

50 pence



January 2023

# The Trident



The Parish Magazine of



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## A prayer for New Year

Jesus,

Heir of the promise,

Hope of the years,

You are here.

Help us Lord,

To know that You are *there*, too,

Before us

As You are behind us,

Already in the new moment,  
The new day,  
The new year.

Help us Lord

To delight in Your company,

To walk Your safe way,

To shine Your clear light

Of hope for the year.

Amen

### **Copy Dates!**

Copy date for February will be Sunday 8th January

Copy date for March will be Sunday 12th February

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

Christmas was a wonderful occasion at St Thomas'. The first one without any restrictions since 2019. Thank you to everyone who helped with decorations, organising the services etc and to everyone who came along to the services.

Then all of a sudden, 2023 arrives.

We are now in an Interregnum and there are processes that need to happen in order for us to find a new vicar. Steve and Fade have written about this on page 4 and we will update you as we go through the formalities necessary.

On Saturday 28th January, Annabel is organising a ceilidh. This should be great fun, so please come along and join us.

Tickets are selling fast, so do be sure to email [stickets@me.com](mailto:stickets@me.com) and reserve yours.



## Christingle 2022

The Sunday School and uniformed groups enjoyed two great pre-Christmas events this advent. First, a screening of the Grinch kindly hosted by St Thomas' very own Pictures by the Park. To quote one of the audience members, it was the "best film ever"! Second, our annual Christingle Service saw lots of children, parents, grandparents and carers

enjoying festive songs - not to mention the sweets on the Christingles! A big thank you to the Sunday School, Brownies and Rainbows who did a fabulous job reading, singing and playing various instruments! And further thanks go to our fire-fighting Guides (fortunately not called upon!), Father Robert for his usual welcoming and humorous address, and Roger for his fabulous piano and organ playing! As the Church went dark with just the Christingle candles flickering, it would have been hard not to get into the Christmas spirit - further aided by mulled wine and mince pies in the hall afterwards! Most importantly we raised £128.70 for the Children's Society. Thank you to everyone who came and gave so generously.

*Bess*

Thought for the month

Success

'Always bear in mind that your own resolution to succeed is more important than any one thing'

Abraham Lincoln 1809 - 1865

# Interregnum Latest — Good News!

*By Fade Solanke-Mitterer and Steve Purcell, Your Churchwardens*

By now you will have learned the sad news that Father Robert is leaving us to take up a new appointment at the parish of St Martin of Tours, Ruislip. Fr Robert's last Sunday with us will be 1<sup>st</sup> January 2023. The period between then and a new Vicar being appointed is known as the Interregnum — literally 'between reigns'.

Despite the sadness of saying goodbye, there is much good news to report. The Churchwardens had a meeting at St Thomas' on 6<sup>th</sup> December with Archdeacon Catherine Pickford, the Archdeacon of Northolt. She told us that dates had been agreed for clergy interviews to be held in late June 2023, with the appointment of our new Vicar to be announced at that time. A realistic start date for the person appointed would therefore be September or October. This is excellent news because it means that the interregnum will be as brief as realistically possible, and indicates the great confidence that the Diocese has in St Thomas' to complete all the necessary process to very tight deadlines.

Immediately in the New Year, the PCC will start work on the preparation of a 'Parish Profile' — effectively a prospectus that all concerned, including potential applicant clergy can see. This has to be completed by 13<sup>th</sup> February, and will take account of feedback from the Congregational Survey exercise that is currently underway.

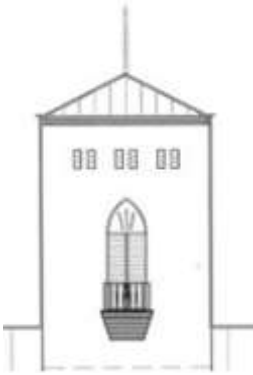
We were also privileged to meet in person with our Bishop, Lusa Nsenga-Ngoy, at St Thomas' on 15<sup>th</sup> December. Bishop Lusa encouraged us to think of the appointment process as our own, with all the other people involved, including himself, as assisting in the process. His role is to "accompany us, rather than tell us what to do". Two representatives from the Parish, to be chosen by the PCC, will be part of the interview panel, which will comprise five people altogether, including himself and Archdeacon Catherine. No appointment will be made without the full agreement of the panel.

In preparing our Parish Profile document, Bishop Lusa encouraged us to think and pray widely and deeply about the future of St Thomas'. "Who are you called to be?", is the challenging question to be answered. In wanting to preserve our worship style as a Liberal Catholic parish within the Church of England, Bishop Lusa said "You have nothing to worry about!".

# St Thomas' family events - for your diary

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





# Broadband in the Belfry!

## A vital asset to the community

by Steve Purcell

### What's in the church tower apart from a bell?

Immediately behind each of the 4 louvred openings at the top of our bell tower is a Wi-Fi antenna. (Wi-Fi is an abbreviation for 'Wireless Local Area Network', and is essential for mobile phone communications, especially when outdoors.) Each antenna transmits 2G, 3G, 4G, and 5G Wi-Fi signals directly outwards, and at 45 degrees left and right, so as to give complete coverage across the surrounding area. The antennas are connected to an impressive array of computing equipment housed in the tower. The equipment belongs to several telecom organisations including Vodafone, Ericsson, and EE (owned by British Telecom).

### 2G, 3G, 4G, 5G

Going from 2G to 5G, each one of these systems allows us to accomplish more. For example a 3G mobile phone might be able to manage video calling and Internet access but with some difficulty and slow speed. With 4G, which most of us have been using since 2008 for our mobile phones, fast internet access and high quality video is possible. 5G, which has recently been installed in our church tower, gives extremely high speeds that allow for even higher quality, and very demanding usage such as virtual reality.

### Why so many systems?

2G is still in use for some card payment terminals in shops and other retail outlets, as well as some home security systems.

Some people prefer to use a mobile phone only capable of making voice

calls, in which case it might use 3G. The 3G system is still in current use by UK emergency services.

Most people now have mobile phones which utilise 4G as we now use mobile devices for a variety of tasks requiring internet access, apart from simply making voice calls.

During late August, the removal of scaffolding from the church tower signalled the completion of the work to install the new G5 system equipment. (Don't expect to be able to use G5 unless your mobile handset is G5-ready; otherwise, you will need to get a new one!) The supervisor in charge of the work told me that the new system will be able to handle 800 callers simultaneously, and is one of the highest capacity and largest Wi-Fi installations in the London area, equalled only by one at Victoria Coach Station. The reason for this is that compared with many church towers, ours is very spacious, and it also stands in a prominent position, directly visible from a great deal of the surrounding neighbourhood.

### **What's the area of coverage?**

I was also told that our equipment has a useful reception range of at least one kilometre. Intrigued as to what this might mean as a public benefit, I set to work with map and measuring tool, and drew a circle, centred on St Thomas's church tower. Thus I discovered that the area of coverage comprises:

All of the housing in Hanwell, south of the Uxbridge Road, and all of the housing in the Northfields area to the west of Northfields Avenue;

A 1¼ mile length of Boston Road, southwards from Hanwell Broadway;

A ½ mile length of the Uxbridge Road (between Hanwell and West Ealing);

Nearly half a mile length of Northfields Avenue;

A ¾ mile length of the M4 motorway;

A ¾ mile length of the Piccadilly Line, including Boston Manor station and Northfields train depot.

Stop to consider all of the domestic housing mentioned. Then think about all the people with mobile phones who might, in the course of a single day, use any of the arterial routes that I have listed. Then you begin to appreciate what a tremendous asset to the community the equipment in our church tower is!

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## Wise Men Seek Him

*‘A cold coming we had of it. Just the worst time of the year. For a journey and such a long journey.’* (Journey of the Magi, T.S. Eliot).

In this poem, T.S. Eliot imagines the journey of the Magi to worship Jesus, as told in Matthew 2. This story is at the heart of our celebration of Epiphany, as we remember the astrologers from the East following a star to find the baby: *‘Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, ‘Where is the One who has been born king of the Jews? We saw His star when it rose and have come to worship Him.’* (Matthew 2:1,2).

The Magi provide a powerful picture of the journey we make in searching for God in our lives. Like them, it requires time and effort (they travelled for months) and will not always be easy! As they followed the star, so we are called to pursue God’s light in our lives.

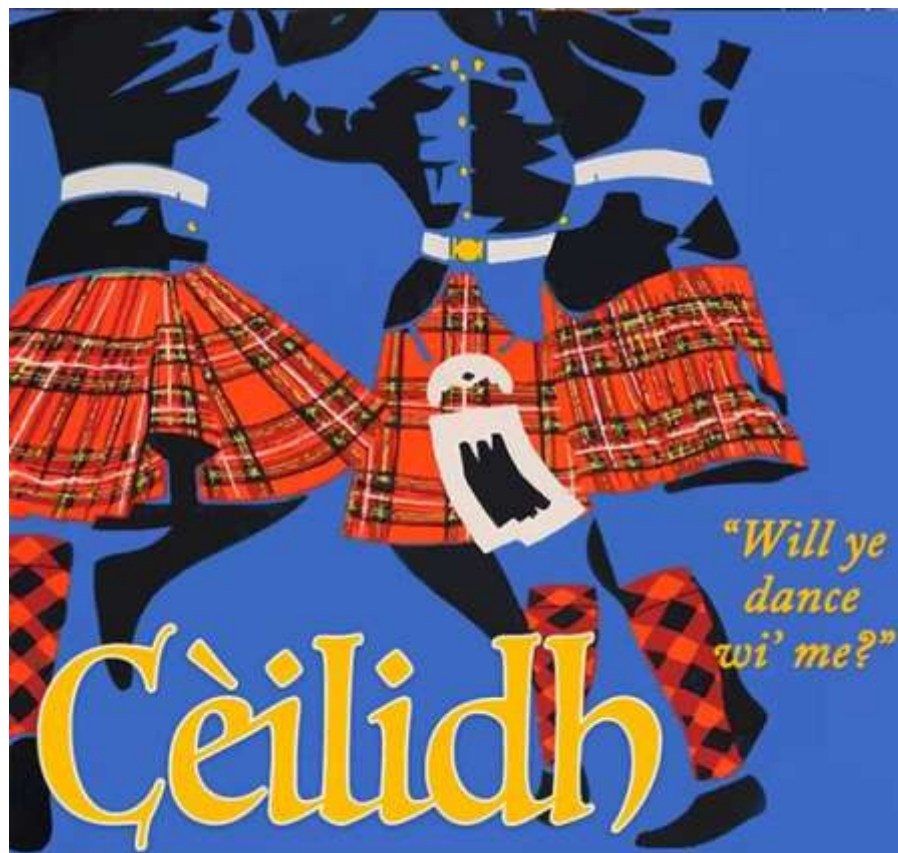
What does this say to us at the beginning of a New Year? Are we ready to go deeper in our relationship with God? Are we looking for new ways to use our time, treasure and talents for Him? It is a great time to offer these things to Him, and like the Magi, commit ourselves to pursuing Him. His light, through prayer, worship and His Word, will be our guide on the way.

T.S. Eliot used the imagined journey of the Magi to reflect on his own spiritual journey. It reveals the pain and doubts he experienced on his long and troubled journey to find the light of Christ. He describes finding Christ as a *‘hard and bitter agony for us, like Death, our death’*. Are we prepared to make this journey for ourselves?

*Taken from The Parish Pump January 2023*

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*"Will ye  
dance  
wi' me?"*

Dance the night away for a good  
cause ...

Date: Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2023 @ 7.30pm

Place: St Thomas' Church, Hanwell, W7 2AD

Tickets: Adults: £20, Children £10 (pay on the door)

Light snacks provided and a licensed bar

Music by



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will go to:

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# 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, Nigel Brooks, Gill Shaw, Peter Gilbert, Julia Schumann, Terence Ball, James Chapman, Normal Dorival, Susan Cross, Steve Purcell and John Tozer.

Father Robert and his family and the people of St Martin's 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 DECEMBER SHOPPING LIST \*\*

Rice, tinned fish & meat, UHT milk (whole or semi-skimmed), long-life fruit juice & squash, instant coffee & instant drinking chocolate, jam & peanut butter, tinned fruit & vegetables, chickpeas & kidney beans, ready made custard & rice pudding, ketchup & mayonnaise, savoury biscuits & crackers , nappies - sizes 4,5 & 6

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



## From the Editors

We try to get the January magazine collated and printed in good time, so as we write this, Christmas hasn't arrived yet and we're hopefully reaching the end of the arctic cold snap. Please stay warm and safe. We'd like to wish you all a very happy and healthy 2023.

*Julia & Sue*



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Saturday	9am - 6pm
Sunday	CLOSED



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29<sup>th</sup> January -

remembering the fight against leprosy worldwide

Leprosy was a problem in biblical times, and sadly, even today, between 200 and 300 thousand people worldwide are diagnosed with it each year. Two to three million people are living disabled lives because of it.

Leprosy is caused by a bacillus, *Mycobacterium leprae* (a relative of TB), and is mildly infectious. It is most often found alongside dirty water, poor nutrition, and low standards of living, where people's immune systems have been weakened.

The Leprosy Mission (TLM) is an international Christian organisation which works in many countries to help people affected by leprosy. Founded in 1874, The Leprosy Mission is the oldest and largest leprosy-focused organisation in the world.

As leprosy affects people's lives in many different ways, so TLM cares for their physical, social, spiritual and psychological needs.

As TLM explains, "Leprosy is not understood by most communities and as a result people are fearful of it, which means those affected by leprosy are often stigmatised. We want to see a leprosy-free world. Our vision is for 'leprosy defeated, lives transformed'."

For more details on 29<sup>th</sup> January, World Leprosy Sunday, go to:

[www.leprosymission.org](http://www.leprosymission.org)

# Diary Dates

## December

**Mon 26th**

**St Stephen**



## January

**Sun 1st**

**2nd of Christmas**

**(Father Robert's last Mass at St Thomas')**

**Sun 8th**

**Epiphany**

**Sun 15th**

**2nd of Epiphany**

**Sun 22nd**

**3rd of Epiphany**

**Sat 28th**

**Ceilidh at St Thomas' (see page 9 for details)**

**Sun 29th**

**4th of Epiphany**

## February

**Sun 5th**

**3rd before Lent**

**Sun 12th**

**2nd before Lent**

### 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!**



### JANUARY

**13th - tea, coffee and cakes**

**20th - tea, coffee and cakes**

**27th - tea, coffee and cakes**

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

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	SUE CUNNINGHAM	26 KENT AVENUE W13 8BH <a href="mailto:sue.cunningham@mac.com">sue.cunningham@mac.com</a>	07850 889948