

50 pence



December 2022

The Trident



The Parish Magazine of



Serving Hanwell and Beyond

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St Thomas The Apostle, Hanwell



**ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE
BOSTON ROAD, HANWELL
CHURCH OF ENGLAND**

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Evening Prayer Sunday 6.30pm
Said Mass Tuesday at Noon
Said Mass on Wednesday at 2pm**

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A prayer for Advent

All-powerful God, your eternal Word took flesh upon earth when the Virgin Mary placed her life at the service of your plan. Lift our minds in watchful hope this Advent-tide to hear the voice which announces His glory and open our minds to receive the Spirit who prepares us for His coming. We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Copy Dates!

**Copy date for January will be Sunday 11th December
Copy date for February will be Sunday 8th January**

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.

Adverts in this magazine are not necessarily endorsed by the Church, the Vicar, the editors of the PCC.



From Father Robert

Dear Friends

I write this year's Christmas letter, and my last for *The Trident*, co-incidentally, on the Feast of St Martin of Tours (11th November). The bitter/sweet irony of that is not lost on me, but it does serve as a reminder of the season this issue of *The Trident* is marking.

The story of St Martin would make a wonderful

Christmas tale as long as you could fit a bit of snow, carollers and reindeer into 4th century France. For St Martin famously, sacrificially and counter-culturally cut his cloak in half to give it to a naked beggar. The incident of shocking gift-giving by a real-life Good Samaritan inspired artists such as El Greco and van Dyck.

For many in our parish and land, this year will feel 'more sacrificial', and the cutting in half of St Martin's cloak will be an all too painful reality for many households.

The Church has always given both voice and action to those crying out, and the truth of that is born out within this community. I am extremely thankful for the gifts which are so freely shared in this wonderful parish, and not just at Christmas. St Thomas' does much in big and small ways to bring the gift of light into dark places.

Inevitably I, and we as a family, are looking ahead, but there is much to look back on with deep gratitude. You have all made Hanwell our home for 11 very happy years.

The gift of friendship has been a joy and much appreciated as we have gone through the dark times of COVID and illness. You have taught me much about the gift of prayer which will sustain me for my future, and, I trust, will accompany you in your discerning of your future.

It occurs to me that the gifts I recall were free, but still costly as true relationships always share the commixture of joy and sorrow, laughter and tears.

Finally, I would like to thank you on behalf of us all at the Vicarage for sharing life with us: we leave with a tear in our eye, but look back with a huge smile.

So let me echo that well-worn Christmas exultation, 'God bless us, everyone'!

Your one-time priest, but constant friend
Fr. Robert



Parish News

Last month I announced that I would be leaving St Thomas' as I have been appointed **vicar of St Martin's Church, Ruislip**.

My last Parish Mass will be on 1st January, and I will be inducted as Vicar of St Martin's on the evening of 24th January. You are, of course, all invited to my Induction at St Martin's, and to help with their catering numbers it would be great if you could indicate if you are going by popping your name on the sign-up sheet. It would be wonderful for us to have some of our friends from St Thomas' there supporting us.

Our **Caribbean and International Night** donations along with the young people's cake sale at the **Thanksgiving Parish Mass on St Luke for Health Care Workers** raised approximately £400 for Blood Cancer UK. Again, a massive thank you to all who helped in time and money.

The **Quiz Night** came back with aplomb so thank you to Sarah and her helpers.

Also, November sees a welcome return of the **Christmas Fair**. This will run from 2-4pm on 26th. Please come and support, and if possible help out. Invite family and friends.

The highlight of the season is naturally the **Christmas services** we shall hold to mark the wonder of God sharing our humanity. In the midst of the busyness please carve out some time to observe the profundity of this time. Check out the details on page 12 of this magazine.

Finally, I would, on a personal note, like to say a huge thank you to Jill and Sue for putting the Trident together. They have been a wonderful constant over my time at St Thomas' and I am grateful beyond words for their commitment and creativity; they are fine, fine editors who deserve all our thanks.

Fr. Robert

A Christmas Prayer

Loving Father,

Thank you for creating us and for loving us so much that you sent Jesus to become one of us and to be our way to you. This Christmas may we know the love, peace, comfort and joy that only You can give, no matter what our circumstances. And may we reflect Your light and love in this dark world to bring glory to You. In Jesus' name. Amen.



Prisoners of Hope

Dr John Sentamu, the former Archbishop of York, is the new Chair of Christian Aid. Here is part of what he had to say about taking on this new role.

What do you hope to bring to the role of Chair at Christian Aid?

I was brought up in Uganda, and when I came to this country, I discovered whoever you are, human beings are human beings. What I want to bring is my understanding of God, of humanity and the church. If you believe in the God of love and compassion and kindness, then you believe that every human person is of unique worth to God, and everybody is standing on holy ground, because they are created in God's image and likeness.

One of the things I think God gave me is a sense of cheerfulness and being hopeful. So, I want to raise people's sights to this wonderful sense of hope, to realise that things may at times be terrible and awful, but this virtue of hope is what drives us.

In the words of Desmond Tutu, we are the people who are 'prisoners of hope', and we want to give and share this hope with everybody.



With Christmas just around the corner, we will probably be getting more letters and cards through the post, but did you know, the used stamps can be used by The Leprosy Mission to raise vital funds. So please cut around your stamps -

leaving a little of the envelope on all sides and pop them in the box at the back of church. We'll then send them on to the charity.

Our Christmas Quiz!

Every answer in this year's quiz contains either PEN or INK in consecutive letters.

For example: Q. Golf's original championship (3,4) A. The **Open**

No prizes, but have fun! Answers in the February magazine.

1. They start a song to a little star. (7,7)
2. Sounds like a cheap form of transport. (5,8)
3. A favourite maker produced them for children. (5,4)
4. Where did Glenn Miller ring 65000? (12)
5. Used to make a long length of narrow braid. (5,4)
6. Whiffy tricks enjoyed by children! (5,5)
7. 007 She tried to keep this number in order. (4,10)
8. In Cornwall this punishment includes a z! (7)
9. You might shoot one at your printer if it runs out! (3,9)
10. This wonderful place is often sung about. (10)
11. A vague idea. (7)
12. Both topics are found in a napkin end. (3,3,3)
13. A duck's favourite feeding position? (8)
14. When you hurt, pink rallies round will help. (11)
15. Hitler's most famous book. (4,5)
16. It comes in useful if there is a fire. (9,6)
17. A partial shadow. (8)
18. A venomous snake. (7)
19. How we expect to see the Scots? (2,5)
20. A cheap Victorian read. (5,8)
21. King Arthur's surname, or a modern day eco campaigner and druid leader. (9)
22. A Routemaster for the tourists? (4,3,3)
23. Alecia Beth Moore, American singer/songwriter. (4)
24. Sounds like it should be in Wales, but it's in England! (3,1,5)
25. Viv Nicholson's 'Play for Today'. (5,5,5)
26. A pledge between 2 children. (5,7)
27. Do this, and you've missed it! (5)

28. A piggy squeak. (4)
29. A high bewitching area of Lancashire. (6,4)
30. British jockey who is also a pretty good cyclist! (8,9)
31. Played with discs, a pot and squidgers. (11)
32. They help to keep Lancastrians and Yorkists apart! (3,8)
33. Kids love sending it down stairs. (6)
34. Can be a relief to do it - but often costs much more! (5,1,5)
35. To trick or deceive. (8)
36. Mark Twain and Lewis Carroll were. (3,5)
37. A building method for wooden boats. (7)
38. Keswick has this museum. (7,6)
39. Inspector Clouseau featured in this series of films. (3,4,7)
40. Trading costs deducted from income. (8)
41. The time can come to abandon one. (7,4)
42. Made somewhat unwanted by a pointed ball. (8,3)
43. The art of getting up to the edge. (12)
44. These can stop horses seeing these flashing. (8)
45. It ticks and tocks. (8)
46. Put it on when making a decision. (8,3)
47. It is now worth only 2.5p! (8)
48. A cheap sounding instrument. (5,7)
49. They can crease you, but not in laughter. (8)
50. A poplar tree. (5)
51. Director Bill Forsyth's first film comedy. (4,7,7)
52. Good for long distance learning. (3,4,10)
53. London district famous in Victorian times for having 25 pubs to the square mile. (5)
54. American actor and director who was married to Madonna for 4 years. (4,4)
55. TV presenter famous for having a very long fringe. (7,9)
56. J.M.Barrie's fairy. (6,4)
57. 1950's rock and roll shoes. (13)
58. The world's largest low-rise office building. (3,8)
59. Cambodia's most populous city. (5,4)
60. A large body of water that is entered unintentionally! (3,5)
61. They started selling together in Leeds. (5,3,7)

62. This old tree can be used as a herbal supplement. (6)
63. Used for teamaking when camping. (3,6)
64. Two chances of spotting a clue here and makes a point? (6,9)
65. How weights are usually quoted these days. (2,5)
66. They can avoid falling trousers or stockings. (10)
67. A vocal group in the 1940's and 1950's. (3,3,5)
68. Thackeray wrote about him, but not the castle. (9)
69. A village in Cumbria. (6-2-6)
70. A style of architecture. (13)
71. This mushroom grows wild. (3,3)
72. Sort the pidgin men hanging around. (9)
73. This TV series never closed but is now still. (4,3,5)
74. Not a game but is played by Swiss mountain dwellers. (9)
75. It could be an emperor - or even a king. (7)
76. Humber and Clifton are good examples of one. (10,6)
77. A new neat ply could cost you! (7)
78. He reduces anything above the shoulders! (4,8)
79. They joined up with a soldier and a sailor. (6,3,6)
80. An extravagant group of them sorted brings speed. (3,8)
81. Known outside her native country as the 'Spanish enchantress'. (8,4,7)
82. Lady Stewart since 2016. (5,9)
83. This one rings a bell! (6)
84. Major or minor ground cover plant. (10)
85. Who Anne Robinson used to say goodbye to. (3,7,4)
86. Saw-toothed scissors. (7,6)
87. A large sum. (1,6,5)
88. Spooky Welsh/English actor following in his father's footsteps. (6,5-5)
89. The Village Green Preservation Society. (3,5)
90. Essential for the modern networker? (8)
91. This far off place is named peg with a little granny in it! (6)
92. An obligation which is waived. (12)
93. Do they connect from one hole to another? (4,5)
94. Baron who had a leading role in producing the first British atomic bomb. (7,6)
95. Italians' favourite tubes? (5,5)
96. Where you might end up if you are caught stealing in Southwark? (2,3,5)

97. Largest and oldest character who lives in the grassy Superdome. (5,5)
98. Having an irresistible attraction? (8)
99. It has to be here! (11)
100. This naturally comes at the end! (8)

Post those cards on time! Final posting dates for the UK this Christmas are as follows:

Friday 16th December: Royal Mail Bulk Mail Economy

Monday 19th December: 2nd Class

Wednesday 21st December: 1st Class

Thursday 22nd December: Special Delivery Guaranteed & Royal Mail Tracked 24

Friday 23rd December: Special Delivery Guaranteed with Saturday Guarantee

The mysterious ways of mistletoe

Mistletoe has long been used as part of our Christmas decorations. It is not your usual kind of plant.

Instead, it is *hemiparasitic*, meaning that although its leaves enable it to feed itself through photosynthesis, its roots invade the host tree or shrub to extract water and other nutrients.

Mistletoe loves living in apple, lime, hawthorn, poplar or oak trees. You may spot it high up, as a large globe, on the bare trees in winter. There is one spectacular example in Windsor Great Park, clearly visible from the path on the opposite side of the Thames.

Mistletoe's berries are almost translucent, fleshy and sticky. They form in the forks of mistletoe's many branches. While they are toxic to humans, they are attractive to birds, who wipe the remaining seeds off their beaks onto the nearest branch, which of course helps the plant to spread.

For some reason, Romans thought mistletoe represented Peace, Love and Understanding. Perhaps that is how it got into our Christmas celebrations? The earliest documentary evidence for kissing under mistletoe dates from the 16th century, but we don't know who got kissed first.

The story behind the hymn: Good King Wenceslas

Each year at Christmas we sing about good King Wenceslas looking on the Feast of Stephen... ever wonder who on earth he was? Here are three of the five verses...

*Good King Wenceslas looked out on the Feast of Stephen
When the snow lay round about, deep and crisp and even.
Brightly shone the moon that night, tho' the frost was cruel
When the poor man came in sight, gathering winter fuel...*

*Bring me flesh and bring me wine; bring me pine logs hither;
Thou and I will see him dine when we bear them thither.
Page and monarch forth they went, forth they went together,
Through the rude winds' wild lament, and the bitter weather...*

*In his master's steps he trod where the snow lay dinted;
Heat was in the very sod which the saint had printed.
Therefore Christian men, be sure wealth or rank possessing,
Ye who now will bless the poor, shall yourself find blessing.*

This carol was 900 years in the making... and started with a brutal murder in Bohemia.

For Wenceslas was a real person, the Duke of Bohemia, who lived in the early 10th century. He seems to have been a rare ruler, in that he was just and had compassion for the poor. His goodness made him enemies, and when he was only 22, he was assassinated on the steps of a church in Prague in 935.

But that was not the end of Wenceslas. Deeply mourned by the common people, he was soon considered a martyr and a saint. A cult of Wenceslas grew up in Bohemia, influencing the High Middle Ages idea of the *rex Justus* – or 'righteous king' - that is, a monarch whose power stems mainly from his great piety.

The story of Wenceslas came to England sometime before 1853, when Queen Victoria's envoy to Stockholm sent some rare books to a friend, John Mason Neale, Warden of Sackville College, East Grinstead. Here Neale

found the story of Wenceslas in an ancient poem by Czech poet Václav Alois Svoboda. Neale published his translation as a carol in 1853. He made the 'Duke' into a 'King', as a later Pope had conferred the regal title on Wenceslas.

The carol tells the poignant story of a young king and his page braving harsh winter weather in order to bring food, wine and fuel to a poor peasant on the Feast of St Stephen (26 December). The journey is terrible, and the page only gets through by following in the king's footprints, step by step, through deep snow. There are themes here of following Christ, through suffering, to do good to the poor.

If the story is ancient, so is the melody that Neale chose for his carol - it goes back to Finland in 1582.

Good King Wenceslas... today, a millennium after his brutal murder, he is still remembered in Prague, where a statue of him stands tall in the middle of Wenceslas Square. His goodness is not forgotten.

A festive poster for a Christmas Fair. The background is a snowy landscape with a blue sky. In the foreground, there's a green Christmas tree with red ornaments and a star on top, surrounded by several wrapped gifts in red, green, and yellow. To the left, a small white house with a red roof is partially visible. The text 'Christmas Fair' is written in a large, red, cursive font. Above the text, there are four hanging Christmas ornaments: two red with white patterns and two green with white snowflake patterns. The text 'Here at St Thomas' Church Hall' is in a green, sans-serif font, and 'Sat 26th November 2 - 4pm' is in a red, sans-serif font.

Christmas Fair

Here at St Thomas' Church Hall
Sat 26th November 2 - 4pm

Gifts
Refreshments
& Food
Toys
Games
Raffle
Photo Studio
Admission £1
for over 16s

A circular logo for St Thomas' Church, featuring a central emblem surrounded by text.

Special Services for Christmas at St Thomas'



Christingle

4.00pm on Sunday 11th December

Our **Christingle** service is a candle-lit family celebration that raises money for the work of The Children's Society, a voluntary organisation of the Church of England.

The 'Christingle' itself, which symbolises the light of Christ's love, is a lighted candle mounted in an orange,

which has a red ribbon or tape around it. Also mounted in the orange are four cocktail sticks, each bearing dried fruit or sweets.

The orange represents the world. The candle stands for Jesus, the Light of the World. The red ribbon or tape symbolises the blood of Christ, who shares in the suffering of the whole world. The fruits and sweets are symbolic of God's Creation and His love for us.

Join us for mulled wine & mince pies afterwards/

Carols by Candlelight

6.30pm on Sunday 18th December

Nine Lessons and Carols is a chance to renew your acquaintance with the best of the traditional Christmas carols, to hear some old favourites sung by the choir and, we hope, to discover some new ones. Come along and sing, then enjoy a glass of mulled wine and some mince pies



Christmas Eve Children's Service 4pm

The Sunday School perform a short play based on the nativity with carols and prayers. Some of the figures are placed in the crib at the back of the church.

Midnight Mass

11.30pm on Christmas Eve

Midnight Mass has its roots in the very earliest of times and we join at St Thomas' to celebrate the first Eucharist of Christmas.



Christmas Day Family Communion

10am on Christmas day

A service for all the family, so bring your children, friends and relatives.

Top of the pips!

The Sunday School would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who bought a "leaf" for our tree! Thanks to your generosity we busted the mercury in our tree-ometer and raised £60! We are now planning to buy some additional fruit bushes for the Church garden. Meanwhile the children have been busy planning what to put in their time capsule with football cards, hand gel, comics and Jubilee memorabilia included so far. The next step will be planting the tree and burying the time capsule - please do come and join us in the Church garden (current date planned is 11th December!)



1st December: Eloi - a patron saint for the euro?

It's many years since Europe switched over to the Euro (January 2002). So, this is a good time to remember Eloi, bishop of Noyon, who was born in Gaul, and started out as a goldsmith.

He entered the service of Bobon, the royal treasurer. He went on to become master of the mint for King Clotaire 1 of France. His reputation was based not only on excellent design, but also on economical use of materials. Not a bad example for the makers of the Euro!

Eloi's craftsmanship and friendship with the king made him very wealthy. He gave much of his money to the poor, built a number of churches, ransomed slaves, and founded a convent in Paris and a monastery in Solignac.

Terracycle is back

Some of the waste streams are back but what we can collect is very specific. All the items have to be sorted by type before they are sent to Terracycle, so please keep items separate

What we now collect:

Pringles Tubes

Please recycle the plastic lids yourself but put the tube with the metal base in the box. **Remember they don't want the plastic lid!**

Bread

We can collect bags from bread and crumpets and similar This is sponsored by Warburtons but they will take ANY make of bread, rolls, and wraps.

Coffee

We can take ground coffee bags, and coffee bean bags. This is Sponsored by Taylors of Harrogate but they will take any make of COFFEE

Please see posters on the collecting point in St Thomas car park or look on the Terracycle website.

Please pray for:

Those who are housebound or in need - Mtr Sheenagh Burrell, Heather Fernandes, Nigel Brooks, Gill Shaw, Peter Gilbert, Eileen Gilbert, Normal Dorival, Susan Cross, Marjorie Kelly, Leo T, Merfyn, Jane, Steve Purcell, John Tozer. Gabs Cecchetti & James Chapman

Father Robert and his family as they prepare to move to the parish of St Martin's in Ruislip



From the Ealing Foodbank

Thank you for continuing to support the foodbank.
There are several shops locally that have collection points and they're all listed on the foodbank website.

There are other ways in which you can help.

- You can continue to leave your donations in the boxes left in our church porch. However 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.

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

** please remember that our magazine is produced a month in advance, so we publish the shopping list available to us at the time of going to press, So it's a good idea to check the most recent list on the website (see above) or Twitter: @EalingFoodbank or Instagram: ealingfoodbank

THE NOVEMBER SHOPPING LIST **

Rice, tinned fish & meat, UHT milk (whole or semi-skimmed), dried milk & non-dairy milk, long-life fruit juice & squash, instant drinking chocolate, peanut butter, tinned fruit & vegetables, chick peas & kidney beans, readymade custard & rice pudding, ketchup & mayonnaise, savoury biscuits & crackers, hair shampoo & shower gel.

Thank you, but the foodbank has plenty of pasta and baked beans at the moment.



From the Editors

Welcome to our Christmas edition of the Trident. On page 12 you'll find details about all our special Christmas services and on page 6, you'll see our quiz for this year. We hope you enjoy it.

Happy Christmas from Jill, Sue and all at St Thomas'

Jill & Sue



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Friday	10am - 8pm
Saturday	9am - 6pm
Sunday	CLOSED



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Christmas Pop-in Coffee morning at St Thomas' Church Hall

**On Friday December 2nd
from 10am - 12pm**

Tea, coffee and cakes

AND

**Various festive attractions including a table sale,
a cake stall and a raffle.**

**We look forward to welcoming all members of the
community.**

Diary Dates

November

Sun 27th

Advent Sunday



December

Sun 4th

2nd of Advent

Sun 11th

3rd of Advent Christingle time 4pm

Sun 18th

4th of Advent Nine Lessons & Carols 6.30pm

Sat 24th

Children's service time 4pm

Midnight Mass at 11.30pm

Sun 25th

Christmas Day service at 10am

Mon 26th

St Stephen

January

Sun 1st

2nd of Christmas

Sun 8th

Epiphany

POP-IN

POP- IN ON FRIDAYS

**AT ST THOMAS' CHURCH HALL
FROM 10.30AM TO 12 NOON**

***COME FOR TEA, COFFEE, BISCUITS AND A CHAT**

***MEET YOUR FRIENDS AND MAKE NEW ONES!**

***STAY FOR TEN MINUTES OR THE MORNING!**



December

2nd - Christmas Pop-in (see page opposite)

9th - tea, coffee and cakes

16th - tea, coffee and cakes

The POP-IN is run by the Hanwell Neighbourly Care Scheme.

PARISH DIRECTORY



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