

50 Pence



May 2018

The Trident




The Parish Magazine of



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WE DO HOPE THAT YOU WILL FEEL WELCOME TO COME TO OUR SERVICES

SUNDAY

- 8.00 AM SAID EUCHARIST (BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER SERVICE)
10.00 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL (TERM TIME & NOT 2ND SUNDAY OF THE MONTH)
10.00 AM PARISH EUCHARIST
6.30 PM EVENING PRAYER (BCP)
CHORAL EVENSONG FOR SPECIAL FESTIVALS (PLEASE SEE NOTICEBOARD FOR DETAILS)

WEEKDAY CELEBRATIONS OF HOLY COMMUNION

TUESDAY 12 NOON
WEDNESDAY 2PM

MORNING PRAYER

7.30 AM MONDAY TO FRIDAY (8.00 A.M SATURDAY)

EVENING PRAYER

DAILY 5.00 PM (EXCEPT SATURDAY AND SUNDAY)

PEOPLE OF ALL FAITHS, OR NO FAITH AT ALL, ARE WELCOME AT ANY OF OUR SERVICES. THOSE WHO ARE FULL MEMBERS OF THEIR OWN CHRISTIAN CONGREGATIONS ARE WELCOME TO RECEIVE HOLY COMMUNION IN ST. THOMAS'.

REGULAR MEETINGS

MONDAY	12.30 PM	HANWELL HOMELESS CONCERN
	4.45 PM	RAINBOW GUIDES
	6.00 PM	BROWNIES
TUESDAY	5.30 PM	BEAVERS
	6.30 PM	CUBS
WEDNESDAY		
	10.30AM	MOTHER AND BABY/TODDLER GROUP
THURSDAY	7.00 PM	GUIDES
FRIDAY	10.30 - 12 NOON	'POP-IN'
	7.00 PM	SCOUTS (AT 'THE WARREN' TRUMPERS WAY)
	6.45 - 7.15 PM	JUNIOR CHOIR
	7.00 PM	CHOIR

FOR MORE INFORMATION LOG ONTO OUR WEBSITE:
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From our Vicar

Dear Friends

Usually this May has a Feast-day clash. The merry, merry month of May, as a month, is not short of Feast days, but **it is not often that two 'Premier League' feasts clash.**

However, on 31st May we can choose between the Visitation of Mary to Elizabeth or Corpus Christi. The first is a celebration of the observation of **Elizabeth, and her unborn baby (John the Baptist) that Mary is bearing God's** child, and the second the institution of the Eucharist by Christ.

Now does this almanac accident mean we have to get out our liturgical coin and flip-it or is there another way? Well churchy calendars encourage us to move Corpus Christi to the 1st June, so they have decided which of the two takes precedence. However, I want to suggest that rather than this being a canonical clash, it is a happy happenstance. Both feasts celebrate divine presence.

Brother Charles de Foucauld once said, "The Eucharist means God in us, God with us, God increasingly giving himself to us." What Br. Charles says of the Eucharist is just what Elizabeth is saying to the blessed Virgin Mary, **'What's in your womb, means God in us, God with us, God increasingly giving himself to us.'** Thus, we see how near these two feasts are when we look at what lies at the heart of them.

The celebration of God's presence is at their heart, and importantly, that presence is on-going and transforming.

Over the centuries the Church has become obsessed with talk of divine presence and, to use the academic word, fetishizing that presence. Thus, the **dynamism and transforming hope of God's presence is lost by becoming** rarefied. To quote someone miles away from academia, Homer Simpson, on completing building a missionary church in an episode of *The Simpsons*, **"I may not know much about God, but I sure built him a nice cage".** For centuries the Church has fallen into the temptation of building cages to **house God's presence, giving them names like Monstrances and Reliquaries.** This is not to dismiss such things as silly, superstitious, or even idolatrous, but rather to remind us of their original intention to make God present and not to contain him.

God is all around us, yes in sacraments, but also in scripture, each other and His world. We are all called to respond to that presence within those places, and, like the unborn John the Baptist, leap for joy. My prayer is we all do that, whatever we do on the 31st.

Your friend and priest
Fr. Robert



Parish News

In April we had our APCM (AGM), and thank you to all who came, and those who work in various different roles within the church you are very much the heartbeat of the parish.

April also saw our first Film Night which showed Moulin Rouge on our new big screen in the Hall. This is an exciting project which will be another way in which we can connect with the people of the parish, and beyond.

Also, at the end of April, St Thomas' Fun Run also crossed another finishing line so thank you to Sue Cunningham and team!

May is a full month in the life of the church, both locally and nationally. On 12th May Bishop Sarah will be installed as Bishop of London so do remember her in your prayers. In May I will attend a short two-day course for New Training Incumbents. If you did not see the interview with our **new curate Susy the interview is available on the 'Latest News' section of the website** (<http://thomashanwell.org.uk/news/>).

On 18th **May some of us from St Thomas', including the choir will be going** to the Tate Modern as part of the Making Suburban Faith project. It is open to everyone so if you would like to join us please check out the poster in the Trident.

Finally, a reminder that the new General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) will take effect in the UK from 25 May 2018. It replaces the existing law on data protection (the Data Protection Act 1998) and gives individuals more rights and protection regarding how their personal data is used by organisations.

Just like any other organisation, St Thomas' will have to comply with the requirements of the GDPR. We will, therefore, be producing a policy to ensure we comply. Please look out for this in due course and help us in fulfilling our obligations.

The Spirit-filled life is not a special, deluxe edition of Christianity. It is part and parcel of the total plan of God for His people.

Ealing at the Tate: Making Sacred Space 18th May 2018

Join us for a day and evening of events, workshops and displays exploring the creativity of everyday religion, at Tate Exchange in Tate Modern, on Friday 18th May.

Join an architecture workshop designing a new religious building, contribute to embroidery in our 'Fabric of Faith' installation, design a kite for our kite festival, learn flower garland making, or share your memories of religious food.

Activities open from 12 noon.

5pm - Book launch and drinks reception.

6pm - 'Spiritual Flavours' film screening.

7pm - Music and poetry with church choirs, religious rappers and temple musicians.

Tate Exchange
Blavatnik Building
Level 5, Tate Modern
Bankside
London SE1 9TG
www.tate.org.uk



A Prayer for Pentecost

Father,

Thank you for sending Jesus to be one of us and to show us how you want us to live.

Thank you that He chose to live for us and to die for us.

Thank you that when He returned to you, He didn't leave

us to flounder but sent us His Spirit to live in us and to equip us to continue the work He had begun.

Thank you for that Day of Pentecost when the Spirit became freely available to everyone who believes in Jesus and is willing to receive Him.

May we be willing Lord, willing and confident that whatever challenges life throws at us, we can face them and overcome them because you are with us and in us.

Please fill us afresh daily with your Spirit, that we may overflow with your love and peace and joy.

In Jesus' name,

Amen.

NORTHUMBRIAN MAY

The cold Northumbrian day,
Grey with white spume along the island sea,
Presents its own uncompromising May,
Harsh hardness whose possibility
Inhibits what the southern month would be.

It is such days as this,
Of disappointment shrugged away behind,
That mould its race of men. They do not miss
The ease which lesser mortals hope to find,
Saved by a dogged steadiness of mind.

But when their good hours come
And bluebell breath drifts beneath bluebell sky
The faculty of rapture is not dumb
But only wordless, shaping the same high
Delight the land's saints knew as ecstasy.

J PHOENICE

Use it or lose it

If you are retired, or about to retire, beware: brain function declines rapidly as soon as people stop work and decide to put their feet up. Recent research that tracked 3,400 retired civil servants found that short-term memory declined nearly 40 per cent faster once employees become pensioners. It seems that when you stop being regularly stimulated to think, your cognitive function slows down, and your memory loss and risk of dementia speed up.

And so, experts at University College London and King's College London advise older people to keep physically and mentally active, and to make sure they also interact with people on a regular basis.

21st May

Helena, Protector of the Holy Places

Helena should be the patron saint of all mothers who help their sons achieve great things.

Helena was born at Drepanum in Bithynia about 250. Although only a stable **-maid or innkeeper's daughter, she caught the eye and affections of a Roman general, Constantius Chlorus**, while he was stationed in Asia Minor on a military campaign. She bore him a son, Constantine, in about 272.

But Constantius was ambitious, and when he became co-emperor (Caesar) in the West in 292, he abandoned Helena in order to marry the stepdaughter of his patron. Helena and her son were sent to live in the court of Diocletian at Nicomedia, where Constantine grew up as a member of the inner circle. Helena never remarried, and lived close to her son, who was devoted to her.

Then, in 306, Constantius died, and Constantine became Augustus of the Roman Empire. He brought his beloved mother to live at the imperial court.

When Constantine became the first Christian emperor of Rome, Helena also became a Christian. She was devout, dressing modestly, and giving generously to churches, the poor, and to prisoners. But soon Constantine had other plans for her: they agreed that she would help him locate the relics of Judeo-Christian tradition in Palestine. To aid her, Constantine gave her the title Augusta Imperatrix, and unlimited access to the imperial treasury.

And so, from 326-28, even though she was very old, Helena explored the Holy Land on behalf of her son, the Emperor. She went to Bethlehem and founded the Church of the Nativity. She went to the Mount of Olives and founded the Church of Eleona. She went to Calvary, and tore down a temple built to Venus over the tomb of Jesus. Constantine then ordered the building of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. Helena also seems to have **also founded the chapel at St Catherine's Monastery.**

Helena died in 330 in the Holy Land, with Constantine at her side. He brought her body back to Constantinople and buried her in the imperial vault in the Church of the Apostles.

We owe to this special mother and son the preservation and honouring of the most famous sites of Christianity.

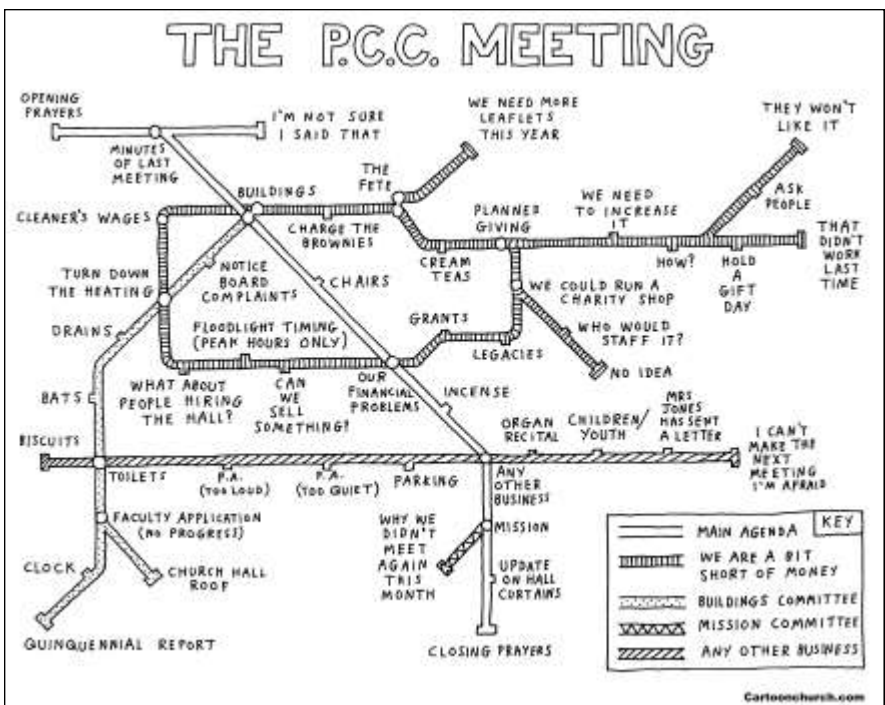
National Doughnut Week 12th – 19th May

Eat some doughnuts – and help raise money to help desperately ill children through the Children’s Trust.

That is the aim of National Doughnut Week, and this year you will find about 600 participating bakeries, cafes and shops, all over the country. There you can choose from all sorts of doughnuts with various toppings and fillings.

Through the support of these bakeries, cafes and shops, National Doughnut Week has raised more than £755,000 in the past 23 years for children’s charities. And it is hoped that at least £30,000 will be raised to make this the best year ever.

The Children’s Trust is a national charity working with children who have multiple disabilities and complex health needs.





‘He gave us eyes to see **them**’ - Tiepolo’s Trinity altarpiece

On Sunday 27th May we shall be praising God as the Holy Trinity: three in one and one in three. Preachers will be pointing perhaps to the tree with its root, trunk and branches or to a human being with will, heart and mind. Or to symbols of the Trinity with the triangle or three interwoven circles. They are all images inviting us to ponder our world and be led from here to God: words and signs that take us into the

mystery of God’s glory and being.

That was the experience of an early pope, St Clement, when he was at prayer. He was granted a vision of the Trinity which is the theme of this sketch of 1735 by Tiepolo – a painting for an altarpiece commissioned by the Archbishop of Cologne. In true Italian rococo style, it is full of vitality and life and colour. But at heart it is the scene of one man kneeling in prayer. He holds no signs of his papal authority for the cherub has charge of his three-barred crozier. It is a moment in worship: by the cherub, the **incense is burning on a step. And above the steps, to St Clement’s** amazement, the altar has burst into life. We see the risen Christ holding His cross, the dove hovering and ready to alight, and above, God the Father, leaning down to the saint. Clouds and angels surround the scene like the shekinah, the glory of God that shone out in the Temple and on the mount of Transfiguration.

The vision brings to life the signs of the Trinity we see in churches on altar frontals and in stained glass. It calls us with St Clement not just to ponder, but to offer to God the Holy Trinity our wills in service and our hearts in love. The well-known prayer of St Richard of Chichester expresses those three hopes: to know God more clearly, to love Him more dearly and to follow Him more nearly, not only on Trinity Sunday but day by day.

All in the month of May

400 years ago, on 23rd **May 1618, that the Thirty Years' War (Central Europe, mainly present-day Germany) began.** One of the longest and most destructive conflicts in European history. Millions of people were killed. Finally ended on 15th May 1648.

200 years ago, on 4th May 1818 that Britain and the Netherlands signed a treaty on the prevention of the slave trade.

50 years ago, on 8th May 1968 that British gangsters the Kray twins were arrested for murder. They were convicted in 1969 and sentenced to life imprisonment.

20 years ago, on 23rd May 1998, that in a referendum, the people of Northern Ireland voted to accept the Good Friday Agreement. 75% were in favour of a Northern Ireland Assembly.

10 years ago, on 25th **May 2008 that NASA's Phoenix robotic lander spacecraft landed on Mars.** It searched for environments suitable for microbial life and studied the history of water on Mars.

Copy Dates!

Copy date for June will be Sunday 13th May

Copy date for July will be Sunday 10th June

Copy date for August will be Sunday 8th July



From the Editors

Slim pickings this month, so a lot of content from websites.

Hopefully we'll have more for you next month.

Jul & Sue



AJS



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Thank you for your support. Please continue to give by providing any of these items in one of the green Foodbank collection boxes situated inside the church porches.

The revised list of items needed:

Noodles, tinned vegetables, dried potatoes, dried milk, UHT milk, sweet biscuits & shower gel.

An up to date list can always be found at <https://ealing.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-food/>

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Sunday	CLOSED



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Diary Dates



APRIL

22nd Sun APCM 11:30am in the church hall
29th Sun 5th of Easter
29th Sun **St Thomas' Fun Run 2pm**

MAY

5th Sat Churches together in Hanwell meeting at
St Thomas' Church 10.00 - 11.00
6th Sun 6th of Easter
10th Thurs Ascension Day
13th Sun 7th of Easter
20th Sun Whit Sunday
27th Sun Trinity Sunday

JUNE

2nd Sat Churches together in Hanwell meeting at
North Hanwell Baptist Church 10.00 - 11.00

JULY

7th Sat Churches together in Hanwell meeting at
St Christopher's Church 10.00 - 11.00

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!**



May

4th - tea, coffee and cakes
11th - tea, coffee and cakes
18th - tea, coffee and cakes
25th - tea, coffee and cakes

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

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