

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH ROTHERHITHE

evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also has maintenance responsibilities for Holy Trinity Church and Trinity Halls.

Church Attendance

Church attendance remains good, although there is always room for improvement. Given the ever changing population around us, including changes in demographics, it is impossible to remain still or be unchanged to a certain extent. Although one thing we try to hold on to are our values as a reasonable open church with a liberal Catholic leaning. This tradition and stance will not of course appeal to everyone, but neither does it exclude.

The church electoral roll will be completed before the 2025 AGM, which will give a snap shot of our membership.

The Church year

The church year as always is made up of various highlights; from worship to church social events. Although this last year ended with more noticeable changes within the church with the arrival of the pew cushions, which not only make the pews more comfortable, they add tremendously to the look and the welcome of the building. The six stained glass panels commissioned by Anne Stoten, taking the theme of the 23rd Psalm were also put in place and can be moved around or taken down for seasonal variations. Again, they add to the aesthetics of the building, not only with colour, but by leading people through the psalm. All have been impressed by the work of Jonathan Cooke in this regard.

As much as buildings are important, people are always central. Holy Trinity has been blessed in the licensing of Samantha Pullen as Reader to Holy Trinity. Having completed the first (and main part) of her training she was licensed in October of 2024 and brings with her good pastoral skills and an impressive preaching ability.

Both Trinity Sunday and Harvest Festival were well attended with few spaces left at the sit down meal that followed. Trinity Sunday is often moving as the sermon slot is taken by three, often four people from the congregation.

The Carol service went very well and was well attended, thanks to the hard work of Louise and the choir.

Marcia and a small team of helpers has ensured that Sunday school has continued, even with small numbers of children. Each child being made to feel valued and a part of the church. The feed back to the congregation by the children at the end of the service being as moving as ever. The drop in the number of children is reflected in the issues faced by our local primary schools, where a number of primary schools in Southwark have closed due to fewer children in this and other London Boroughs.

And while talking of children, the Holy Trinity safeguarding team ran an excellent, "approved" safeguarding training session, overseen by the Diocesan safeguarding team. I am glad in this regard that we now have Lara to lead us here, supported by Cindy and myself.

Two full coaches made their way to Hastings after the 8:00am Eucharist last July, and although the weather was a little chilly to begin with, the day ended with blue skies and warm sun shine. The fact that Cindy Glover applied and received a grant, meant that with support from the church funds, everyone went for free.