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May 2022

The Trident



The Parish Magazine of
Serving Hanwell and Beyond


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All the information here is correct at the time of going to press, but as you know, the situation can change, 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



OUR CHURCH IS OPEN TO ALL FOR
Sunday Parish Mass 10am
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A Prayer for Ascension Day

O God of earth and sky,
as Jesus came among us in Bethlehem to raise us up to
heaven,
so today we recall his departing from us at Jerusalem to be
in all places.

Though he is hidden from our sight,
enable us to abide in him
by the power and grace of the Holy Spirit,
until his mercy and grace fill your whole creation. 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

During May we have one of the most wonderful and yet strange stories in the bible, the Ascension of Jesus up to heaven. The strangeness of the event is not helped by its depiction in art. Often all the viewer is presented with is a cloud with feet poking out and the disciples recoiling from the sight, like podophobics at a chiropodist's. The incredulity is exacerbated by the contrast with the rest of Jesus' ministry, a ministry marked by reality, particularly the harsh reality of a painful death.

Yet Christian tradition has always maintained that this moment is key for two reasons: first, it emphasises Jesus' eternal being, and secondly, his body still bears the scars of the cross. Thus, this moment is the moment which reveals not an end to Christ's life among us, but a continuation as he prays for us, always invoking his death and passion.

Jesus is still with us, and wonderfully, praying for us!

That glorious mystery is why we celebrate the feast still and why it is of primary importance.

This universal aspect is also deeply personal. Jesus is praying for you (singular) and me, as well as the Church and the world. Thus, our prayers are united with his prayers. Often, I try and pause, and imagine just what that means. It really is incredibly mind-blowing, and comforting.

Therefore as you offer your prayers for yourselves, family, friends and the world meditate on that hope and reality bound up in the Ascension. Thus, on 26th May (Ascension Day) do look to the skies, but don't recoil, rejoice! We are not alone!

Your friend and priest

Fr Robert



Pictures by the Park

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T O M H A N K S

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12

Saturday 7th May
7.30pm St Thomas'
Church Hall, W7 2AD



A RIVER RUNS THROUGH IT

PG

Saturday 2nd July
7.30pm St Thomas'
Church Hall, W7 2AD

The story behind

'Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son'

Here is a hymn that is so well known and loved that it has simply burst the bounds of Easter, and gets sung regularly at other times of the year. It has two stories behind it.

First, the music. The rousing music did not start out as a hymn, but instead was written by Handel for his opera 'Judas Maccabeus', first performed in 1746. Originally the words ran 'See the conquering hero comes', for Handel's opera tells the story (found in the Apocrypha) of the leader of the Jews, Judas Maccabeus, who led an army against the Syrians and restored worship at the Temple. With its triumphant refrain after each verse, the music is easy to learn and sing, and can be (and has been!) played to great effect either by the trumpets, on an organ in a large resonant church, or even on guitars (!).

Secondly, the words. They were not written until 1884, which was 138 years after the music. We owe them to the Revd Raymond Budry, a Swiss pastor from Lausanne. Ordained in the Free Evangelical Church in Vaud, he spent 35 years as the pastor of Vevey on Lake Geneva. Budry wrote the hymn in French ('A Toi La Gloire!') to console himself after the death of his first wife, and a year later (1885) it was published in *Chants Evangeliques*. Soon it found its way into English – translated by a Baptist minister from Kingston-upon-Thames, Richard Hoyle.

It is not clear who first had the happy idea of teaming *those* words with *that* music, but when they did, the hymn really took off. By 1904 it was being translated into other languages.

The theme of 'battle' is never far from this hymn, whether it was the battle of Judas Maccabeus, or the battle over sin which was won by Christ on the cross and in rising from the tomb. Easter, of course, marked the biggest victory over the biggest enemies of all time: sin and death.

What would Handel make of it, if he could know that his battle music had become one of the world's most popular and well-known Easter hymns? He was a devout man, working for the poor, praying twice each day, and attending St Paul's Cathedral. So, it seems pretty certain that he would be delighted.



A Prayer for May

O God:

Give me strength to live another day;

Let me not turn coward before its difficulties or prove recreant to its duties;

Let me not lose faith in other people;

Keep me sweet and sound of heart, in spite of ingratitude, treachery, or meanness;

Preserve me from minding little stings or giving them;

Help me to keep my heart clean, and to live so honestly and fearlessly that no outward failure can dishearten me or take away the joy of conscious integrity;

Open wide the eyes of my soul that I may see good in all things;

Grant me this day some new vision of thy truth;

Inspire me with the spirit of joy and gladness;

and make me the cup of strength to suffering souls;

in the name of the strong Deliverer, our only Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

Mirth

If you are merry sing away,
And touch the organs sweet;
This is the Lord's triumphant day,
Ye children in the gall'ries gay,
Shout from each goodly seat.

It shall be May to-morrow's morn,
A field then let us run,
And deck us in the blooming thorn,
Soon as the cock begins to warn,
And long before the sun.

I give the praise to Christ alone,
My pinks already show;
And my streak'd roses fully blown,

The sweetness of the Lord make
known,
And to his glory grow.
Ye little prattlers that repair
For cowslips in the mead,
Of those exulting colts beware,
But blythe security is there,
Where skipping lambkins feed.

With white and crimson laughs the
sky,
With birds the hedge-rows ring;
To give praise to God most high,
And all the sulky fiends defy,
Is a most joyful thing.

Take a walk on the wild side!

How neat do we like our gardens to be? Full of manicured lawns, with immaculate flower beds?



Well, yes and no. A recent survey by BBC's Gardener's World magazine has found that more than half (54 per cent) of gardeners now include 'uncultivated areas' in their garden. And some 44 per cent of gardeners have also set up a wildflower area.

Certainly, Nature could use a helping hand just now. In 2019 32 per cent of us saw a butterfly in our garden. By 2020 that was down to 21 percent. By 2021, that was down again, to just 16 per cent.

Simple tips to rewild your garden:

- Avoid chemical pesticides and herbicides, which also kill 'good bugs', butterflies and bees.
- Tolerate as much mess as you can. Leave wood and leaf piles for hedgehogs and invertebrates.
- Set aside some room where grass can grow longer, and wildflowers can bloom.
- Don't pull up all your weeds – they can be a critical source of pollen for bees.

There, but for the grace of God, go I

This saying is attributed to John Bradford (1510-1555), who was one of the Protestant Reformers. When he saw criminals on their way to execution, Bradford would utter, "But for the grace of God, there goes John Bradford." It was his way of acknowledging that he depended every day on the mercy of God, despite his sins, which he considered were on a par with those of rogues.

Sadly, Bradford's freedom was to last only a short time, for he was convicted as a heretic, incarcerated, and finally burned at the stake, during the reign of Queen Mary. Renowned for his prayer life and preaching, Bradford had continued to proclaim the Gospel in prison. One of his biographers wrote, "He lived a long life in a short space of time."

30th May

Josephine Butler, social reformer for women

Josephine Butler is the 'saint' for anyone who believes in social justice. This remarkable 19th century clergyman's wife became a renowned campaigner for women's rights and for putting a halt to human trafficking.

Josephine was born in Northumberland in 1828, the daughter of a wealthy family of liberal politics and committed Christian faith. They had already been deeply involved in the abolition of slavery and the extension of the franchise. Such notions of equality instilled into Josephine a passionate desire to combat social injustice.

In 1852 Josephine married George Butler, the son of the Headmaster of Harrow, who shared her views. George was ordained in 1854 and they moved first to Oxford and then to Cheltenham. In 1863 tragedy struck when their daughter Eva fell to her death.

Josephine's grief found expression a few years later, when in 1865 George had become Headmaster of Liverpool College, and the couple were settling in Liverpool. Josephine was horrified at the lives of destitute women in Liverpool, and so she founded a 'home' to care for them, as well as a hostel to train them for suitable work. In 1869 she agreed to head a campaign against the Contagious Diseases Act of 1866, and by 1871 she had addressed a Royal Commission, explaining how this Act brutalised these women, already trapped in the slavery of prostitution. She got the Act rescinded.

By 1882, when George had become a Residentiary Canon of Winchester Cathedral, Josephine had not only founded a refuge for recovering prostitutes in Winchester, but she had also begun to fight sex trafficking across the world. This included freeing British girls from Belgian brothels. By 1885 Josephine had exposed the white slave trade in London, and had got Parliament to increase the age of consent for girls from 13 to 16, and to penalise those engaged in the transport of women for profit.

In 1890 George died, but Josephine continued her work until retirement to Northumberland, where she died in 1906.

All in all, Josephine Butler's deep Christian compassion transformed the lives of many tens of thousands of suffering women. She has been described as one of the most important early members of the feminist movement.

All in the month of May

It was:

150 years ago, on 18th May 1872 that Bertrand Russell, Welsh philosopher, mathematician, historian, and writer was born. He won the 1950 Nobel Prize in Literature.

125 years ago, on 26th May 1897 that Bram Stoker's horror novel *Dracula* was published.

100 years ago, on 27th May 1922 that Christopher Lee, British film actor was born. Best known for his many Hammer Horror films, especially his role as Dracula. He also played a leading role in *The Lord of the Rings* and *The Hobbit*. (Died 2015)

90 years ago, on 9th May 1932 that London's Piccadilly Circus was lit with electrical lighting for the first time. The road junction later became famous for its neon lighting and video advertising displays.

60 years ago, on 25th May 1962 that the new Coventry Cathedral was consecrated. The previous one had been destroyed by German bombing during WWII.

50 years ago, on 28th May 1972 that Prince Edward, Duke of Windsor, died. He was formerly Edward VIII, until his abdication in December 1936.

40 years ago, 27th-28th May 1982 that the Battle of Goose Green took place during the Falklands War.

25 years ago, 1st May 1997 that the Labour Party won a landslide victory, ending 18 years of Conservative Rule. Tony Blair became Prime Minister.

10 years ago, on 18th May 2012 that social media network Facebook went public. Its initial public offering raised \$16 billion – the third-largest amount in US history.

16th May Caroline Chisholm helping the emigrants to Australia

If you want an example of someone who can show you their faith through their works, Caroline Chisholm is a saint for you. This doughty little 19th century English woman had such a compassionate heart that she helped tens of thousands of people, from India to Australia.

Caroline was born in Northamptonshire in May 1808. Her father William was a pig dealer, and already had 15 children, by four wives. When Caroline was about five, her father brought a poor maimed soldier into the family home and urged his children to look after the wretched man well, as he had fought for their freedom. This disinterested compassion for a poor struggling 'outsider' would become the lodestar of Caroline's life.

In 1830, when Caroline was 22, she married Captain Archibald Chisholm, of the East India Company Army. Out in Madras, Caroline grew alarmed for the young girls growing up in the barracks. She founded the Female School of Industry for the Daughters of European Soldiers, to provide a practical education.

After having two sons and working on the Indian subcontinent for a number of years, Captain Chisholm was granted a two-year furlough in 1838 on grounds of ill health. The family moved to the sunshine of Australia, near Sydney. Here Caroline was appalled at the conditions that faced emigrants, especially female, arriving in the colony. Many ended up working the streets, just to survive.

Caroline stayed for seven years in Australia, placing more than 11,000 people in homes and jobs, and in all, her Female Immigrant Home helped more than 40,000 people. Highly respected by the government, she gave evidence before Legislative Council Committees, but accepted money from no one. When Archibald left the army in 1845 he and Caroline toured Australia at their own expense, collecting more than 600 statements from emigrants that detailed the truth about the problems of emigration.

Back in England, the statements caught the attention and respect of Charles Dickens, the House of Lords Select Committees, Lord Shaftesbury, Sir Sydney Herbert, Wyndham Harding FRS and even Pope Pius IX. Caroline and Archibald went on to help more than 3,000 people *safely* emigrate to Australia, before moving back there themselves, where they both died in 1877. In his novel *Bleak House*, Charles Dickens is said to have partly based the character of Mrs Jellyby on Caroline Chisholm.



From the Ealing Foodbank

Thank you for continuing to support the foodbank.
There are a variety of ways in which you can help.

- If you go to your local supermarket leave your donations there. Most 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.

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 APRIL SHOPPING LIST **

Breakfast cereal (no porridge please), UHT milk (semi-skimmed or whole), tinned fish, tomatoes/cook-in sauce, savoury biscuits/crackers, tinned fruit/vegetables, jam & peanut butter, cooking oil, instant coffee & drinking chocolate, laundry products - smaller packs, nappies (sizes 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

- how many can you work out?

Burns me, Chair haze, Eds jug, Evil is cut, Hail Mac, Hurt, I jam here, On gloom of sons

Our needy Tom, Rich clones, See sign, Select as ices, Threes, Tom an-neals it, Used ox

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Copy Dates!

Copy date for June will be Sunday 8th May

Copy date for July will be Sunday 12th June

Diary Dates

April

Sun 24th
Sun 24th

2nd Sunday of Easter
Fun Run 2pm



May

Sun 1st
Sat 7th

3rd Sunday of Easter
Pictures by the Park. Bridge of Spies 7.30pm

Sun 8th

4th Sunday of Easter

Sun 15th

5th Sunday of Easter
APCM 11.30am

Sun 22nd

6th Sunday of Easter

Thurs 26th

Ascension Day

Sun 29th

Sunday after Ascension Day

POP-IN

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MAY

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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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