

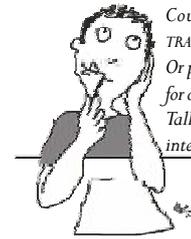
Transformation

THE ANNUAL REPORT OF HOLY TRINITY & ST MATTHIAS TULSE HILL

“I Am Holy Trinity”



Remember the slogan “I am Spartacus” - more recently revived as “I am Charlie Hebdo” etc.? It’s a way of identifying with others. And in our church, we all are Holy Trinity. The Seniors (pictured above) “are” Holy Trinity, and so are the toddlers. We really want everyone to be welcomed and included. It’s what Jesus came for! PS - there is no Seniors’ article this year, but photos of some of them from when they were younger are scattered throughout the report. See if you can match them to the photo above. Richard.



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

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A Chilly Blast!

In February half term we ran Polar Explorers - a children's holiday club. It was a great team effort with 45 of us helping make it happen and 70 children attending.

Through activities such as cooking, dancing, film-making, games and crafts the children were able to explore bible stories in new ways. They learnt about the lives of the early Christians and discovered the footprints that the first followers of Jesus left behind. Then, in small groups they were able to talk about their own lives and journeys of faith.



One of the biggest highlights was the igloo we built out of milk bottles. Around 1,000 were collected by church members, school parents, and local neighbours.

The children loved going into this Sacred Space, where Joy led them in personal prayers. The responses were breath taking.

We will start the planning for next years club in the Autumn, if you would like to get involved please speak to Jacky.

Jacky Sutcliffe



APRIL 2016

Trinity Social Club

A Place to Make Friends

We asked what people had enjoyed the most about the past year at the club. Not every-one was there the day but here are some of the things people said.

Sharon she liked the trip to the science museum. Hazel liked the ride to Oxford Street to see the Christmas lights. Ray liked everything and doing something different each week. Big Dave enjoyed the outings and said it has opened another door to him to go out and about.

Anne-Marie valued watching members grow in confidence and helping each other. Stanley enjoyed all the outings especially the one he led in Brockwell Park. He also likes hearing about railways from Pete, the steam train expert.

Felicity liked the history quiz that she led and the museums we visited. Yvonne appreciated socialising, and the welcome she receives... and gives. Anne likes hearing what people have been doing in the past week. Angela said it's a very social place and she has noticed people being brought out of themselves.

Irene liked the book-sharing, where everybody brings a book, reads a bit and says why they like it. Vernon said it's a nice, friendly place to come.

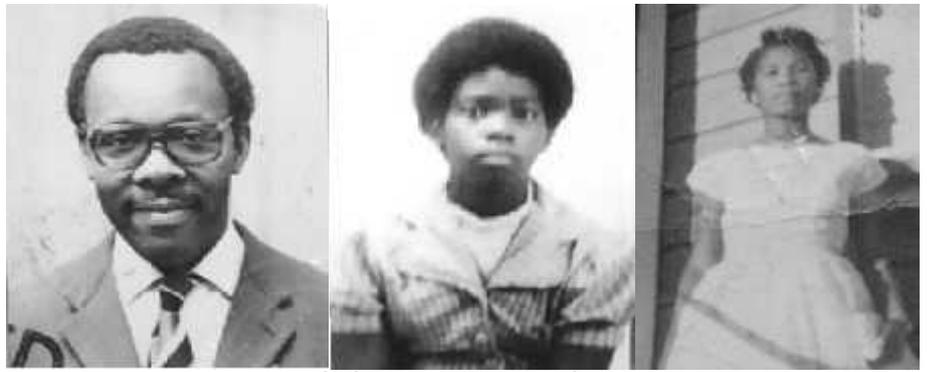
Trinity Social Club meets every Monday from 12-3pm. Lunch: £2.50. Tea and snacks only: £1.

We have a program of activities decided by members. There are 36 members, 6 volunteer staff, average attendance 16. We are open to people of all faiths and none. Come and visit us.



Our Christmas Meal Out

Anne-Marie Harrison



which senior citizens are these?

imagine family

Last year we were 10 years old - so this year, here are 11 highlights!

- Trinity Tots Parents/Carers & Toddlers' group: A Fab Fun Day in September. with sunshine, bouncy castle, face painting, music and food, meeting up with past and present parents.
- School Club on The Fields Estate: Children love it! Don't want to leave! So another weekly session over summer for 11-14s
- Gaia, Domestic Violence Centre: We most recently worked with one of their children's workers to arrange Christmas and Easter parties for families, including those in Refuges.
- ACTS 435/Food Bank vouchers: Providing food and financial support for anyone in need. This year we note an increased use of both
- Tulsa Hill Forum: Community work with this group is very satisfying and we are now accepted as a big part of what goes on locally, to the extent of receiving funds for 2 church events this past year.
- Amicus/Horizon Housing Association: They generously fund activities, including events, for homework club and a craft workshop for International Women's day.
- Credit Union: We worked with the Centre for Theology to promote the work of the CU and sign up more members in school and church.
- Senior Schools: St Martin's girls helped us put on a Christmas lunch for local isolated people. We hope to involve them in the Neighbourhood Plan. Seven girls also volunteered at our half-term holiday club, "Polar Explorers".
- Festivals on estates: Roupell Estate has a annual Fun Day and we were had a stall last year. This year we plan to get the children in the Homework club involved.
- Carol Singing on the Fields Estate: It's great to gather local residents to join in festive singing outside our Community Flat.
- Support: perhaps this most important area covers all of the above. The general support we offer whilst involved in all the other activities is often the most valued. Because of the nature of the work, we met many who need support and encouragement. And we hope we can show God's love in this, by sharing our story and listening to the stories of others.

There have been various incarnations of Imagine over the years, but always with the aim of being fully involved in our local community...being good neighbours.

Aileen Garden & Jacky Sutcliffe

My Ministry Outside Church



I have been at Holy Trinity since 2010 having moved from St Mathews' Brixton where I served my curacy. I regard my ministry here as a privilege and a joy. I am not paid by the Church - I am too expensive (lol!) - but my income is from secular employment. The Church of England has a range of titles for ministers in my position, so while it's still deciding, I will go with the title: "Honorary Assistant Priest."

Away from Holy Trinity, I have two part time jobs both relating to Healthcare Chaplaincy. First, I work two days a week as a hospital Chaplain in Guy's & St Thomas'. For the past 10 years, I have helped provide a pastoral and mission presence in the hospital. My role is to speak into the human condition, offering wholeness to patients, families and staff - helping people be not more religious, but more human.

The emotional and spiritual aspects of care are attended to by listening to concerns and worries, as well as sharing their reminiscences. It's about giving people opportunity to review their life history, explore their doubts and fears, and in some cases, enabling families to prepare for a loved one's death.

My other three working days of the week is looking after 700 Healthcare chaplains in UK belonging to a Professional Association- College of Healthcare Chaplains. It's a serving ministry of supporting hospital/hospice chaplains with work-related issues as a Union rep, giving pastoral support when needed, and building relationships with one another. I try to encourage the recognition that each has a role by bringing together vocational identity, personal narrative, and theology, to gain insight and understanding.

Like all of us in our different contexts, I aim to take the love of God out to people and enable them to experience that love.

William Sharpe



which senior citizens are these?

CAP & MAP

This year our CAP Debt Relief Centre had to close after Vanessa took Maternity Leave and we were unable to find a replacement who was acceptable to the Christians Against Poverty high command.

As we review our MAP (Mission Action Plan) in the coming year however, we will be considering an alternative way of offering debt help & relief, which is increasingly by other churches.

Richard.

Thanks for your help looking after the Church building and grounds.

We are so fortunate that our church building is in such good condition. But keeping it this way takes a lot of work.

So thank you for your patience last summer whilst high level masonry repairs were being professionally undertaken, and the gardens at the back of the church were out of bounds for health and safety reasons.

Special thanks are due to Jim Maddox, our Operations Manager, who masterminded the work from our end and oversaw the contractors who were working on our behalf.

Keeping Things Clean & Safe

Jim has also arranged the carpet cleaning, instigated church cleaning days, and generally overseen care of the building and grounds. As church-wardens we'd be lost without him!

Thanks too to David Wright for his care and attention to health and safety

issues, to Mary for cleaning the church, to our team of first aiders and to those who have gained their appropriate food safety qualifications. All your input is much appreciated.

Outside the Building

Thank you everyone who has helped with looking after the church grounds. We had a great day mowing the grass and generally sorting out the garden area last summer.

Just before the Christmas the path to the west entrance to the church building was professionally cleaned as it had been getting somewhat slippery.

We've also had Thames Water replace a couple of damaged manhole covers.

Everyone Benefits

Do remember that all of us benefit from a healthy and safe place of

worship, so please take the same care of it as you would do your own home.

If you are interested in getting more involved in helping look after our excellent building and grounds then please speak to Jim or to one of us.

Phase IV

We are of course hoping that our building facilities will get even better shortly with the building of a new hall. We are hoping to start work on the foundations this side of the summer.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the appeal or worked hard to prepare the relevant council planning application and faculty from the diocese, particularly Richard and the rest of the Phase IV Straw Bale Construction Project Team (Aileen, Fay, Hendy, Hillary, Jim, Paul and Sarah).

Fay Morris and Malcolm Kemp

Trinity Kids

Laying the Foundation of Faith

'Thanks so much for asking me to teach. I remember how important Sunday School was to me'.

'I remember my Sunday School like it was yesterday. I loved it'.

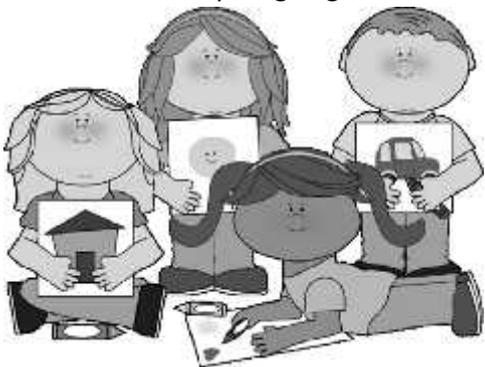
'These are great children. They are really into it'.

So say our teachers.

Trinity Kids meets each Sunday, except the first of each month, in the New Drama block at St Martin's school behind the church. It is really 'church for children' where kids of primary school age meet in separate age groups to study the bible, learn about the Christian faith, and consider how a commitment to God through Jesus Christ will impact their lives.

Some of the children come from strong Christian homes and already understand and pray like seasoned preachers. Others come from families who are new to churchgoing and have all kinds of astute questions to ask and observations to make that keep us on our toes. They reflect the area around us and each one is loved so much by God.

We pray that as each child develops and grows, the foundations will be laid for them to be people who know God, pray confidently, demonstrate their faith and are sure where they are going in life.



Anne-Marie Harrison

**WE CAN BUILD
OUR CHURCH!**

Bowled Over!



Youth Club

As we headed into winter and a heavy exam year for many, youth club moved to meeting once a month with the plan to have a variety of social evenings on the last Friday of the month.

We have met for games, films, and our Christmas meal as youth church which had a rather delicious ending in Creams in Brixton.

Our last outing was tinged with sadness as we said goodbye to Susi, Ruth and the boys with a fabulous game of ten pin bowling. It gave us an opportunity (interestingly again over a rather nice dessert) to offer through the great words of Gabriella, a heart felt thanks for the wisdom and enthusiasm they have offered to all in the youth.

Youth club will continue once a month supported by Jo, Georgie, Stuart, Kobe and intermittently people from the youth church team.

This year we will take a break from our summer festival, soul survivor, as we have the church weekend away that we hope everyone will be a part of, however hopefully next year we will go again.

Any youth who will miss the camping will be welcome to come to Greenbelt at the end of the summer.

We thank God for the wonderful youth we have in church, the encouragement they offer each other and to us as a congregation, and pray that we might be open to what God has to say to the group over the coming year.

Jo De Souza

My Curacy in Tulse Hill

Couldn't believe it is already three and half year since we came to Holy Trinity Tulse Hill. Moving to Tulse Hill from Oxford was exciting as it was very different, but in many ways worshipping at Holy Trinity made us feel as though we were at home or in an international gathering.



At times it had been challenging, especially after becoming a part-time chaplain (one day a week) and a school governor at next door St Martin's academy, but I must insist I received all the possible support and help.

Working with Richard has been really great. Of course, you're never going to agree on everything, but we worked well together and this made me realise that people can still work well together for the Glory of God even when you have different opinions.

At Holy Trinity I enjoyed three things above everything, praying, preaching and hanging out with the youth, which I will miss big time.

Honestly I have learned a lot and I am taking a lot of things with me like friendships, experiences, knowledge. We have enjoyed being here so much hence couldn't believe it is three and half year already. Ruth, the boys and I, would like to say a big thanks for training me and training me well.

Susi.

We've continued to make steady progress towards achieving our flagship church extension. It's a huge project but we now have the

permissions we need to go ahead. A separate Update Paper was made available in March - please ask for one if you have not seen it.

The music group continues to be transformed this year with a high turnover of newbies, leavers and long term stalwarts. We have seen drummers come and go, bassists transform into drummers, and Eline translate into English.

Perhaps the biggest loss was dear old Roly Howarth, who has gone on a voyage of self-discovery. Sadly in Roly we lost a bass player, a drummer, guitarist and songwriter. To say that it's a difficult job to replace a multi-instrumentalist with lesser mortals who can only play one instrument is an understatement.

Len Villa also hung up his drumsticks to spend more time with the family and not listen to errant bass players telling him he was losing time. His drumsticks are now under a lock & key that even his best workers would not be able to get into.

Woodie Dormandy decamped to hotter climes, after all attempts to keep everyone in the music group on the same tempo left him a gibbering wreck. But after thinking very carefully about what he'd done, he returned last week. But that can wait until next year's Annual Church Report.

Having haemorrhaged drummers, Mike Radcliffe decided that playing bass was not as satisfying as hitting things on a Sunday morning, and took a seat behind the drum kit.

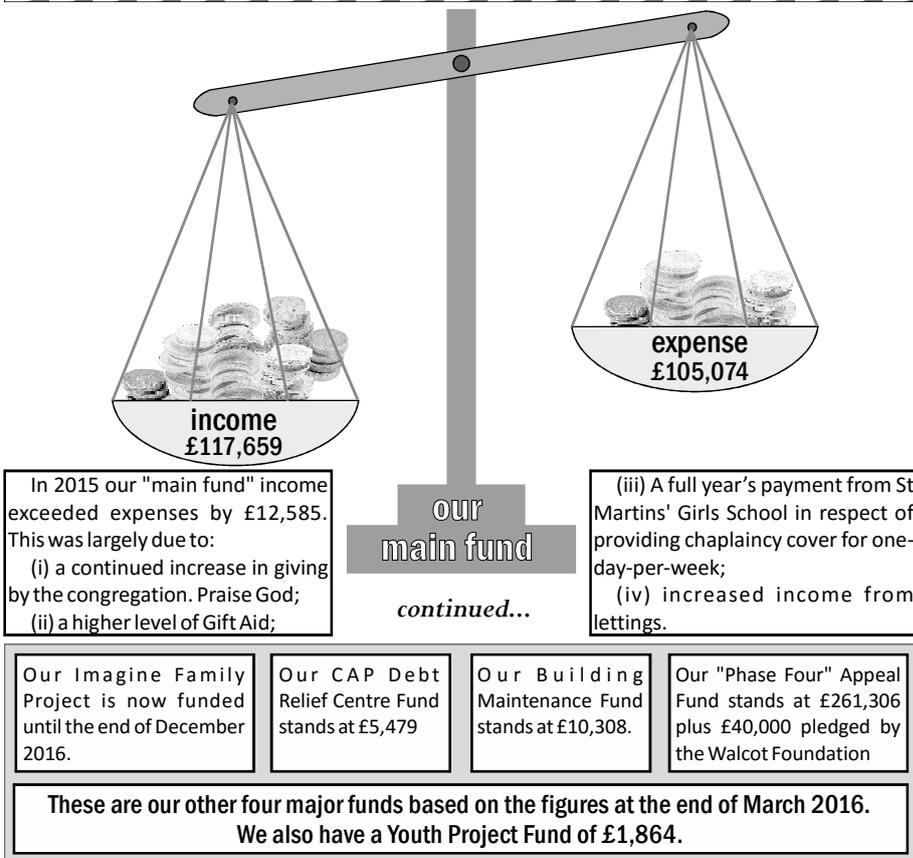
The recognition that new blood was needed has led to a steady stream of newcomers. Steph from youth group has taken up some bass playing duties, and Jacob, Ope, Dami & Ayo have all come along in leaps and bounds on the drums.

New blood is good, but the long-standing members continue to do sterling work. Joyce & Sam on vocals, Garry on piano and vocals, and Big Dave also tinkling the ivories, and at times nearly swallowed up by the church organ whilst trying to find the brake, clutch and choke.

Other newcomers to the group also include the dulcet tones of Conchita, while Malcolm Kemp reduced his role as he took up the post of churchwarden to smoke a pipe.

Mike Radcliffe.

A Year Of Blessing



A full set of accounts for the year ending 31st December 2015 are at the back of church.

Our Main Fund financial situation continued its upward trend since the deficit of £12,000 in 2013. In 2014 income exceeded expenditure by £3,298 and in 2015 income exceeded expenditure by £12,585 for which we give thanks to God.

This is largely due to three elements:

- i) Significantly improved levels of giving by church members which in turn led to a higher level of Gift Aid Tax Refund.
- ii) Increased Income from lettings of the Undercroft and the main church auditorium.
- iii) Susi's new ministry as Chaplain of St Martin's School for one-day-per-week which commenced in September 2014 resulted in a new income stream. In 2014 it was worth £1,590, and in 2015 it was worth £5,400. However, as of April 2016 this has now ended.

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 continue to fulfil our ministry and build a much-needed financial safety net over a long period.

Georgie Snyder, Jim Maddox,
Richard Dormandy.

Women at HTTH

The aim of 3rd Thursday is to have a space where women can come together for fellowship and to have the opportunity to discuss interesting topics which have God at their centre. There has been a small but reliable group of women attending the sessions.

This year we have been finding out more about Christianity outside the UK. We have been lucky enough to have congregation members who have travelled widely or worked abroad and who have shared their experiences with us.

We enjoyed an challenging discussion on mental health treatment in Africa and the role that a belief in God can play while enjoying delicious African snacks! Some congregation members had first hand experience of this situation and so brought some interesting discussion points and another side to the story.

We also learned about how Armenians celebrate Easter; the similarities and differences to Church of England celebrations and a bit about the history of the country

In the next year we plan to focus slightly more on fellowship and getting to know a wider range of HTTH women, so please do come along!

Amy Grant



who is this?

Living at 100 Trinity Rise

As we look back over the 8 months Jessie and I have lived together in number 100 (Jessie is coming up to 18months) and reflect on the different house-mates we've had the pleasure of living with, we're reminded of the blessing it is to live here, so close to the church.

My favourite thing about living in number 100 is that I can wake up at 10.28am on a Sunday and still make it to church on time! Jessie and I are also really grateful that we have such an opportunity to serve the church with our home - we have hosted a girls' night for the girls of youth church as well as hosting youth club meetings and more.

When we moved in we both voiced our desire to get involved with the youth and it's been evident that our circumstances were directed by God to give us the opportunity to do so.

We have learnt a lot from the other leaders, Susi especially, and we hope we've taught the youth as much as they have taught us - the whip-nay-nay dance is probably the most memorable!

All in all the house is a blessing, with lovely house mates, plenty of opportunity and not even a stone's throw away from the church. We're excited for to see what the future holds for Holy Trinity and number 100!

Anna Robinson & Jessie Devers



which senior citizens are these?

Deanery Synod

Although most people think of the church as either the building or the people within it, there is though of course the wider Church of England and the even wider Anglican Communion across the entire globe.

Joining parishes together we have Deanery Synod, at which each church has two or more representatives. (Joy Mantel and I are your Deanery Synod reps). This body, in turn, has reps to the Diocesan Synod, which again has reps to the national General Synod.

General Synod is sometimes in the news when controversial decisions need to be made by the church.

This link is of course only a small part of the business of our deanery synod's work. Much is concerned with matters local to our own South Lambeth Deanery. This comprises 15 churches in a rough triangle from St James' Clapham in the north, Christ Church Gypsy Hill in the south east and Holy Redeemer Church in Streatham vale to the South West).

Unfortunately I think I have used up my space and I haven't even told you that we meet about three times a year, always open our meeting with prayers, discuss issues relevant to the deanery and listen to a speaker.

Well that will need to wait until another time, or ask Joy Richard or me about what happens next time you see us.

Look at the deanery website: lambethsouthdeanery.org

Adam West

Glossary:

- Synod: Church-speak for parliament.
- Deanery: A local group of parishes.
- Diocese: A larger group of parishes overseen by a Bishop.
- Bishop: Servant-Leader of the Diocese.

restart

We have hosted Restart Project (therestartproject.org) here at Holy Trinity three times now. Restart helps people to repair their broken electronics, each time learning new skills to enable them to fix things again in the future.

It's great to invite people who've never ventured into our wonderful church and to be reminded of the wow factor when new visitors look around and up at our amazing building!

Although we haven't been able to set the date of the next Restart visit, they do hold Restart parties each month somewhere in south London (often Brixton or Tooting). Not only do we all learn skills and often fix our gadgets we also reduce land fill and the carbon footprint of producing replacements.

Please keep your eyes open for the next dates and don't throw out your broken gizmos, you might be able to fix them with Restart's help.

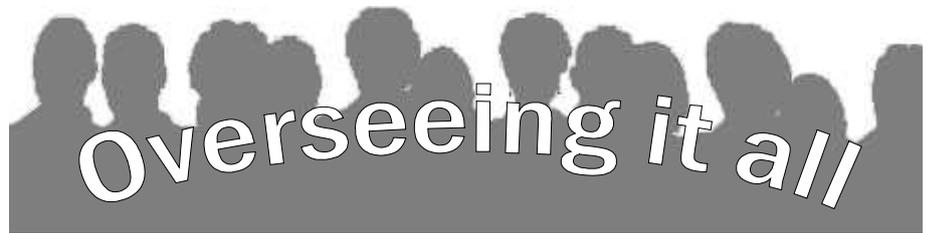


Adam West

Kwik Stats...

Since our last Annual Meeting:

- 11 people (adults & children) joined our worshipping community, but 29 left - 19 of them moving away from the area.
- 7 baptisms have taken place (last 3 years: 14, 19, 11 - downward trend)
- 15 people were confirmed (last year: 0, 14 - steady trend)
- 4 weddings celebrated (last year: 4; about 8 planned for 2016)
 - Richard.



That's pretty much the role of the PCC (Parish Church Council). We are responsible for overseeing all aspects of our church fellowship, building and finances, including supporting and encouraging our leadership team.

The PCC continues to monitor our church income and expenditure very closely (details on the finances are covered elsewhere in this report).

Some Highlights

We reviewed plans for our 2015 Parish Mission Weekend and began planning for our 2016 Weekend Away. We've had a look at our All-Age, Christmas and Easter services and given feedback to the leadership team. We've explored options to expand the Social Club.

We have had updates on our many links with our local schools - through the Imagine project, clergy links and also by hosting school events in our church. We hosted an Oxjam fund raising event by local musicians.

At the same time we've continued to support our mission partners further afield in the UK, France, Ghana, Tunisia and Latin America; and in October Bill & Hilary Musk retired after seven years in Tunisia.

The Diocese approached us to support the "B Line for London" - providing bee friendly plants for bee corridors across the city - something to include in the final stages of our straw-bale extension project - which of course, we have also been monitoring.

Staff Changes

It's been a year of goodbyes. In August our CAP Centre Manager Vanessa went on maternity leave - congratulations on the arrival of her second daughter.

In September Rowland (one of our Readers) started a year out doing missionary work in India with the United Society.

In March Susi's 3½ years' curacy with Holy Trinity came to an end, and the family have now moved to Portsmouth where Susi will be vicar of St Simon's, Southsea. We will miss you all.

Some Challenges

Our CAP Centre is currently closed - new clients are being referred to other nearby CAP Centres - we had hoped to keep our CAP Centre open this year, and looked into arranging maternity cover.

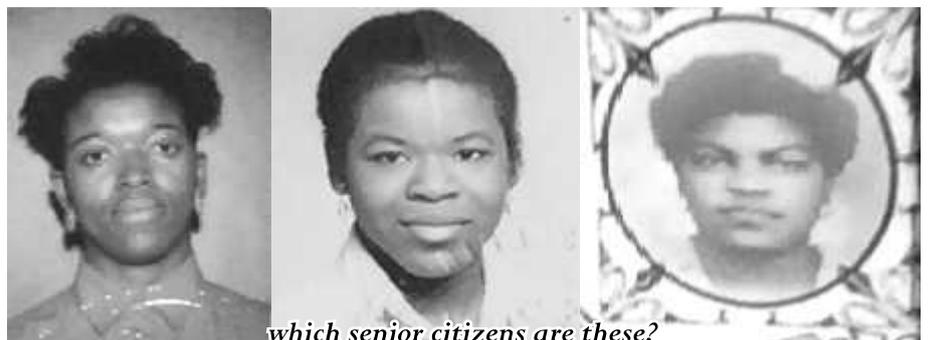
We have been considering options for a Youth Work leader, or other ministry support, but this has been inconclusive.

Thank You

On behalf of the PCC, thank you to everyone that has been involved with running all our groups and activities.

A huge thank you to everyone who has served on the PCC this last year and for all your contributions, in particular to those PCC members who come to the end of their term this year.

David Jowsey
(PCC Secretary)



Remember This?



In March The School Jonah Choir came in to share "A Second Chance for Jonah".



Amazingly made Straw Bale tote bags went on sale at Oxjam in October - a limited number are still available.



Our Parish Mission Weekend in June 2015 included "Dinner with Billy" and Rachel Huggins in concert.



Carols By Candlelight - one of our best yet - followed by several weeks of experimenting with the church furniture layout!

ANNUAL MEETING

Our Annual Church Meeting (which includes both the APCM and the Meeting of Parishioners) will take place on **Sunday 24th April** during our 10.30 service.

Holy Trinity School

Politics, Politics, Politics

Over the time I have been a governor at Holy Trinity school there have been many changes both in the school: the building of the "newer" sections of the school, changes in staff, (recently Mr Black left to become the head of a school in Camberwell, well done to him on all he did for the school and his rising to leadership), and many pupils (about 700 I think). But possibly the biggest changes are coming in the way all schools are

Holy Trinity Church school is run with guidance and support from the Southwark Board of Education and Lambeth Local Authority but with recent announcements from the government this all might change!

I will avoid getting properly into the politics but safe to say I am not a fan of forcing schools to become academies against their will. But as you may know, the government's current aim is for all schools to be academies by 2020.



If you think you would like to help support and guide the school as these changes and difficult times in terms of funding there will shortly be another PCC nominated governor place available: after twelve years I feel it is time for me to move on.

It has been a great experience and I have learnt a lot, much of it applicable to many other situations. I have learnt more than anything that it takes a whole team to educate a child. It has been a pleasure to be a small part of that team and I would like to encourage you, if you have enthusiasm, time and a desire to see Holy Trinity School continue going from "Good* to Great" - please consider this opportunity to serve. Do talk if you would like more info about this.

Adam West

*Official OFSTED opinion!



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)
Hendy Layne		Vacant	(Deanery Synod Rep)
Jenny Dunn			
Nicole Lyon		Malcolm Kemp	(Church Warden & VC)
Jim Maddox *	(Operations Manager)	Fay Morris	(Church Warden)
David Jowsey *	(Secretary)		
Georgie Snyder *	(Treasurer)	William Sharpe	(NSM clergy)

+ three places vacant

Susikaran James *	(Curate)
Richard Dormandy	(Vicar & Chair)
Gloria Otu-Simon	(Reader - co-opted)
Rowland Howarth	(Reader - co-opted)