

50 Pence



February 2018

The Trident




The Parish Magazine of



Serving Hanwell and Beyond

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ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE
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CHURCH OF ENGLAND

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:
WWW.THOMASHANWELL.ORG.UK

PLEASE E-MAIL US AT st.thomas.office@btinternet.com



From our Vicar

Dear Friends

On the 25th January the Church celebrates the Conversion of **St Paul, while Scots celebrate the converting of sheep's innards into Haggis. If I am honest of the two 'conversions'**

the latter one is less problematic. There is something enduring and modern about the messy-ness of a meal whose ingredients in memory of a morally suspect poet read like contents of a cauldron in a gothic horror. This is in marked contrast to St Paul whose conversion led to the censorious neatness of a spiritual ex-smoker; **I still find it hard to 'love' St Paul despite reading Rowan Williams wonderful short book on him.** All this I suspect says more about me than the man to whom the Church owes so much.

Yet, there is another problem with St Paul which goes beyond 'personality clash, and that is the nature of his conversion. In a nutshell, Paul (né Saul) was a rabid persecutor of the Church, who on a murderous mission to Damascus had a vision of such magnitude that it changed his life. This amazing story which transformed the Church as well as Paul himself, has however left a spiritual legacy **which is hard to shake off. Thanks to Paul's experience conversion has, for so long, been seen as a linear experience.** In reality however, life, and human nature is more complicated than that.

In a small booklet which the PCC are looking at on their 'Away Day', the Archbishops of Canterbury and York ask us to look at conversion and thus, our evangelism and mission. The booklet forms part of an ongoing project called 'Thy Kingdom Come'. In it conversion is described not as a linear process going straight from 'contact' to 'commitment', but as a circular process involving 'contact, nurture, commitment and growth'. Thus, there are number of 'conversions' we all go through as we encounter those four elements.

This is a very Lenten analysis of how we should experience these forth-coming **40 days and nights. This season gives us the perfect framework for 'contact, nurture, commitment and growth'. The various devotions are there to help the conversion of our hearts and lives, so that we may better know and share the divine love with those around us.**

In spite of all I said about St Paul I do envy and hanker for his experience, yet I know that the experience of my brothers and sisters before, and around, me is **more Lenten than Pauline. Perhaps, that's how it should be, let Paul have his miracle, and rejoice with him while we concentrate this season which has so many Pauline themes of cross, salvation, hope, love, fellowship and resurrection. Do have a holy Lent and may God's love in Christ Jesus convert you and those whom you love.**

Your friend and priest
Fr. Robert

Parish News

Thank you to all who have filled out the Parish Hall Surveys. If you have not filled out a survey please, please, please do so asap, as they will be analysed in the next few weeks. There is a survey form on page 5.

On February 4th **Bishop Pete, the Bishop of Willesden, will be coming to St Thomas'** for a Confirmation service. Please remember in your prayers, Bishop Pete, and the candidates, Alexander, Alice, Anthony, Elsa, Esme, Jayme, Maddie, and Oz. They have been a great group and will be contributing to the Mass on the day in the choice of hymns and in other ways.

As I mentioned in the Vicar's Letter we are entering the season of Lent. Please do avail yourselves of the various devotions which form so key an ingredient of this season. Details are available in this copy of the Trident.

Fr. Robert



St Thomas' Fun Run

..... is back once again!

**Sunday 29th April
2pm**

5k or 2.5k

**Join us for a run or walk around Elthorne
Park and the playing fields.**

So save the date and start training!



St Thomas' parish hall redevelopment

St Thomas' Parish Hall was built just over 50 years ago. Since then, it has been an amazing gift to the community. Each week numerous groups use it for various activities, making it an invaluable place for everyone from the youngest to the oldest in our community. The Hall is now in urgent need of some repairs to enable it to be a gift for the future. However, rather than just patching it up, we would like to take the opportunity to make the Hall an even better place for the community, offering improved facilities for new and existing groups and making it more attractive as a space for community events.

Thus, we would be really grateful if you could take a couple of minutes to fill in the survey below so that we can do our best to take account of your needs.



St Thomas' Parish Hall Survey

1. What is your perception/impression of the Parish Hall?

2. What changes would encourage you to use the Parish Hall more?
Tick all appropriate:
 - a. Improved external appearance
 - b. Improved internal appearance
 - c. Improved facilities (please specify below)
 - d. More activities/groups of interest to me
 - e. Promotion of existing activities/groups
 - f. Other (please specify below)

3. **Are you aware of any potential groups which currently don't have a place to meet, and who might like to use the hall?**

Once filled in please return to: Parish Hall Survey St Thomas' Vicarage, 182 Boston Road, Hanwell, London W7 2AD or parishhallsurvey@gmail.com

The oldest Bible comes back to the UK

The world's oldest surviving complete Latin Bible returns to the UK this autumn. It left these shores for Rome 1302 years ago, when monks in the northeast of England sent it as a gift to Pope Gregory II.

The Codex Amiatinus was one of only three produced at the twin monasteries of Wearmouth and Jarrow. (One has since got lost, and the other survives in fragments.) It was kept safe for centuries at the Abbey of the Saviour in Monte Amiata, in Tuscany. Then in the 18th century it was sent to the Biblioteca Medicea Laurenziana, in Florence.

It is the Laurenziana which has now agreed to send it back to the UK, alongside **the Lindisfarne Gospels, for its exhibition 'Anglo-Saxon Kingdoms', which begins** in October.

The Bible is 12 inches thick, and weighs 35kg. It contains both Old and New Testaments, and was written on 1030 leaves made from the skins of at least 515 sheep. It has been called one of the greatest treasures of Anglo-Saxon times.

St Blaise – the cure for sore throats

St Blaise, whose feast day is on February 3rd, is the saint for you if you have a sore throat, or a pet who is ill. He was born in Sebastea, ancient Armenia, (now Sivas, in Turkey) sometime during the late 3rd century, and became a physician. But his compassion did not stop there: he went on to become bishop of Sebastea, and thus a physician of souls. Known for his dedication to prayer, Blaise taught by his own example of virtue and sanctity, as much as by his words. His ministry was accompanied by many miracles of healing, and people (and animals) came flocking to him from near and far.

When in 316 the governor of Cappadocia and Lesser Armenia began a persecution of Christians, Blaise was arrested. As he was being led to prison, a distraught mother, whose only child was choking to death on a fishbone, threw herself at his feet and begged for help. Blaise prayed, and immediately the child was cured. Regardless, the governor had him beaten and beheaded. But the miracle was not forgotten by the people who loved him, and Blaise became the patron saint of illnesses of the throat, and of wild beasts.

Blaise was one of the most popular saints of the Middle Ages. There are several churches named after him in England, from Cornwall to Oxfordshire.

St Thomas' Church Boston Road W7



Lent, Holy Week & Easter 2018

Ash Wednesday 14th February 7.30pm Mass & Ashing
Monday Devotional Hour at 1pm inc. Rosary & Exposition
of Blessed Sacrament in the Lady Chapel.

Stations of the Cross every **Tuesday** at 7.00pm

Lent House Groups see Posters (from 19th Feb to 17th Mar)

Palm Sunday 25th March

8am **Said Mass** (BCP)

10am **Blessing of Palm Crosses & Parish Eucharist**

6.30pm **Lenten Choral Devotion** of John Rutter's

'Requiem' with guest singers and instrumentalists.

Monday of Holy Week 26th March 1pm **Rosary & Mass**

Tuesday of Holy Week 27th March 12noon **Mass**

Wednesday Holy Week 28th March 2pm **Mass**

Maundy Thursday Evening 29th March 7.30pm **Mass of
the Lord's Supper & Watch** to midnight and from 6am.

Good Friday 30th March 3pm **Solemn Liturgy**

Easter Day 1st April

8am **First Mass of Easter** (BCP)

10am **Parish Eucharist & Easter Ceremonies**

6.30pm **Evening Prayer**



www.thomashanwell.org.uk

Gladys Venner and Mary Hammant

Over the past few weeks St Thomas' has said farewell to two dear friends of the parish, Gladys Venner and Mary Hammant who sadly died on 14th November and 15th December respectively.

Gladys was born in Neasden. Her father worked for London Transport and the family moved to Fulham when Gladys was 5.

After working as a dressmaker, at 18 Gladys left dressmaking to contribute something of "national importance", and began work and training in a day nursery. She worked in various nurseries until her retirement in 1985.

At the age of 16, Gladys joined the Red Cross and carried out first aid in air raid shelters in the evenings and nights. After the war, she did first aid at the Palladium and at TV studios, helping whoever needed attention be they actors, audience or anyone else. It was great fun. Gladys was a cadet officer with the Red Cross for 25 years and helped to train young people. After Gladys had been with the Red Cross for 50 years, she was presented with some money with which she bought a workbench among other things. She used this for woodwork which she took up when she retired. She has made things like coffee tables, cupboards and a fireplace surround. Gardening was another one of her hobbies.

In the early 1990's Gladys moved from her flat in Fulham to be near her friend Dorothy and also because she liked Ealing. Her friendship with Dorothy was a constant, since they first worked together in the early 1970s. The family have asked me to say that Gladys could not have lived independently, over the last few years, without the love and support of Dorothy. Although she was raised as a strict Methodist, Gladys found a home at St Thomas'.

Gladys enjoyed travelling and visited the continent a lot when she was younger. She also visited Australia as a 70th birthday treat, she had a trip on Concorde, where she was airborne for 1.5 hours and had a champagne breakfast.

However her favourite place was Beachy Head in Eastbourne, a place she and Dorothy continued to visit, chauffeured by Nigel.

After retirement Gladys kept fit, and in recent times enjoyed Kew gardens and picnics with Dorothy pushing the wheelchair.

She will be missed by us all, as will Mary, who first came to this parish in 1947. Mary was born in Brighton, but as her father was a Bank Manager the family moved around a lot. They lived in Leicester and Hull, and it was in Hull that Mary met Jack. They both sang in the church choir and were later married in Hull in 1943.

Mary had three children Ruth, Ken and Stephen.

In 1947, when they moved to West Ealing, she and Jack both chose St Thomas' as their church, apparently (according to the July 1999 *Trident*) because of the good choir here. They both later sang in St Thomas' choir.

Mary was actively involved in life at St Thomas', taking hall bookings, helping at fairs, and was a member of the *Young Wives*; she had many friends here.

Mary loved her family and wider family at St Thomas'. She also loved her holidays and these trips also inspired many of Jack's paintings which decorated her home, and this church.

Remembering Mary Hammant 1920 – 2017

Mary Hammant's funeral service took place at St Thomas' on Wednesday 3rd January 2018; Fr Robert was officiator. Interment was at South Ealing Cemetery.

Mary was born in Brighton, she was a chorister during her teenage years. She later settled in Sydney Road, West Ealing, with her family, husband John (known as Jack), and their three children, Ruth, Kenneth and Stephen, an ardent Brentford football club supporter.

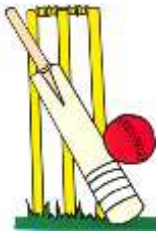
Mary was one of a band of faithful women at St Thomas' who devoted their lives to serving Christ and their neighbours in the community, ie making tea, church cleaning, preparing food for Harvest celebration, delivering harvest parcels, collecting for Christian Aid, organising the flower show/garden party, sidesperson, helping at summer fetes, Christmas fairs, jumble sales etc. After all this they still got to church on time, and also found the time to attend the annual festival service for the Mother's Union at St Paul's Cathedral. Most of them preceded Mary to rest from their labours. Some moved away, and a few are in nursing homes.

Mary did the Church Hall bookings for ten years. She also loved gardening and reading.

The years took their toll on Mary, until she was unable to get to church due to transport issues. A few years ago she went to reside in a nursing home, until her demise in hospital at the grand old age of 97 years. For me it was an honour to have known her.

May she rest in Paradise

Eileen Sinclair



A manuscript suggests Jesus may have taken part in the ancient game of cricket.

It is possible that cricket, a game venerated all over the Commonwealth, is older than currently thought. In fact, Jesus may very well have played the game (or a similar bat and ball contraption) as a child himself, according to an ancient Armenian manuscript.

Long before the English launched cricket some 300 years ago, similar games were being played as early as the 8th century in the Punjab region, Derek Birley writes in his *Social History of English Cricket*.

But an Armenian scholar says there is good reason to believe that similar games were played in the Middle East long before that time.

Dr Abraham Terian, recently a visiting professor at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem as Fulbright Distinguished Chair in the Humanities, points to a rare manuscript as his source.

He notes that in the Armenian Gospel of the Infancy, translated into Armenian in the 6th century from a much older lost Syriac original, a passage tells of Jesus playing what may well be the precursor of cricket, with a club and ball.



A Prayer for February

Dear Father in heaven,

Thank you for the example Jesus gave us when He was in the wilderness – the desert where He was tempted by the enemy of all that is good.

Lord when we are tempted to give in to temptation, whatever form it may take, help us to remember that Jesus was tempted too, in the same ways that we are. But He looked to you for help and strength; He looked to your word and trustworthiness.

Help us to know your help and strength too. Help us to resist temptations by trusting you through Jesus.

Help us to be good examples to others who may be struggling with life issues and to lead them also to you. Lord, please help us, as only you can.

We ask in Jesus name,

Amen.

How to improve your memory

Don't forget to eat your greens – or you could be forgetting a lot of other things as well. It seems that a portion of green leafy vegetables each day can go a long way towards safeguarding the memory of older people. In a recent study, it was found that people who eat greens regularly can have a memory capacity equivalent to the memory of a person 11 years younger.

A recent study at Rush University Medical Centre in Chicago found that people in their 80s who ate just half a cup a day of certain green leafy vegetables (lettuce, spinach, kale and collard greens; all rich in vitamin K) had significantly better memory than those older people who did not.

Good to volunteer

What is your work-life balance? Ideally, it should be a four-way effort of family, work, leisure and - very important - volunteering.

That is the belief of Sir Nick Parker, who served as Commander of the Land Forces from 2010 to 2012. He argues that young people, of between 10 and 20 years old especially, will themselves be helped by regular volunteering, as it helps them learn new skills, increases their resilience and self-confidence, and can improve their social mobility and life chances.

Now Sir Nick Parker has been calling on the Government to encourage people of all ages to get used to volunteering, as not only could it help revitalise civil society, it also can help young people to grow and mature, and get into the habit of playing an active, useful role in their communities.



From the Editors

Don't forget to fill in the parish hall survey on page 5 if you haven't done so already.

Please save the date for the St Thomas' fun run in April - it'll be here in no time!

The Rainbows are still looking for a new leader - see page 14. It would be such a shame if our unit had to close.

July & Sue

Copy Dates!

Copy date for March will be Sunday 11th February

Copy date for April will be Sunday 11th March

Copy date for May will be Sunday 8th April

Christmas Quiz 2017 - the answers!

1. Pins And Needles
2. Spinach
3. Pineapple
4. Needleless
5. Pinprick
6. Spinal Column
7. The Needles
8. Spinnaker
9. Hypodermic Needles
10. Drawing Pin
11. Spineless
12. Pinata
13. Lily The Pink
14. Pina Colada
15. Chipping Norton
16. **Cleopatra's Needle**
17. Eye Of A Needle
18. Pine Marten
19. Cap In Hand
20. Spinet
21. Knitting Needles
22. Pennypinch
23. The Spinners
24. H.M.S.Pinafore
25. Rack And Pinion
26. Pince-Nez
27. Ninepins
28. Ping-Pong
29. John Gilpin
30. Sunbeam Alpine
31. Pinball
32. Compass Needle
33. Ten Pin Bowling
34. Spinster
35. Alpines
36. Hairpin Bend
37. Shopping
38. Pinnacle
39. Topping
40. Threadneedle Street
41. Pinocchio
42. Terrapin
43. Pinks
44. Tipping
45. Pinstripe Suit
46. Spin Dryer
47. Pinkie
48. Need Less Sleep
49. Popinjay
50. Dripping
51. Tie Pin
52. Mary Poppins
53. Drop In The Ocean
54. Pincer Movement
55. Pink Floyd
56. Orpingtons
57. Pinch
58. Harold Pinter
59. Dick Turpin
60. Hopping
61. Pink Gin
62. Spindle
63. Opinion
64. Clapping
65. Lieutenant Pinkerton
66. Pink Panther
67. Chopin
68. Spine Chiller
69. Pinot Noir
70. Pint-Sized
71. Opinionated
72. Pinetum
73. Courtney Pine
74. Matthew Pinsent
75. Sleeping Partner

We hope you all enjoyed having a go at our new format quiz and special thanks to Pauline, John & Anne, Rev'd Canon Derek, Neil & Wendy, Jack & Bess and Jane who sent in answers. With a quiz like this, there's often more than one equally valid answer for a question, but in the end, it was number 72 (the evergreen collection) that was the decider. Well done all!



All in the month of February.....

60 years ago, on 17th Feb 1958, Pope Pius XII declared Saint Claire of Assisi (1194 – 1253) to be the patron saint of television. It was on the basis that she had been too ill to attend Mass, but had reportedly been able to see it and hear it on the wall of her cell.

30 years ago, on 5th Feb 1988, Comic Relief held its first Red Nose Day in the UK. It raised £15m for charity.

15 years ago, on 17th Feb 2003, London's Congestion Charge scheme began.

RAINBOW VACANCY

1st Hanwell Rainbows Unit is looking for a new leader.

Rainbows is a youth group for 5-7 year old girls and is part of the Girlguiding Association.

Girlguiding is a leading charity for girls and young women in the UK. We build girls' confidence and raise their aspirations. We give them the chance to discover their full potential and encourage them to be a more powerful force for good. We give them a safe space to have fun.

1st Hanwell Rainbows meet on Monday evenings during term time for 1 hour from 4.55pm - 5.55pm at St Thomas' Church Hall on the Boston Road. We have a lovely team of volunteers.

It is a great chance to develop your leadership skills and to make new friends, and to put on your CV.

If this sounds like something you would like to do, please get in touch with Amy Newlands by email: amyhnewlands@hotmail.com or mobile: 07713584130.



CRISIS FACE

"One cup of rice is all we can allow."

The eyes look back in hunger and in pain.

Wide, deep brown eyes sunken beneath the brow

Pulled taut by famine in a world insane.

The rip of water tearing through the plain

Leaves goats and people islanded on hills:

They come to fear the never-ending rain

And curse the Lord who will not pay their bills.

Too rapidly the face of earth now fills

With myriad faces, each demanding "Why

Do I not count?" Enormous crisis kills

Our understanding; need defeats supply.

The Buddha smiles; in him no tears I trace,

Stay with us Christ, we need your crisis face.

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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:

Tinned meat, tinned fish, vegetarian chilli and curry, tinned vegetables, tinned fruit, coffee (instant only), UHT milk - whole milk and 0.5l and 1 litre.

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

Thank you!

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Sunday	CLOSED

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St Thomas' Hall

*On Wednesdays from
10.30am until
11.45am.
All are welcome.*

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Diary Dates



JANUARY

28th Sun 4th Sunday of Epiphany

FEBRUARY

3rd Sat

Churches together in Hanwell meeting at
St Mellitus Church 10.00 - 11.00

4th Sun

Celebration of Candlemas & Confirmation by The
Bishop of Willesden

11th Sun

Sunday before Lent

14th Wed

Ash Wednesday. Service at 7:30pm

18th Sun

1st Sunday of Lent

25th Sun

2nd Sunday of Lent

MARCH

3rd Sat

Churches together in Hanwell meeting at
South Hanwell Baptist Church 10.00 - 11.00

APRIL



7th Sat

Churches together in Hanwell meeting at
Our Lady and St Joseph 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!

February

2nd - tea, coffee and cakes
9th - tea, coffee and cakes
16th - tea, coffee and cakes
23rd - tea, coffee and cakes

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

PARISH DIRECTORY



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