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March 2021



The Trident



The Parish Magazine of



ST THOMAS THE APOSTLE
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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

*Whether I fly with angels or fall with dust,
Thy hands made both and I am there;
Thy power and love, my love and trust,
Make one place everywhere.*

George Herbert

As is my custom when I begin to ‘pen’ the ‘Vicar’s letter’ I look back to the equivalent from the previous year. I take the view that before I start writing the current one I ought to look back; what a difference a year makes!

Last year’s March letter contained the usual Lenten exhortations to observe a holy Lent by personal acts of amendment and availing yourselves of the devotions of the church. A few days after writing that letter and sending it to the editors my mother died, and by the time the issue went out COVID-19 was beginning to strangle so much of what we **held dear. In the end the various devotions cited in March 2020’s issue** stand as a testimony of what should have been rather than what was. Yet we still stand, and once again Lent is upon us.

It is the ephemeral nature of life and the permanence of God that brought to mind that extract from Herbert above. This season begins with the **instruction to “remember you are dust and to dust you shall return”.**

Thus, whether we ‘fly with angels or fall to the dust’ we are called to trust the source and object of our love. The power to do this comes from within through the on-going work of the Holy Spirit, and is nourished by our devotions and service.

What form Lent will take I know not; alas Prime Ministerial **‘Road-maps’** are not in our gift. What I do know is that whether the back of COVID is **broken or new strains foil our plans God’s love and power are still** present.

COVID has produced its terrible fruit, and our language has also changed, **with phrases such as ‘Zoom-meeting’, ‘remote learning’, ‘in it together’ etc** moving from the novel to the common-place to the hackneyed. Yet, wherever we find ourselves, the presence of God makes **‘one place everywhere’.**

Lent is *the* season where we are reminded of our shared humanity and experience as we recall our creation from dust. It is also the season where we remember our shared salvation as the movement towards the cross and empty tomb come increasingly into focus.

In February half term 2022 when I re-read this who knows what will have happened, but what I do know is that,
'Whether I fly with angels or fall with dust,
Thy hands made both and I am there'.

Your friend and priest
Fr. Robert



Parish News

At the beginning of March the PCC will once again look at the decision regarding public worship outside occasional offices such as funerals. Of course, and regrettably, no firm predictions can be made at this stage, but we will definitely keep you posted. Hence, the services cited in this Trident are based on the current position. Hopefully that will change soon.

For the time being, then, Lent will have a different feel in the absence of corporate acts. However, there will be a *Lent Study* on Zoom, and there will be a *Stations of the Cross* on Zoom on Wednesdays at 10am, which will be recorded and available via our Facebook account.

Therefore, despite the lockdown, we continue to try to find ways of us engaging with one another and our faith. The occasional series of **interviews with various people in St Thomas' on how their faith has impacted their work during COVID called 'Proson', will continue. Check out the ones on Facebook if you have not done so.**

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 February there is *Galaxy Quest***, and in March a now largely forgotten film starring a very young High Grant and Robert Downey Jr called *Restoration*.

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.

Do have a blessed and holy Lent.

Fr. Robert

The Bible Course



St Thomas' Lent Study 2021

Ever wondered why we read the Bible in church the way we do? Or even what it all means. This course from the Bible Society is specially designed for use remotely and will provide a bird's eye view of the world's bestselling book. It combines video teaching, group discussion, personal reflection and daily readings.

When & Where

It will run on a Monday evening over Zoom in Lent between 8pm and 9.15pm.

Dates:

- 22nd February - Introduction and overview, Creation & Covenant
- 1st March - Exodus & Promised Land
- 8th March - Judges & Kings
- 15th March - Exile & Prophets
- 22nd March - Jesus & the Gospels

(2 optional dates post Easter to cover Acts and the Church and Revelation)

There is no cost for the course. If you would like to take part email Fr. Robert (fatherrobert@thomashanwell.org.uk).

Bishop of London - Frederick Temple 1885 - 1896

Frederick Temple was born in Santa Maura, one of the Ionian Islands, in 1821, to Major Octavius Temple, who was subsequently appointed lieutenant-governor of Sierra Leone, and his wife Dorcas Carveth. The Major eventually settled in Devon, and, fancying his son Frederick to become a farmer, gave him practical training to that end.

Young Temple attended Blundell's School in Tiverton, and did very well both academically and at Physical Education. He won a scholarship to Balliol College, Oxford, before he was 17 years old, and by 1842 had taken a double first. He was elected a fellow at Balliol, and lectured in mathematics and logic. Four years later he was ordained, and with the aim of improving the education of the poor, he accepted the headship of Kneller Hall, a college founded by the government for training masters of workhouses and penal schools. The experiment was not successful, and **was abandoned on Temple's advice.**

Meanwhile, Temple had been noticed by Prince Albert of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha, and was appointed Chaplain-in-Ordinary to Queen Victoria. In 1858 he was appointed by the trustees as headmaster at Rugby School, which proved to be a time of great energy and initiative. He strengthened **the school's academic reputation in classics, and instituted scholarships in** natural science, as well as building a laboratory. He also reformed their sporting activities. He had a tremendous work ethic and a rather rough manner, and pupils were initially intimidated by him, but he became **popular in due course, and raised the school's reputation.** His school sermons made a deep impression on the boys, teaching loyalty, faith and duty.

Politically Temple was a follower of William Ewart Gladstone. He wrote **and spoke in favour of William Forster's 1870 Elementary Education Act,** and was an active member of the Endowed Schools Commission. In 1869 Gladstone offered Temple the bishopric of Exeter when it became free, and Temple was pleased to accept and go back to the city he knew well. His appointment caused controversy however, and there was a strong committee of protest. His clergy worried about his harsh control, but his real kindness soon made itself felt, and during his 16 year tenure there he overcame prejudices against him. When eventually he was translated to London, the appointment gave general satisfaction.

In 1884 Temple was Bampton Lecturer, and took for his subject ‘The Relations between Religion and Science’. He stated clearly that “doctrine of Evolution is in no sense whatever antagonistic to the teachings of Religion”. These lectures also addressed the origin and nature of scientific and religious belief and the apparent conflicts between science and religion on free will and supernatural power.

As Bishop of London, Temple worked harder than ever. He worked 14 or 15 hour days, and under the strain blindness rapidly came on. Many of his clergy and candidates for ordination thought him rather terrifying, as he enforced almost impossible standards of diligence, accuracy and preaching efficiency, but his absolute devotion to his work and his zeal for the good of the people did win him general confidence. He continued as a tireless temperance worker, and the working class recognised him as their friend.

Due to his growing blindness he offered to resign, but he was urged to reconsider, and at the age of 76 was made Archbishop of Canterbury. As Archbishop, he was deeply distressed by divisions which were weakening the Anglican Church, and many of his most memorable sermons were calls for unity. He was also zealous in the cause of foreign missions, and urged **that a supreme obligation rested on Britain at this epoch in the world’s history to seek to evangelise all nations.** He presided over the World Temperance Congress in London in 1900, and also preached in the interests **of women’s education.** In 1902 he officiated at the coronation of King Edward VII and Queen Alexandra, for which he was presented with the new decoration of the Royal Victorian Chain.

The strain of his job at such an advanced age eventually told upon Temple’s health. During a speech in the House of Lords late in 1902 on the Education Bill, he was taken ill. He managed to get up and finish his speech, but he never fully recovered, and died 3 weeks later. He is interred in the cloister garden of Canterbury Cathedral, and his second son, William, who became Archbishop of Canterbury 39 years later, is buried nearby.

There is a memorial in Canterbury Cathedral’s east end in the Corona depicting Frederick Temple kneeling in prayer. And in the west window of Exeter Cathedral Temple is depicted amongst other great figures of the **cathedral’s history.** Rugby School has the Temple Reading Room and Museum, which contains a bust of Temple by Thomas Woolner.

Terracycle news

We have still been collecting during the lockdowns and have now put a brown box outside the hall. You will see it by the glass front doors. It has the Terracycle logo painted on it. You can put your recycling in it any time.

We can now recycle kids yoghurt pouches



along with the Ella's Kitchen baby food pouches and snack bags



but not juice pouches

We are still collecting animal food pouches - please wash them out first. Tassimo pods can be put in the grey pallet down the side of the hall, near the vicarage - please do not put any other recycling in there.

Please can I remind you that we can only collect crisp packets not pop corn or nuts.

And we no longer collect wrappers from biscuits, sweets, and chocolate. We do not collect bags from cheese, dishwasher tablets and liquid soap. Please check the terracycle web site for more details.

www.terracycle.com/en-GB

Thank you

Pauline

Paulinesbritton@hotmail.com

Go on! Have a Laugh!

In the answers to the 2020 Christmas Quiz (February edition), I spotted 36 answers beginning with the letter 'P', which reminds me of a rhyme.

"Pease pudding hot, pease pudding cold", Yes I know I should get out more, but I can't - there's a lockdown on.

Happy Mothering Sunday everyone.

Eileen

Tis true my form is something odd

But blaming me is blaming God,
Could I create myself anew
I would not fail in pleasing you.
If I could reach from Pole to Pole
Or grasp the ocean with a span
I would be measured by the soul
The minds the standard of the man.

Joseph Merrick (the Elephant man).

In human diversity lies the creativity of God.

(Quaker Meeting House)



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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.

PROSOPOON

COVID FACES



PICTURES BY THE PARK

on **ZOOM**

Thursday 26th February

at 7pm

followed by a discussion
chaired by Fr. Robert

Click on the links below to
access the Film Night and
see the Trailer.

St Thomas' Youth Organisations

Reading of the activities of the Girl Guiding groups in February's Trident was like a breath of fresh air in this sad time of the COVID pandemic and dismal lockdown.

"Hope Springs Eternal" (to quote a phrase).

Well done girls! You are "Simply the Best!" (to quote Tina Turner).

Remember, Jesus loves you and He will always be with you. Sing the children's song from Sunday School **"Yes Jesus loves me, the Bible tells me so"**. **Ask Brown Owl to sing it to you, if you don't know it.**

So thank you all so much for sharing your activities and achievements with me.

Lots of love, Eileen.

New uses for old computers

I renovate old PCs, and then pass them on to charities and other good causes.

All hard discs are securely erased to ensure absolute confidentiality.

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Please contact me for further details / collection

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From the Editors.

We ran out of space! Hope you enjoy reading the magazine.

Jul & Sue

Copy Dates!

Copy date for April is on Sunday March 14th
Copy date for May is on Sunday April 11th

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Important Foodbank update:

Thank you for continuing to support the foodbank. Due to the current pandemic, and the need to reduce our carbon footprint, we have been assessing 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.

** please remember that our magazine is produced in February for March 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.

THE FEBRUARY SHOPPING LIST **

Ready made custard - tins or cartons, UHT milk - semi skimmed or full fat, not skimmed, long life fruit juice & squash, tinned tomatoes, tinned fish, savoury biscuits & crackers, peanut butter, vegetarian chilli & curry, size 6 nappies, shaving gear- foam & razors, washing up liquid, sanitary towels - not tampons or panty liners

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

Written in March

The cock is crowing,
The stream is flowing,
The small birds twitter,
The lake doth glitter,
The green field sleeps in the sun...

There's joy in the mountains,
There's life in the fountains,
Small clouds are sailing,
Blue sky prevailing,
The rain is over and gone.

From a poem by William Wordsworth

PARISH DIRECTORY



VICAR

REV. DR. ROBERT CHAPMAN
ST. THOMAS' VICARAGE 182 BOSTON ROAD W7 2AD
fatherrobert@thomashanwell.org.uk

3302 1040

CHURCHWARDENS

LIZZIE McCLEOD TURABI
CHLOE MASON



c/o THE VICARAGE

PARISH OFFICE

st.thomas.office@btinternet.com

PCC SECRETARY

JESS NELSON

TREASURER

CAROLINE LUMB

caroline.lumb@talk21.com

07770 696770

STEWARDSHIP SEC

SHEILA BURT

sheilamburt@talktalk.net

8579 3950

ELECTORAL ROLL

ALISON BAXENDALE

alison@thebaxis.com

07879 446892

SENIOR SIDESMAN

PAULINE BRITTON

paulinesbritton@hotmail.com

0203 091 1177

SACRISTAN

ANDREW LUMSDEN

andrew.n.lumsden@btinternet.com

8567 9991

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

KEITH SPILLETT

keithspillett@hotmail.co.uk

07877 905737

MISSION COMMITTEE

SARAH HOLROYD

c/o THE VICARAGE

HALL BOOKINGS

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8567 0999

SUNDAY SCHOOL

OLIVIA HEWLETT & ISSY CHAPMAN

c/o THE VICARAGE

RAINBOWS

LYDIA LOBO

firsthanwellrainbows@hotmail.com

BROWNIES &

BEV TREMAYNE

b.tremayne@sky.com

8897 7045

GUIDES

GROUP SCOUT

DOUG ROWE

dougrowe1965@gmail.com

07954 307078

LEADER

BEAVERS/CUBS/SCOUTS

DOUG ROWE

dougrowe1965@gmail.com

07954 307078

SAFEGUARDING OFFICER

FADE SOLANKE-MITTERER

c/o THE VICARAGE

CHILDRENS CHAMPION

TRIDENT EDITORS

JILL ASHCROFT

24 ERLESMERE GARDENS W13 9TY

jill.ashcroft@erlesmere.com

SUE CUNNINGHAM

26 KENT AVENUE W13 8BH

07850 889948

sue.cunningham@mac.com