



Advent & Christmas 2019

The Trident

Do join us at our
Christmas Services
(see pages 8 - 9)



Family quiz inside!

The Parish Magazine of

ST THOMAS THE APOSTLE
BOSTON ROAD, HANWELL, W7 2AD

Serving Hanwell and Beyond

Registered Charity no: 1130519

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 St Thomas The Apostle, Hanwell



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 | 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)
	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

One of the joys of being a priest is the opportunity to celebrate mass in other churches. Recently, when at one Ealing church, I noticed a leaflet in the vestry advertising 'The Society of St Nicholas'. This particular society was not known to me, but intrigued by the subject matter I read on:

It is about time for Santa Claus and Father Christmas to claim his roots and true identity... St Nicholas,... He is the "real one" and we neglect him at our peril!

Golly! Where do I sign up?... I haven't. However, tub-thumping electioneering aside, St Nicholas and his accompanying legends do have something to teach us about the season of Christmas.

What we do know about St Nicholas is that he was Bishop of Myra, and was born in 260AD and died on 6th December (his Feast Day) 343AD. He was imprisoned under Emperor Diocletian, but released under Constantine. He attended the Council of Nicea and is the patron saint of sailors, children, and, oxymoronically given later legends, pawnbrokers. The last thing we know of him is that, rather wonderfully, given *Miracle on 34th Street*, he was temporarily defrocked and imprisoned for slapping another bishop, Arius. And that's about all we know.

Yet legends abound. Famously, he dropped money down the chimney of three virgins threatened with a life of prostitution. But he also, apparently, resurrected three children pickled in brine by a butcher who were to be sold off as pork during a famine!

The facts and the somewhat incredulous legends do though begin to show why St Nicholas was adopted as the symbol of Christmas generosity, because at the heart is intentionality. The generosity of St Nicholas which caught so many imaginations is linked to his simple desire to transform lives by his actions. So much of Christmas joy is predicated on that desire to bring something simple that makes a difference to a person. Charities are profoundly aware of that and, rightly, tap into that sentiment, because it reminds us all of our shared experience. Oscar Wilde once said in *De Profundis*, 'Whatever happens to another happens to oneself', and it is this commonality that chimes so much with the story of St Nicholas and his reincarnation as Santa Claus.

Like St Nicholas we may, this Christmas, give gifts that are surprising, generous or simply practical. Whatever intention and form the gift may fulfil may it be done conscious of our shared humanity. This season, of all seasons, reminds us of that central hope, as God shared his life with us in Christ Jesus. It may feel hackneyed, but it remains true that this is the greatest gift, because this gift is both the source and summit of giving. So whatever you give or receive this Christmas, do so generously and gratefully, and may the love and prayers of this Parish Church and St Nicholas be with you.

Your friend and priest

Fr. Robert



Parish News

Once again the Christmas Trident is hitting the proverbial doormat! What it shows is that St Thomas' continues to serve the people of Hanwell and beyond. Our outside mission supports and helps many organisations locally and abroad, as we continue to see our role a Church that looks outwards.

Within our four walls we have been greatly supported by the re-joining to our family of Mother Susy who returned on Palm Sunday after her maternity leave. She has made a real impact with the children and young people. As I write this we are preparing for her priesting on the Feast of St Andrew (30th November). From then on she will take a full sacramental part in life at St Thomas'; do pray for her.

The worship of the church has also been aided by the appointment of Keith Spillett as Director of Music. Keith brings a fabulous amount of experience with him, and is supported by a team of organists.

Over the next few weeks you will have the chance to enjoy our choir's work, from Nine Lessons and Carols to Midnight Mass. Check out the pages 8 and 9 for times and dates.

As well as the devotional observances of Advent and Christmas, there is much informal fun to be had. Do support our Christmas Fair and grab yourself an early bargain. Also, book early for the Panto; tickets are like seasonal hot cakes... or is it mince-pies?

Finally, during this season, as well as highlighting the activities here at St Thomas' can I commend to you the many things which happen as part of the Churches Together in Hanwell. Thus, there are many opportunities to sing carols, and give thanks for loved ones and the God who became human so that we might become divine.

Happy Christmas!





Curates Corner

Maranatha

Nanny and Grandad are coming! How many sleeps? When will they get here? Staring at the front door waiting for them to come. There is excitement and expectation as my 4 year old is waiting for the doorbell to ring. The doorbell rings. Is it Nanny and Grandad? Or is it the Postman? Excitement and expectation.

As this copy of the Trident hits your doormat we will be journeying through the beginning of Advent. Advent is a season of excitement, expectation and preparation, as we prepare to celebrate Christmas – the coming of Jesus Christ in human form as a baby, but also thinking about when Jesus will return. The excitement of Christmas in the shops started bubbling away weeks ago – many a meme on social media pointed to the fact that once Halloween is over the Christmas songs will be piped in to the shops.

Sometimes we are desperate to run through Advent and get to the big day, but in the church, Advent marks the beginning of the Church calendar. Our prayer for this time is ‘Maranatha’ meaning ‘Our Lord, Come’. The deep prayer of the heart, for the coming of the one who transforms the world and our lives. Jesus who came in human form, lived, died and then rose again, conquering death and all that is evil.

In the darkness of our shorter days, as you hug a hot mug and sit in a still moment, why not join the rest of the church in whispering our Advent prayer, inviting Jesus into your Christmas preparations. **‘Our Lord, Come’**



A Prayer for Advent

Come Lord Jesus,
Creator God we welcome you

Into our journey up to Christmas.
You the baby, born to a teenager,
Not in a palace but in a place of simplicity.
Come Lord Jesus, help us to open our hearts,
Open our lives and be expectant of you,
The light who stepped into a dark world,
WE WELCOME YOU!

Our Church and what it's all about..

Its been quite a few years since St Thomas' Church decided to do this special Christmas edition of our Parish Magazine and give a copy to every house in our parish. Many of you are 'regulars' at St Thomas' and we hope you realise how grateful we are for your commitment and support. We have got to know some of you over the last few years, when you have entered our Christmas Quiz and we've been delighted when you decided to subscribe to our magazine. Some of you may be reading this for the first time and really hope to be able to welcome you at some of our Christmas services.

We would like to take this opportunity give you an overview of what St Thomas' offers to the community of Hanwell. It may surprise you!

St Thomas' is not just there for worship, although that is a fundamental part of life at the church and we welcome people of all faiths or no faith at all. The same goes for our youth groups. For the children and young people, we offer Brownies, Rainbows, Guides, Beavers, Cubs and Scouts and you can enquire further about these groups by contacting the relevant leader. All addresses and phone numbers are listed on the back cover of this magazine. All our youth group leaders give of their time freely and their commitment is an example to us all.

We've got a great choir - of mixed ability! - however we all enjoy singing. We lead the worship on a Sunday and at other special services. We're always looking for new members - and we don't expect you to turn up every week, so if you enjoy singing, please contact Keith, our choirmaster and Director of Music, or email the editors for more info. All emails are on the back of this magazine.

We run various fund-raising events throughout the year including our very popular Quiz Supper, which we hold during November and our Panto in January which is one of our highlights and great entertainment for young and old alike. Please do buy your tickets soon as they are selling fast! (Box office 07850 889948 or email tickets@me.com).

We host regular film nights and we hold a fun run/walk around Elthorne Park and the playing fields in April, which is very popular.

We welcome all children at our Sunday School and our church hall is used for lots of local groups and can be rented for parties.

Our Church is always open for quiet prayer and reflection and is there for weddings, christenings and funerals.

That covers just some of the things that go on at St Thomas'. All forthcoming services and events are advertised in our monthly magazine and we advertise most of them on banners above the church hall, so have a look when you're passing.



From the Editors

The year seems to go by so fast and here we are once again, approaching Advent and Christmas. We have some lovely services at St Thomas' to celebrate the season and we'd love you to join us - they're listed on page 8 and 9. We also have our Panto in early January, so please book your tickets soon.
Happy Christmas from Jill, Sue and all of us at St Thomas'

Jill & Sue

Copy date for the **January** Trident will be Sunday December 8th
Copy date for the **February** Trident will be Sunday January 12th

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.

Hospitality in Ancient Ireland (Brendan Kennelly)

God in Heaven!

The door of my house will always be
Open to every traveller
May Christ open His to me!

If you have a guest

And deny him anything in the house,
It's not the guest you hurt.
It's Christ you refuse.

Q: What did the big candle say to the little candle?
A: I'm going out!



'I want to be able, as days go by, always to look myself straight in the eye.'
Edgar Guest



Special Services for Christmas

At St Thomas'



Advent Sunday

10am on Sunday 1st December

This is our first special service in the build up to Christmas. This year sees ceremonies and music inspired by the plainchant liturgy of the earliest church. All our Advent services incorporate the lighting of the Advent Wreath by a child and reflections on the rich themes of the Advent season, traditionally called the Great Os (come and find out why!). This takes place within our Parish Sung Eucharist when there is also Sunday School for young people.

Christingle

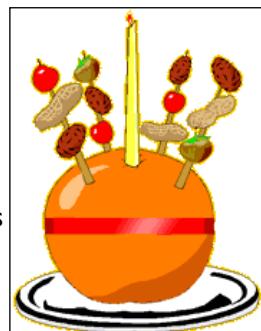
4pm on Sunday 15th December

One event not to be missed is our **Christingle** service – a candle-lit family celebration that raises money for the work of The Children's Society, a voluntary organisation of the Church of England.

If you haven't been to one of our Christingle Services before, a brief explanation may help! The 'Christingle' itself, which symbolises the light of Christ's love, is a lighted candle mounted in an orange, which has a red ribbon or tape around it. Also mounted in the orange are four cocktail sticks, each bearing dried fruit or sweets.

The orange represents the world. The candle stands for Jesus, the Light of the World. The red ribbon or tape symbolises the blood of Christ, who shares in the suffering of the whole world. The fruits and sweets are symbolic of God's Creation and His love for us.

The highlight of our service is when the Christingles are lit. We then dim the lights in the Church and everyone sings the carol 'Away in a Manger'. It's lovely to see the children's excited faces illuminated by the Christingles. This service is a great way to remind the children about the true meaning of Christmas. Refreshments will be served in the Church Hall after the service.



Carols by Candlelight

6.30pm on Sunday 22nd December

Candlelight, Carols and Choir - these are the ingredients that go to make our service of Nine Lessons and Carols so special. This is your chance to renew your acquaintance with the best of the traditional Christmas Carols, to hear some old favourites sung by the Choir and, we hope, to discover some new ones. Come and raise the roof, then enjoy a glass of mulled wine and some mince pies. Christmas really starts here.

Christmas Eve Children's Service

5pm on Christmas Eve



This service is very much one for the children. It is an informal service with no choir or organ. The Sunday School perform a short play based on the nativity and then we sing some carols and say our prayers. Some of the figures are placed in the crib at the back of the church. It is a delightful service and with all the eager anticipation of Santa Claus, it is a great way to remind the children of what Christmas is celebrating.

Midnight Mass

11.30pm on Christmas Eve

Midnight Mass has its roots in the very earliest of times when Christians on this most holy night to celebrate the first Eucharist of Christmas. It is both beautiful and joyous; a time to pause, reflect, and give thanks amidst candlelight, processions, traditional rituals, and the 'sweet singing of the choir'. It starts at 11.30pm so that your personal holy communion or Christmas blessing can be received as soon after midnight as possible. The service also includes the Christ-child being placed in the crib which is blessed during the service.

..... cont

Christmas Day Family Communion

10am on Christmas day

This service is one for all the family, so bring your children, friends and relatives. When you enter the Church you will find the Christmas tree beautifully decorated. We sing hymns and carols and we have a short sermon - very much aimed at the children on this special day.





CHRISTMAS QUIZ 2019!

For our quiz this year, the letter 'X' appears at least once in every answer. Eg Q. Plastic glass. (7) A. Perspex
Have fun!!!

1. It is said this feline does not have a tale to tell! (4,3)
2. A gentle pace for an animal to dance to. (7)
3. This quiz sounds to be. (8)
4. A major organisation relieving poverty around the world. (5)
5. Wheels can rotate when fixed to it. (4)
6. A trivial end to a series of major events. (10)
7. A garden plant and a doctor with enterprise! (5)
8. We hope the hot sun does not melt these birds' ailerons! (8)
9. Very tasty – and also pix out finds it. (6,4)
10. It is a universally recognised truth. (5)
11. A bit of algebra or a singing competition. (3,1,6)
12. Home of mineral springs and spa in Derbyshire. (6)
13. A close lined infantry formation. (7)
14. The second book in The Book. (6)
15. A collective grouping of two major universities. (8)
16. An object which can bring bad luck. (4)
17. Bullocks to you for this one! (4)
18. A tanner. (8)
19. The driver sits here when you pay him to deliver you. (4,3)
20. They came to Britain 17 centuries ago. (5-6)
21. A modern addition to one of the world's oldest tools. (3,6)
22. A wind instrument. (9)
23. A pugilistic circle. (6,4)
24. A large dinosaur which became a rock band. (13,3)
25. An organised brief listing. (5)
26. O. (6)
27. When your money comes in, this goes out! (6,3)
28. An ex-MP, his mirror eventually reflected his dishonesty. (6,7)
29. Its yellow centre has white rays around it. (2-3,5)
30. This gardener designed a crystal palace. (3,6,6)
31. Suffered by poorly bunnies. (11)
32. A personal voice from an organ. (3,6)
33. It can print a message sent electronically. (3,7)
34. A contagious disease – usually of the young. (7,3)
35. With this welding is well done! (3-9)
36. A printer which hits the spot at each end. (5)
37. A bone at the base of a spinal column. (6)

38. A percussion instrument. (9)
39. Don't take too much – or you will go even faster! (8)
40. A New York City borough. (3,5)
41. He spends his life getting stuffed. (11)
42. Uncle Remus related stories about him. (4,3)
43. Filmed in 1980 this is a romantic musical story. (6)
44. Nordic raw salmon. (7)
45. Two actors take turns in this play. (3,3,3)
46. She does her job with a will! (9)
47. The largest mother found anywhere! (7)
48. Sounds like a cow shed or a railway junction. (9)
49. He did Higgins, Henry VIII & managed to do little. (3,8)
50. It could be a clanger in France! (4,3)
51. Mary Poppins took a while to sing this! (34)
52. You could help others by setting this. (1,4,7)
53. You'll be confused by this one! (9)
54. Beer does not come from this vat – but is sold with it. (5,5,3)
55. Clothing suitable for him or her. (6)
56. Without him there would be no printed books to read. (7,6)
57. This line 'as an old eleven in it. (4)
58. The 524th water rat to be counted. (3,8)
59. The words and expressions of a language. (7)
60. These beautifully made floor coverings come from Devon. (9,7)
61. The time to fight over yesterday's unwanted presents. (6,3)
62. Tornado Alley is here. (5)
63. A morbid dislike of foreigners. (10)
64. It is a good metal cleaner or bleach, but is poisonous. (6,4)
65. It can be spotted or diamond leaved or in other varieties. (9)
66. We hope you don't feel like this & are not starting with its cold! (9)
67. Artistic gymnast from Hemel Hempstead. (3,8)
68. A pointless tv personality. (9,9)
69. An American friend. (9,3)
70. The third busiest London underground station. (6,6)
71. An amphibian that thinks it's a walking fish? (7)
72. A stylised hourglass within a circle is their symbol. (10,9)
73. A very famous Gaul. (7)
74. You might go 'intu' here to the cinema or shopping. (8)
75. The second most decorated Spanish football player in history. (4)
76. An ancient Greek king who was rather good! (9,3,5)
77. King Arthur's famous stony weapon. (9)
78. Boggis, Bunce and Bean's nemesis. (9,2,3)
79. The only US president to resign. (7,5)

Cont over.....

80. Fawkes the headmaster's faithful companion. (7)
81. Home of the Chihuahuan desert. (3,6)
82. A cheeky chappie! (3,6)
83. The subject of Miranda's rap musical. (9,8)
84. Such an annoyance! (8)
85. Nickname for the southern United States. (5)
86. A DJ for after 6pm. (6)
87. A thickening chef? (4)
88. A small roadside snapdragon. (8)
89. Flue gas. (7)
90. Arguably the wine capital of the world! (8)
91. Relaxing footwork. (11)
92. He runs a school for gifted youngsters! (9,7,6)
93. To make something happen sooner. (8)
94. Worm-like appendage. (8)
95. You pay a bit more for this delivery. (7)
96. Who to ask? (5)
97. MP Peter Kyle's condition. (8)
98. 'A deafening silence', for instance? (8)
99. Looking a little too bleached? (8,6)
100. You may hear this to warn of an approaching emergency. (6)

St Thomas' Church Panto 2020

A Ben Crocker Pantomime

9th 10th 11th January

7.30pm Thurs &

Friday

1pm & 6pm

Saturday at

St Thomas' Church Hall,
Boston Road, W7 2AD

Box Office: 07850 889948 or

tickets@me.com

Adults: £10 Children: £5 Thurs: All £5



Some unusual Christmas traditions

The Yule Cat: Iceland

One of the more unusual festive traditions comes from Iceland, where a giant cat is said to roam the snowy countryside at Christmas time. Traditionally farmers would use the Yule Cat as an incentive for their workers - those who worked hard would receive a new set of clothes, but those who didn't would be devoured by the gigantic cat-like beast.



Today it is customary for everyone in Iceland to get new clothing for Christmas to avoid an unsavoury demise.

A Cobweb Christmas: Ukraine



One of the Ukraine's festive traditions is not one for arachnophobes! Where we would have baubles, tinsel and stars, Ukrainians use decorations that mimic the natural formation of spiders' webs shimmering with dew.

The tradition goes back to a folktale about a poor widow who could not afford to decorate a tree for her children. Legend has it that spiders in the house took pity on the family's plight, and spun beautiful webs all over the tree, which the children awoke to find on Christmas morning. Spiders' webs are also considered to be lucky in Ukrainian culture.



St Thomas' Recycling

Not all plastics are the same

The terracycle collections are going well and we have now raised over £2000 as well as saving several hundred kilos of waste from going to landfill.

BUT this programme works because only certain types of waste can be collected.

The waste collection is sponsored by different manufacturers who only use specific plastics. It is therefore essential that only the types of plastic specified on the list opposite are collected.

In our enthusiasm some people have been putting the wrong wrappers in the boxes.

So to clarify:

CRISPS PACKETS crisps are made of potato and are fried or baked.

BISCUIT WRAPPERS biscuits can either have cheese put on them or dunked in tea.

Unfortunately I can not collect sweet wrappers, filter coffee bags , cheese packets, or peanut and pop corn packets.

If a box is contaminated with the wrong items, the whole consignment is rejected and we do not get the money.

The good news is

We have been promoted to a HUB AND SPOKE collector for crisp packets so we are more widely advertised on the terracycle website , but it does mean I now have to collect 8kg of crisp packets before I can send them off.

Keep up the good work
Pauline Britton

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.

I prefer to refurbish PCs with flat LCD screens and at least Windows 7 but can operate with some older machines.

Please contact me for further details / collection

Nicholas Robinson (07867 785 394)

For your Prayers....

1. Keep it Simple
2. Keep it Real
3. Keep it Up

© 2019 The Prayer Course



Terracycle recycling for Organ Fund

We are still collecting

Tassimo pods & silver bags

Biscuit wrappers

Ella's kitchen baby food pouches

& lids

Pet food pouches

Waste not accepted

- Cans & Plastic bottles
- Cardboard packaging
- Paper packaging
- Hard plastic packaging



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

Long life fruit juice & squash, cook-in/pasta sauce - jars, dried milk, peanut butter & marmite, potatoes - tinned & instant, long life sponge puddings, cereal bars, vegetarian chilli & curry - tinned, ready made custard - tinned/cartons

Thank you but the foodbank has plenty of baked beans, pasta and pulses at the moment.

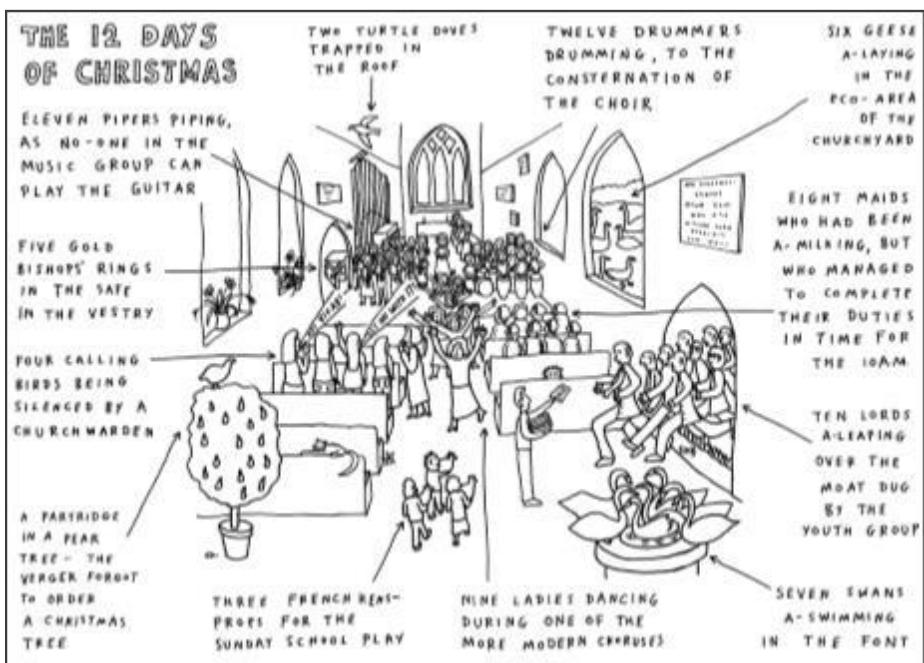
NB as our magazine is put together in advance, it's best to check the up to date list which can always be found at <https://ealing.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-food/>



Brownie Post

The Brownies will be running a Christmas postal service as a way of helping people of the parish this Christmas. The post box will be in the Church from **Advent Sunday, 1st December**, until **Friday 20th December**. There is no charge for this service and we are able to deliver to some streets outside our Parish. We include Midhurst Road but **not** roads to the other side of Midhurst Road (Salisbury Road, Mayfield Avenue etc). We deliver to Townholm Crescent, Humes Avenue, Studley Grange Road etc up to and including Green Lane and we deliver up to Oaklands Road, but not to Deans Road.

PLEASE, PLEASE - PUT ADDRESSES ON THE ENVELOPES, even if the addressee is well known in the parish and you think that Brown Owl will know where they live. Last year a lot of envelopes just had a name on and couldn't be delivered. The Brownies do a wonderful job with hundreds of cards to deliver, so please help them all you can.



Origin of the phrase ‘Rule of Thumb’

We use the term ‘rule of thumb’ to mean an estimation made according to a rough and ready practical rule, not a scientific or exact measurement.

It has been claimed that this expression derives from the belief that in English law a man is allowed to beat his wife with a stick so long as the stick is no thicker than his thumb. In 1782 Judge Sir Francis Buller, a notoriously harsh and arrogant man, is reported to have made this legal ruling. The following year James Gillray published a satirical cartoon attacking Buller and caricaturing him as ‘Judge Thumb’. However there is no actual evidence that he ever made this ruling, so it would seem that he has been hard done by. It is certainly true that, although British common law once held that it was legal for a man to chastise his wife in moderation (whatever that meant), the ‘rule of thumb’ has never been the law in England. Despite this, the phrase has been in common use since the 17th century, and has appeared many thousands of times in print.

An early use of ‘rule of thumb’ in print appears in a sermon by the Scottish born puritan James Durham, in *Heaven Upon Earth* in 1685:

“many profest Christians are like foolish builders, who build by guess, and by rule of thumb, (as we use to speak) and not by Square and Rule.”

The actual origin of the phrase is still unknown. It probably refers to one of the many ways that thumbs are used to estimate things, eg judging the alignment or distance of an object by holding the thumb in one’s eyeline, the temperature of brews of beer, measurement of an inch from the joint to the nail to the tip, or across the thumb, etc. The Germans have a similar phrase to indicate a rough approximation – ‘pi mal daumen’, translated as ‘times thumb’. And in the French language, ‘pouce’ means both thumb and inch. We see a similar use of the body for measurement in the words foot and mile (from the Latin ‘mille passum’, a thousand double paces).

Another very early use of this form of measurement appears in a journal of amusing tales, *Witt's Recreations – Augmented with Ingenious Conceites for the Wittie and Merrie Medicines for the Melancholic*. Published in 1640, it contains this rhyme:

If Hercules tall stature might be guess'd
But by his thumb, the index of the rest,
In due proportion, the best rule that I
Would chuse, to measure Venus beauty by,
Should be her leg and foot:



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A Friend's Greeting

I'd like to be the sort of friend that you have been to me;
I'd like to be the help that you've been always glad to be;
I'd like to mean as much to you each minute of the day
As you have meant, old friend of mine, to me along the way.

I'd like to do the big things and the splendid things for you,
To brush the gray from out your skies and leave them only blue;
I'd like to say the kindly things that I so oft have heard,
And feel that I could rouse your soul the way that mine you've stirred.

I'd like to give you back the joy that you have given me,
Yet that were wishing you a need I hope will never be;
I'd like to make you feel as rich as I, who travel on
Undaunted in the darkest hours with you to lean upon.

I'm wishing at this Christmas time that I could but repay
A portion of the gladness that you've strewn along my way;
And could I have one wish this year, this only would it be:
I'd like to be the sort of friend that you have been to me.

Edgar Guest

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*MEET YOUR FRIENDS AND MAKE NEW ONES!

DECEMBER

6th - tea, coffee and cakes & Christmas sale

13th - Christmas tea party

20th - CLOSED

27th - CLOSED

3rd Jan & 10th Jan 2020 - CLOSED

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

THE TRIDENT

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NOVEMBER

23rd Sat

Christmas Fair 2-4pm



DECEMBER

1st Sun

7th Sat

1st Sunday of Advent

Churches Together in Hanwell prayers at St Mary's church
10-11

8th Sun

15th Sun

2nd Sunday of Advent

3rd Sunday in Advent.

Christingle - 4pm

22nd Sun

4th Sunday of Advent

Nine Lessons and Carols - 6:30pm

24th Tues

Christmas Eve

Children's service 5pm

Midnight Mass at 11.30pm

25th Wed

Christmas Day. Parish Eucharist 10am

29th Sun

1st Sunday of Christmas

JANUARY

9th (Thurs) -11th (Sat) ST THOMAS' PANTO!!!!

Baby/Toddler Group

St Thomas' Hall

On Wednesdays from

10.30am until 11.45am.

All are welcome.

Free.

We will be closed on 18th & 25th
Dec & on Wednesday 1st & 8th Jan



Happy Christmas from all of us at St Thomas.

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