

50 Pence

April 2014

# The Trident



The Parish Magazine of



**Serving Hanwell and Beyond**

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ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE  
BOSTON ROAD, HANWELL  
CHURCH OF ENGLAND

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

SUNDAY

- 8.00 AM HOLY COMMUNION (BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER SERVICE)
- 10.00 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL (TERM TIME AND NOT 2ND SUNDAY OF THE MONTH)
- 10.00 AM PARISH COMMUNION
- 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
- LAST WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH 7.30PM

MORNING PRAYER

8.00 AM MONDAY TO FRIDAY (9.30 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'S.

REGULAR MEETINGS

- |           |                 |   |
|-----------|-----------------|---|
| MONDAY    | 12.30 PM        | HANWELL HOMELESS CONCERN                            |
|           | 4.45 PM         | RAINBOW GUIDES                                      |
|           | 6.00 PM         | BROWNIES  |
| TUESDAY   | 5.30 PM         | BEAVERS   |
|           | 6.30PM          | CUBS  |
| WEDNESDAY |                 | 11.00AM - 12.30PM                                   |
|           | 10.30AM         | MOTHER AND BABY/TODDLER GROUP                       |
|           | 7.30PM          | STUDY GROUP & COMPLINE<br>(FIRST WED OF EACH MONTH) |
| THURSDAY  | 7.00 PM         | GUIDES  |
| FRIDAY    | 10.30 - 12 NOON | 'POP-IN'  |
|           | 7.00 PM         | SCOUTS (AT 'THE WARREN' TRUMPERS WAY)               |
|           | 7.00 PM         | CHOIR   |

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## From our Vicar

Dear Friends

April is usually the month when the extremes of the Christian faith are observed. This is the month when the people of God walk in the footsteps of Christ to the cross at Calvary. Having reflected on the sorrow of that we find ourselves celebrating the joy of Easter.

**The devotional rhythm has been observed since Christianity's earliest days.** One of the earliest Christian writings we have (c50-70AD) is contemporaneous with the writings of St Paul and the gospels, and is called the *Didache* (**Greek for 'teaching/training'**). **This work, unlike the gospels and New Testament letters, is concerned with teaching and instruction rather than proclamation of the good news.** Hence, there is a lot of detail concerning how Christians and the Church should behave and what should be taught. Yet in the midst of the teaching there are devotional bits which point to profound truths, but may be shocking to our ears.

In the sixteenth chapter of the *Didache* **the writer says, 'many will fall away and perish; but those who stand firm in their faith will be saved by the Cursed One himself. The 'Cursed One' is Jesus! This title does not seem to fit with the other titles he has, such as the 'Good Shepherd', 'King of the Jews', 'Messiah', 'Son of God', 'Son of David', and so on. The 'Cursed One' sounds positively heretical. In fact its shocking tone probably explains why it never survived as a title beyond that first generation of Christians. However inappropriate it sounds it does point to something on which our faith relies.**

**The 'Cursed One' points not to some diabolical stain on Jesus, but the nature of the death he endured.** On Good Friday we retell that history-changing moment when Jesus accepted the most degrading, shameful death in order that the curse of sin and death which hangs over humanity might be broken once and for all. Thus, Jesus took on the curse of sin and death, and so became the cursed one. However, the story does not stop **with the torturous finality of an innocent man's cruel death, but with the victory of resurrection on Easter Day.** On Easter Day the curse was broken, and sin and death would never again have the last word.

It seems to me that the experience of the Cursed One has something to teach us. It is easy and understandable to be worn down by pain, and by lack of hope. However, within the context of this wonderful story of broken curses we have the hope that things do not and will not always be so. This is not a mandate for pie-in-the-sky, but an appeal to look at the whole **story. Yes, we are, as St Augustine reminds us, 'an Easter people, with**

**Alleluia as our song', but we are also a Good Friday people who know pain and death.** To accept one is not to deny the other. Thus, can I encourage us this season, as we joyfully dive into egg-shaped chocolate for breakfast on 20<sup>th</sup> April (or is that just life in the Vicarage?), not to forget the Cursed One who made all this wonderfully possible.

Your friend and priest  
Fr. Robert



## Parish News

One of our actions from our Parish Mission Action Plan was to form a group to look at the Church Hall. The Church Hall is a wonderful asset as it provides an important community space for the parish. From a mission perspective it is also the resource we have which is used most by people outside the **Church. Thus it would not be unrealistic to see it as a 'shop window' for St Thomas'. That being the case a key question is, 'what does this building say about us?'. Hmm... Although, we are very blessed in having a number of people who have given their valuable time to ensure that decoration is done inside, the façade, with its sagging canopy and, er, tired front doors, means our shop window is displaying the architectural equivalent of purple velveteen flares. This is in very marked contrast to the Church building, and importantly, the worshipping community that makes up our church. Therefore the group, which met in March, is looking at two key areas: the use of, and appearance of, the Church Hall. Most immediately we have to align ourselves with legislation on leases in order to protect the Church and shore up the future, and this is now well under way. The second area of appearance will take shape in partnership with the PCC and an architect over the next few months and years. Please watch this space.**

Our 80<sup>th</sup> **celebration saw our first 'Shrove' Sunday celebration with Bacon Rolls.** This was so successful and appreciated that the cry came forth from **the Hall can we do this more often? The answer has to be, 'Yes'. So for those who are, 'aching for some bacon' another Shrove Sunday will be happening soon.**

During Lent we held some house groups rather than holding the Lent Studies in the Church. This seems to have been very successful and well received by those who attended. The themes were based on the contents and activities of the Church Building as a way of celebrating 80 years of devotion. A big thank you goes to Sue and Roger Grange and Colin Lomas for hosting and facilitating the groups. Thank you!

The Choir continues to thrive, and our Junior section is growing in very

exciting ways. Those who have experience of the wider Church will appreciate what a wonderful gift this is. To have young people willing to serve God through the beauty of worship and music is a phenomenon many parishes would give their right arm, and numerous other limbs, for. Thank you to Michael, and his adult helpers who ensure that this amazingly rich choral tradition is continuing and growing. As we see new choristers arrive we also said farewell to Eileen Sinclair who, after many, many years, has hung up her robes and Psalter. Thanks go to her for her very faithful service.

On 27<sup>th</sup> April after the Parish Eucharist we have our Annual Parochial Church Meeting (AGM). Please do come and support this, and hear what we have been doing and where we are going. Also, that day, in the **afternoon, we have our second St Thomas' Fun Run. This was hugely successful last year with over 80 people running or walking round the park.** If you would like to be a part of it whether as a Mo Farah, running, or a Private Godfrey with the blankets and smelling salts please speak to Sue Cunningham (see page 12 for details).

In May we will have our annual May Fair which will raise money towards the Mission Funds of the parish. Further details soon.

Finally can I wish you all a very happy Easter, and say a big thank you to all who enabled the Lent Holy Week and Easter devotions to be observed so beautifully and profoundly.



## Prayer for the month of April

We give you thanks, heavenly Father, who has delivered us from the power of darkness and translated us into the Kingdom of your Son; grant we pray, that as by his death he has recalled us to life, so by his presence abiding in us he may raise us to joys eternal; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord

Amen

## Erratum

Last month, we published an article about The Volunteer Link Scheme. The correct website for the organization is [www.volunteerlink.org.uk](http://www.volunteerlink.org.uk)

The opinions expressed in this magazine are those of the individual contributors and not necessarily those of the Church, the Vicar, the Editors or of the PCC. The editors reserve the right to edit items sent in for publication. The photograph of Father Robert on page 3 is reproduced by kind permission of Stephen Brooks. [www.stephenbrooksp photography.com](http://www.stephenbrooksp photography.com)

## The church & Leprosy:

Matthew 8 (1) When Jesus came down from the hill, great crowds followed him.(2) Then a man with a skin disease came to Jesus. The man bowed down before him and said, **“Lord, you can heal me if you will.”** (3)Jesus **reached out his hand and touched the man and said, “I will. Be healed!”** And immediately the man was healed from his disease.

The church are the hands and presence of Jesus. There are many in Kolkata who have been affected by this terrible disease. The church in Kolkata, and many other organizations too, feel for these people and choose to be working in this area.

The church in Kolkata has one particular Sunday identified in the church calendar to have a special service. The purpose of this Sunday, once a year, is to make people aware of leprosy, the struggle, the treatment and the work that many organizations are doing in working with lepers.

The church chooses to be a strong presence in the lives of the people who are affected. The church is called to be Jesus' presence and reach out to people in need.

In St Thomas' we celebrate a Sunday where a priest/organization working with lepers is called in to share their work and stories of how they have "touched lives".

This was the message of Jesus, He was touching lives and in the passage from Matthew above, Jesus reached out and healed him. What does the church do? We empathise with the suffering people, we support the suffering humanity and even though we may not be able to walk with them we choose to pray and partner with organizations that work with people suffering from leprosy.

I will encourage you to ask the question – Am I doing the work that Jesus did? Am I touching people through my work and ministry?

I do hope more churches will have special Sundays to remember the suffering of humanity.

Prepared by: Rev. Thomas Santosh Harris

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## Transforming lives in India

Kadirul, 14, is a patient at Premananda Hospital in Kolkata. His father died a few years ago and his mother struggles to raise him and his 10-year-old brother.

....cont

Kadirul has never been to school and spent the last few years as a shepherd, bringing in the money needed to support his mother and brother. Three years ago he was playing with his friends when he injured his foot. The wound did not heal and he was having problems walking.

A fellow villager suggested he made the seven-hour journey to The Leprosy Mission's Premananda Hospital in Kolkata as they were experts in foot ulcers. (It later transpired that this man had been treated at Premananda Hospital for leprosy but because of the stigma surrounding the disease in India, he did not want to reveal to Kadirul and his family that he was leprosy-affected.)

At Premananda Hospital Kadirul tested positive for leprosy and was given multidrug therapy. Tragically, although the drugs cured his leprosy, the **disease had already taken its toll on his body, leaving him with 'clawed' hands and feet** that were prone to injury as a result of leprosy-caused nerve damage.

It was at Premananda Hospital that Kadirul realised that he had little hope of becoming a farmer as labouring would lead to further disability in his already **numb feet. But despite being barely able to grip a pen due to his 'clawed' hand**, Kadirul jumped at the chance of learning to read and write from a hospital volunteer during his stay at Premananda. He is motivated to continue his studies after hearing that he could be accepted onto a course **at The Leprosy Mission's vocational training centre in Bankura where he will have the opportunity to train to do a skilled job. This was previously beyond Kadirul's wildest dreams and, for the first time, he is looking to a bright future.**



A record-breaking year for Stamps & Collectables!

2013 was a record-breaking year for The Leprosy Mission's Stamps and Collectables team.

Thanks to loyal and faithful support, £122,610 has been raised.

# Hymn Writing Competition - update and reminder

To celebrate the 80th year of worship in our church building of St Thomas Hanwell, we are running a hymn-writing competition.

I won't say exactly that the entries have been flooding in. But now that the evenings are lighter and Spring is in the air, perhaps it's a good time to look for inspiration. Why not cast off dull sloth, get pen and paper, and see what happens? Your hymn can be a personal expression of faith, a shout of praise or (in the best tradition of some Psalms) a cry from the depths. And don't worry...you don't need to compose a tune. However, in order to make it singable, you might want to have an existing melody in mind when you write it. And no, it doesn't need to be a traditional hymn tune: some of the finest melodies in the new Church of Scotland hymnal come from the folk-music tradition. Finally, if ever you feel that you're not up to the challenge, just consider these classic opening lines from a 1940s hymn: *Come let us remember the joys of the town, Gay vans and bright buses that roar up and down.* How hard can that be to beat!

Once you've written your hymn, put it in a sealed envelope along with your name and give it to one of the judges (Father Robert, Bev Bowles-Bevan and Tessie Newlands) or to me at the organ. The judges will select six to be sung at a special Songs of Praise in St Thomas towards the end of 2014. (If you have written yours with a specific tune in mind, please include that information.) Of these six, an overall winner will be chosen, at which point we will, should the author wish it, commission an original tune for the hymn.

Michael Mappin



## From the Editors

In April we have our APCM after church on April 27th. On the same day, in the afternoon, we have our Fun Run/Walk. The **emphasis is on the 'FUN' aspect so please do join us.**

~~July 8th~~

Copy date for the May Trident will be Sunday April 13th  
Copy date for the June Trident will be Sunday May 11th  
Copy date for the July Trident will be Sunday June 8th

# Lent can be more than a time of fasting - it can be a season of feasting...

*We can use Lent to fast from certain things and to feast on others.*

Fast from judging others; feast on the Christ dwelling in them.  
Fast from emphasis on differences; feast on the unity of all life.  
Fast from apparent darkness; feast on the reality of light.  
Fast from thoughts of illness; feast on the healing power of God.  
Fast from words that pollute; feast on phrases that purify.  
Fast from discontent; feast on gratitude.  
Fast from anger; feast on patience.  
Fast from pessimism; feast on optimism.  
Fast from worry; feast on divine order.  
Fast from complaining; feast on appreciation.  
Fast from negatives; feast on affirmatives.  
Fast from unrelenting pressures; feast on unceasing prayer.  
Fast from hostility; feast on non-resistance.  
Fast from bitterness; feast on forgiveness.  
Fast from self-concern; feast on compassion for others.  
Fast from personal anxiety; feast on eternal truth.  
Fast from discouragement; feast on hope.  
Fast from facts that depress; feast on truths that uplift.  
Fast from lethargy; feast on enthusiasm.  
Fast from suspicion; feast on truth.  
Fast from thoughts that weaken; feast on promises that inspire.  
Fast from shadows of sorrow; feast on the sunlight of serenity.  
Fast from idle gossip; feast on purposeful silence.

## Terracycle recycling for Organ appeal

For the next two months there is a Terracycle competition, The charity that collects the most biscuit wrappers ( any make) will receive £125 and a hamper of Biscuits  
So get saving those biscuit wrappers ( you can always put the biscuits in a tin till Easter!)

# Trafficking and Prostitution in Southall

I have never been to a Deanery Synod meeting where you could hear a pin drop, save for the film soundtrack, for well over an hour and a half.

**'Nefarious' is an immensely powerful film travelling across four continents** to expose the scale of human trafficking into prostitution and the redemption, through Christ, of a tiny percentage of these abused women. It **was shown at the Deanery Synod meeting at St. Stephen's, West Ealing** in late February.

The sheer scale of this crime left me aghast. It dispelled immediately the **concept of the 'madam' running a little 'red light' house of ill-repute** and exposed how most prostitution is controlled by violent pimps controlled themselves within an even more violent web of organised crime.

What was equally shocking was the level of familial complicity in selling young girls into prostitution not only in the Far East but also many countries in Eastern Europe.

One could, just about, imagine families facing abject, crippling poverty doing **this but often it is 'parents' who simply want a better standard of life. "Sell daughter, buy better television!"**

**One case left me feeling numb. A 'girl karaoke' bar in Cambodia where the 'owner' of the girls allows payment for any of the 1600 girls 'on offer' by credit card. The itemised bill read "Tiger Beer \$4, Bunch Grapes \$5, Karaoke Girl \$3" Yes, sex with an underage prostitute for less than the price of a beer!** Those figures, and the human tragedy behind them, will stay with me.

So, what has this got to do with Southall? The film was presented by **'Catherine' from Ruby Ministries who is working with the street prostitutes** in Southall in association with the churches there. All but one of the ladies they encounter are from eastern Europe, many have been trafficked into the UK solely for this purpose and have no family left to whom to return. 100% of the money they take goes to their pimps who keep them plied with drugs **for the, average, seven years they are 'useful'. No one really has a true measure on how many ladies ply their trade in Southall or in the 'wider' Ealing.**

Ruby Ministries try to befriend them and give them one of the many things they lack; hope. Hope that they can eventually be free from the bonds of this modern day slavery, and hope of redemption through a non-judgemental Saviour and His unconditional love.

They provide some warm clothing and hot drinks, while all the time **conscious of the presence of the pimps and 'controllers'. She has a hotline phone to the local Police, and I pray for her, and her colleagues', safety.**

**I have asked that St. Thomas's' Mission Committee considers a donation to support their work, and I have already suggested to our Area Dean, Christopher Ramsey, that some of the 2014 Deanery Fund is channelled through the Southall churches in support of this vital work.**

There is much comparison between human trafficking and slavery. As **William Wilberforce wrote, and as is quoted in the film 'Nefarious' "You may choose to look the other way but you can never again say that you did not know."**

**What a way to end my term as one of St. Thomas's Deanery Synod representatives.**

God Bless

Nigel

---

## Christ Arose

Low in the grave He lay  
Jesus my Saviour!  
Waiting the coming day,  
Jesus my Lord!

*Up from the grave He arose,  
With a mighty triumph o'er His foes;  
He arose a Victor from the dark domain,  
And He lives forever with His saints to reign,*

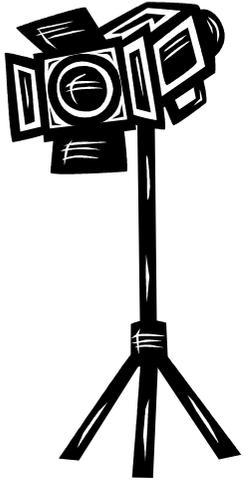
*He arose! He arose!  
Hallelujah! Christ arose!*

Vainly they watch His bed,  
Jesus my Saviour!  
Vainly they seal the dead,  
Jesus my Lord!

Death cannot keep his prey,  
Jesus my Saviour!  
He tore the bars away,  
Jesus my Lord!

*By Robert Lowry (1826-1899)*

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## St Mary's Players present

"A Rise in the Market" by Edward Taylor  
Broad comedy, satire and innueendo combine to make a classic farce.

Sir Clive Partridge wants to be the next commerce president of the Common Market but needs the support of puritanical Monsieur Berri. Berri will be calling on a day when Sir Clive is trapped in a Paris flat with a number of women he can't account for, missing clothing and a very noisy boiler. Add in a bottle containing poisonous tablets and sit back and laugh.

The show is on May 8th, 9th and 10th at 7.45pm at St Mary's Church Hall Greenford Avenue Hanwell

Tickets are £10 £7 concs.

Thursday tickets are £8 £5 concs

Tickets are available from

[stmarystickets@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:stmarystickets@hotmail.co.uk) or the box office 020 8840 0085

## St Thomas's Fun Run



**Sunday 27th April at 2pm**

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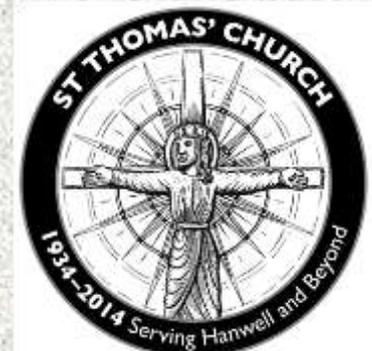
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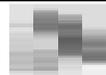
Closing date for applications 6<sup>th</sup> May 2014



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Before you speak, ask yourself:  
Is it kind, is it true, is it necessary, does it improve upon the silence?  
*Shirdi Sai Baba*

## ORGAN FUND COLLECTABLES DONATIONS

Wanted: Donations of good quality household and personal items that you no longer want.

Items needed include: Unwanted heirlooms, antiques, paintings. Ornaments including china, brass and glassware. Jewellery, watches and clocks. Coins, banknotes, stamps and medals. Old games and toys like cars, trains and dolls. Musical instruments, cameras and Sports Memorabilia. Curios etc. All proceeds from their sales will go straight to the Organ Fund!

We can only accept smaller items that can be collected in a car, not furniture. No jumble, clothing or broken items please. For local collection phone David Clarke on **07952 011543** to arrange a timed evening or weekend visit. E-mail David at [dclarke@nds.com](mailto:dclarke@nds.com). If bringing items to the church, please arrange with David Jewell or Michael Mappin to take them from you.

### POP-IN

 \*POP- IN ON FRIDAYS\*  
AT ST THOMAS'S 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!

### April

4th - tea, coffee and cakes  
11th - tea, coffee and cakes  
18th - GOOD FRIDAY - CLOSED  
25th - tea, coffee and cakes

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

## Diary Dates



MARCH  
30th Sun Mothering Sunday

APRIL  
6th Sun Passion Sunday  
13th Sun Palm Sunday  
17th Thurs Maundy Thursday  
18th Fri Good Friday  
20th Sun Easter Day  
27th Sun 2nd Sunday of Easter  
APCM 11.30am  
**St Thomas's Fun Run 2pm**

MAY  
4th Sun 3rd Sunday of Easter  
11th Sun 4th Sunday of Easter  
18th Sun 5th Sunday of Easter

*Baby/Toddler  
Group*  
**St Thomas' Hall**  
from  
10.30am until  
11.45am.  
*All are welcome.  
Free.*

## St Thomas 2015 Calendar

As a reminder of the fun we are having in our 80<sup>th</sup> Year I am planning on selling a 2015 calendar with photos of the church and some of its events

I am asking for people to send photos to me, and a small team of people will choose ones to go on the calendar

To ensure we get the best deal from the calendar company we really need the photos in by the end of July.

**If you have a "real photograph" contact me and I will arrange to have it scanned**

So cameras at the ready!

Please email your photos to  
[paulinesbritton@hotmail.com](mailto:paulinesbritton@hotmail.com)

The small print;

There will be no payment made for your photo

Please ensure there is no copyright on your photos

If your picture includes people make sure you have their permission to be photographed and put on the calendar.

# PARISH DIRECTORY



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