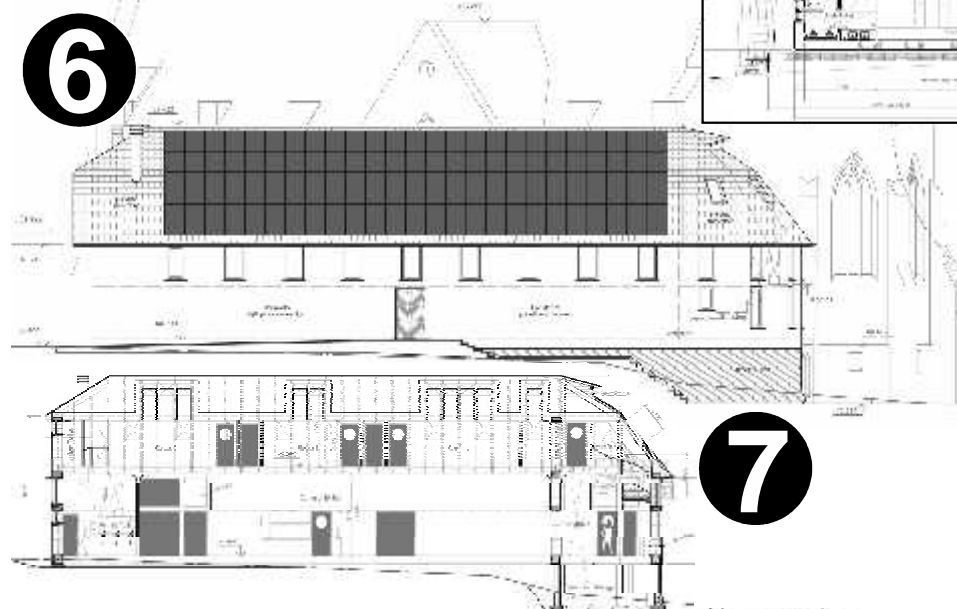
8 is the upper floor plan.



3

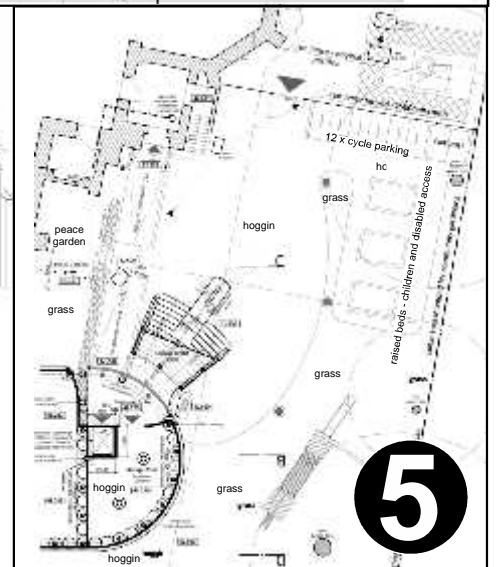


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8

WE CAN BUILD OUR CHURCH!

Trinity Kids

Trinity Kids meets for three out of four weeks every month and is for all children of primary school age. We have Sparklers for kids aged 3 to Reception Class at school, All Stars for years 1-3 at school and Trailblazers for years 4-6 at school.

The teaching team has 22 staff and we have 96 children registered, averaging 30 children each week. Each Christmas the children prepare and present a nativity play. In the summer we organise a trip to the seaside.

We meet in the new drama block at St Martin's school which is modern and cosy. We teach from Scripture Union 'Salt and Light' teaching books. All the age groups are learning the same subjects but in different ways. At the end of the session each child has a leaflet to take home and the Sparklers usually come out laden with handicrafts too.

It's a real honour to teach our Christian faith to these young people and we appreciate parents and guardians bringing their children or allowing them to come alone if they are old enough.

It's an eye opener to hear the joys and challenges of being a Christian child at primary school or on a local estate and we grapple with questions that challenge adults like 'How can you think Judas is in heaven when he committed suicide?'

I think each team member would agree this is one of the most worthwhile things we do all week and we can always feel the whole church praying for us.

Anne-Marie Harrison

BRICKS etc.

The maintenance of our building continues in the safe and capable hands of Jim Maddox. One of the main changes this year was the organisation of **Autumn and Spring Cleaning Days**. It is amazing how much clutter accumulates in churches!

We also installed wall cupboards in St John's Chapel, and in 2015 work is finally beginning on the high-level stonework.

Jean Slue & Eunice Greenidge-Forsyth

Learning More About God & Each Other

Since Christmas, we have been grappling with deep theological issues in Youth Church!

In our times together we often discuss cultural trends or social challenges, but this year we felt ready to delve a bit deeper and find out more about the nature and character of God.

Over the term we've covered topics like the Trinity, how God has revealed himself through history, the person of God and the sovereignty of God.

It's been challenging! But we've had some great conversations and learned a lot together.

Last summer we had a fantastic, if exhausting, time at Newday - so much so that this year we'll be going off to Soul Survivor. Hopefully we'll have an even better time together!

At our last team meeting, we decided that we would divide Youth Church into two groups: 11-14 and 15-18 year olds. This will help us to do more focussed activity and give every person more opportunity to talk and space to learn.

We will be doing this from the summer term and may well be looking for more leaders to help.

Please pray for Lorraine as she and Elue plan to move out of London this summer. She has provided an immense strength to our youth ministry and we wish them every blessing as they begin a new family in a new home.

If you would like to join the team please speak to Lorraine or Susi.

Bethany & Peter Eckley



Free From Debt!

The ministry of Christians Against Poverty has been a vital part of Holy Trinity for over seven years. It offers free debt counselling in people's homes from an award winning Christian charity. Besides helping people to manage their finances effectively and overcome debt, we also offer people a chance to engage in their local community and find Jesus in their lives.

The role as centre manager is a real privilege to me because every week our dedicated volunteer team and I meet new people and learn their stories.

Many face the same problems: cycles of abusive relationships, single-parent households, exploitative work conditions, benefit sanctions, lack of employment opportunities for teenagers and young adults, shortage of adequate housing. Often people feel overwhelmed and entirely exhausted by their problems – most clients feel emotional on visits and are grateful that CAP takes time to listen and pray with people.

Through this ministry we help people find structure and guidance in their lives – financially as well as spiritually. When clients are strong enough to accept change as a challenge, this pattern can also stimulate positive change in other areas of their lives. But, not everybody is ready and often people hang on to their old routines because they have experienced too much insecurity, which ruined their ability to break out of a passive role.

CAP is about giving people hope, showing them a way and empowering them. It provides real practical help to problems our parish is faced with. It is a wonderful ministry and above all it carries Jesus name.

Vanessa Reuter-Shafeek



Holy Trinity is blessed with a fantastic number of gifted musicians and sound guys, but what really makes a difference is the sense of vision and teamwork. Every time someone leads, they have a clear idea of what we're aiming for; when someone else is leading, we're all there to support and serve.

Sadly, longstanding drummer, Len "Ringo" Villa has retired due to health, but we've welcomed a number of new regulars to the team this year: Anna & Sam on vocals, Big Dave on piano and organ, Ifi was with us making a huge impact on drums, Stuart returned to fill out the bass and began as a leader, Bethany joined husband Peter, on Cello in the evenings services.

We've also been bringing on new young talent: Ayo, Dami and Ope on drums, Steph on bass, and Jess on flute - all from our youth church.

We continue to write our own songs. One of our songwriters, Roly, reflects on where the inspiration comes from:

"I teach in a special needs school. Recently, I arranged for a Christian drama group to come in and do an Easter play for the students. One of the autistic kids I teach doesn't say anything except 'Mum'. He's clever and uses an iPhone with speech software to talk but at the end of the play, he came running up to me with his arms in the air saying 'Alive! Alive!'"

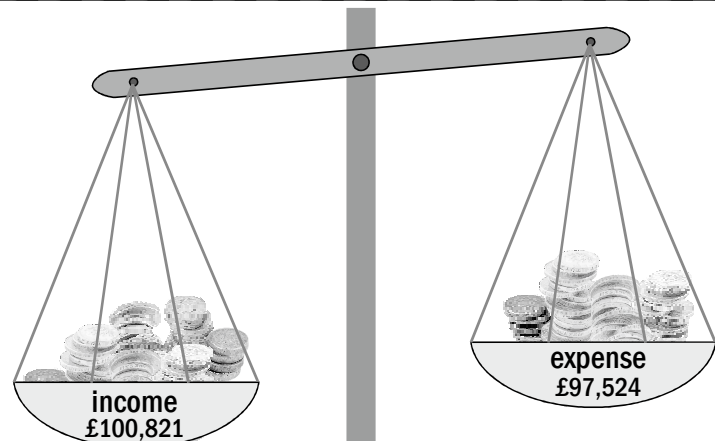
Most of the time, my language is pretty ordinary. But sometimes, as with my student friend, something a bit special arises from the depths. Where does inspiration come from?

Put simply, God has made us all to be creative. A volcano erupts when the depths of the earth below it heave and boil. The boy at school was so moved that he used his voice rather than his iPhone.

Sometimes, if we allow it to, truth can move us in such a way that we express it in new language. Beauty gives birth to beauty. God wants us to take the credit and responsibility for that - we are participants with him."

Richard Dormandy with Roly Howarth

Balancing the Books!



In 2014 our "main fund" income exceeded expenses by £3,298. This was largely due to: (i) a negotiated decrease in our diocesan contribution; (ii) the

appointment of Susi as a one-day-per-week chaplain to St Martins' Girls School; (iii) an increase in giving by the congregation. Praise God!

Our Imagine Family Project is currently funded until the end of September 2015.

Our CAP debt relief centre is currently funded until the end of November 2015.

Our Building Maintenance Fund has £24,822 which will be needed for masonry work.

Our "Phase Four" appeal fund stands at £232,317, with some pledges still to come in.

These are our other four major funds based on the figures at the end of March 2015. We also have a Youth Project Fund of £3,475.

A full set of accounts can be found at the back of the church.

Our financial situation continues to be a bit of a tightrope but we give thanks to God for helping us to balance the books this year after last year's £12,000 deficit. We have been able to do this because of three things:

- i) We were able to renegotiate our contribution to the diocese down by around £9,100 for 2014 and £9,500 in 2015.
- ii) Susi's new ministry as Chaplain of St Martin's School has brought us in a new income stream. In 2014 it was worth £1,590, and in 2015 it will be worth £5,400. However, this source will dry up when Susi moves next Summer. Please pray for Susi in this ministry - it can be extremely demanding and he often has to give more than his contracted 1 day per week.
- iii) Some church members have either increased their giving, or have set up new standing orders. Two or three, in recognition of the serious situation we were in, transferred their giving from our Straw Bale Hub into our general fund.

In the future we might have an income from our new Neighbourhood Hub, but this could still be quite a way off - especially if we end up having to take out a loan to complete the building of it.

The bottom line message, therefore, is: **please keep on prayerfully reviewing and increasing your giving so that we can fulfill our ministry and build a much-needed financial safety net.**

Georgie Snyder, Jim Maddox, Richard Dormandy

imagine Family 10 Years Old!

Ten years ago a project was born, "To live out the word of God in our local community, working co-operatively and responding to local needs." It was named **Imagine!** Over the years we have followed various paths, some coming to a dead end and others developing in ways we had not expected. We have had generous funding, no funding, lots of helpers, not so many helpers. But we have always tried to be true the vision of being a blessing to those involved, being a support and a prayer resource.

Our current work focuses on families, children, some local schools and developing partnerships with local groups.

Trinity Tots is increasingly increasingly popular, running two mornings per week and finishing this term with an Easter egg hunt.

The **Homework Club** has had some great outings including Kensington Palace and Morden Hall Park. The children made a banner for the church Prayer Space and one for Richard on completing his marathon! We are grateful to Amicus/Horizon for continuing to fund this. Jacky sits on their area panel.

Our links to the local schools continue, highlighted by classes coming to church to take part in "**Easter Experience**". This was an opportunity for them, to move in groups around different Easter Installations, from Palm Sunday through the Last Supper, Gethsemane, and the cross to Easter Day, and reflect on what each part of the story felt like and meant. We also ran our "best yet" **Half-Term Holiday Club**, for which Girls from St Martin's School volunteered as helpers. We hope to build on this connection.

The demand for help from victims of **Domestic Violence** grows every year, a sad indication of how prevalent this is. We supply food, vouchers, baby clothing, via ACTS 435. There is the prospect of more direct contact with the clients in the near future.

Our work with the Tulse Hill Forum has included organising a workshop for parents on anti bullying techniques so they can help their children, as well as "Tulse Hill Together", a celebration of all things Tulse Hill, where groups could bid for small grants for local projects. The most recent project involves neighborhood planning, something which will involve all of us. Do look out for more information soon.

We have developed a good relationship with the Community Development Worker on Roupell Park Estate and hope to work on joint projects there.

As usual we give huge thanks to our Volunteers. As we imagine God's Kingdom we see a world in which people are free, healed, released, and joyful - here in Tulse Hill!

**Dear Lord,
We ask you to push back the horizons of our hopes
and empower us to push into the future
in strength, courage, hope and love.**

Aileen Garden & Jacky Sutcliffe

photos from our half-term holiday club



What do Senior Citizens think about being part of the group at Holy Trinity?

"It's very important to me," says Evadne, "Like a big happy family. Knowing I have some where to go and a group to belong to." Derrick & Cynthia agree: "There is always someone at the end of the phone to discuss and issues, whether good or bad." "The companionship is important," says Gene, "and the opportunity to be helping each other."

"It's a place to both share and gain spiritual knowledge," say Ena and Hendy. They are not alone. The Thursday Bible Study figures consistently on what people like.

"Singing together at the All Age Services" adds Dell. "It's a lot of fun." "I love the singing group," says Evande. "Garry trains us up and it's great to contribute as a great crowd of us all." Lucilda agrees. "And don't forget our summer trips to the seaside.

An important part of the group's programme is the celebration of birthdays - especially the big ones! Even though several members are in their eighties, they are all amazingly active.

Kwik Stats...

Since our last Annual Meeting:

- 23 baptisms have taken place, including 4 adults. This is up on the previous 3 years.
- There were no confirmations, but we expect several in 2015.
- 2 weddings have been held - a downward trend reflecting the rise in fees.

October 18th saw our first Restart Party. Restart brings together local people with volunteer repairers to work on a range of broken electronics. By helping people fix their own gadgets everyone benefits - and it's good for the environment.

The organisation behind Restart Parties is the Restart Project. It has prevented over a ton of electronics being thrown away, and was set up by Janet Gunter and Ugo Vallauri in 2012.

"We aim to radically improve our relationship to electronics. We need to fully own our gadgets, like we would our cars or bicycles. Would you throw those away and upgrade the moment you had a problem?" says Ugo.

About twenty people came along with radios, computers, phones, hoovers, and even an electronic toothbrush in need of a little TLC! Although not all items were brought back into use everyone enjoyed the community atmosphere and the chance to see inside their electronics and demystify what lies under the case.

Adam West



So does the PCC do anything ?



The PCC (Parish Church Council) are responsible for overseeing all aspects of church fellowship, building and finances, as well as supporting and encouraging our leadership team. Most of what you read about in this report has been overseen by the PCC.

Some Highlights

We've continued to develop our Mission Action Plan (MAP) for our parish, identifying our local mission priorities for the next 3 years. At the same time we have continued to support our mission partners further afield in the UK, France, Ghana, Tunisia and Latin America; and during 2014 it was a great having mission partners to visit us at Holy Trinity.

We reviewed plans for our 2014 Weekend at Home & participation in the Lambeth Country Show, and have begun planning for the Parish Mission Weekend. We regularly reflect on main festival services and feedback to the leadership.

Richard shared ideas with the PCC for the Tulse Hill Peace Walk and Gathering on for WW1 remembrance.

Some Challenges

Our church finances have had a tough few years, and during the past year the PCC has been monitoring them very closely. At one point our

general fund became very close to being empty. Most groups in our church are very careful with their spend, but the PCC had no choice but to begin drawing up plans for cutbacks. Then at the 11th hour our finances turned around.

Staff Changes

For many years we have been blessed with a great staff and leadership team. This year was no exception: Gloria was licensed as a Reader; Susi's ministry continues to widen with his appointment as chaplain to St Martins School; and Richard is now Assistant Area Dean – whilst continuing as our vicar.

New Ideas

Holy Trinity is always a place for new ideas. Many of these come to the PCC for discussion and support. We hope that you've benefited from some of those ideas over the past year. Thank you to everyone that has been involved with running all our groups and activities.

A huge thank you to all who have served on PCC this year, for your contributions, and especially to those members whose term ends this year - particularly Lorraine Reimmer-Onkonkwo who has been our assistant secretary.

David Jowsey (PCC Secretary)

Holy Trinity School

There's nothing like something new! 2014 saw a range of new buildings at Holy Trinity School, including a new timber gazebo, a digital noticeboard, and the Maddox Learning Centre, named in honour of the amazing and dedicated service given by Jim Maddox as Chair of Governors for many years.

These enhancements, plus work done to the entrance to the main building lend a sense of welcome and optimism.

In the summer, we once again ran the school fair BBQ, thanks to Nicole, and also engaged children in building a large model of our straw-bale project.

In the Autumn, our Head Teacher Lascelles Houghton organised an amazing musical line-up for the school international evening. One person said "it was a rollcall of the London Reggae hall of fame" as one performer after another sang their hit songs - including infant teacher Pauline Thomas.

The year has not always been easy, especially with Lascelles suffering significant bouts of ill-health and Y5 losing the excellent Mr Cloete. But we continue to pray, and this year has been one of significant positive development for the staff team and school management structures.

There is a school prayer meeting each term to which parents, staff, governors and friends are invited. Members of church continue to lead assemblies and run the Junior Savers' Club, which was featured in the Church Times - not to mention the Snively Choir, After School Club!

Remember This?



Back in June 2014 we had another great Weekend at Home complete with Mal Grosch's eclectic barn dance.



In December we did "flashmob style" carol singing once again at Sainsbury's which was greatly appreciated.

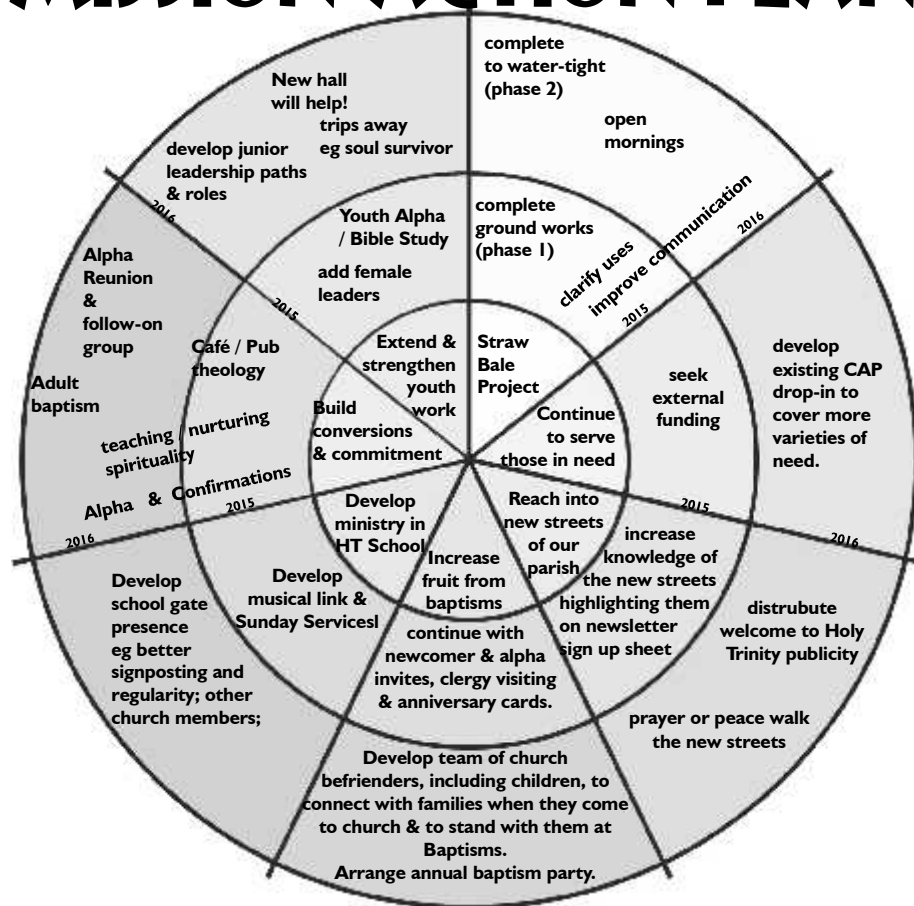


The Men's and Women's Breakfasts each attended by 35-40 people - great food, great speakers, great service.



Making our straw-bale community hub model at Lambeth Country Show in July.

MISSION ACTION PLAN



Our "MAP" for Holy Trinity is now ready, after much prayer, reflection and discussion. It is a living document. Things will appear that we didn't know about; other things will change. But our MAP is reference point to come back to as we aim to be purposeful and fruitful for God. It will also be a spring board for the next three-year phase in 2016.

WHO ARE THE PCC?

The job of the PCC is to initiate, to manage and develop the whole mission of the church: pastoral, evangelistic, social, and ecumenical. This involves prayer, planning and overseeing buildings and finances. We meet about 9 times a year.

Some PCC members are directly elected, others attend by holding another office such as clergy or church wardens. The term of office is 3 years. Below is a list of current members. Those starred end their term this year.

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------|----------------------|
| Amy Grant | Adam West | (Deanery Synod Rep) |
| Adrian Garden * | Joy Mantell | (Deanery Synod Rep) |
| Dan Boateng (co-opted) | Malcolm Kemp | (Deanery Synod Rep) |
| Fay Morris | | |
| Hendy Layne * | Eunice Forsyth | (Church Warden & VC) |
| Jenny Dunn | Jean Slue | (Church Warden) |
| Nicole Lyon (co-opted) | | |
| Jim Maddox (Operations Manager) | William Sharpe | (NSM clergy) |
| David Jowsey (Secretary) | Susikaran James | (Curate) |
| Georgie Snyder (Treasurer) | Richard Dormandy | (Vicar & Chair) |
| Lorraine Reimmer (Asst. Secretary) * | Gloria Otu-Simon | (Reader - co-opted) |
| + three places vacant | Rowland Howarth | (Reader - co-opted) |

ANNUAL MEETING

Our Annual Church Meeting (which includes both the APCM and the Meeting of Parishioners) will take place on **Sunday 26th April** during our 10.30 service.