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April 2021

The Trident



The Parish Magazine of



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All the information here is correct at the time of going to press, but as you know, the situation we find ourselves in changes on a daily basis, so if you need **any further help or you're not sure whether the church is open, you can email us** at st.thomas.office@btinternet.com

Opinions expressed in this magazine are those of the individual contributors and not necessarily those of the Church, the Vicar, the editors or the PCC.



From our Vicar

Dear Friends

One of the joys of St Thomas' Church has always been Mothering Sunday. Like other parishes we too hand out daffodils (normally!), remember our Mother Church and celebrate the Blessed Virgin Mary. However, there is one element of the day that is **unique to us, a Requiem for the priests and people of St Thomas' Portman Square,** the church that enabled us to be built in this corner of Hanwell. I hold this Requiem on *Mothering Sunday* (Lent 4), because of the **Memorial Stone in the North East porch of the Church. As you enter St Thomas',** there on the right-hand wall under the porch window is a stone which reads:

"Remember those who in years past worshipped in the Church of Saint Thomas Portman Square London W. May we in this Church of Saint Thomas be faithful to the trust we inherit. 4th Sunday of Lent 1934".

Now I must admit you would be forgiven for missing it, as the Swedish blue lettering rather morphs into the grey stone so it just resembles a piece of nondescript masonry. Yet its words and the sentiment behind it are profoundly moving. Because contained within it is the power of the **three great days of the Church's calendar: Good Friday to Easter. In those** words is death, suspense and hope; **'years past... inherit', 'may we in this Church'** and **'faithful to the trust'**. I do muse at this time what they make of us, but I do so in the hope that the Portman Square faithful continue to pray for the Church militant here on Boston Road.

There is something essential and natural in the dying of one thing which then allows another to be born. I hope and pray we have and are(!) being **'faithful to the trust we inherit'**. That hope has been hard-fought for over the past year when lockdown, pain and grief have deafened our ears, but the Church, even when closed, has not been silent. Easter tells us death does not have the last word, but new life and hope is a constant. The people of Portman Square remind us of that on Mothering Sunday, and the empty tomb reminds the universe.

Do have a holy, blessed and joyful Easter, and may the light of Christ scatter the darkness of death and COVID!

Your friend and priest

Fr. Robert



Parish News

As I write this, St Thomas' is still in lockdown, but with the hope that we will be open on Maundy Thursday. Inevitably this Triduum (Maundy Thursday to Easter Day) will have to be done a little differently so that we can continue to be as safe as we have been. For instance there will be no foot washing and there will be an additional service on Saturday night to allow people to receive their Easter Holy Communion on Saturday or Sunday morning to control numbers. Please check out the details on page 5.

As our Holy Week and Easter devotions show, we will continue to offer a mix of online and in person observances. By doing things this way it allows for people to return when they feel it is safe to do so.

Another casualty of COVID has been the postponing of our Archdeacon, Ven Catherine Pickford, coming to us. However, for the third time of asking!, Mtr. Catherine is now coming to preach at our Patronal Festival Mass on 4th July.

Fr. Robert



A prayer for Easter

Dear generous, loving Father,

How can we thank you for the precious gift of your Son Jesus, for His life of obedience and servanthood, for His choosing to die that agonising death on a cruel cross, so that we can be forgiven, and most of all for His death-defeating resurrection on the first Easter morning and the gift of His Spirit to those who put their trust in Him?

We can't possibly thank you adequately Lord, but we want to try! Thank you, thank you Father, that Jesus, our Servant-King is alive, Lord of heaven and earth - and yet still serving us, so that we too can live and serve.

Help us to be your Easter people and live lives of faithful witness to the living Lord, empowered by your Holy Spirit, building in all that we think, say or do for your kingdom to come. Hallelujah!
Amen.

St Thomas' Church Boston Road W7



Holy Week and Easter 2021

Palm Sunday 28th March

10am Live Stream Parish Mass

4pm Zoom Children's Church

6.30pm Live Stream Evening Prayer

Monday of Holy Week 29th March

Noon Live Stream Rosary & Mass

Tuesday of Holy Week 30th March

Noon Live Stream Mass

Wednesday Holy Week 31st March

10am Stations of the Cross on Zoom

Noon Live Stream Mass

EASTER TRIDUUM - CHURCH OPEN for Public Worship.

Maundy Thursday 1st April

7.30pm Mass of the Lord's Supper & Watch to midnight
and from 6am.

Good Friday 2nd April

3pm Solemn Liturgy

Holy Saturday 3rd April

8pm The Easter Vigil inc. First Mass of Easter (**Ticket only**)

Easter Day 4th April

10am Parish Eucharist (**Ticket only**)

This Year's Holy Week and Easter: Things to note

In all services the rules we observed before this lockdown are still in place so our practice this year will be modified.

Palm Sunday Online only. Fr. Robert will send out Palm Crosses after Passion Sunday (Lent 5) after they have been blessed. These crosses will be with you for Palm Sunday, and allow you to feel a part of the celebrations. There will also be a Passion Narrative reading but pre-recorded.

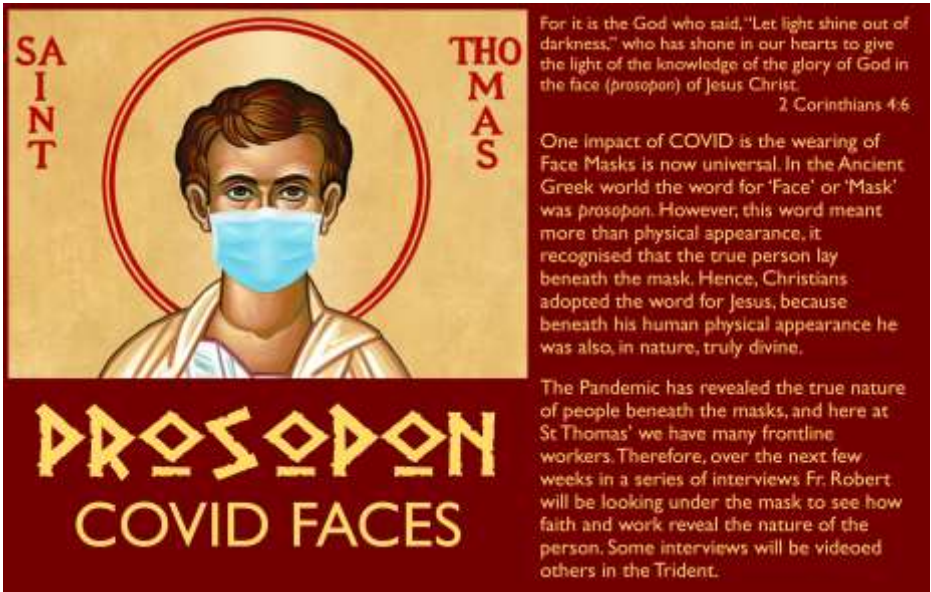
Maundy Thursday. In person. There will be *no* foot washing, and the Eucharist will be administered in the manner it has been during the pandemic. The Watch will take place at the back of the Nave with the Alter of Repose being by the Font to allow for social distancing and greater ventilation than allowed in the Lady Chapel.

Good Friday. In person. There will be no touching of the cross at the **Veneration of the Cross, but genuflection and bowing only. A 'one-way'** as per Holy Communion will operate.

Holy Saturday. In person. This year I am thrilled to say we will be having **an Easter Vigil at 8pm. This service is referred to as the 'Solemnity of Solemnities', and arguably the greatest observance of the Christian Year.** It begins with a fire outside to symbolise Easter light scattering the darkness of death, and from this fire the Easter Candle is lit. *The Exsultet (The Easter Proclamation)* is sung, and there then follows a series of readings, similar to 9 lessons and Carols. The service culminates with the celebration of the Eucharist, the first for Easter. This will be *ticket only*, as will the Mass of the Day for Easter Sunday.

On Easter Day the Mass will be celebrated with full solemnity, but observing the constraints of COVID practice.





SAINT

THOMAS

PROSOPODON
COVID FACES

For it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face (*prosopon*) of Jesus Christ.
2 Corinthians 4:6

One impact of COVID is the wearing of Face Masks is now universal. In the Ancient Greek world the word for 'Face' or 'Mask' was *prosopon*. However, this word meant more than physical appearance, it recognised that the true person lay beneath the mask. Hence, Christians adopted the word for Jesus, because beneath his human physical appearance he was also, in nature, truly divine.

The Pandemic has revealed the true nature of people beneath the masks, and here at St Thomas' we have many frontline workers. Therefore, over the next few weeks in a series of interviews Fr. Robert will be looking under the mask to see how faith and work reveal the nature of the person. Some interviews will be videoed others in the Trident.

The first British Prime Minister

Robert Walpole became the first British Prime Minister 300 years ago, on 3rd April 1721. It was a title he rejected, but historians agree that he effectively created that office for himself.

He was one of the greatest politicians in British history, but he had intended to be a clergyman, until his older brother Edward died in 1698, leaving him responsible for the considerable Walpole estate.

His country seat was Houghton Hall in Norfolk, which he used as a base for generous, sometimes extravagant hospitality and built up an impressive art collection, most of which was later sold and now resides in the Hermitage Museum in St Petersburg.

Another part of his legacy is 10 Downing Street, which was offered to him personally by George II, but which he accepted as the official residence of the First Lord of the Treasury. He was knighted in 1726 and made Earl of Orford on his resignation in 1742.

His skills as an orator and negotiator played a significant role in sustaining the Whig party over a long period, and in ensuring the Hanoverian succession. He rebuilt the tower of the medieval church on his Houghton estate as a memorial to his grandfather.

John Jackson - Bishop of London 1869-1885

John Jackson was born on 22nd February 1811 to Henry and Lucy Jackson, and educated at Reading School under Richard Valpy before moving on to Pembroke College, Oxford. He married Mary Ann Frith Browell in 1838 and they had one son and ten daughters.

In 1835 Jackson was ordained deacon, and started pastoral work as a curate at Henley-on-Thames. The following year he left to become headmaster of Islington proprietary school, and also won a position as a preacher. As evening lecturer at Stoke Newington parish church he delivered sermons on **“The Sinfulness of Little Sins”, the most successful of his published works. He was caricatured in Vanity Fair by ‘Ape’ (Carlo Pellegrini) in November 1870, with the caption “One who has grieved more than others over “The sinfulness of Little Sins.””**

In 1842 Jackson was appointed the first incumbent of St James’, Muswell Hill, but also kept on his educational post. His university made him one of its select preachers, an honour repeated several times. He soon moved on to become rector of St James’, Piccadilly, and in addition was Boyle lecturer. This prestigious position is named after Robert Boyle, a prominent natural philosopher of the 17th century, who left money in his will to endow a series of lectures or sermons which were to consider the relationship **between Christianity and the new natural philosophy (today’s science) then emerging in European society.** The first lecture was given in 1692 by Richard Bentley. The lectures are currently hosted by St Mary-le-Bow church in London, and previous Boyle lectures can be found on their YouTube channel. Augustus Buckland, a curate and writer, one-time preacher at the Foundling Hospital and latterly journalist and editor of *The Churchman*, said of Jackson **“(as Boyle lecturer) his reputation as a good organiser and a thoughtful, if not brilliant, preacher steadily grew.”**

There followed a series of appointments: as chaplain in ordinary to the queen, canon of Bristol, then Bishop of Lincoln. He was a popular choice for this role, and he achieved much. He welded together the counties of Lincoln and Nottingham, he raised the tone of its clergy, and stimulated the educational work of the diocese. In convocation he was active, but rarely spoke in the House of Lords. In 1869 Disraeli, then Prime Minister, selected Jackson to be Bishop of London. **Buckland said of Jackson “(he) has the mind of a lawyer, and is a thorough man of business”.** He is a methodical, patient worker, reserved in manner, but nevertheless sympathetic. Jackson

energetically supported the Bishop of London's Fund, encouraged the organisation of lay help, and, after initial hesitation, created a diocesan conference.

Jackson was anxious, though, about the ritualist movement, the 'bells and smells' in the Church of England. He conflicted particularly with Stewart Headlam, a controversial cleric, who he dismissed from his post at St Matthew's Church, Bethnal Green, in 1878. He wrote to Headlam "I have read your letter with great pain. Not for the first time it has caused me to ask pardon of our great Master if I erred, as I fear I did, in admitting you to the ministry". In later years, however, he displayed more tolerance towards the ritualists.

In addition to "The Sinfulness of Little Sins", Jackson wrote 90 works, and features in 190 publications, covering a wide range of topics including: "Rest before Labour: the advantages and danger of theological colleges" and "Repentance: its necessity, nature and aids".

He died suddenly on 6th January 1885 and is buried in the churchyard of All Saints Church, Fulham. A memorial to him by Thomas Woolner can be seen at St Paul's Cathedral along the south wall of the ambulatory.

The English Spring

March is the wild time, the preliminary attack, the great lion that claws at the roots - then shading away into April, all fury spent, its shaggy head laid between its paws.

And April, indeed, is the lamb of spring, the Paschal Lamb of resurrection, which walks through the burgeoning English landscape in the purecoat of its Easter wool. White is the colour now, with honeyed pyramids in the orchards and drifts of thorn-flowers like snow in the hedges, where the first slow bees, still aching with cold, come fumbling to unlock the petals.

Laurie Lee

Copy Dates!

Copy date for May is on Sunday April 11th
Copy date for June is on Sunday May 9th
Copy date for July is on Sunday June 13th

Beattitudes for a global pandemic

Blessed are those who stay indoors for they have protected others.

Blessed are the unemployed and the self-employed, for their need of God is great.

Blessed are the corner shopkeepers, for they are the purveyors of scarce things.

Blessed are the delivery drivers and the postal workers, for they are the bringers of essential things.

Blessed are the hospital workers; the ambulance crews, the doctors, the nurses, the care assistants, and the cleaners, for they stand between us and the grave, and the Kingdom of Heaven is surely theirs.

Blessed are the checkout workers, for they have patience and fortitude in the face of overwork and frustration.

Blessed are the refuse collectors, for they will see God despite the mountains of waste.

Blessed are the teachers, for they remain steadfast and constant in disturbing times.

Blessed are the church workers; the deacons, priests and bishops, for they are a comforting presence in a hurting world as they continue to signpost towards God.

Blessed are the single parents, for they are coping alone with their responsibilities and there is no respite.

Blessed are those who are alone, for they are children of God and with Him they will never be lonely.

Blessed are the bereaved, for whom the worst has already happened. They shall be comforted.

Blessed are those who are isolated with their abusers, for one day – we pray - they will know safety.

Blessed are all during this time who have pure hearts; all who still hunger and thirst for justice; all who work for peace and who model mercy. May you know comfort. May you know calm. And may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all. Amen.

By Jayne Manfredi @TheWomanfredi

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In praise of the afternoon nap

A short nap in the afternoon improves your memory and keeps your brain more agile.

People who nap tend to speak more fluently, have greater mental agility, and remember things better than those who do not break up their day with sleep.

Even a five-minute nap can offer your brain a chance to down-time and **replenish itself, so that it is 'good to go' again.**

If you want longer than five minutes, try to stop at 40 minutes, before you enter the deepest stage of sleep. If you do carry on, sleep for two hours, which is a full sleep-cycle. The study was published in the British Medical Journal.

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Important Foodbank update:

Thank you for continuing to support the foodbank. Due to the current pandemic, and the need to reduce our carbon footprint, we have been assessing the best way of supporting the Foodbank. So can you please :

- . If you go to your local supermarket leave your donations there as they will have a Foodbank box on their premises
 - . If you order online it is possible to click the right button to make a donation for the Foodbank
 - . If neither option is available to you then you can continue to leave your donations in the boxes left in the church porches. But there will be some delay in transferring it to the Foodbank warehouse.
 - . Another alternative is to give cash or cheque (payable to Foodbank Trussell Trust) to Nicole who will pass it on regularly.
- Thank you for all your support and cooperation.

** please remember that our magazine is produced in March for April so while we publish the most up to date list at the time of going to press, **there will be a different list for April. For this reason, it's always best to check the current list on the Foodbank website or twitter.**

<https://ealing.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-food/>

Twitter: @EalingFoodbank.

THE MARCH SHOPPING LIST **

Ready made custard - tins or cartons, UHT milk - semi skimmed or full fat, not skimmed, long life fruit juice & squash, tinned fish, savoury biscuits & crackers, vegetarian chilli & curry, pasta sauce/cook-in sauce, instant drinking chocolate, size 5 & 6 nappies, shower gel/hand soap/hair shampoo. Thank you, but the foodbank has plenty of pasta at the moment.



From the Editors.

If all goes to plan, we'll be back in our church for April which will be truly wonderful. We wish you a wonderful Easter and look forward to seeing everyone soon.

Julia & Sue

PARISH DIRECTORY



VICAR

REV. DR. ROBERT CHAPMAN
ST. THOMAS' VICARAGE 182 BOSTON ROAD W7 2AD
fatherrobert@thomashanwell.org.uk

3302 1040

CHURCHWARDENS

LIZZIE McCLEOD TURABI
CHLOE MASON



c/o THE VICARAGE

PARISH OFFICE

st.thomas.office@btinternet.com

PCC SECRETARY

JESS NELSON

TREASURER

CAROLINE LUMB

caroline.lumb@talk21.com

07770 696770

STEWARDSHIP SEC

SHEILA BURT

sheilamburt@talktalk.net

8579 3950

ELECTORAL ROLL

ALISON BAXENDALE

alison@thebaxis.com

07879 446892

SENIOR SIDESMAN

PAULINE BRITTON

paulinesbritton@hotmail.com

0203 091 1177

SACRISTAN

ANDREW LUMSDEN

andrew.n.lumsden@btinternet.com

8567 9991

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

KEITH SPILLETT

keithspillett@hotmail.co.uk

07877 905737

MISSION COMMITTEE

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DOUG ROWE

dougrowe1965@gmail.com

07954 307078

LEADER

BEAVERS/CUBS/SCOUTS

DOUG ROWE

dougrowe1965@gmail.com

07954 307078

SAFEGUARDING OFFICER

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c/o THE VICARAGE

CHILDRENS CHAMPION

TRIDENT EDITORS

JILL ASHCROFT

24 ERLESMERE GARDENS W13 9TY

jill.ashcroft@erlesmere.com

SUE CUNNINGHAM

26 KENT AVENUE W13 8BH

07850 889948

sue.cunningham@mac.com