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December 2020

The Trident



The Parish Magazine of


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CHURCH OF ENGLAND

IMPORTANT SERVICE INFORMATION

If our church is open for 'Public' worship the following times are observed



CHURCH OPEN TO ALL FOR
Sunday Parish Mass 10am
Children's Church 4pm
Sunday 6.30pm
Said Mass Tuesday at Noon
 All Live Stream Services can be viewed by anyone on www.facebook.com/StThomasHanwell

However, if 'Lockdown' restrictions apply, then:

LIVE STREAM SERVICES on
www.facebook.com/StThomasHanwell
Sunday Parish Mass 10am
Sunday Evening Prayer 6.30pm
Said Masses: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday at Noon
Morning Prayer 8am Monday to Saturday (except Friday)
Evening Prayer 6pm Monday to Thursday



FOR MORE INFORMATION LOG ONTO OUR WEBSITE:
www.thomashanwell.org.uk

All the information here is correct at the time of going to press, but as you know, the situation we find ourselves in changes on a daily basis, so if you need any further help or you're not sure whether the church is open, you can email us at st.thomas.office@btinternet.com

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 The central store at St Mellitus Church, is open between 10:00 and 16:00 on Wednesdays to take donations, please contact the foodbank on 07769 759 756 or email info@ealing.foodbank.org.uk for details.
 As we go to press, our local churches are once again closed, but we hope that they'll open up in early December. However, there are collection points at local supermarkets. Full details are on the Foodbank website.

THE NOVEMBER SHOPPING LIST **
 Tinned fruit & vegetables, long life fruit juice & squash, ready made custard - tins or cartons, vegetarian chilli, curry, pies (Fray Bentos), instant coffee & drinking chocolate, tinned fish, jam & peanut butter, feminine hygiene - towels & pads only, not tampons, shaving gear - foam & razors, laundry products - powder, liquid, tablets (small sizes please).
 Thank you, but the foodbank has plenty of pasta at the moment.

** please remember that our magazine is produced in November for December so while we publish the most up to date list at the time of going to press, there may be a different list for November. For this reason, it's always best to check the current list on the Foodbank website or twitter.
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The Vicar's Christmas Letter

All the earth, shout and sing for joy, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

Dear Friends

Every Monday morning at about 2 minutes past 8, I recite a line that begins: *All the earth, shout and sing for joy...*

Pre-COVID I understood that in quite a pious, abstract way; I would be at prayer and so too would the Church throughout the ages and world, along with angels and archangels. Post-COVID that line has taken on a rather more real, visceral meaning.

First, and perhaps rather sentimentally, is the appearance of four-legged company for Morning and Evening Prayer. 'All the earth...' seems to include Keble the vicarage dog, who now appears when I am donning my cassock and leaves during the *Lord's Prayer*. St Francis of Assisi was a firm advocate (Advo –Cat!... sorry) of the place of animals in connection to the praising of God, as they are part of the created order.

However, it is a second, far less sentimental meaning, that confronted the visceral reality of prayers this year, the COVID pandemic. To me, like to all of you who read this, the events of the past few months would have seemed impossible last Christmas. Last Christmas families gathered with abandon, and the only face-covering was an oversized paper hat that had succumbed to gravity. Who knows what this Christmas will look like.

Yet, whatever form it takes, prayers will continue to be said for God's Church and world. These prayers will be shouted even if not communally

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sung, because they happen within the context of reality. This reality, which has been inescapable, is also at the heart of the Christmas message; *for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel*. The central message of Christmas is that Jesus (the Holy One of Israel), God, is in our midst. God's way of dealing with the pain and suffering of his world was to be in its midst. Love is always best expressed in the 'midst', not remotely, no matter how powerful or dramatic the expression may be. Much of the pain of the past year has revolved around the lack of contact, touch. No amount of Skyping or Zooming can fully express love like love in our midst. God understands that; we are made in his image, so we must hang onto that reality of faith. Whatever your Christmas will look like, know that I (and Keble!) and the people of St Thomas' are praying for you. We do it because, as this wonderful (if this year surreal), season reminds us, great in our midst is the Holy One.

Your friend and priest
Fr. Robert



Parish News

'What a difference a day makes' sang Dinah Washington, and made real by COVID. Last month I said how good it was to be returning to a "pattern of worship... more akin to the pre-COVID pattern", and I even bought a banner for the hall to advertise the fact. Within a week Lockdown 2, the most depressing sequel of all time, was upon us again. Hence, as I write this there is no public worship, only private prayers and live-streamed worship. Therefore, it is with some trepidation that I tell you that the key Christmas services will happen on these dates and times:

- Christmas Concert with readings 20th December 6.30pm
- Children's Socially-distanced (Bubbled!) Nativity 24th December TBC
- Midnight Mass 24th December 11.30pm
- Christmas Day Mass 25th December 10am
- Parish Mass St John the Evangelist 27th December 10am.



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Tuesday	10am - 6pm
Wednesday	10am - 6pm
Thursday	10am - 7pm
Friday	10am - 6pm
Saturday	9am - 6pm
Sunday	CLOSED



The exact form these services will take will be dictated by the demands placed upon us by the Government; they will happen in some form though! Various plans have been made.

Please note, also, that there will be no Christingle this year. However, there is a National Christingle Event on 13th December. To find out more go to: churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/church-online.

Many people have commented on the wonderful recordings the choir have produced over the past few months. Keith is putting together a Christmas CD which will be available, so look out for details of that. There may (hopefully!! Subtle-hint) be others to follow.

We had our APCM 'virtually' on Tuesday 26th October 8pm. It is with great joy that I can announce we have two new wardens who will continue and develop the wonderful work done by Leanda and Gill. I thank them for all their work over the past few years and welcome warmly Lizzie and Chloe. Check out their profiles in this Trident. We also have, for the first time, a full complement of Deanery Synod reps: Nicholas, Charlotte and Fade. Despite the gloom of the past few months there is much to be thankful for and excited about.

During Advent look out for our *Hanwell Advent Trail*, which has been organised by the four Anglican Churches in Hanwell. There will be, across Hanwell, windows featuring the Advent Star poster, (see right), and decorations on the theme of Light scattering darkness. We felt that it was important to remind people that in the darkness of the past few months, the light of Christ still shines.



Finally, we were due to be joined on Advent Sunday by the Archdeacon of Northolt, Catherine Pickford, however that has been postponed. Fr. Robert will still bless the new Advent Set, and Mtr. Catherine will come to us on 28th February.

Do have a blessed and holy Christmas, and may the love of the Christ-child surround you and your loved ones.
 Fr. Robert

Due to social distancing rules, the number of people we can seat in our church at the moment is much fewer than usual, so you will need to reserve your place for the Christmas concert, Midnight Mass and Christmas day services and your seats will be allocated for you.

Please contact Sue (sue.cunningham@mac.com/07850 889948)



Girlguiding in 2020

As you can imagine our activities this year have been severely curtailed! In fact for months – from March to July all groups were meeting only online using Zoom. In late August the Brownies started meeting in the park for a few sessions and in September they began to meet once more in the Church Hall – but things are not at all as they were before! We are only allowed to meet with up to 15 girls and we have to keep our distance with leaders wearing masks.

Rainbows hope to start meeting in person again after half term but the Guides will continue on Zoom until January.

Obviously, all our residential camps and holidays were cancelled.

On Zoom there have been a variety of activities to keep the girls involved: the Rainbows made some cakes, learned a magic trick and even had a virtual sleepover. Brownies have completed challenges, played games, held scavenger hunts, and had quizzes. Guides have played games, learned some magic tricks, escaped from Disneyland and held a pet show.

So, as always, we have been busy!

We can't wait to be meeting again as normal.

Bev



From the Editors

Welcome to our last magazine of 2020. Usually our Christmas magazine is full of adverts for our panto and Christmas services, but sadly - we sincerely hope for this year only - there's no panto and all our Christmas services are a bit different. However, there is a quiz for you to ponder over and although this magazine isn't going to every house in the parish this year, it's available on line, so please tell anyone who asks to look for it there. As we go to press (in the middle of lockdown no 2), we've still no idea what we'll be allowed to do, not only for Christmas, but throughout December, so please keep an eye on our website. However, whatever the festive season brings for us, we wish you, your family and your friends, a very happy time.

With all good wishes

Jul + Sue

Copy Dates!

Copy date for January is on Sunday December 13th
Copy date for February is on Sunday January 10th

Opinions expressed in this magazine are those of the individual contributors and not necessarily those of the Church, the Vicar, the editors or the PCC.



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Jingle Bells

There is some controversy over what this popular carol was first written for. The song was written by James Lord Pierpont and was first published under the title 'One Horse Open Sleigh' in 1857. It's claimed that it was written for performance by a Sunday School choir for Thanksgiving and the original lyrics are different to those we know so well. It subsequently became associated with Christmas music and was even the first song broadcast from space from Gemini 6 on December 16th 1965.

CHRISTMAS EVE

Is there any difference between birth and death?
The breaking of the womb when life with trembling starts
And the tomb's slaking when with steps of stealth
Spirit forsaken time's old familiar loom and parts?

The one is coming, the other going
Beginning one and end the other;
But who can say we have not been here before
And birth which seems from nothing sprung
Is rather corridor-opening of a door;
We have forgotten what that side was sung
And none can this side ask another.

They said that Christ was born, and drank their ale,
But I knew Christ was dead, the gospel stale,
All hope forlorn, until I kindling thought
His birth and death were one, the difference nought,
For as I at His manger laid my head
I was by nail-pierced hand with wafers fed.

S.L. Henderson Smith

Knowledge is knowing what to say. Wisdom is knowing whether or not to say it.

If you see no reason for giving thanks, the fault lies in yourself. – Minquass

84. Is this spread nice with jelly? (6,6)
85. Could you persuade this goat to clean your car? (7)
86. John Everett Millais' famous advert. (5,4)
87. The base for any number of creamy, cheesy, velvety sauces. (8)
88. The most popular flavour of chewing gum. (9)
89. She had a blanket on the ground in 1975. (6,2,6)
90. Who said "If you don't have a dream, how are you going to make a dream come true?" (5,11)
91. A very popular legume for cooking. (8)
92. This was faced by 3 US presidents, but not by Nixon. (11)
93. A looney canary. (6,3)
94. A port on the River Elbe. (7)
95. Political propaganda. (8)
96. You might go on a cruise from here. (11)
97. Late Friday evenings wouldn't be the same without him! (6,6)
98. Former England cricketer born to an Afrikaner father. (5,9)
99. Robert and Cora of Downton. (8)
100. The end of the quiz! How best to celebrate? (9)

Artificial Christmas Trees

While many of us might worry about the 'ecofriendliness' of our real Christmas tree, it's interesting to know that in fact, the carbon footprint of an artificial tree is more than twice that of a real tree that ends up in landfill and more than 10 times that of a real tree that is burnt. Most local authorities, including Ealing, offer a collection service for real trees, which are then shredded and used on gardens and parks and this provides the greenest way to dispose of your real tree.



A prayer for December

Loving God. As the world continues to fight the pandemic, please help me to be the one who holds open doors for strangers, who lets people cut in front of me in traffic, who says 'Good morning', who is patient with others and who smiles at passersby. In a world full of frustration and anger, please help me to show kindness and understanding. Please help me to judge less, be more tolerant and give grace to friends who are having a bad day. In Jesus' name.

Amen.

Introducing our New Church Wardens

At the zoom APCM at the end of October, we said a heartfelt thanks to Gill and Leanda for their years of service and we were delighted to welcome Chloe and Lizzie as our new Church Wardens. We really hope that it's not too long before you can meet and chat to them in person, but for now, here's a little bit about each of them.



Chloe

Q: What do you like most about St Thomas' Church?

A: I love St Thomas' as it is so friendly and tolerant. The community gives a great sense of well being and fellowship in these difficult times.

Q: What's your favourite hymn or bible story and why?

A: My favourite hymn is 'Morning has Broken' as it is so uplifting and reminds me of my childhood home in North Yorkshire and its beautiful countryside.

Q: What do you do when you're not at St Thomas'?

A: When I am not at St Thomas' I am usually at work in my job as a Lecturer which is quite all consuming, or at home cooking. I enjoy walks and try to go for a jog every morning (weather allowing)



Lizzie

Q: Tell us in two sentences something about you.

A: I'm a mum of three young kids and a cycling fan. I love all the parks and green space in Hanwell.

Q: What do you like most about St Thomas' Church?

A: It is open to all and a beautiful, peaceful place.

Q: What's your favourite hymn or bible story and why?

A: Ooh I think it has to be 'Thine be the Glory' because you can really belt it out!

Q: What do you do when you're not at St Thomas'?

A: I work for a charity that provides aid in Africa, Asia and the Middle East.

Christmas Quiz 2020.

Every answer in this year's quiz contains either PEA or HAM or PIE in consecutive letters. For example: Q. A stone fruit with downy skin. (5) A. **P**each.

1. Having caught rats and mice, he later led away lots of children. (4,5)
2. An old street in York. (3,8)
3. Brentford, Swansea, Rotherham etc. (3,12)
4. These clues could be torn up into these coins! (6,2,5)
5. Hitting between inner and outer would get this. (6)
6. Wat Tyler's uprising. (8,6)
7. Artist specialising in Max Wall portraits. (5,8)
8. An intense pain can feel like this. (8)
9. Hilly area in Derbyshire. (4,8)
10. Great value fashions from here? (8)
11. Very small bulb for pickling. (5,5)
12. A small or inadequate sum of money! (7)
13. A percussion instrument. (12)
14. This horizontal beam sounds like an angry bit. (10)
15. They are sought after by MI5 and others. (5,5)
16. The messiest pop group? They were careless with their Wispa! (4)
17. An American digestive biscuit. (6,7)
18. An Australian novelist, dirty but clean. (1,1,1,6)
19. Dessert apple with firm white flesh. (8)
20. Fashion designer specialising in slogan T shirts. (9,7)
21. Will.i.am, apl.de.ap, Taboo etc. (5,4,4)
22. A dinnerlady attending the Peterloo Massacre? (6,5)
23. US song lamenting the end of the 1950's? (8,3)
24. With these you can add a letter and catch bits said to you. (9)
25. His TV interviews reveal much about the famous. (5,6)
26. Not Joan, Anne or Margaret, but Siobhan and Marcella. (12,6)
27. Picture or sculpture of the Virgin Mary holding the dead body of Christ. (5)
28. Symbols of the industrial worker and the peasant. (6,3,6)
29. One of Noah's three sons. (3)
30. Italian region at the foot of the mountain. (8)
31. The Princess of Pop. (7,6)
32. Tendon at the back of the knee. (9)
33. Thingamajig. (15)
34. Very nice ladies on horseback look for spies here, perhaps! (10)
35. A small apartment which can be a foothold in a city. (4-1-5)
36. Heard being used in the area of circles - or they can be eaten! (4)
37. An illustration facing the title page of a book. (12)
38. A wonder horse! (8)
39. An alternative lawn. (9)
40. John and Helena but not Christies. (7)
41. 14th President of the US. (8,6)
42. A conciliatory gift. (5,8)
43. Where would babies go without them? (7)
44. Is a swim suit required for riding these Celtic warhorses? (7)
45. Deliberately euphemistic or ambiguous. (11)
46. Clown with sad, white-painted face. (7)
47. A horror of a film company. (6)
48. She is very very pink and laughs a lot! (6,3)
49. Informal name for the US state of Georgia. (5,5)
50. A London costermonger who's traditional ceremonial clothes have lots of buttons. (6,4)
51. He might take a gamble if we changed our price! (8)
52. A group created in the 60's with a new life. (7)
53. Alternative plant medications. (14)
54. Might be meat and potato in a small house. (7,3)
55. A South African rugby player and broadcaster. (8,7)
56. Ermine lined red cap for a peer. (7)
57. A thick yellowish fog. (3-6)
58. V. (5,4)
59. Plain and forceful expression of disapproval. (1,5,2,4,4)
60. Creator of Sam Spade. (8,7)
61. Where to play real tennis. (7,5,6)
62. Gerry sang crossing the Mersey from here. (4,4)
63. He does a bit here and a bit there. (11)
64. A modern device for reproduction! (11)
65. Prince of Denmark. (6)
66. One of the most popular directors and producers in film. (6,9)
67. Record-breaking motor racing driver. (5,8)
68. Clumsy and bungling. (3-6)
69. Old sailor's coarse woollen overcoat. (3,6)
70. Pale from illness. (5)
71. A traditional Lancashire attraction sought by Orwell. (5,4)
72. Originating in France, the best of the lot. (5,2,10)
73. Moving pictures round gives a good look at this pastry. (8)
74. This clue has gone a bit wrong! (4-6)
75. Illicit drinking club. (9)
76. Irish actor, film producer and environmental activist. (6,7)
77. The other wartime PM. (7,11)
78. White Moselle wine. (10)
79. An evergreen shrub of the heather family with pink or red young leaves. (6)
80. A horse with irregular black and white patches. (7)
81. A consequence of this was the entrance of the US into WWII. (5,7)
82. Rowling's home of the ancient basilisk. (7,2,7)
83. Irish metaphor for the Christian Holy Trinity. (8)