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June 2022

# The Trident




The Parish Magazine of  
**Serving Hanwell and Beyond**

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A Prayer for Her Majesty the Queen

O Lord, the Way, the Truth, and the Life,  
we give You thanks for Your servant Elizabeth our  
Queen.

May she ever be provided with all she may need  
for her ministry among us,

strengthened to meet every demand  
which her office may make,  
and in all things nourished by Your word and example,  
who with the Father and the Holy Spirit live and reign,  
world without end. 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.

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# From Father Robert

Dear Friends

On the first Sunday of June this year we celebrate the Feast of Pentecost. This is the fiftieth day after Easter and marks the moment when the Holy Spirit came upon the disciples and the Church was 'born'. It is thus a hugely important day.

The significance of the day is such that it was one of only three days in the year when it was mandatory for all Anglicans to receive holy communion; the others being Christmas and Easter. The solemnity of the feast is such that it should be accompanied by ritual and flamboyant liturgy. I also think we should give a rendition of, '*Happy Birthday to you. Happy Birthday to you. Happy Birthday dear Chur-urch...*'. However, such a move has been declared anathema in the vicarage on the grounds of crimes against tasteful liturgy; bah humbug.

It seems that more singing is not always the best!

This is in contrast to the joy of returning, even if I feel I need breathing apparatus now, to 5 hymns. There something about the joy of singing that celebrates so well our life together as a church, particularly at St Thomas'. I would love to say that was always the case in the life of the Church, even at Pentecost, but it was not so.

In the earliest days of the Church, Pentecost was simply just another day within Easter, nothing special, and so the singing was down to the usual minor liturgical protagonists. According to the *Apostolic Tradition* from the 4<sup>th</sup> century (our *Eucharistic Prayer* originates from it!) the singing of 'psalms and hymns' was left to 'little boys and virgins' (29.10-15) and everyone else sang the hallelujah. Ummm, I am not entirely convinced of the appropriateness of that approach today!

It was much later that the splendour and significance of singing became such that it was left to the 'pros'. Hence, in the Church we seem to have moved from schoolboys heartily belting out '*Happy Birthday...*' to 40 voices conjuring the divine with Tallis' *Spem in alium*. Thanks to the likes of the Wesleys, and other great hymn writers, we now find ourselves in the cheerful position of declaring the joys and pains of the world and Church together.

On Pentecost we will together sing,

*Come down, O Love divine,  
seek thou this soul of mine,  
and visit it with thine own ardour  
glowing;*

*O Comforter, draw near,  
within my heart appear,  
and kindle it, thy holy flame be-  
stowing.*

My hope and prayer is that wherever we find ourselves, and whomever we are we will know that divine love burning and offer our own small hymn or psalm of thanks.

Your friend and priest  
Fr. Robert

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## Parish News

On 15<sup>th</sup> May we said a very fond, 'formal' farewell to Fr. Adam (see picture), as his secondment came to an end. As a parish we are very grateful to him and the Area Dean, Archdeacon and Bishop for releasing him to us for that period. However, I suspect it will be a case of gone, but not forgotten, as we will see him make a welcomed return to cover holidays etc. We have been very blessed to have his ministry among us. As a parish we raised well over a hundred pounds which went towards an icon of St Thomas and amazon vouchers to keep him in reading for a week or two! He was absolutely thrilled, so thank you.

On the same day we also had our APCM. At this we elected two new wardens, and said thank you to our previous wardens Lizzie McLeod and Chloe Mason. Our two new wardens are Steve Purcell and Fade Solanke-Mitterer. Fade has done an amazing job as our Safeguarding Officer and as one of our Deanery Synod Reps, so it will be great having her in this new role. Steve has worshipped with us for over three years and has what can only be described (in Church of England terms!!!) as an impressive CV, having served in the past on Synods, as a Treasurer and independent Examiner for a number of churches. They both also, and most importantly, serve the church by their faithful attendance to worship and study, as well as leading readings and intercessions. Do please pray for them, and all who serve on the PCC. We are very blessed with the quality of the people who serve in this way, so please continue to offer your prayerful support to them.

Also in the news we are actively exploring and developing our church garden so it can be more widely used. It is wonderful to see our young people engaging with this.

Many have noticed the new sign outside the Church, and we thank the Deanery for their generous grant in enabling us to do this. We have also applied for another grant to provide a new sign for outside the Hall. Please pray that we are successful so we can continue this important work of saying to passers-by, 'we're alive and kicking!'.

Finally, as well as noting our Patronal Festival celebrations, I would like to mention that our Worship and Music outreach team have met to discuss how we can revive and develop the music life and heritage of St Thomas'. Keith and other members have been active in exploring this, and Fr. Robert has met with a rep from the London College of Music to look at links and possible concert opportunities. Do keep an eye out for further news.



*To Celebrate St Thomas' Patron's Platinum Jubilee we are having a*

## **JUBILEE GARDEN PARTY**

on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June in the Church Garden  
after Mass



# Living the Easter Story Now

As part of a series of online learning events hosted by St Paul's Cathedral, our newly-appointed Bishop, Lusa Nsenga-Ngoy was recently interviewed, the theme being 'Living the Easter Story Now'. The complete interview can be seen on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=deplOBBcLgo>

Here are some memorable extracts:

## **On prayer**

... The point of language is communication — is relationship. Prayer is a vehicle that enables us to enter into relationship with our self, with the neighbour, with I think the whole of creation, and with God and it's something that I'm learning to develop myself.

So, how does prayer fit into my life in relation, for instance, to some of the environmental emergency conversations and questions that we are facing? Prayer, for me, becomes not just a specific moment but it becomes a posture that I take into life. It's a lens through which I'm invited to read my own story and read the story of the world. ... Prayer is not about changing the heart of God, but prayer often changes the heart of one who prays.

[For someone who is wondering about how to start praying, I would say] don't try to run a marathon before you can walk and don't see prayer as a performative exercise that gives you points onto a particular league, but prayer becomes a posture that you take into life ... both that is relational in essence, and is transformative in expression and in experience.

## **On hope**

Despair seems to be the overarching narrative that we are confronted with, whether it's on geopolitical questions, or whether it's on issues around environment. For me in this new role that I'm taking on as a bishop within the Church, I recognise some of the existential anxieties that we are carrying as

an institution. And all of that has got the capacity of eroding hope and in some ways, [robbing] us of a real sense of joy in life.

I wonder whether there is also a point there of distinguishing between happiness and joy, happiness being very circumstantial, happiness being exuberant, being excessive at times... But joy instead is rooted in the essence of who we are called to be; joy is taking us to a place of contentment. And contentment, I think births a sense of life that is less preoccupied with holding whatever it is that we are wanting to hold, but is taking us into a place that is deeply collective and built around community, around compassion, around the need to partner, rather than enter into competition.

And so what perhaps fills me with hope is to encounter stories of people sometimes public stories and sometimes private stories of people who have made a choice and a commitment to what Desmond Tutu used to call 'prisoners of hope' who aren't driven by existential anxieties that create polarities and tensions in competition. But people who are truly committed to see the divine in the other and enable that divine to flourish. People who are committed to not be drowned by pain and suffering — but in the silence of Holy Saturday, readying themselves to burst out open to a new world, a new creation, new order of things, where life is as it ought to be.

With thanks to Steve Purcell

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## From the Parish Register

Please pray for

Those recently baptised especially Alys & Rhys Doherty

Those recently married especially Kyle Good & Isa Martins Cá

Those who are housebound, sick or in need especially Caroline Baxter, Nigel Brooks, Chris Michell, Gill Shaw & David Williams

Those who have recently died including Winston Benjamin & Robert Clarke



# No Mow May

More people than ever are not mowing their lawns, according to a nature charity who have been campaigning to encourage gardeners to keep gardens wild.

The Plantlife charity have conducted their annual Every Flower Counts survey, and have noted a big shift in attitudes towards lawn management. Many people surveyed who hadn't mown their lawns during May were rewarded with the appearance of rare plants such as adder's-tongue fern, meadow saxifrage, eyebright and snake's-head fritillary.

Embracing a bit more wildness in our gardens can be a big boon for plants, bees and butterflies. If we let wild plants thrive, they will provide nectar for insects. Plants considered weeds should be welcomed in our lawns at this time, especially dandelions, as these provide important nectar for pollinators. Plantlife claim that 8 dandelion flowers can produce enough nectar sugar to meet an adult bumblebee's energy needs.

After May, gardeners are asked to mow less over the summer too. Plantlife recommend a layered approach - shorter grass is complemented by areas of longer grass.

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## Wildness

Humans often seek to control wildness in pursuit of 'civilisation'. This desire reinforces an artificial separation between nature and culture, and has resulted in acts of environmental violence against human and non-human lives.

Wildness collapses the artificial wall between nature and culture, challenging the hermetic conception of the human being as an independent entity. It invites us to relinquish control and 'rewild' our land and our minds, to allow biodiversity to recover and ecosystems to restore themselves.

Can wildness allow us to redefine our relationship to the living world from within? Could the longevity and resilience of the vegetal world inspire us to take time to be more rooted, adaptable and attentive to our environment?

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### Copy Dates!

Copy date for July will be Sunday 12th June

Copy date for August will be Sunday 10th July

We welcome contributions and comment from all members of our parish. The editors email addresses are on the back of this magazine.





## St Thomas' Fun Run. 24th April 2022

We were thrilled to be able to hold our fun run after two years of lockdowns and we were so lucky with the weather. Nearly 50 runners and walkers turned out - not as many as we would have liked, but enough to turn it into a fun event for all. Thank you to everyone who helped. To Sarah and Caroline, Sarah and all the marshals. To Nick and Pauline for being there in case anyone hurt themselves and to all of you for taking part.

I now intend to hand the organisation of this over to someone else. I will be on hand to help, advise and of course I'll be there on the day to marshal or do anything else that you need me to do, but after 8 years, I think it's time for fresh ideas and a new group of people. So, if you think it should carry on - and I'd be very sad if it didn't - do get in touch with me.

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### ST THOMAS' FAMILY EVENTS

DATE	WHAT'S HAPPENING?
19 June	Family service
3 July	Patronal Festival
18 September	Harvest Festival family service
16 October	Family service celebrating St Luke
13 November	Remembrance Sunday family service

Outdoor events weather dependent

## Wanted! - Sidespeople

We have a small but very special team of people who meet and greet us at church every Sunday. Their job is simple - to smile and welcome all comers to our service, showing them where to go if necessary, making sure they have a service booklet and doing a bit of a tidy up afterwards. It's such a vital part of making us a welcoming church and we really do need more helpers. It's not a tricky job at all and you wouldn't need to be a sidesperson every week. If you think this is something that you could help with, then why not have a chat to Pauline after church one Sunday, or send her an email at [paulinesbritton@hotmail.com](mailto:paulinesbritton@hotmail.com)

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## **Brownie News from St Thomas'**

With the Summer Term now well under way the Brownies have been very busy with their activities. 3 of the oldest girls recently achieved the highest award they can get – their Brownie Gold Award. This involves them completing badges and Skills Builders and also unit meeting activities in each of the 6 areas of the programme. They then have to complete a special challenge. This can be very varied indeed. Phoebe told us about the different whale species that are under threat and prepared a Powerpoint display about how people can help to save whales. Molly told us about her interest in Ballet and about some of the things she has done in her dancing. Bea gave us an explanation of the importance of sea grass and how it plays a vital part in protecting our coastline, the species of fish that live amongst the sea grass and also the huge role sea grass plays in protecting our environment – removing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and producing as much oxygen as the rainforests ! We all learned a lot. These girls have now moved on to Guides.



## **Guide News from St Thomas'**

The Guides are pleased to finally be able to attend residential events again and a group went camping over the early Bank Holiday in May. This was a traditional Guide camp where the girls learnt some of the many skills required to camp safely and have a lot of fun, earning their Camp Stage 4 Skills Builder badge on the way. We completed several challenges from our programme. We did think about the Jubilee celebrations and they made a model of the Queen and also some very pretty flower garland head-dresses. There was a competition Wide Game which involved code-breaking, spacial awareness activities and a physical challenge. We played a variety of outdoor games but the most fun of all seemed to be lighting their fires and cooking their planned evening meal on their patrol's own fire. We enjoyed 2 great campfires in the evenings and refreshed our knowledge of campfire songs, with singing having been banned for almost 2 years ! Guides are meeting in relative normality now and we are pleased to say our numbers are back up to pre-covid figures.



## 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.

- 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.

Ealing Foodbank has partnered with a food charity called Bankuet, which offers you another way to get donated food to them. More details can be found on the foodbank website, where you can also find the most up to date shopping list.

<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 SHOPPING LIST \*\***

Tinned fish, UHT milk (whole or semi-skimmed), long life fruit juice & squash, instant coffee & drinking chocolate, long grain rice, tomatoes/ cook in sauce, tinned fruit/vegetables, vegetarian meals, jam & peanut butter, laundry products - smaller packs, nappies (size 5 and 6)

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

### **Anagrams of Books of the Old Testament (from last's months magazine)**

- how many did you work out?

Numbers, Zechariah, Judges, Leviticus, Malachi, Ruth, Jeremiah, Song of Solomon

Deuteronomy, Chronicles, Genesis, Ecclesiastes, Esther, Lamentations, Exodus

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# Patronal Festival Weekend

**Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> July**

**7.30pm Film Night  
in the Church Hall**



**Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> July**

**10am Patronal Festival  
Mass** followed by drinks in the Church  
Garden and from:

**12-3pm Garden Party** inc.

Picnic in the Church Garden, other food & Family Fun



# Diary Dates

## June

<b>Sun 5th</b>	<b>Pentecost</b>
<b>Sun 12th</b>	<b>Trinity Sunday</b>
<b>Sun 19th</b>	<b>2nd after Pentecost Family Service</b>
<b>Sun 26th</b>	<b>3rd after Pentecost</b>



## July

<b>Sat 2nd</b>	<b>Film night. 7.30pm (A River Runs Through It)</b>
<b>Sun 3rd</b>	<b>4th after Pentecost Patronal Festival</b> Garden Party 12 - 3pm
<b>Sun 10th</b>	<b>5th after Pentecost</b>
<b>Sun 17th</b>	<b>6th after Pentecost</b>
<b>Sun 24th</b>	<b>7th after Pentecost</b>
<b>Sun 31st</b>	<b>8th after Pentecost</b>

## POP-IN

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\*MEET YOUR FRIENDS AND MAKE NEW ONES!

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## JUNE

10th - tea, coffee and cakes

17th - tea, coffee and cakes

24th - tea, coffee and cakes

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

# PARISH DIRECTORY



## VICAR

REV. DR. ROBERT CHAPMAN

ST.THOMAS' VICARAGE 182 BOSTON ROAD W7 2AD

3302 1040

[fatherrobert@thomashanwell.org.uk](mailto:fatherrobert@thomashanwell.org.uk)

## CHURCHWARDENS

STEVE PURCELL

[stevepurcell@btinternet.com](mailto:stevepurcell@btinternet.com)

07958 731735

FADE SOLANKE-MITTERER

[fade.sm@gmail.com](mailto:fade.sm@gmail.com)

## PARISH OFFICE

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

## PCC SECRETARY

c/o [st.thomas.office@btinternet.com](mailto:st.thomas.office@btinternet.com)

## TREASURER

CAROLINE LUMB

[caroline.lumb@talk21.com](mailto:caroline.lumb@talk21.com)

07770 696770

## STEWARDSHIP SEC

SHEILA BURT

[sheilamburt@talktalk.net](mailto:sheilamburt@talktalk.net)

8579 3950

## ELECTORAL ROLL

ALISON BAXENDALE

[alison@thebaxis.com](mailto:alison@thebaxis.com)

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## SENIOR SIDESMAN

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[paulinesbritton@hotmail.com](mailto:paulinesbritton@hotmail.com)

0203 091 1177

## SACRISTAN

ANDREW LUMSDEN

[andrew.n.lumsden@btinternet.com](mailto:andrew.n.lumsden@btinternet.com)

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## DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

KEITH SPILLETT

[keithspillett@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:keithspillett@hotmail.co.uk)

07877 905737

## MISSION COMMITTEE

SARAH HOLROYD

c/o [st.thomas.office@btinternet.com](mailto:st.thomas.office@btinternet.com)

## HALL BOOKINGS

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c/o [st.thomas.office@btinternet.com](mailto:st.thomas.office@btinternet.com)

## RAINBOWS

LYDIA LOBO

[firsthanwellrainbows@hotmail.com](mailto:firsthanwellrainbows@hotmail.com)

## BROWNIES &

BEV TREMAYNE

[b.tremayne@sky.com](mailto:b.tremayne@sky.com)

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## GUIDES

## GROUP SCOUT

DOUG ROWE

[dougrowe1965@gmail.com](mailto:dougrowe1965@gmail.com)

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## LEADER

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DOUG ROWE

[dougrowe1965@gmail.com](mailto:dougrowe1965@gmail.com)

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## SAFEGUARDING OFFICER

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## CHILDRENS CHAMPION

KIRSTEN ALLEN

c/o [st.thomas.office@btinternet.com](mailto:st.thomas.office@btinternet.com)

## TRIDENT EDITORS

JILL ASHCROFT

24 ERLESMERE GARDENS W13 9TY

[jill.ashcroft@erlesmere.com](mailto:jill.ashcroft@erlesmere.com)

SUE CUNNINGHAM

26 KENT AVENUE W13 8BH

07850 889948

[sue.cunningham@mac.com](mailto:sue.cunningham@mac.com)