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August 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](mailto:st.thomas.office@btinternet.com)

Lord God  
who breathed this world into being,  
who is discernible within the harmony of nature,  
the perfection of a butterfly's wing, the grandeur of a mountain range,  
the soaring eagle and humming bird,  
thank you for this world which you have created.  
Thank you for summer sun, which reminds us that your creative breath  
is still alive and active.  
Thank you for the warmth of your love,  
sustaining this world,  
your garden  
Amen

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 Father Robert

Dear Friends

At the end of June I celebrated 20 years as a priest. The great plan I had for a solemn celebration with all the music and pomp we could muster and a party,

turned out to be a rather quieter affair with Alex and Ben in the Lady **Chapel. Talk about the 'best laid plans of mice and men...'**!

The call of priesthood is sometimes an unexpected one. In August the Church celebrates St John Vianney who is the patron saint of priests. His priestly ministry has always been an encouragement and challenge to me. Born in rural France in the 19<sup>th</sup> century he was a bit of a disaster at school and then theological college. His academic track record was such that it was debated whether or not he should be ordained. Eventually a bishop was prepared to take him on, because he was so impressed with his personal piety. However, the bishop was wise enough to not put him in a parish where he could do too much harm. Through the simple observation of saying the mass, hearing confession and preaching, the few peasants scattered in the church at Ars turned into thousands of pilgrims from all over France. They even had to build a train-line from Paris to the village.

In August I ask for the prayers of St John Vianney as I asked for those of St **Thomas in July as we celebrated our patron's feast day. Both these saints** were less than perfect, as all the best saints are! Both show that through our human weakness the love of the risen Christ can shine through.

This summer feels in many ways as uncertain as it did last year, but what has not changed is the love of God in Jesus. Whatever life throws at us, be it as a priest, or whatever God has called you to, his love is there.

I can confirm that in the midst of everything, that remains the case.

Change surrounds us everywhere. Sometimes it is encouraging like the **renewal of the windows and brickwork at St Thomas', sometimes it is** painful and frightening. Again, both I see from the vicarage.

Whatever August brings for you, may the holidays be holy days for you and those you love. May the love of God in the risen Christ surround you.

Your friend and priest

Fr. Robert

---



## From Father Adam

My Dear New Friends!

It was so touching to see how enthusiastically you welcomed me into your Church family. I've never felt more wanted and appreciated. Thank you for making me one of your own.



A home is a place where you feel comfortable and safe, where you feel like you can be yourself. That is the way I feel around you. St Thomas' is an exceptional place to be! God has blessed me with a priceless gift in you. I look forward to spending the next few months with you, getting to know you better and to making unforgettable memories together!

### Patronal Festival

A very big thank you to everyone who helped make our Patronal Festival go so well. We had great fun and fellowship, marking our Saint's Day with appropriate aplomb.

We are grateful to The Revd Catherine Pickford, Archdeacon of Northolt, for the sermon delivered to us; we are also thankful to all those who contributed to the liturgical and musical preparation of our Mass, to all those who prayed with us; but most of all to our youngest members of the congregation, who enthusiastically took part in the contest and served during the liturgy. You are all awesome!

I would also like to thank those who took on preparing the Coffee Meeting after Parish Eucharist. We know many of you have missed that vital act of fellowship and sharing. The first Sunday we opened for coffee after Mass showed how we value and how we have missed fellowship. When we slowly return to normal church life, to family and friends, we value our relationships, our fellowship with new insight. Fellowship is rather more than coming together for a conversation. Fellowship is about sharing in a meaningful and purposeful way.

### Covid-19 Route Map

We know that Prime Minister Boris Johnson has outlined plans to formally end nearly all of England's remaining coronavirus restrictions by the end of July. What this will mean for us in detail, as an ecclesial community, we do not know yet. We expect the Church of England's Covid Recovery Group

to provide us with the necessary clarification and supply additional information about this in the coming days. However, I want to assure you that all our future decisions will be primarily for your safety. I would like to say a big thank you to our churchwardens Lizzie and Chloe, and the PCC for their ongoing efforts and vision.

### Summer Holidays

For most of us, summer is a time of rest and recuperation. I pray for all of you regardless of whether you will spend this time relaxing at home or will go somewhere on holiday. I pray for the well-deserved refreshment that the holiday can bring to your lives, for the excitement of anticipation and planning, for the freedom from routine and new experiences and opportunities.

I hope this time will bring healing to those relationships that are wounded and neglected by the difficult time of the pandemic. I hope this time will renew and deepen your relationships. I pray that those going on holiday over the next few weeks may travel safely and return refreshed.

### Daily Office Online

Thank you for joining me in a service of Daily Prayer. We continue to pray for Father Robert, our Vicar, and his family. We also pray for our community. If you would like us to pray with any particular intention, please let us know.

Yours,

Father Adam



### A prayer for August

When we pray for Your help and blessing, we **remember the words, “be still in the presence of the Lord”.** Fill us with the peace of mind and serenity which only You can give, and restore us once again. May we remain safe and content, knowing Your peace will continue to dwell in us.

Amen



## The Mission to Seafarers

Essential support for a vital workforce

**St Thomas' recently made a donation to** support the work of the Mission to Seafarers (MTS). As it happens, this charity was a favourite of Father Peter, our previous Parish

Priest, and we have supported MTS in the past, but not recently. This article explains why such charitable support has become even more necessary as a result of the Covid pandemic.

Our global economy, and the fabric of our own society in the UK, depends on the supply of goods and fuels around the world. This is something we often take for granted, perhaps occasionally bumping into reality in the form of an empty supermarket shelf instead of an expected treasure of goodies **or essentials. In fact 90% of the world's goods and fuels are transported around the world by ship. Without seafarers, the world's economy would grind to a halt.**

Work on many ships is far from idyllic. International seafarers spend long periods isolated from friends, family and loved ones for up to nine months at a time. This can put a strain on relationships with loved ones as well as on mental health. Life on board ship is tough and often dangerous; seafarers face long working hours and long contracts. Whilst this may be a career choice or vocation for some, for many international seafarers of lower ranks this is a route out of poverty: on account of being low-skilled, many international seafarers are happy to take any well-paid work that they **can get. In less affluent countries, such as the Philippines, a seafarer's wage** is invariably used to provide vital income for up to 15 family members at home.

MTS is a mission society of the Anglican Communion, offering practical and emotional support and spiritual guidance when asked, to all seafarers regardless of nationality, faith or no faith. The Mission aims to provide as much help as possible to international seafarers, both in normal times and during marine emergencies. MTS is represented at over 200 sea ports

across 50 different countries, the work led by over 100 lay or ordained chaplains.

The Covid pandemic has brought acute challenges for the seafaring community. Covid restrictions have resulted in the inability of seafarers to leave their ships whilst in certain ports, even when their contracts have come to an end. Some large ports have prohibited crew changes, **depending on a ship's recent travel history.** The possibility of becoming a prisoner on your own ship, out of contract and therefore unpaid, has become a major source of stress and anxiety for seafarers. In extreme cases, where employers have been unscrupulous or companies have become insolvent, ships and their crew have simply been abandoned by their owners. The crew cannot simply walk away, because, apart from Covid concerns, they will often be lacking the correct paperwork to land in a foreign country, and on unilaterally leaving a ship may forfeit entitlement to unpaid wages. In 2020, there were 76 new cases of abandonment involving 1000 seafarers, and to date just 17 of these have been resolved.

**During such troubled times, the advocacy element of the Mission's work** has come strongly into play. In certain cases, MTS has successfully negotiated for owed wages to be paid by shipowners. Recently, more than 100 Indian seafarers stranded in the UK were repatriated after MTS worked with the Indian High Commission and UK authorities to agree a practicable way forward.

At times like this, the work of the Mission has never been more vital.

Steve Purcell



# Janet Jenkin 1946 - 2021

Not many of you that haven't reached the tender age of myself will remember Janet.

If you have ever looked at the Guide Roll of Honour when it was displayed in the hall, her name appeared on the top as she was the first Guide in the District to gain her Queen's Guide award.

Janet and her family lived in the big house next to the Church and were stalwart supporters of St Thomas' when I first met her in the early 60's. Her twin sister Jenny was also a member of the 8th Hanwell Guide Company and went on to marry Peter Watson who was also a keen Scout. Their brother Richard was a member of the 7th Hanwell Scouts and married Lynne, also a member of the Brownie and Guide units.

When I was first asked to help out with the 8th Hanwell Brownie pack for one evening (I eventually stayed for nearly 20 years!!), Janet was already established as Tawny Owl and I'm afraid I fought shy when asked a few weeks later if I would take over the running of the pack. Janet then encouraged me to do this and suggested that we 'run ' it between us. She became my mentor, advisor, support but most of all a great friend. Among her many attributes was her brilliant organisational skills which manifested themselves when she took on the role of Catering Manager at The Royal Festival Hall after gaining her qualification in this profession. Her dedication to her job and anything else she was responsible for was amazing and it was not uncommon for her to come home on her moped about 3.00 in the morning after a hectic event and to return a few hours later in the morning to prepare for the next day.

In the early 70's the family moved to Farnborough and Janet herself took up a similar post at The Brighton Conference Centre. Michael and I enjoyed many visits there. A few years later she decided to relocate again, this time to the Midlands, and became the catering manager at Granada Studios in Manchester. Again we had great times visiting her, seeing the studios and touring around The Peak District.

In 2002 Janet decided to put her career on hold and move back down south to care for her mother who was getting very frail. Following her mother's passing she moved into her house and made the decision not to return to her role in hospitality but, true to her f she decided to work in the caring sector. She also then brought a holiday chalet on the IOW and for many

years we would spend a weekend there with her and Jenny and Peter. We have nothing but wonderful memories of these times and Michael always declares that they were the best holidays of the year!!

In 2016 Janet was diagnosed with a rare form of ovarian cancer which she fought with her usual tenacity and determination. Even undergoing gruelling treatment she always maintained a positive outlook thinking of other people before herself. Jenny and Peter brought her to visit us a few weeks ago after having spent the previous seven weeks in hospital, even then her main concern seemed to be that she would be unable to take us to the IOW this year. We also sadly realised then it was probably the final time we would see her in this life. Throughout her illness Jenny and Peter have been nothing less than a constant support, Jenny moving in to live with her to care for her but also to ensure she did not attempt to go out and mow the lawn or take up some other manual work she was always up to!! Janet passed away in the middle of June.

She was just a lovely person, kind, thoughtful, and a true and honest friend.

Rest now Janet in the peace you so richly deserve.

Pauline and Michael Harrison

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## The true politics of the world

The true politics of the world start only when each living soul is learning from all the others. Nations exist only as artificial structures created by men primarily to divide themselves from one another, and create an artificial and precarious security, which is regularly shattered by war and disaster. The only true relationship is that of brother to brother, sister to brother and brother to sister. All the rest is vanity, and the world's talk.

Donald Swann

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**God longs to be close to us. Jesus' healings reflect what it means to be close to God. Jesus came to rebuild that closeness. "Therefore all who touched Him recovered."**

This closeness is also one of the criteria by which we can know if we are close to God - when we are able, like Jesus, to notice more suffering and needy around us. And as far as possible, we try to help them at least a little.

Father Adam

## New uses for old computers

I renovate old PCs, and then pass them on to charities and other good causes.

All hard discs are securely erased to ensure absolute confidentiality.

I prefer to refurbish PCs with flat LCD screens and at least Windows 7 but can operate with some older machines.

Please contact me for further details / collection

Nicholas Robinson (07867 785 394)



## Fewer wasps

Noticed how peaceful your garden is this summer? Noticed that you have been able to hold summer barbecues and picnics in relative peace? That is because the very cold and wet Spring was disastrous for our wasp population.

But while we may enjoy their absence, scientists at University College London have pointed out that wasps play an **important role as nature's pest controllers**, and that our countryside will be the poorer without them this year.

## Copy Dates!

Copy date for September is on Sunday August 8th

Copy date for October is on Sunday September 12th

Copy date for November is on Sunday

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[www.terracycle.co.uk](http://www.terracycle.co.uk)



## Eco-corner

We can all do something practical about two of the serious problems affecting our beautiful, God given planet: global warming and destruction of the natural environment.

For the climate: burning coal, oil and gas has heated the world by 0.75 degrees since pre-industrial times - enough to disturb weather patterns and cause increased heatwaves, droughts and floods. If nothing changes, temperatures will likely be at least another 2 degrees higher by 2100 causing coming generations very severe problems.

For the environment: pollution from plastic waste is now found in most sea creatures and in the ocean depths.

Everyone can do something. Small actions by many people add up to something significant. Governments and companies react to the preferences of voters and customers.

We would like to hear from you all on anything you do already to reduce burning fossil fuels or reduce plastic use that we can share with everyone in future editions.

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### A prayer for August

When we pray for Your help and blessing, we remember the words, **“be still in the presence of the Lord”**. **Fill us with the peace of mind and serenity** which only You can give, and restore us once again. May we remain safe and content, knowing Your peace will continue to dwell in us.

Amen

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From the Ealing Foodbank.

Firstly, thank you so much for your support, especially if you have been able to help us during the pandemic. Ealing Foodbank has partnered with a food charity called Bankuet.

This offers you an alternative way to get donated food to us at Hanwell, if you are unable to shop in person and/or bring your donation to Hanwell. You can access Bankuet by going to <https://www.bankuet.co.uk/givenow>.

You can then select how much money you would like to donate, either as a one off or on a monthly basis. Ealing Foodbank then orders specific items from Bankuet. Bankuet purchases the food and delivers it to Hanwell on a Wednesday morning. Bankuet deducts a small fee from the donated money to recover some of their costs, but this is minimal.

You can, of course, continue to shop in stores, and leave donations in the baskets provided or deliver food yourself to Hanwell. Please see the foodbank website for more details.

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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 July for August so while we publish the most up to date list at the time of going to press, there may different items that are especially needed on the August list.

**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 JULY SHOPPING LIST \*\*

Tinned tomatoes & pasta sauce, long-life fruit juice & squash, savoury biscuits & crackers, chick peas & kidney beans, vegetarian chili and curry, ketchup & mayo, peanut butter, size 6 nappies & wipes, hand soap & shower gel, shaving foam & razors

Thank you, but the foodbank has plenty of pasta, meat and meat main meals at the moment.



## From the Editors.

**This month, we're delighted to include an article about the Mission to Seafarers, which the Mission Committee have supported. We're also starting up an eco-corner to share ideas about small things we can all do to help - please do let us know. Sometimes the simplest changes that one person makes are ones that others haven't even considered.**

*July & Sue*

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