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February 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

17th February is Ash Wednesday and marks the start of Lent, a 40 day period of restrictions, isolation, and self-examination. Of course, thanks to COVID, we have had nearly 340 days of such privation, so what

can Lent offer us?

Lent is often caricatured as being all about stripping away, restrictions on liberty and so on. In fact it is a season which asks us to look afresh at who **we are and what we are. Hence the removal of 'luxuries' and the stripping** back to the core. Lent encourages us to get rid of the things that prevent us from being what we are meant to be. Part of who we are is joy, freedom and our shared life with others. To not have those things means that we are not being who we are and what we are.

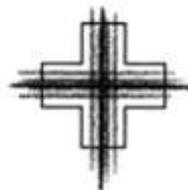
One of my favourite stories from Rowan Williams' book *Silence and Honey Cakes* is the tale of the sleeping monk. A monk fell asleep during one of the Offices of the Church, and the other monks were deeply unimpressed by his lack of self-discipline and self-control, so they went to a senior and respected brother, Abba Poemen, to ask what they should do. They, of course, meant how should he be punished. But Abba Poemen replied, **"I [would] put his head upon my knees and help him to rest."**

Sometimes doing the devotional and spiritual thing can be bizarrely counter-intuitive. Given the privations of this past year then, perhaps, rather than giving things up to be who we are and what we are, we should actually take things on. Therefore, this Lent perhaps we should look for the things that give us joy, freedom and space to celebrate our shared life. Perhaps we can volunteer, or support a charity, and commit **ourselves to pray for our sisters and brothers at St Thomas'.**

Ash Wednesday will happen (in some form!) and we may still be in Lockdown, Tier X or whatever, but this Lent we can think about what makes us human. Please do look for ways to support others from whom we are separated, and support yourselves as well.

Your friend and priest

Fr. Robert





Parish News

At the beginning of January the PCC had the unenviable task of making a decision regarding closing during the latest lockdown and 'spike'. **The previous two lockdowns had come with an instruction 'from on high' to close for Public Worship. This 3rd lockdown saw no such instruction. St Thomas' is incredibly safe and the measures in place here more than meet the Government requirements.** However, it was felt that, as *all* other churches in the Ealing Deanery had closed apart from us, and our primary role as a church is to love God and our neighbours as ourselves, discretion should be the better part of valour. We will have reviewed the situation at the January PCC meeting and decided whether to remain closed for the time being, or, as we desperately hope, re-open. Unfortunately this means another vague listing **of potential services, so please do note the 'Closed to Public Worship Service Pattern' and the 'Open Pattern' inside the front cover of this magazine,**

Despite the lockdown we are trying to find ways of engaging with one another and our faith. Therefore, as well as the services, there will be a **series of interviews with various people in St Thomas' on how their faith** has impacted their work during COVID. The series will be called **'Prosaion', see the information opposite for further details.**

Also, we are doing *Pictures by the Park* on Zoom. Once a month we will watch a film via a Zoom conference and then have a discussion on some of **the film's themes. In January we saw *The Mission* and in February there will be a change of pace and we'll watch *Galaxy Quest*.**

A reminder also that St Thomas' now have a digital collection plate and integrated donations web-link (<https://portal.mydona.com/assets/webPay/index.php?cid=190>). This system also allows you to Gift Aid the donation, **so if you don't give through the Parish Giving Scheme yet, you may want to avail yourself of this wonderful facility.**

Finally, we will be joined by the Archdeacon of Northolt, Ven. Catherine Pickford, on 28th February, please put the date in the diary.

Do have a blessed and holy Lent, and whatever COVID brings, in the words of *Galaxy Quest*, **"Never give up, never surrender"!**

Fr. Robert

**Education's purpose is to replace and empty
mind with an open one
Malcolm Forbes**



A prayer for February

Dear Lord,

You promise to hear us when we come to you in prayer, thank you! We so need Your listening ear at this time – and your help, Lord. Winter always brings challenges, but this winter is exceptional as the effects of the pandemic continue. When we are afraid, or lonely, or grieving, or in despair, help us to trust You and to know that You are with us in the middle of it all, sustaining us. You are not social-distancing, You are very, very close, full of love and compassion.

We pray for our National Health Service and ask for Your special strength and protection for all staff. Thank you for the skills You have given to scientists all over the world. Thank you for the hope which the vaccines bring. Most of all thank You for the hope which Jesus brings. This earthly life is a whisper in the light of eternity and Jesus is the key to that eternal life. Thank You, Father, for meeting all our needs in Jesus. Amen.

SAINT

THOMAS

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.

PROSOPON
COVID FACES

Bishop of London - Mandell Creighton 1897-1901

Mandell Creighton was born on 5th July 1843 in Carlisle to Sarah and Robert Creighton. His father was a carpenter with a successful cabinet-making business. His mother died suddenly when Mandell was 7, so he and his younger brother and sister were brought up by his father and an unmarried aunt. Robert encouraged his sons to work hard, and also to be independent, and this allowed Mandell to make career choices that were unorthodox for his background.

His education began in a local dame school with a particularly stern headmistress. He was restless and mischievous, and frequently punished. When he was 9, he moved to a local cathedral school, where the charismatic head encouraged him. He began to read eagerly, and to succeed academically. He often helped other students translate passages from their classical studies, **and earned the nickname “Homer”. In 1857 he took the King’s Scholarship exam for admission to Durham Grammar School 70 miles away. He hadn’t studied Latin, so couldn’t do a portion of the exam, and was sure he’d failed,** but the examiner saw he was bright and accepted him anyway.

Durham School required students to attend Durham Cathedral on Sundays, and the high church ceremony there made a lasting impression on Creighton. It became a focus of his religious life and influenced his career choice. The headmaster, Dr Henry Holden, a classical scholar and educational reformer, encouraged Creighton, and he began to win prizes in classical subjects, English and French. He became head boy, which he loved, as he wanted to influence the younger boys by his high moral life.

Creighton was short-sighted and suffered double vision, and read with one eye closed. Consequently he was no good at sport, so walked in the countryside instead with friends, often for 20 miles a day, where he could also enjoy his other love, botany.

Creighton continued his education at Merton College, Oxford, where he did a classical postmastership. He continued to read voraciously. He became more politically aware, joined the Oxford Union, and was elected president. He was very skilled in informal conversations, conducted anywhere and everywhere, about topics great and small. **Gladstone called it ‘Oxford’s agony’ - the habit of seeing, self-importantly, larger than life significance in Oxford’s everyday disputes.**

In 1866 Creighton was offered by Merton a clerical fellowship with tutorial duties. He was popular with students and was a good leader, so was given more and more responsibilities. Along with another tutor he opened collegiate lectures to students of other colleges, and soon the Association of Tutors was born.

At this time, Creighton was solidifying his religious beliefs, and by 1870 decided to commit to taking holy orders. He loved travelling in Europe, and particularly Italy; he was fascinated by Renaissance Italy, which became his scholarly interest. Early in 1871 he attended a lecture by art critic John Ruskin in Oxford. **Creighton was invited afterwards to a Valentine's lunch** by a friend, where he met Louise von Glehn. They were engaged a few weeks later. Their marriage could potentially have caused a problem, as Merton College had a requirement of celibacy for its teaching fellows, but the college relented. Louise was an author and future suffragette, and they had 7 children together.

By 1874 Creighton decided that teaching was sapping his strength, and he wanted to concentrate on intellectual labour. He was offered the position of vicar of the remote rural parish of Embleton in Northumberland, which he eagerly accepted. He had time for his pastoral duties and writing history. The vicarage was huge with a 14th century fortified pele tower, with many rooms for their growing family, guests and servants. Their children were home-schooled by Louise, and Creighton took great interest in the local schools - he was elected to the Board of Guardians, which enacted poor laws in the region. He and Louise wrote 15 books between them during their 10 years in Embleton, including history books for young **people and the first 2 volumes of his magnum opus "The History of the Papacy in the Period of Reformation"**. He considered these 10 years as the happiest of his life.

In 1885 Creighton was offered the Dixie Chair at Cambridge University, and became the first occupant of this post. This was around the time that history was emerging as an independent academic discipline. He and Louise loved the interaction with academic society again, and made many new friends. At the same time Creighton was offered residentiary canonry at Worcester Cathedral, but this required only 3 months so he could do it in the university holidays. It was in Worcester that he considered how a cathedral and its diocesan parish churches were in competition and should be co-operating, and wrote many articles about this.

In 1891 Creighton was offered the position of Bishop of Peterborough, and had to end his academic life. He felt duty-bound to accept the position; he was afraid of being a coward and shirking responsibility, but it was a time of sadness for them at leaving Cambridge. The Peterborough diocese comprised 676 parishes, and Creighton visited every corner, travelling by train and staying over with parish priests, and spending very little time at home. The experience helped him work out his doctrinal stance - he was liberal, but also firmly believed that to be English was to be Anglican. In 1896 he represented the Church of England at the coronation of Czar

Nicholas II in Moscow. **He loved pageantry, and wore a bishop's coronation cope borrowed from Westminster Abbey, and carried his own mitre and pastoral staff.** Afterwards he wrote a glowing account of the coronation, which attracted the attention of Queen Victoria, who requested several copies for the royal family.

It was 1897 when Creighton became Bishop of London. One of his first efforts was to support the Voluntary School Bill. Voluntary schools, or **religious schools, hadn't had the same funding via taxes as non-denomination schools.** He was also occupied with the debate over ritual practice in the diocese. Low church clergy took exception to the ritual practices of some high church clergy, which they said indicated Roman Catholic influence, eg **candles and incense. In 1899 the Church of England's 2 archbishops held a hearing at Lambeth Palace, and ruled against the use of candles and incense, a seeming victory for the low church forces.** When a high court priest protested that incense was needed for curing souls, Creighton boomed **"...You think that souls like herring cannot be cured without smoke?"**

As Bishop of London there was endless business to attend to. In one year alone Creighton gave 294 formal sermons and addresses, visited Windsor and Sandringham to conduct services for Queen Victoria, organised a special thanksgiving service for her diamond jubilee, was appointed to Privy Council, and became a trustee of the British Museum and the National Portrait Gallery.

He died in January 1901 aged 57 of stomach haemorrhages. His moderation and worldliness was much admired, and it was widely thought that he would **have become Archbishop of Canterbury if he hadn't died.** The Quarterly Review remarked after his death **"it is certainly rare to find so much intellectual force and so high a standard of conduct contained in one man".** There is a memorial to Creighton in Peterborough Cathedral, a substantial mosaic depicting his effigy, details of his life, and mottos.

Look to this Day

Look to this day

For it is life, the very life of life

For yesterday is already a dream,

and tomorrow is only a vision

But today, well lived, makes every yesterday

A dream of contentment, and every

tomorrow a vision of hope.

Ancient Sanskrit Poem

News from Girlguiding Groups

Despite having to stay home the Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Rangers have all been meeting regularly on Zoom.

Recently the Rainbows have welcomed a group of new girls. All are enjoying the games and challenges. They love doing cooking and making things.

They are looking forward to being able to meet again.

Three Rainbows have recently moved on and we have welcomed them into the Brownies. The Brownies are currently doing games and crafts based on birds. We will be taking part in the RSPB Big Garden Bird Watch at the end of January. We are learning to recognise common garden birds and the Brownies have been making bird feeders and bird cake.

We would like to congratulate Daisy Goddard who has completed her Brownie Gold Award – a great achievement!

Daisy and two other Brownies have now moved on to Guides.

The Guides have been working on the Communicate Badge Stage 4. This has involved looking at logos, signs and symbols, speaking and listening effectively and also learning some basic sign language.

The Rangers have done some felting and also held a Murder Mystery evening. They all enjoy seeing one another regularly.

All groups will be celebrating Thinking Day in February. This is when we acknowledge the fact that we are part of a worldwide organisation. We will be learning about other countries by sampling their traditions.

Let's hope it won't be too long before we can all get back to traditional Guiding meetings and activities.

Bev



2020 Christmas Quiz - the answers!

1. Pied Piper
2. The Shambles
3. The Championship
4. Pieces of Eight
5. Magpie
6. **Peasants' Revolt**
7. Maggi Hambling
8. Piercing
9. Peak District
10. Peacocks
11. Pearl Onion
12. Peanuts
13. Glockenspiel
14. Crosspiece
15. Enemy Spies
16. Wham!
17. Graham Cracker
18. DBC Pierre
19. Pearmain
20. Katharine Hamnett
21. Black Eyed Peas
22. Maxine Peake
23. American Pie
24. Earpieces
25. Piers Morgan
26. **Shakespeare's Sister**
27. Pieta
28. Hammer and Sickle
29. Ham
30. Piedmont
31. Britney Spears
32. Hamstring
33. Whatchamacallit
34. Cheltenham
35. Pied-a-Terre
36. Pies
37. Frontispiece
38. Champion
39. Chamomile
40. Bonhams
41. Franklin Pierce
42. Peace Offering
43. Nappies
44. Kelpies
45. Doublespeak
46. Pierrot
47. Hammer
48. Pinkie Pie
49. Peach State
50. Pearly King
51. Croupier
52. Hippies
53. Aromatherapies
54. Cottage Pie
55. Francois Pienaar
56. Chapeau
57. Pea-souper
58. Peace Sign
59. **A Piece of One's Mind**
60. Dashiell Hammett
61. Hampton Court Palace
62. Pier Head
63. Pieceworker
64. Photocopier
65. Hamlet
66. Steven Spielberg
67. Lewis Hamilton
68. Ham-fisted
69. Pea Jacket
70. Peaky
71. Wigan Pier
72. Piece de Resistance
73. Piecrust
74. Pear-shaped
75. Speakeasy
76. Pierce Brosnan

- 77. Neville Chamberlain
- 78. Piesporter
- 79. Pieris
- 80. Piebald
- 81. Pearl Harbour
- 82. Chamber of Secrets
- 83. Shamrock
- 84. Peanut Butter
- 85. Chamois
- 86. Pears Soap
- 87. Bechamel
- 88. Spearmint

- 89. Billie Jo Spears
- 90. Oscar Hammerstein
- 91. Chickpea
- 92. Impeachment
- 93. Tweety Pie
- 94. Hamburg
- 95. Newspeak
- 96. Southampton
- 97. Graham Norton
- 98. Kevin Pietersen
- 99. Grantham
- 100. Champagne

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From the Editors

So on to our February magazine! We have the answers to our quiz - we do hope that you had a bit of fun with it over the festive season. Other than that, we hope you are all keeping your spirits up during this latest lockdown.

Jul & Sue

Copy Dates!
 Copy date for March is on Sunday February 14th
 Copy date for April is on Sunday March 14th

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Important Foodbank update:

First of all thank you all for your contributions over Christmas and New Year as it has been delivered and much appreciated.

However, due to the current pandemic, and the need to reduce our carbon footprint, we need to reassess 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.

THE JANUARY SHOPPING LIST **

Ready made custard - tins or cartons, tomato ketchup, instant drinking chocolate, cooking oil -1litre maximum please, vegetarian chilli & curry, size 5 & 6 nappies, toothpaste & toothbrushes shower gel, hair shampoo, soap & hand wash/sanitiser, shaving gear- foam & razors, washing up liquid, sanitary towel - not tampons or panty liners Thank you, but the foodbank has plenty of pasta at the moment.

** please remember that our magazine is produced in January for February so while we publish the most up to date list at the time of going **to press, there will be a different list for February. 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.

Q: What can you make that can't be seen?

A: A noise!

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