

The Parish of Tulse Hill

Holy Trinity & St. Matthias



This church exists to worship and glorify God,
To love and serve one another,
To live out the Gospel of Jesus Christ,
Proclaiming Him to the World





Welcome

We are a vibrant and diverse church, which encompasses a wide range of ages, ethnicities, spiritualities and socio-economic groups. What is important is what unites us, more than what could potentially divide us

We are open to God, each other and our community. We serve our parish in many ways, and this includes a community project, Christians against Poverty Centre, Church School and Youth Worker.



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Summer 2009

OUR PARISH

Tulse Hill is an inner city, urban priority area, part of the Brixton area of Lambeth. Within the parish there exist three local authority estates – Cressingham Garden, Deronda, and (part of) Tulse Hill, plus one large estate run by a housing association – St. Martin's. There are about 2000 dwellings on these estates, ranging from houses to low rise, medium rise and high rise flats. The properties are home to a mixture of freeholders, lease holders and tenants. There are also two newer estates in the parish, one owned and managed by a housing association, and another which is a private development and attracts residents from the upwardly mobile, moneyed section of society. There are a considerable number of Victorian and Edwardian properties spread over many streets in the parish. Lots of these properties are gradually being transformed into multiple dwellings. Within the parish, home owners and wealthy individuals live in close proximity to those housed by the borough, the poor and the unemployed.



The church is situated a mile from Brixton town centre on Trinity Rise in Tulse Hill. The Anglican parish of Tulse Hill includes parts of both Tulse Hill and Thurlow Park local authority wards. Some 11,000 people live within the parish

HISTORY

Towards the close of the 19th century large numbers of houses were erected in the Brixton and Herne Hill area, and the population increased by leaps and bounds. The parish of Holy Trinity Tulse Hill was formed in 1856 and a church was needed to complete the development of the Tulse Hill Estate. In January 1985, the parishes of St. Matthias and Holy Trinity were officially merged by Royal Assent and Revd John Sentamu was appointed Vicar of Holy Trinity & St Matthias Tulse Hill.

LOCAL SCHOOLS

There are four local schools in Tulse Hill ward, three of them within the parish of Holy Trinity & St Matthias. All include children with high social needs. Almost half the intake in some of the schools does not speak English. All the schools have an ongoing, positive and mutually appreciated relationship with Holy Trinity church and the *imagine* project. The tie with Holy Trinity Church of England Primary School is particularly strong, and the Vicar has historically been an ex officio governor and played an active pastoral role.

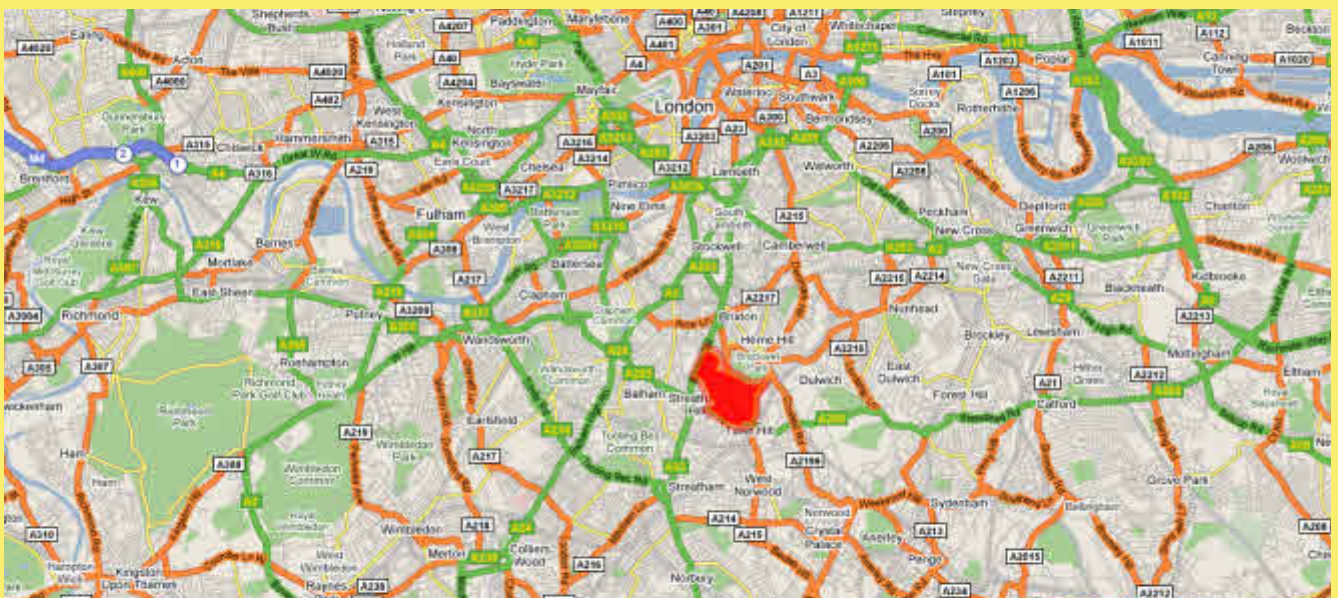
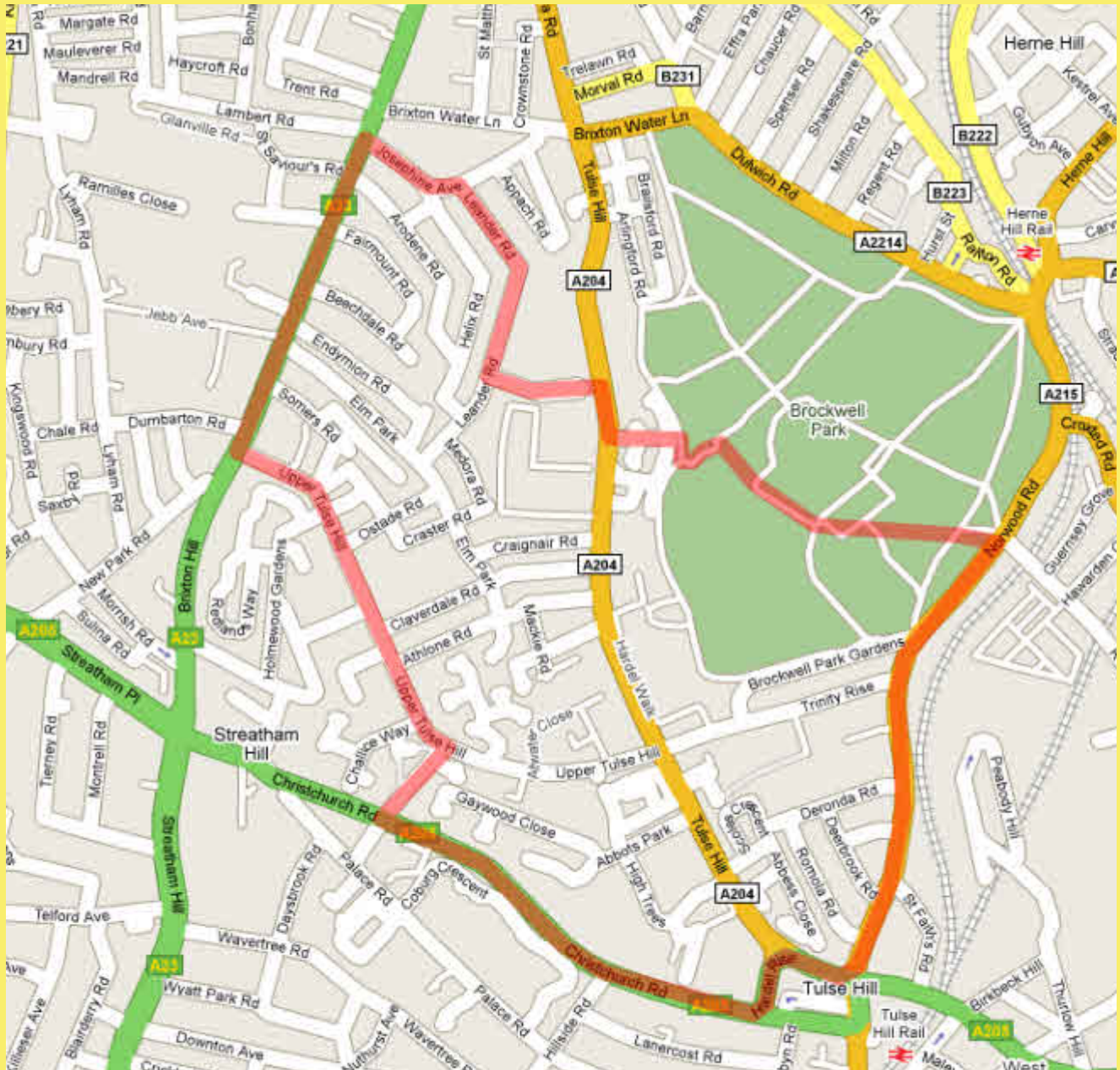
THE PEOPLE WHO LIVE IN OUR PARISH

There is a diverse social and ethnic mix within the ward, with serious indicators of deprivation. Unemployment runs at twice the national average. 21% of the population are under 16 years old, compared to an average for Lambeth borough of 19%. 13% of children in the ward live in one-parent families compared with a borough rate of 10% and a national rate of 6.5%. Lambeth borough has one of the highest rates of teenage pregnancy in the United Kingdom. – Tulse Hill ward has the fifth highest rate in Lambeth borough. At the moment only 12% of young people are reached by youth services in Brixton. Five Brixton Town centre wards (of which Tulse Hill is one) account for all recorded drug crime in Lambeth. Crimes of violence against the person, sexual offences, robbery and burglary occur twice as frequently in Lambeth borough as in England and Wales as a whole. The police statistics for offences committed on the four main estates in Tulse Hill ward reflect this reality. The figures are higher for those living on the estates in the ward, compared with those living in other residences.

The current Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) shows that three of the four main estates in Tulse Hill ward rank within 6-10% of the most deprived areas both in Lambeth and in London.



PARISH MAP



CHURCH BUILDING

The Church, is a Grade II listed building, and is located at Trinity Rise, London SW2 2QP in the Diocese of Southwark. The Church is in the Brockwell Park conservation area.

In 1855 Jonah Cressingham gave to the Church Building Commissioners the sites of what are now Holy Trinity and the adjoining vicarage. The church was required to complete the development of Tulse Hill estate. The church was consecrated on February 5th 1856 and the architect was T D Barry.

In 1951 three stained glass windows representing the Creation, Redemption and Sanctification were placed in the three-light windows of the apse, to replaced those destroyed in the Second World War.

In April 1993 the building was redeveloped. The fabric of building is well maintained and is in excellent condition

The church can currently seat 600 in the nave and 150 in the balcony. There are three rooms in the undercroft which are used by both the Creche and Sunday School and for meetings. One of them is St John's Chapel.

There is an office, used by "Christians Against Poverty", a vestry and a narthex with a small kitchen and toilets attached. We are currently progressing plans for a hall complex to include meeting rooms and a fully equipped kitchen (Phase IV)



THE VICARAGE & OTHER PROPERTIES



The vicarage, which is post-war, has 4 bedrooms, 2 reception rooms, guest room, study, kitchen, bathroom, downstairs cloakroom and garage. It is in a good state of repair and is next to the church.

The church currently owns the freehold of a three-bedroom house. We are in the process of selling this freehold.

Our Parish Youth Worker lives in a three-bedroom terraced house which is rented from the diocese. There is also a four-bedroom house rented from Lambeth Council.

All four houses are in the same street as the church.

OUR WORSHIPPING LIFE



SERVICES

The main act of worship is Holy Communion which occurs on Sunday mornings at 10.30 am, except on the first Sunday of the month. Sunday School, crèche and youth groups meet separately and then come together for Holy Communion. During school holidays the main act of worship is All Age Communion.

On the first Sunday of each month, there is an All age non-eucharistic service. This is the focal point for reaching the un-churched and is well attended. This service often includes baptisms, dedications and blessings. A Service of Holy Communion in St John's Chapel, which on average is attended by up to 12 members, follows all Age Worship.

On the third Sunday of each month home & focus groups can plan and lead the first part of the Communion Service, up to the Peace.

Small teams of volunteers lead intercessions and present the weekly Bible readings

A regular Youth Service is held every second Sunday afternoon of the month.

Evening Courses have been available in the four/six weeks during Advent and Lent

MULTIMEDIA TEAMS

The sound team operates the sound desk at each service and special occasion such as concerts, weddings and funerals. Their activities include operating the sound system, playing tapes and CDs when required and recording sermons, which are available both to borrow on tape and listen to on the church's web site

A laptop operator is present at each service to project the service on a large screen at the front of the church. A printed order of service in A5 and A4 versions is also made available.



MUSIC

The music group has been in existence for around 25 years and has in that time led worship at various venues including Westminster Abbey and Greenbelt. Its repertoire comprises a wide range of songs from traditional hymns led by the organ to contemporary songs.

There are 2 bands. The first boasts 12 members who are able to offer different amounts of commitment. The second is the youth band of 6 or 7 teenagers who cover the second Sunday of each month as well providing the music for their own monthly service.

WELCOMING

Welcoming people to the church takes several forms.

A small team greets people as they come in to services and hands out Bibles and Notice sheets and someone introduces new people to regular members of the congregation. Welcome packs are available giving information about church groups and activities. Refreshments are available in the narthex each Sunday, run by a rota of small teams, where people mix and make newcomers feel welcome.

Three times a year, on the 1st Sunday of a month, welcoming lunches are held in the homes of the clergy or members of the congregation. Newcomers whom we have become aware of over the past few months are invited together with regular members of the congregation. This 50/50 mix of regulars and new people provides a wonderful opportunity for newcomers and existing members to get to know one another and to get a greater sense of what Holy Trinity is all about.

PRAYER MINISTRY

Prayer is an important part in the life of our church. There is a dedicated Prayer ministry team for individuals to receive prayer confidentially during our Holy Communion service.

In addition two regular church prayer meetings are held each month. A regular monthly parish prayer walk is held on Saturday mornings. We also operate an e-mail prayer facility, which is a useful tool for communicating requests for urgent prayer.

STYLE OF WORSHIP

Holy Communion lies at the heart of our worship. Our worship is broad and open. We hope that there is space for everyone to come before God in his or her own way. Each person's style and preference, whether it be charismatic, quiet, modern or traditional is accepted and catered for. We tend to have a relaxed and approachable manner in the way we lead worship.



THE CONGREGATION

The congregation numbers about 160 adults and 95 children/young people. Approximately 50% of the congregation live in the parish. There is a vibrant diversity within the congregation that includes social-economical backgrounds, age, ethnicity, spiritualities and theologies. We believe that our diversity and unity is a sign to our community of the way that Jesus can cut across the boundaries that are set by others

The worship is joyful and reflective of the different backgrounds from which we come. Some of us struggle to make ends meet; others work in well-remunerated jobs; some devote a considerable amount of their 'free' time to church activities; others can only attend on Sundays.

The congregation reflects the local area in terms of mobility: Some are long-termers, while others move from Tulsa Hill, either because they cannot obtain affordable housing here, or because they have started a family and want to move out to the Home Counties.

In 2007, there were 139 parishioners on the Church Electoral Roll, of whom 77 were not resident in the Parish – the majority of the remainder live in the local area. It should be noted that the electoral roll is not a true indication of church attendance



YOUNG PEOPLE

Sunday Crèche

A crèche looks after toddlers and babies so that the parents/carers can take part in the service. The leaders run activities to go alongside the theme for the day - Bible story; prayers; singing and crafts, finishing with free play.

Sunday School

Sunday School flourishes with over 100 children and young people from 4-16 attending each Sunday morning (except the first Sunday of the month)). We have a large enough team of workers to permit a rota that allows them to attend services one Sunday per month. The classes take place both in church buildings and a number of classrooms & halls in St Martins Girls School. These arrangements reflect the excellent relationship that exists between the church and St Martins School.



Youth Ministry

The church is very committed to engaging with young people both within church life and in the surrounding community. Our youth worker has the responsibility of discipling our young people and engaging, through partnerships with other service providers or youth organizations, in the wider community.

Ministry to Young People in Church

Thursday / Friday evening Church Child/Youth Clubs

FOCUS (14 – 18 years) 1st, 3rd & 5th Fridays
Powerstation (11 – 14 years) Monthly / 4th Friday
Exstream (8 – 10 years) Monthly / 2nd Friday
Club All Stars (5 – 7 years) Monthly / Thursday

Youth Service every second Sunday (14–18 years)

Ministry to Young People in our community

St Matthews Football project – coaching football and being involved in managing football teams that have been playing in the London Saturday Youth League for the past three seasons.

Fenstanton Primary – class assistance work

St Martin's in The Fields High School

Christian Union meetings twice a week
Involvement with Boys group in the Sixth Form Assemblies.

Holy Trinity Primary School – termly assemblies

The Beacon Project Youth Project

(Churches Together in Brixton)

Working with referred young people (8 – 15 years) who are challenged socially, academically and behaviorally.

Serving on the management board



SCHOOLS

There are four local schools in the ward, three of them within the parish of Holy Trinity & St Matthias. All include children with high social needs in their enrolment. All have an ongoing, positive and mutually appreciated relationship with Holy Trinity church.

School	Detail
Fenstanton primary school (roll of 526)	61% of pupils receive free school meals 38% of pupils have English as a second language 14% of pupils have statements of special needs 26% inward mobility
Jubilee primary school (roll of 465)	50% of pupils receive free school meals 52% of pupils have English as a second language 26% of pupils have statements of special needs 5% inward mobility
Holy Trinity CE primary school (roll of 391)	29% of pupils receive free school meals 10% of pupils have English as a second language 17% of pupils have statements of special needs 4% inward mobility
St Martin's CE secondary school for girls (roll of 817)	27% of pupils receive free school meals 26% of pupils have English as a second language 7% of pupils have statements of special needs

School links

Strong links are maintained with Holy Trinity C. E. Primary School which involves both practical and financial support including leading morning assemblies.

Special prayer meetings are held at the school on various Saturday mornings led by the Head teacher.

Several classes have visited the church. In addition, Easter, Christmas and End of Academic Year celebrations are held in church including Holy Communion.

The school which is now two-form entry continues to be over-subscribed. The PCC continues to have representation on the School Governing Body including the Chair.

Strong links both pastorally & spiritually are also maintained with St Martin's in the Fields High School for Girls who hold their end of term services in the church and Spring & Christmas Gospel Concerts. A member of the congregation represents the PCC on the governing body of St Martin's.

As part of the imagine community project work, we host Easter & Christmas services and class visits for both Fenstanton & Jubilee Primary Schools.



OUR MISSION

Christians Against Poverty

The PCC has formally entered into a partnership with **Christians Against Poverty (CAP)** to support an advice centre in Tulse Hill. The centre is part of a nationwide debt counselling service run by CAP which gives hope and professional assistance to local people in the handling of their finances. We have appointed a Centre Manager who commenced her duties from September 2008. The manager is employed by the church, trained and managed by CAP and is based in an office in the church. There is a committed church prayer & support team as well as line-management from the churchwarden.

Imagine Community Project

Imagine is a community project set up by Hold Trinity Church. with a rented office in St Martin's Library Centre, it is working to make a difference in the Tulse Hill area by helping to empower local people and offering services of support and information.

The projects include:

- Providing classroom support and encouragement for children in local schools.
- Supporting elderly, isolated and disabled people with a buddy scheme, to befriend and help them access local facilities.
- Working with other agencies to provide information on domestic violence issues, and supplying food and clothing to those invulnerable positions.
- Organising summer projects for young people on local estates.

Imagine has made good links with:

- Local schools
- Local community groups
- Lambeth Savings and Credit Union
- Lambeth Faiths Group



Overseas and Home Mission

The Church supports mission in Burkina Faso, in France, with Operation Mobilisation in Birmingham among Muslims, with the Church Missionary Society as chaplain to Nigerian students in the UK, with work with Church Army, work with The Teshie Orphanage in Ghana and the Intercontinental Church Society in North Africa. The Senior Citizens Ministry Group have the responsibility of praying regularly for our mission partners.

"Open Door" church magazine

A professionally printed A4 sized magazine is produced 3 of 4 times a year. With a maximum size so far of 40 sheets, it includes messages from the clergy, updates on all church activities, reports on PCC and Deanery Synod meetings, information on future events, interviews with and information about members of the congregation, a crossword, features for and about our children and articles on topical subjects. The future of Open Door is currently being discussed by the PCC.

MP surgery

The local MP holds a monthly surgery for constituency on church premises, which is well attended and respected by the local community. The church considers that this is part of its wider ministry.

Fairtrade The PCC is registered as a traidcraft fair trader.



PASTORAL CARE

Home Groups

There are a number of homegroups which meet during the week. Although each has its own style, all function with the aims of developing Christian understanding and discipleship: socialising, praying together, getting to know others in the church and mutual support.

Visiting the sick and housebound

Visits are made regularly to homes, hospitals and nursing homes to bring comfort and Holy Communion to the sick and housebound.

New baby lunches

Meals are organised for families who have just had a baby.

Senior Citizens Ministry Group

The aims of the group include increasing the network of senior citizens, providing companionship, supporting each other and reducing isolation. It also helps to increase the sense of belonging to the church community. Trips take place, for instance to the theatre and the seaside. Regular fellowship meetings take place on Thursday afternoons and include a Bible Study. A "bring and share" lunch is held on the 2nd Thursday of every month.

First Tuesday

First Tuesday is a ministry group for men. It meets on the first Tuesday of every month at The Crown and Sceptre, Brixton Hill. This is an opportunity for men from Holy Trinity to get together in relaxed surroundings for discussion and support.

Church Chicks

Church Chicks is a ministry group for aged 20+ women which commenced in March 2007. Meetings are held on the 4th Tuesday of each month at various venues and provide a support network for women in the church. It is a social outlet which enables women to be challenged and open to new experiences all in a relaxed atmosphere.

Community Larder

A community larder, with food donated by members of the congregation, is available throughout the year and is managed by the Vicar.

Ghanaian Friends

An umbrella group for Ghanaians connected with Holy Trinity Church; offering the opportunity for prayer & Bible Study, mutual support and for raising funds for Charity & Welfare activities.

Film Night

A new monthly get together to stimulate and provoke discussion

Church week-end away

A weekend away is held every two years at Pilgrim Hall in Sussex. The last one in 2008 was attended by 106 adults and children. A guest speaker addresses three sessions on a specified theme, and additional general sessions are held. Members of the worship group attend, a Communion service is held, and time is provided by social and leisure activities. A professional team provides a special programme for the children. The next week-end away is planned for June 2010

Spring Harvest & Greenbelt

Every two years, alternating with the week-end away, a group of adults and children from Holy Trinity attend Spring Harvest. Each year a group of adults and children also attend the Greenbelt Festival..



PLAYING YOUR PART



We have a long tradition of enabling and releasing the gifts of people in the ministry and mission of the Parish. Whether you are new to the church or been to a church before, we believe that God may have a space for you.

Ministry Leaders Group

Enabling, praying and supporting this participation is a "Ministry Leaders Group", who include the vicar, licensed ministers, Churchwardens, Pastoral Auxiliaries, paid staff (Youth worker, Imagine community workers and CAP Centre Manager) and key leaders in other ministries, including Sunday School, Music, Prayer and homegroups.

The life of the church is accountable to the Parish Church Council, who are elected members and includes those who have a license from the Bishop to minister in the Parish.

Ways you can get involved

There are so many ways that you can be involved in the life of the church. You can help with Sunday Morning worship, as a musician/singer, reader, intercessory prayers or the prayer ministry.

You may have gifts with children and young people. You can be a volunteer in the projects that reach out to our local community. It maybe that you have a call to pray or a passion for justice and international and national mission. We believe that you have a place and contribution to make. Talk to the vicar or Churchwardens for more details.

Some of these roles will require you to have an Enhanced Clearance from the Criminal Records Bureau.

Not everyone can contribute, but you can still belong to many different groups. These include weekly homegroups, corporate prayer. Men's and women's groups and senior citizen and youth groups. We hope that you will find a place here at Holy Trinity.

FINANCE

Overall income for 2008 continues to be maintained. Tax refunds on gift aid payments proved to be highly significant. The PCC's Diocesan Quota Payments amounted to £58,216 in 2008. For 2009, this has increased to £64,870. These payments help to pay the costs of full time ministry in the church and diocese. In addition they are used to fund the future training and wider mission of the Church of England.

The church building is currently insured for ££6,428,235 and contents for £1,099,823.

The PCC have been reconsidering the Phase IV Development Programme involving the erection of a large hall and community centre at the back of the church. We have now been given the go-ahead to produce detailed plans with costings, following comments from the Diocesan Advisory Committee, English Heritage, Victorian Society and the Local Authority.

Copies of the accounts are available on request.



ADMINISTRATION

Church Funds

Main Fund

The main fund provides resources and raises income for the running costs of the Church building and to promote the Church mission in the Parish of Holy Trinity and St. Matthias Church and comprises a Bursary Account, Trust fund and General fund.

Buildings Fund

A general fund for the upkeep of the church building including repairs, redecoration, and enhancements not covered by the Phase IV Appeal Fund.

Phase IV Appeal Fund

This fund is to resource the building of a new hall at the back of the church. The Most Reverend Doctor John Sentamu, Archbishop of York has agreed to be the President.

The Vicars Discretionary Fund which is now included as a regular part of these accounts and is self-explanatory

Parish Youth Worker Fund

The Parish Youth Worker Fund is run in connection with the work of one PCC full-time employee working 40 hours per week.

'Imagine' Community Workers Fund

The Imagine Community Workers Fund is run in connection with the work of two PCC part-time employees each working 15 hours per week. From 1st October 2008 an additional part-time employee was appointed, working 7 hours per week. The project office is located in a room at St Martins Library for which rent is paid.

The War Memorial Fund, is administered by the Diocese of Rochester and Southwark acting as custodian trustee on behalf of the PCC. The PCC are entitled to the use of income from this fund.

Parish Office

A weekly Parish Office is held on most Saturday mornings in school term time for folk needing to make use of various services provided by the church and is well attended.

Health & Safety Policy

The PCC are currently carrying out an extensive review of the existing Health & Safety Policy. The aim will be to ensure we have a safe and secure environment for Ordained Staff, Employees, Volunteer Workers, contractors and the congregation.

Disabilities & Discrimination Act

The implications of the above act continues to be monitored by the PCC.

Child Protection Policy

The Child Protection Policy, is reviewed on an annual basis. The policy is rigidly applied by the PCC. All voluntary staff and voluntary helpers involved with babies, children and youth work are required to have a Criminal Records Bureau clearance. In addition, it is a requirement that the CRB clearance is updated every 3 years and all staff & helpers, including those involved with the imagine community project are required to undergo triennial training. All ordained staff are required to undertake the same training.

The PCC are fully committed to ensure that Creche, Sunday School, Youth Work and associated clubs are carried out in a safe and friendly environment. Guidance on all child protection matters and updated legislation is received from the Churches Child Protection Advisory Service.

The PCC and the Child Protection Officers monitor all arrangements in conjunction with the Vicar & Churchwardens. The next review of the policy will be made in early 2009. Copies of the child protection policy are displayed at various points in the church.

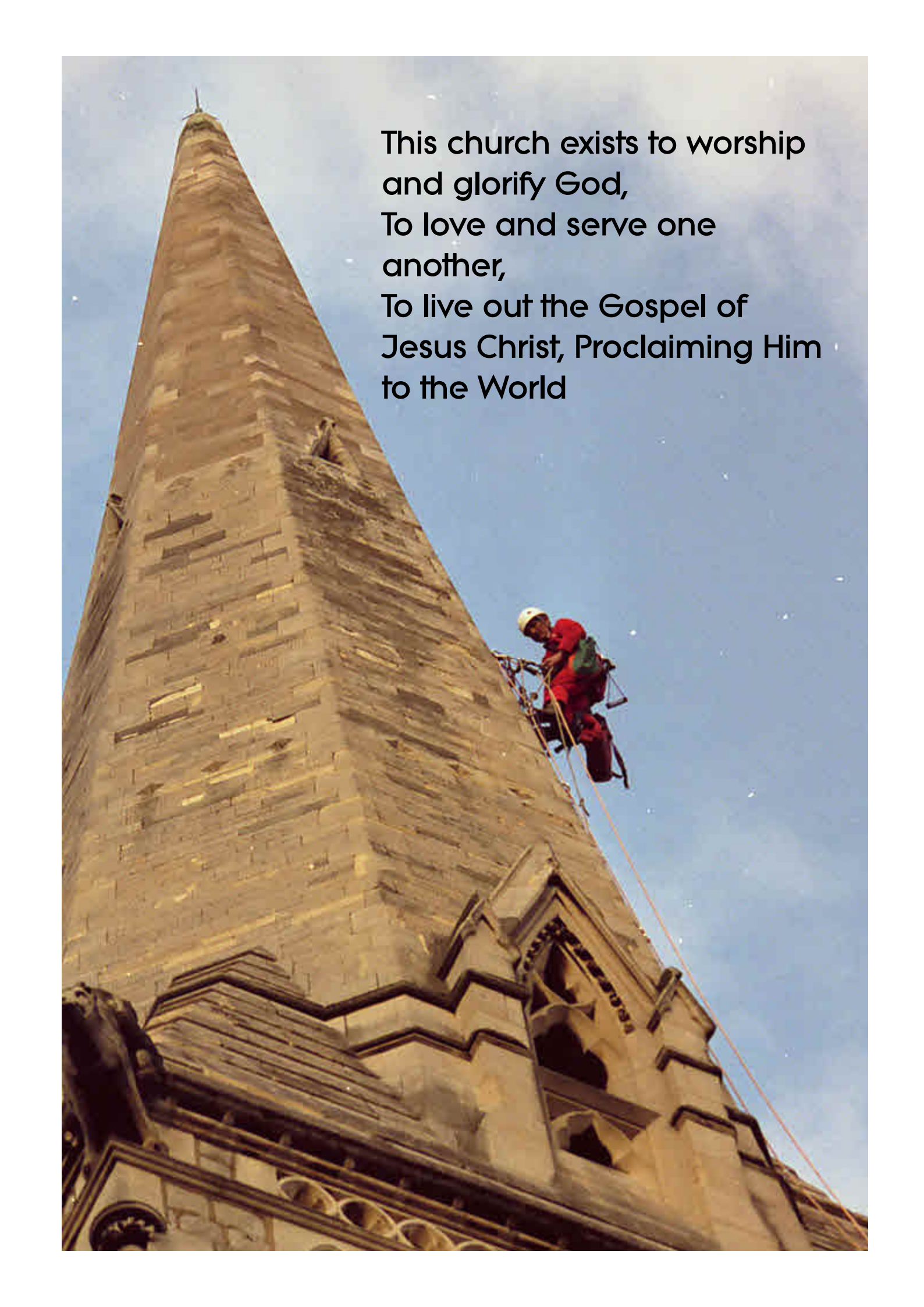
Vulnerable Adults Policy

In December 2007 the PCC adopted a Vulnerable Adults Policy and a Safeguarding Adults Coordinator appointed.

Church Gardening

A small team meets once a month (April – November) on a Saturday morning (9.30am – 12.30) for fun, friendship, food and work!





This church exists to worship
and glorify God,
To love and serve one
another,
To live out the Gospel of
Jesus Christ, Proclaiming Him
to the World



The Parish of Holy Trinity & St. Matthias,
Tulse Hill,
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