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February 2023

The Trident

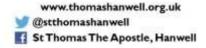


The Parish Magazine of



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CHURCH OF ENGLAND

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Or email st.thomas.office@btinternet.com

OUR CHURCH IS OPEN TO ALL FOR Sunday Parish Mass 10am Evening Prayer Sunday 6.30pm Said Mass Tuesday at Noon Said Mass on Wednesday at 2pm

All Live Stream Services can be viewed by anyone on www.facebook.com/StThomasHanwell

A Prayer for February

Heavenly Father,

Thank You for loving us.

Thank You for sending Jesus and for the work of Your Holy Spirit in opening people's eyes to recognise Him.

Please open our eyes and hearts afresh to Him.

Help us to truly trust Him and to be aware of the price He paid so that we can know Your peace and live with You forever.

Amen

Copy Dates!

Copy date for March will be Sunday 12th February Copy date for April will be Sunday 12th March

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 or the PCC.



Parish News

We said a final farewell to Father Robert and his family at a bring and share lunch on Sunday 15th January. On January 28th, we're looking forward to the Ceilidh - thank you to Annabel and friends for organising it. Just what we all need to

cheer us up in January.

We've got a couple of thank you messages below from the Christmas season.



Christmas Flowers

Thankyou so much to all the lovely people who gave so generously towards the Christmas flowers. Julie and I are a very small team but we hope we have confirmed your confidence in us.

All the best to you all for 2023.

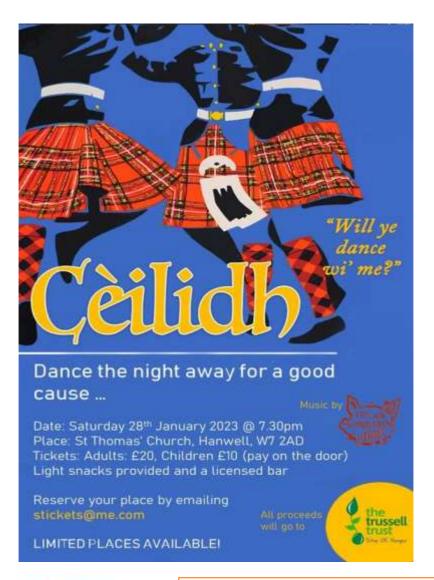
Terry

The Christmas Eve Nativity

With 3 Wise Women and a Queen Herod, the St Thomas' Nativity premiered for the first time in two years on Christmas Eve. And what a success it was! Despite illness severely impacting the 'rehearsal schedule', the children did a fabulous job. As well as the traditional



story and hymns amid the candle light, the children treated us to several musical interludes, featuring violins, cello, a solo and a trumpet! Towards the end of the service, the nativity figures were placed in the crib (without so much as a chip after Father Robert had reminded us some are almost 90 years old!). We ended with a presentation of the card Sunday School has been working on for Father Robert and there were a few tears as we said a fond farewell and thanked him for all his work. Fortunately everyone was able to revive their spirits with a round of Jingle Bells and mulled wine and mince pies in the hall afterwards! It was lovely to welcome wider family and others to the service and a wonderful way to start Christmas! Big thanks to all involved. Do make sure you come next year - we already have a possible script featuring a two headed donkey!





The Leprosy Mission will no longer be collecting postage stamps, so please don't leave any more at the back of the church. Thank you.

I am not what I might be, I am not what I ought to be, I am not what I wish to be, I am not what I hope to be; but I thank God I am not what I once was, and I can say with the great apostle, 'By the grace of God I am what I am.'

John Newton, former slave trader

St Thomas' family events - for your diary

Date	What's happening?
5 th February	Family Service
19 th March	Mothering Sunday (and cake sale)
9th April	Easter Sunday – Easter Egg Hunt in the Church Garden after the service
30 th April	Family Service
21 st May	Eco Sunday Family Service
18 th June	Family Service – Father's Day
2 nd July	Patronal Festival
16 th July	Family service
17 th September	Harvest Festival Family Service
15 th October	Family Service celebrating St Luke
12 th November	Remembrance Sunday Family Service





Christmas quiz 2022 - the answers!

We hope you had some fun with our quiz over the festive period.

1.Twinkle Twinkle
2.Penny Farthing
3.Dinky Toys/Cars
4.Pennsylvania
5.Inkle Loom
6.Stink Bombs
7 14:00 14:00 00:00

7.Miss Moneypenny
8.Penance
9.Ink Cartridge
10.Copenhagen

11.Inkling
12.Pen and Ink
13.Upending
14.Painkillers
15.Mein Kampf
16.Sprinkler System

17.Penumbra
18.Serpent/Rinkhal

19.In Kilts

20.Penny Dreadful/ Magazine

21.Pendragon 22. Open Top Bus

23.Pink

24.Pen y Ghent

25. Spend Spend Spend 26. Pinky Promise

27.Blink 28.Oink 29.Pendle Hill

30. Victoria Pendleton

31.Tiddlywinks 32.The Pennines

33.Slinkv

34.Spend a Penny

35 Hoodwink 36.Pen Names 37.Clinker

38.Derwent Pencil 39. The Pink Panther

40.Expenses 41. Sinking Ship 42.Fountain Pen 43.Brinkmanship 44.Blinkers 45.Pendulum 46.Thinking Cap 47.Sixpence 48.Penny Whistle

49.Wrinkles 50.Aspen

51.That Sinking Feeling 52. The Open University

53.Penge 54.Sean Penn

55.Claudia Winkleman

56.Tinker Bell 57.Winklepickers 58.The Pentagon 59.Phnom Penh 60.The Drink

61. Marks and Spencer

62.Ginkgo 63.Tin Kettle

64.Pencil Sharpener

65.In Kilos 66.Suspenders 67.The Ink Spots 68.Pendennis 69.Burton-in-Kendal 70.Perpendicular 71.Ink Cap 72.Impending 73.Open All Hours 74.Alpenhorn

75.Penguin

76. Suspension Bridge 77.Penalty 78.Head Shrinker 79. Tinker and Tailor 80.Big Spenders

81.Penelope Cruz Sanchez

82.Penny Lancaster

83.Tinkle

84.Periwinkle 85.The Weakest Link 86.Pinking Shears 87.A Pretty Penny 88.Rupert Penry-Jones

89.The Kinks 90.LinkedIn 91.Penang 92.Dispensation 93.Golf Links 94.William Penney 95.Penne Pasta 96.In The Clink

98.Penchant 99.Penultimate 100.Appendix

97.Tinky Winky

15th February Sigfrid, apostle of Sweden

If you have something big to forgive, Sigfrid may be the saint for you. This monk from Glastonbury was sent by King Ethelred to Norway and Sweden in 995. The King of Norway, King Olaf, had recently converted to Christianity, and wanted help in converting his people.

Sigfrid went first to Vaxjo in Sweden, taking along his three nephews. There he built a small church, commissioned it, and consecrated his nephews as bishops. Then Sigfrid left them, in order to evangelise the more remote regions.

So far so good, but when Sigfrid returned, he found the church had been burned to the ground and his nephews murdered. The attackers had been caught, and the king was about to put them to death. It would be an act of justice.

Instead, Sigfrid pleaded with the king for mercy. It was agreed that a large fine should be paid to Sigfrid. He did not keep a penny for himself, but used it to rebuild the church, and continue the mission. Sigfrid went on to minister in Sweden, Norway and Denmark for many years, until his death in 1045. He was remembered with love and credited with many miracles.

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POP-IN

POP-IN ON FRIDAYS

OPPRESENTATIONS

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!

FEBRUARY

3rd - tea, coffee and cakes

10th - tea, coffee and cakes

17th - tea, coffee and cakes

24th - tea, coffee and cakes



Goings-on at the PCC

Interregnum latest news

by Steve Purcell, Churchwarden

Here is a summary of the main business discussed at the most recent PCC meeting held on 16th January.

For the first part of the meeting we welcomed Archdeacon Catherine Pickford, who came to brief us on the important actions that would be required of us as part of the process leading to the appointment of a new Vicar. As previously reported in the Trident, the interview panel will include two members of the PCC. It was agreed that the PCC representatives will be chosen at our PCC Awayday on Saturday 28th January. At the Awayday, the main business will be to discuss the content of the 'Parish Profile' document that will provide potential applicants with detailed information about the nature and characteristics of St Thomas' and the personal qualities that we are looking for in the next Vicar.

A meeting involving the PCC, Bishop Lusa, Archdeacon Catherine, and other senior officers will take place on Monday 20th February. The Parish Profile must be ready for discussion at that meeting, which means that we have to work on this document very smartly during the early part of February.

The closing date for applications from interested clergy will be 19th May, before which the vacancy will be advertised. Shortlisting will take place on Wednesday 7th June, with our two PCC representatives taking part in this. Interviews will be held at St Thomas' on Tuesday 27th June. On the day before, there will be a 'Parish Visit' day when the shortlisted applicants will be invited to come and visit the church, meet some of the congregation, and have a good look at all the buildings including the Vicarage.

Allowing for the successful candidate to give notice in their current post, it is hoped that our new Vicar will be able to start work with us during October. Please continue to pray that the right person responds to God's call to come to be our new Vicar, and for discernment and wise judgement

on the part of all involved in the selection process.

After Archdeacon Catherine's business had been concluded, the Committee discussed more routine matters, mainly to do with building maintenance.

It was reported that cleaning of rainwater gutters and downpipes of the church, church hall, and vicarage would be carried out on 20th January. It was to be hoped that this would cure a problem of rainwater ingress above the left-hand pulpit that had occurred during a recent cloudburst.

It was also reported that our Architect, John Scott, had been successful in obtaining a firm quotation for the repair of plasterwork in the chancel and Lady Chapel, which would shortly be presented to the PCC. [Post-meeting note: The quotation arrived the day after the PCC meeting, and was unanimously agreed via email by all members of the Committee. The work is scheduled to start in late January or early February, and will involve scaffolding erected in the chancel area. All such activities should be completed well before Easter.]

A further report from the Architect following a specialist survey has informed us that the lower roof on the south side of the church building is life-expired, with signs of cracking and water ingress. Being on the south side of the building it is unshaded from the sun and therefore the copper roof suffers extremes of temperature leading to metal fatigue. This thin strip of roof, which is approximately 2 metres wide, and runs most of the length of the building, needs complete replacement. We can expect to receive an indication of the cost in due course, at which point we will know how much money we will need to raise.

Finally, the PCC discussed future meeting dates. It was agreed that the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) will take place on Sunday 21st May, at 11.30am following the 10:00am Mass.

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 Terracyle, 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, Nigel Brooks, Peter Gilbert, Terence Ball, James Chapman, Norman Dorival, Jane, Julia Schumann, Steve Purcell and John Tozer.

Father Robert as he begins his ministry at St Martins, Ruislip. Our churchwardens, Fade and Steve and the PCC as they navigate us through the interregnum.



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 JANUARY SHOPPING LIST **

Rice, tinned fish, tinned meats, UHT milk (whole or semi-skimmed), dried milk, long-life fruit juice & squash, instant coffee & instant drinking chocolate, tinned fruit & vegetables, rice -500g & 1Kg, ready made custard & rice pudding, ketchup & mayonnaise, shaving gear - foam & razors

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

From the Editors

And suddenly, Christmas was over and the realities of being in an interregnum are upon us. Thank you to everyone who is taking on extra work while we go through the necessary but lengthy process of finding a new vicar for St Thomas'.





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Congregational Giving 2022 Thank you to our Stewards

By Sheila Burt, Stewardship Secretary

Very many thanks to our Stewards — those who give money regularly or by lump sum to St Thomas', as congregational giving. Our records at the end of 2022 show that we have 63 Stewards who are now contributing at a total annualised rate of just over £42,000. The median or 'half-way' point is £480, which means that half of our Stewards are contributing more than this amount, and the other half are contributing less. Our congregational giving is vital income for St Thomas', without which we could not pay our expenses, or fund our mission as a church. So thank you all again.

If you are not currently contributing regularly as a Steward, and would like to start, we offer 4 different methods of payment:

- by cash using an offertory envelope;
- by direct payment into our church bank account;
- using the Parish Giving Scheme (by far the easiest method for the church);

by debit or credit card payment.

If you're interested in starting payments using any of these methods, I would be happy to give further information. My contact details are on the back page of The Trident.

Many of our Stewards pay income tax, either because of being employed or else because of receiving pension income. Therefore we were able to reclaim a total of £10,293 extra during 2022 from HMRC's Gift Aid scheme — a very big help to the church. For people who are registered with us for Gift Aid, we are able to collect an additional £25 for each £100 of giving, with the church doing all the paperwork necessary. If you pay income tax, but are not currently registered for Gift Aid with St Thomas', please have a

word with me. All that is necessary to enroll, is to complete a simple declaration form.

If you are registered with us for Gift Aid, but have moved house since registering, please keep us updated. Also, if for any reason you have ceased to pay income tax, don't forget to let us know!



Diary Dates

January

Sat 28th Ceilidh - 7.30pm Sun 29th 4th of Epiphany



February

Sun 5th 3rd before Lent
Sun 12th 2nd before Lent
Sun 19th Sunday before Lent

Wed 22nd Ash Wednesday - Mass at 7:30pm

Sun 26th 1st of Lent

March

Sun 5th 2nd of Lent Sun 12th 3rd of Lent

Sun 19th 4th of Lent - Mothering Sunday Sun 26th 5th of Lent - Passiontide begins

April

Sun 2nd Palm Sunday

Thurs 6th Maundy Thursday - Mass of The Lord's Supper at 7.30pm

Fri 7th Good Friday - Solemn Liturgy at 3pm

Sun 9th Easter Day

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