

Who Does What

Chaplain	Rev'd. Charlotte Sullivan chaplain@htcml.com	Church Wa
Curate	Rev'd. Claire Smith curate@htcml.com	Church Co Secretary
Reader	Richard Medcalf	Chaplaincy Assistant

Church Wardens	David Bean and Angela Labaisse- Brodie
Church Council Secretary	Rachel Meuriot
Chaplaincy Assistant	Jenni Gibson office@htcml.com

Activity	Contact person
Address List	Jenni Gibson
Book Stall	Katrin Dubreuil
Charitable Giving	Hesry Marshall
Choir	Rachel Meuriot
Coffee Rota	tinyurl.com/ TeaCoffeeHTCML
Ecumenical	Christine Salisbury
Electoral Roll	Elizabeth Bean
Flower Rota	Fiona Dabas
Guiding	Christine Salisbury
Intercessions	curate@htcml.com
Lesson Readers	curate@htcml.com
Link	chaplain@htcml.com
Little Fishes	info@htcml.com
Organist	Joan Bauman

Activity	Contact person	
Planned Giving	Robert Manterfield	
Safeguarding	Alice Auperin	
Scouting	contact@maisons- laffitte-scouts.fr	
Sidespeople	Jackie Gale	
Sunday Groups	LJ Desmeulles	
Treasurer	Bob Hughes	
Trinity English School (TES)	trinityenglishml @gmail.com	
Trinity Times	Nancy Huguet	
Web Site	office@htcml.com	
Welcomers	Anna Danute- Dobrovolskis	
Youth Group	info@htcml.com	
Bible Study		
Tuesday a.m.	Nancy Huguet	
Wednesday evening	by Zoom: http://htcml.com/ bible-study	

Chaplain's Corner

Prayer Ministry at Holy Trinity



Dear friends,

One of the most moving experiences we have shared together recently was at Pentecost. Richard and I had the privilege of praying with every single person in church that morning. One by one, we laid hands, offered prayer, and anointed with oil. Yes, it took a long time, but it was time well spent. For us, it was an honour. To be trusted with people's hopes, fears and longings and to stand with them before God was a holy and humbling experience.

That morning made me realise afresh just how powerful prayer ministry can be in the life of a church. So what exactly do we mean by "prayer ministry"?

At its heart, it is very simple. Prayer ministry is an opportunity to be prayed for, personally and specifically, by two people from the church who have been trained for this role. It normally happens in a quiet corner of church after the service. It is always confidential. You don't need to explain everything or have the right words. You simply come as you are, and allow others to hold you before God in prayer.

The roots of this are deeply biblical. All through the New Testament we see people being prayed for and blessed in very personal ways. James writes, "Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord" (James 5:14). Again and again in the Gospels, people bring their needs to Jesus and he takes time to stop, listen, and pray. The early church followed his example: "They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers" (Acts 2:42). Prayer ministry is simply one way of continuing that pattern today.

It isn't complicated or dramatic. It is simply creating space for God to meet with someone. Sometimes the person receiving prayer feels a deep sense of peace.

Sometimes nothing much seems to happen in the moment — but over time they recognise that God has strengthened or guided them. However it looks, prayer ministry is always about allowing God's Spirit to be at work.

Inspired by the prayers at Pentecost, we would like to make this a regular part of our life together at Holy Trinity. From now on, prayer ministry will be available **after the service** on the **third Sunday of each month**. Two people will be ready to pray in the church with anyone who would like to come. It is completely voluntary, and there is no pressure. But the invitation will always be there.

My hope is that this is just a beginning. Wouldn't it be wonderful if, in time, we had a team of people trained in prayer ministry, so that this could be offered every Sunday? That way, anyone who comes to church - whether they are carrying joy, grief, big decisions, or quiet worries - would know that there is always a place to be prayed for personally.

If you are interested in being part of a prayer ministry team, please do let me know. Training will be provided, because it is important that we serve people with sensitivity, confidentiality, and trust. But I am convinced that God will use this to bless our church family and deepen our life of prayer together.

Prayer ministry is not a replacement for your own prayers, or for the prayers we share together as a congregation. It is a complement, a way of saying, "We don't walk alone." Sometimes we all need others to hold us before God when our own words run dry. Sometimes we just need a reminder that we are seen, loved, and supported.

My hope is that prayer ministry will help us to become more and more the kind of church described in Acts: a community devoted to teaching, fellowship, breaking bread, and prayer - a place where people know they can meet with the living God.

Rev'd. Charlotte Sullivan



Church Council meeting

Minutes from Rachel

Your Chaplaincy Council has again been very busy over the past few months since our AGM. In addition to the usual administrative and financial issues to be dealt with during Council meetings, considerable time, thought and discussion have also been devoted to the following subjects:

Arrival of a new curate

In parallel to negotiating the departure of Reverend Vivian Sockett, Council made every effort to ensure that the arrival of Reverend Claire Smith, our new curate, was a smooth process and that she had everything she needed to enable her to settle in well to her new life with us. This included a fairly lengthy - and ultimately successful - search for suitable accommodation close to the church.

Claire's arrival on 1st July meant that she has not yet experienced the lively and enriching discussions which take place during meetings of the Chaplaincy Council. We are looking forward to welcoming her to our first meeting in early September.

Strategy

In spite of the departure of Rev'd Vivian, the strategy process which she helped to put into place continues! All Council discussions and decisions are now firmly rooted in our church's declared strategic principles as well as our vision statement:

"A church where God is glorified, all are loved, and purpose is found as we follow Jesus and share His life-changing message of love, joy and hope."

Latest strategic developments which have come under discussion recently include a teaching course to be organised over several weeks in early 2026 as well as the instigation of a Prayer Ministry after the service on the 3rd Sunday of each month. The ministry team felt that this was a very real need in our congregation and if the Prayer Ministry which took place in June is anything to go by, they were not wrong!

Restructuring the Chaplaincy Council

In support of our strategic goals, Council has also felt that some streamlining of its structure and processes was in order, and much discussion has been devoted to identifying the best way forward. The majority of Council Members followed some specific training in June in order to gain a better understanding of how best to carry out their role as representatives of the congregation.

To make our Chaplaincy Council more efficient, and to better utilise the many and varied skills which members bring to it, the decision has been made to set up small "working groups" to deal with certain time-consuming and specialised topics. These working groups will not be exclusively composed of Council Members but will operate independently and report back to Council periodically. At present, working groups have been created for the following:

Church Fabric and Grounds

To manage the maintenance of our church buildings and grounds for future generations but also in line with our own ecological objectives.

Table Ministry (i.e. food...)

To render our existing hospitality initiatives more intentional, and to create new ones in line with our strategic goals

If you feel moved to bring your time and/or expertise to either of these groups, please come forward! And if neither of these subjects is close to your heart, do not worry! It is intended that further groups will be set up in the near future in other areas of our church life!

The move for greater efficiency has also led Council Members to consider the Chaplain's proposal that we put in place a centralised church management software package. It was felt that this would simplify matters on many different levels and for a very great number of our church members. This is currently in a setting up period but should become fully operational during the coming year.

Lastly, the Chaplaincy Council continues to closely monitor our financial situation and also regularly ensures that we are complying with Church of England guidance on Safeguarding issues.

R.M.

A church where God is glorified, all are loved, and purpose is found, as we follow Jesus and share His life-changing message of love, joy and hope.

Katrin shares the Gifts of the Wilderness



Over the past few months, many of us have had the good fortune to travel. Yours truly visited Sardinia, an extremely hot place to visit in July. One particularly scorching day, we set out in pursuit of some natural pools at the bottom of Gola di Gorropu canyon. Heat radiated from every rock as we trudged along dusty trails until finally, the sweet melody of gurgling water

reached our ears. Scampering across boulders and scraping our way through thorny brush, we were rewarded with a paradise of cascading crystalline pools, set against the breathtaking backdrop of soaring canyon walls.

After much delighted splashing, I stretched across warm stones and watched as periwinkle dragonflies danced through the air, my grateful thoughts drifting to Paul Simon's *Cool, Cool River* and to the role of wilderness and refreshment in the life of the people of God.

As a narrative set in an arid land, the Bible makes rich use of desert imagery. The Garden of Eden itself is painted as an oasis of tranquility from which Adam and Eve are exiled. This may be why we often associate "exile" with "wilderness." And yet, the association is not always accurate. For although Adam and Eve are expelled from the Garden, God never leaves them. We may fear the wilderness, but He does not—as it turns out, the desert is the perfect place to tune our ears to hear His voice. It was true in biblical times, and it is true today. Perhaps this is why the Hebrew word for "desert" and the word for "speaking" have identical spellings.

In the desert, God speaks to Hagar twice, offering words of comfort she could not hear anyplace else. In the desert, God speaks to Moses from the burning bush, the first of countless revelations. In the desert, God speaks to Israel in ways so powerful the people can hardly stand it. "Speak to us yourself and we will listen!" they tell Moses. "But do not have God speak to us or we will die" (Exodus 20:19). In the desert, God speaks to David, inspiring psalms of wonder and praise. In the desert, God speaks through John the Baptist, calling to repentance all who will listen. And in the desert, the Word made flesh reminds Satan that "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God" (Matthew 4:4).

God has never ceased speaking to us in the wilderness; the only thing that has changed is the backdrop. Our "wilderness seasons" remain times of trial and testing, pruning and refining, the place we find ourselves when something in us has died—or needs to. In the wilderness, God teaches us to let go of that which

is preventing us from moving deeper into His call on our life. Many are the paths that lead into the wilderness, but transformation is the only way out.

We humans have never been easy to work with. God wants us to trust Him. Listen to Him. Rely on Him. But our memories are short. We forget how many times He's spoken to, provided for, and rescued us. We forget as easily as the Israelites did. So how does God deal with our willful ignorance? The same way He dealt with theirs: "I will bring you into the wilderness of the peoples, and there I will enter into judgment with you face to face. As I entered into judgment with your ancestors in the wilderness of the land of Egypt, so I will enter into judgment with you, says the Lord GOD" (Ezekiel 20:35-36).

Remember, the wilderness is not exile. We are not driven out of God's presence and into the desert but rather the opposite: God leads us into the desert because He wants our undivided attention. In the desert, God invites us to take a hard look at our lives and at all the substitutes with which we've replaced Him. The experience can be painful, for we are guilty. Instead of relying on His provision, we've been relying on our career. Instead of relying on His love, we've been relying on the admiration of others. Instead of relying on His wisdom, we've been relying on our own understanding. We've embraced other, darker survival skills as well: Compromises. Addictions. Deceptions. Idols.

Remaining in the desert long enough to realize just how far gone we are is no easy thing—take it from one who still has sand in her shoes. It may take weeks. It may take months. It may take so long that we stop asking God when it will be over. Ultimately, we reach a point where we can honestly confess, "Not my will, but Yours."

In that place of surrender, we've stopped fleeing from God, stopped trying to pull ourselves up by our bootstraps. Instead, we admit how desperately we need Him. We repent. But however long that takes, God does not scold. In His gaze, incredibly, we see only love—and David's words find their way to our lips: My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart You, God, will not despise (Psalm 51:17). In that moment, something in our soul shifts. Our breathing slows. Our clenched muscles relax. Our hard hearts soften. At long last, we are ready to entrust ourselves to the Potter's hands once more.

And suddenly, in the midst of even the driest, most desolate wilderness, springs of water begin to bubble up. God's Spirit refreshes our own. The land stirs. A breeze lifts. Patches of green appear. Grass, flowers, trees... We rub our eyes and look again. This is no desert; this is a garden. The change God has worked in us carries whispers of Eden. Of reconciliation. Of healing. Of wholeness. Aromas of ages past, echoes of a place we once knew. The veil separating the earthly and the heavenly thins, and we catch a glimpse of the day when God will be all in all.

K.D.

Holy Trinity Bible Studies 2025-2026

The rentrée is the perfect time to start a Bible study, although you are welcome to join any time during the year.

Bible studies have so many positive points. Here are only a few:



Spiritual growth
Provide & receive support
Deeper understanding of the word of God
Be part of a small group of fellow worshippers
Opportunity to develop closer friendships
Provide fellowship
Safe place
Self reflection
Encourage us to be more accepting of others
Pray for others
Provide new insights
Encourage mutual cooperation.

Tuesday morning Bible Study

Every second Tuesday 10h30-12h: Sept 9, 23, Oct 7, 21, Nov 4, 18, Dec 2, 16.

Location: in person at the church

Study: Philippians

Leader: Claire Smith, our Curate

All are welcome.

Wednesday evening Bible Study

Every second Wednesday 20h-21h Starting Wednesday 3 September

Location: online via Zoom

Study: Revelation

Leader: Charlotte Sullivan, our Chaplain

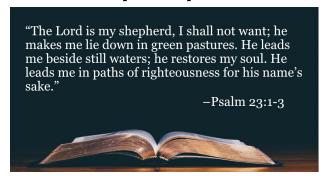
All are welcome.

Note: there are special Advent and Lent studies - other great opportunities to join in.

Finally, there is a Bible study group for men - Iron and Fire (see page 19 for more details).

N.H.

Witness: This is My Story from Beth



The Lord Jesus Christ is great and merciful. I have witnessed a lot of that this year.

I had a grandpa. His name was Pa. My sisters and I always loved him dearly. He passed one Easter morning. Since then, his photo accompanies me. He was very calm and gentle. He never said a lot but when he did, you listened. He came to live with us when I was 12 years old and my grandma Marion passed.

Aunt Margaret is my mom's twin sister. She was born five minutes after Mom. They've been together all their lives. Everyone says they are identical in looks except us.

A side step. I have been very blessed to find a new home in Maisons-Laffitte. My son Mathieu was able to put in new floors, a new kitchen and bathroom and make the place amazing. My daughter Emilie is helping with moving and decorating. I am so blessed.

My new job will start at the end of August and I'll be able to bicycle there. God is great. I am so blessed.

In the middle of packing and moving in July, there was a physical heaviness on my heart. I sat with it for 10 days, questioning and discerning. "I must go visit Mom", was the answer. My heart immediately lifted.

I arrived at Mom's nursing home on Sunday August 10th. I touched Mom's leg and her eyes immediately opened and she said, "You're here!" I spent half an hour sharing many pictures and catching up on all our family news. Then Momma fell asleep. Over the next three days she was agitated and restless, yet at times her blue eyes shone brighter than I had ever seen.

One day we had a chat and I asked her if Pa had been to see her. She responded, "Yes". I suggested that perhaps Pa would come and invite her to walk with him. She said she would like that very much. I asked her to please tell Pa how much we love him. She said, "You kids always loved Pa so much". As I left Mom that night she was restful and even snoring. My heart felt good to know that she was finally resting.

On Friday morning my cousins received a call from their grandsons. As the phone was passed around the table I too had time to chat with the boys. I had just spent three days with them at my cousin Lisa's house with their mom. We had a joyful time going to the playground, building blanket forts to watch a movie and generally watching these beautiful seven- and three-year-old boys romp and play. Friday morning they shared their joy again by showing me their Lego collection and treasure box. I am truly blessed.

My cousin Sheryl said she had something for me. She apologized for it not being wrapped. It was a light blue sweatshirt with "PA" (for Pennsylvania). I burst into tears and she hugged me tight. I believe we were surrounded in that embrace. I am so blessed. Ten minutes later we received a phone call to "Come now!" Cousin Brian was by Mom's side.

I am so blessed to be surrounded by my cousins. I am so blessed to be surrounded by God. Four months ago I cried out to God to please go chat with Marion. I now know that it's His timing, and not ours. I believe that God said, "Go". I am so blessed that God is so good. Amen.

B.J.



In April we enjoyed a vin d'honneur after the service and said good-bye to our previous curate, Rev'd. Vivian Sockett.

We hope that she is enjoying her new role at St. Michael's Church in Paris.



Anxious? Stressed?
Feeling down?

Talk to us now!

Ol 46 21 46 46

3 to 11pm daily

Anonymous. Confidential. Non-profit

Soshelpline.org

Introducing our new Curate

Rev'd. Claire Smith tells us about her background



I came to faith around the age of 14, when a school friend invited me to her church. It happened to be an Anglican church - which is relatively uncommon in Scotland. At first, it was the warm sense of community and the music that drew me in. But over time, I found myself increasingly curious about the faith that underpinned both the worship and the relationships I saw there.

My faith deepened further during my university years through the Navigators, a student Bible study group I was part of for over six years. I loved exploring Scripture in depth with others, meeting weekly in small groups to share meals, study the Bible, and pray with and for one another. Later on, I began leading one of the groups - an experience that occasionally nudged me to wonder whether some form of ministry might lie ahead.

As part of my degree, I spent a year abroad in Châteauroux, in central France. It was a formative and joyful year that strengthened a longstanding love of France, sparked by earlier visits and my academic studies. I was genuinely sad to leave, but left hopeful that I might one day return for the longer term.

After university, I trained as a teacher and spent the next eight years in the classroom - mainly in Glasgow, but also in Ayrshire and, memorably, a year on the Isle of Skye, commuting over the bridge to teach in Plockton.

While I valued my time in education, teaching never quite felt like the right long -term fit. So, after much prayer (and a good deal of saving), I took a year out to discern what might come next. I still carried a sense that some kind of ministry -perhaps in a French context - could be part of my future.

That year I took part in some preaching training in California, and it was around then that I applied for, and was offered, a role at St Michael's Church in Paris.

I served there for about eight years, eventually becoming the lay pastor for under-30s. As my role expanded, I also began the discernment process for ordained ministry in the Church of England, and later trained for ordination while continuing to serve in St Michael's.

Now, freshly ordained, I'm delighted to have joined this community to serve as curate. I'm really looking forward to getting to know you - so please do feel free to come and say hello or ask me more about any of what I've shared here.

C.S.

The Trinity Times committee were sorry to learn of the recent passing away of Alan Daines, Marguerite Flavigny and Noreen Riols and send their sympathy to their families and friends.



The policy of this magazine is to publish articles of interest provided they are neither illegal nor immoral. The content of the magazine does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the editorial committee.

Our HTC Organ Centenary Festival 2025-26



We all know that Holy Trinity Church was built chiefly from funding by a very generous American donor, Frank Jay Gould (more about him in a future issue). It is less well known that our wonderful Mutin-Cavaillé-Coll organ was ordered, purchased and offered to the church by one of Gould's daughters, Dorothy Gould Burns, also known as Baroness Dorothy de

Graffenried de Villars, from her first marriage to the Baron Roland Graffenried de Villars.

The genealogy of the Gould family is a fascinating one, as is the genealogy of the renowned organ makers of the stellar Cavaillé-Coll organs in France.

The ancestor of a dynasty of four generations of top organ makers, Jean-Pierre Cavaillé was a weaver of serge twill fabrics born in 1700 in Gaillac. His youngest son Joseph became a Dominican friar, and learned the craft of organ building from Frère Jean-Esprit Isnard.

Joseph later taught the craft to his nephew, Jean-Pierre Cavaillé (1743-1809). Jean-Pierre married Maria Francisca Coll, and had a son, Dominique-Hyacinthe Cavaillé-Coll (1771-1862), who learned and worked with his father.

In 1789, the entire family moved to Spain during the French Revolution, returning to Montpellier in 1807. Dominique married Jeanne Autard, and had two sons, Vincent (1808-1867) and Aristide (1811-1899), both of whom became organ builders along with their father. In 1833, the family moved to Paris, where they established their organ building workshop. Aristide and Vincent invented numerous new techniques and mechanisms to improve the sonority and touch of their organs, and their expertise and innovations made of them the most sought-after organ builders, not just in France, but throughout the world, in Europe, North and South America and Asia.

As of 1890, Aristide suffered some severe health problems, especially failing sight, and in 1898, he ceded his business to his employee and former apprentice Charles Mutin (1861-1931), an excellent organ builder in his own right from Caen. Mutin had married a rich heiress, Eugénie Crespin, and was able to save the failing Cavaillé-Coll business, which had fallen into debt in the last years of Aristide's life. So, all organs built after Aristide's death are named Mutin-Cavaillé-Coll, including ours.

The records kept by Jean-Marc Cicchero (1943-2023), who took care of our organ's needs for nearly 40 years, show that our organ was ordered in 1923. The measurements in our newly-built church allowed Mutin to calculate the size and intensity of the organ, and its plans and building were begun in 1923. At the end of 1924, Mutin sold his organ works to Auguste Convers, but he finished and installed himself all of the organs ordered with Mutin-Cavaillé-Coll until then, including ours, finishing his last orders shortly before his death in 1931. According to Cicchero, our organ was finally installed in 1926, with some adjustments made in 1927. As with our church building, from the date of the conception of the plans, to the date of the laying of the first cornerstone, to the completion of the church, many years went by.

In our day and age, an electric organ can be purchased and installed in a matter of days. But even now, a real organ, a pipe organ, designed exclusively for the room in which it will be played, requires several years of work to reach completion.

Big cathedral organs with three, four and even five manuals can be four stories high. The Grand Orgue of Notre Dame de Paris has five manuals and 115 registers, for a total of 7952 pipes housed in a massive structure of four stories!

Ours is a modest organ, with only two manuals (keyboards) and ten registers (stops), making 600+ pipes, including the pedals. But it possesses a lovely singing tone, the fruit of nearly two centuries of splendid organ building and innovations by four generations of the Cavaillé and Cavaillé-Coll families, and of the generous and talented Charles Mutin. Thank you, Dorothy Gould Burns, for these past 100 years of glorious organ music here in our wonderful church!



Our Organ Centenary Festival began officially last May 17th, with a glorious concert of Music for Trumpet and Organ by Danish composers.

Painting by local Ukrainian artist, Natalia.

Other events planned, with dates to be scheduled soon are:

Concert for Flute and Organ

My husband, Eric Arnal, and I, Joan Marie Bauman, will present a concert of lovely works for flute and organ that show off the beautiful sonorities of marrying the voices of these two wind instruments! Yes, the pipe organ is indeed a wind instrument!

Tentative date - January 2026

Organ Discovery Workshop

A short workshop for getting to know the organ, from the small portative organ of the Middle Ages, to our own organ. Our present 'facteur d'orgue', Xavier Lebrun, who tunes and maintains our organ, is also an excellent organist, specializing in Baroque and ancient organs. He will be happy to present his short workshop to musicians and non-musicians alike, and will bring along his medieval portative organ, which we can all see and play as part of the workshop.

We will finish in the organ tribune as he explains and demonstrates the inner workings of our pipe organ, and will conclude with a short concert.

Tentative date – February or March, 2026

We have three excellent professional organists who will join us throughout 2026, with names, dates and repertoire to be announced shortly.

J.B.







Regular activities at our church



worship service for all ages, with a focus on getting children and youth involved! Bring friends, bring family, or just come along and see!

htcml.com - info@htcml.com





Holy Trinity Church Maisons-Laffitte

SUNDAY GROUPS FOR 3-11 YEAR OLDS

Find out more

FOR 3-11 YEAR OLDS

Most Sunday mornings in term-time

during our 11am services.

Find out more



youthhtcml@gmail.com









IRON & FIRE

MEN'S GROUP

A two-month journey for men who want to live with courage, purpose, and faith, grounded in something greater than themselves



Little Fishes

If you have (or care for) little ones, from babies to pre-schoolers, join us for tea, coffee and playtime on Tuesday mornings from 9.30am to 11.30am at Trinity Hall, Holy Trinity Church, avenue Edouard VII, Maisons-Laffitte.

All are welcome!

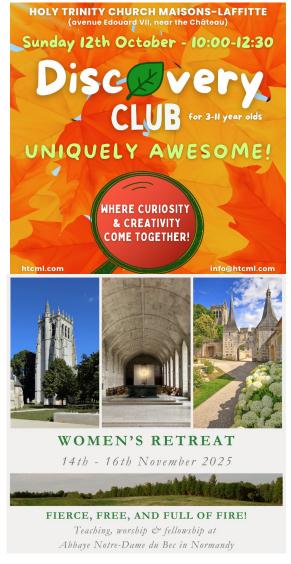


For more information email Jenni at office@htcml.com or WhatsApp or text 0682493202

Dates for your Diary

Sunday services: 9.15 am and 11.00 am

https://htcml.com/



The Trinity Times committee would like to thank Jane Drew for the beautiful cover design of this issue.