



July 2020

The Trident

Friends virtually reunited edition



The Parish Magazine of



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St Thomas The Apostle, Hanwell



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During the Covid-19 restrictions, the following services are live-streamed and can be seen on our public facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/StThomasHanwell/>

Morning Prayer - Monday to Saturday 8am

Night Prayer - Monday to Saturday 7pm

Mass - Monday to Saturday 12noon

Parish Mass with Hymns - Sunday 10am

BCP Evening Prayer Sunday - 7pm

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**



Keep us, good Lord, under the shadow of your mercy in this time of uncertainty and distress.

Sustain and support the anxious and fearful, and lift up all who are brought low; that we may rejoice in your comfort knowing that nothing can separate us from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Amen



From our Vicar

Dear Friends

Normally in July we are looking forward to a packed Patronal Festival weekend with BBOs, Outdoor Films, Festival Mass guest speaker and so on, all par for the Patronal course. Yet this year will be the most unusual

one to date, whether we are back in church or not.

I am writing this from the church which now is able to open its doors to those seeking private prayer. This is a joy, but, as yet, we do not know when public worship will return. It has been rumoured that this will be the weekend of our Patronal Festival (5th July), but, again, who really knows?

The building is set up and ready to open for public worship and I have discussed with our Director of Music, Sunday School and PCC what this might look like in the face of inevitable restrictions. Again, rumours are **many, but the first COVID liturgical 'victims' on our return are likely to be communal singing, integrated children's work in the morning, coffee time, the peace, the eucharist in 'both kinds', etc, and whatever is done will be done from safe distances.** However, before we start playing the dirges,

because it won't be the same for a while, I want to say that various people who make up our worshipping life together have come up with wonderfully creative ideas to deepen our devotional life whatever lies ahead. One thing that will continue and which has been a surprising joy is the live-stream services, which have been watched not only by the faithful locally, but also by people across the globe.

We are blessed as a parish with amazing people with lots of expertise, **creativity and desire to ensure that St Thomas' grows, and declares, by what we do, like our patron, that Jesus is Lord and God.** Do continue to pray for us as a church as we navigate this strange land.

We will celebrate our patron on 5th July, and will have a Special Patronal festival Quiz on Monday 6th in the evening so watch out for the details of that.

Somehow the need to celebrate St Thomas feels all the more important this year as his and our story strangely coalesce. St Thomas was, along with the other disciples, locked away in isolation, only going out for necessary business. None of them knew really what the future held for them, it was all new. St Thomas was out when Jesus returned, and despite the assurances and promises of the other disciples Thomas could not see beyond his own

grim reality. Yet, Jesus 'broke-in' to the locked house and Thomas' heart, resurrection love did what his friends and the authorities couldn't. This transformative moment was brought about by a missionary God who comes and shares his death-defeating life with us, so we might share ours with him. Some of us do, like St Thomas, want the facts, the physical, the empirical

reality: the limbo realm of faith is a hard place to be. Yet it is the realm of faith which, counter-intuitively, cuts across the uncertainties of life as it is.

So, people of St Thomas' pray for this COVID and broken world, so that we may see and celebrate our Lord and our God.

Your friend and priest,

Fr Robert



Parish News

There is much 'news' in this rapidly changing world in which we find ourselves. So much so, that I fear people reading this may say in unison, "eh?!" as the world has changed once again!

A key but sad piece of news for St Thomas' is that Mtr. Susy is leaving us to go to work at her husband's parish, St Mary's, Hanwell. Please read the statement opposite, but most importantly pray for her and her family.

COVID 19 and the impact of it on us continues to dominate our life, and rightly then our mission. Again, caveats are legion at this point, but we are moving into a position of being able to restart public worship. **As a church we are set up, once we are given the 'thumbs-up', but as yet, do not know** when, or the nature and extent of any limitations placed upon us.

The Live-Streamed services have been a great success, and have included people from across the congregation as well as our choir thanks to technology, whiz-bang film editing and broadcasting software. **This has enabled people of St Thomas' to worship with each other however** remotely, and also be joined by people from across the world. Our unknown brothers and sisters in Christ are supporting us in prayer as I hope our ministrations are supporting them.

On Sunday 14th **June the bell at St Thomas' was rung 72 times in an act of** remembrance for each victim of the Grenfell Tower disaster. This was followed by 2 minutes silence and then 3 further rings for each year that has past. This was a wonderful way of saying that the Church has not forgotten those who often felt voiceless.

Finally, to mark Christian Aid Week we had a Quiz on Zoom which was great fun, and raised money for that charity which like so many has been hard hit by COVID.

Please do keep an eye out for what we are up to and we will continue to keep you posted.



Mtr Susy is moving on

Dear Sisters and Brothers

I am writing to inform you that Mtr. Susy will be ending her curacy with us on 21st June 2020, and completing her final

year with Fr. Andrew (her husband) at St Mary's, Hanwell.

This will be a big loss to us, but a huge gain for the people of St Mary's. It will also help them enormously as a family as they continue to juggle ministry and family life, something that will be made much easier now **'being under one church roof!'**

We aim to inform the congregation here at St Thomas', as well as St Mary's via various media inc. *The Trident*, Facebook, Email, Website etc, but we are very aware at this time that some may not be able to find out through those channels. In such cases please feel free to share this letter.

Also, it is important that we give Mtr. Susy a proper St Thomas' send-off, so once the various restrictions are lifted and some degree of normality arrives, she will come back and preside at Mass, and we will say our **'physical' rather than 'virtual' farewells then. This date will be confirmed in the future.**

Please do remember Mtr. Susy in your prayers, giving thanks for her **ministry among us, but praying for her and her family's future in a new but familiar context.**

Yours in partnership in the gospel

Fr. Robert



A free phone line of hymns,
reflections and prayers



Thoughts from Above the Chancel Steps

When I had the good fortune to be appointed Director of **Music for St Thomas' Church in April 2019, I felt very blessed.**

I had been caretaker DoM since Christmas Eve 2018, being afforded the privilege of leading the choir through the Christmas Services. During my **'caretakership' we prepared a highly successful performance of Vivaldi's 'Gloria' as our Easter Devotional concert, augmented by a few singers from other choirs in the area, culminating in a wonderful carol service in December 2019.**

The emergence of Covid-19 in 2020 has necessitated changes to all our lives, and I would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank our wonderful group of singers, for all the hard work they have done since I took over the reins, as well as how they have coped with the rather different regime inflicted on us by Covid-19. I prefer not to refer to the **choir as being 'mine', feeling almost embarrassed to do so, and I prefer to describe them as 'our choir' or 'your choir'. Our choir is like a delicate machine, consisting of a precision set of parts. My job is to take those parts and mould them into the beautiful 'singing machine' that you, the congregation, possibly takes for granted when they hear us on a Sunday morning. Although we have a small choir at St Thomas', we are very lucky to have such a dedicated group of talented singers, all of whom are more than capable of 'flying solo' when asked, and I'm incredibly proud of them all. Up until the time when Covid-19 reared its ugly head, we rehearsed every Friday evening from 19:00-20:00 to prepare the music for the following week, usually two anthems plus the hymns. Obviously we haven't been meeting since the lockdown – in fact, we had to cancel the last rehearsal before the official lockdown because one of our members showed symptoms of the virus, which fortunately turned out to be a false alarm, but we had already missed the rehearsal by then. The choir did perform in church that Sunday, but the official closure and mandatory lockdown commenced that week. Throughout lockdown the choir has been video recording music for the livestreamed services at a rate of one every two weeks. Hopefully we will all be allowed back into our wonderful building to worship together again soon, though massed singing of any kind is likely to be a pipedream for the foreseeable future. Once we can do so 'legally', the choir will be holding socially distanced rehearsals in the church once more, with the intention of pre-recording music for the congregation to listen to at the service on Sundays, even though they are unlikely to be able to join in for quite a while! We are hoping that we will be able to undertake some live singing during services, in the form of solos and duets**

by socially distanced members of the choir. Your choir has served you well throughout the current problems, and will continue to do so in the coming months, so I hope you will join me in taking this opportunity to thank this wonderful group of people from the bottom of my heart for their contribution to our worship through thick and thin, making the community of St Thomas' such a marvellous thing to be a part of.

Keith Spillett



From the Editors

So here goes - lockdown edition number 3. Obviously there have been some lifting of restrictions to our lives as we write to **you in the middle of June and we're all hoping for some further changes at the beginning of July. If you'd like up to date information about what's happening at St Thomas' at the moment, then please speak to or email Father Robert.**

July & Aug

Copy Dates!

Copy date for August is on Sunday July 12th.
Copy date for September is on Sunday August 9th

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.



Live Stream Services can be viewed by all on www.facebook.com/StThomasHanwell
Sunday Parish Mass 10am
Night Prayer every day at 7pm (except Saturday)
Morning Prayer Monday to Saturday 8am
Midday Mass Monday to Saturday
(NO Mass or Offices on Friday)



Patronal Festival Quiz

After the success of the quiz for Christian Aid recently, we're going to have another one on Monday July 6th **starting at 7:30pm. There will be 5 rounds and we'll be in teams**, which you can decide on beforehand, or we will allocate teams on the night. The link is on the weekly service info that Father Robert sends out, so keep an eye out for that. See you there!

If you weren't at the last quiz, have a go at Caroline's Biblical round on page 11.

All in the month of July

It was:

175 years ago, on 4th July 1845 that Thomas Barnardo, Irish humanitarian **and philanthropist was born. He founded Barnardo's, a charity which cares for vulnerable children and young people.**

Also 175 years ago, on 17th July 1845 that Charles Grey, 2nd Earl Grey, British Prime Minister (1830-34) died. Earl Grey tea was named after him after he was given a gift of tea flavoured with bergamot oil. It was known **as the Earl Grey's blend.**

150 years ago, on 18th July 1870 that the Vatican issued the declaration of Papal Infallibility. It preserved the Pope from the possibility of error when he defined a doctrine concerning faith or morals to be held by the whole Catholic Church.

100 years ago, on 17th July 1920 that Kenneth Wolstenholme, British football commentator, was born. Best remembered for his famous **commentary at the 1966 World Cup Final: "Some people are on the pitch...they think it's all over.... It is now!"** – as the last goal was scored.

90 years ago, on 7th July 1930 that Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, British writer who created the detective Sherlock Holmes, died.

80 years ago, on 10th July 1940 to 31st October 1940: The Battle of Britain took place. British victory.

75 year ago, on 5th July 1945 that WWII leader Winston Churchill lost the **British General Election to Clement Attlee's Labour Party.**

70 years ago, on 5th **July 1950 that Israel's Knesset passed the Law of Return**, which granted all Jews the right to immigrate to Israel.

65 years ago, on 9th **July 1955 that the song 'Rock Around the Clock' by Bill Haley and His Comets reached no 1 on the Billboard chart in the USA.** It remained there for eight weeks. Although not the first rock & roll song, it is considered the song that brought rock & roll into the mainstream.

60 years ago, on 6th **July 1960 that Aneurin ('Nye') Bevan, Minister of Health (1945-51) who led the establishment of the National Health Service, died.**

40 years ago, on 5th July 1980 that Swedish tennis player Bjorn Borg won the Wimbledon singles championship for a record fifth consecutive time

30 years ago, on 17th July 1990 that Iraqi President Saddam Hussein threatened to use force against Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates to stop them driving down oil prices. On 24th July Iraq sent tens of thousands of troops and hundreds of tanks to the border with Kuwait, ahead of an invasion on 2nd August which led to the Gulf War.

Also 25 years ago, on 16th July 1995 that Amazon.com opened its website to the public.

20 years ago, on 25th July 2000 that an Air France Concorde crashed outside Paris shortly after taking off for New York. All 109 people on board were killed, as well as four people on the ground.

15 years ago, on 7th July 2005 that the London Bombings took place. A **coordinated series of four suicide bomb attacks on London's transport** systems during the morning rush hour killed 56 people, including the four bombers. More than 700 were injured. It was the worst-ever attack on **Britain, and the country's first attack by suicide bombers.**

Also 15 years ago, on 28th July 2005 that the IRA ended its 30-year armed campaign in Northern Ireland and ordered all units to dump their weapons. Its leadership stated that they would continue their campaign exclusively through peaceful means.



Who Knew?

These signs can be seen on lampposts, at the side of the road and on railings. But do you know what they are?

They're to tell the fire brigade the location and size of the nearest fire hydrant. The top number is the size of the mains that feeds the hydrant in millimetres and the bottom number is the distance to the hydrant in metres.

Pre-metric, the top number would be in inches and the bottom one in feet.

Bishop of London 1961-1973, Robert Wright Stopford

The Rt Rev and Rt Hon Robert Stopford was born in 1901 in Garston, Lancashire, and educated at Coatham School in Redcar, and Liverpool College, before heading to Hertford College, Oxford. He gained first class degrees in Classical Moderations and Modern History before attending the University of London to study for his Doctor of Divinity and the University of Durham for his Doctor of Civil Law qualifications.

Before becoming a clergyman Stopford was very involved in education, particularly in the Commonwealth. He was Principal of Trinity College in Ceylon (Sri Lanka, since its independence in 1972), and Principal of Achimota School on the Gold Coast (Ghana, since 1957) from 1941 until 1945. This school is a co-educational boarding school modelled on the British public school system, and has educated many prominent African leaders and statesmen. The school was founded in 1927 by Sir Frederick Gordon Guggisberg, Dr James Emman Kwegyir Aggrey and Rev Alec Garden Fraser. **The school motto is “Ut Omnes Unum Sint”: “That they all may be one”. The founders’ philosophy was that starting in the context of school life, black or white, male or female, everyone should integrate and combine synergistically for the good of all. The school crest is a stylised piano key, because as Aggrey said, “You can play a tune of sorts on the black keys only, and you can play a tune of sorts on the white keys only, but for perfect harmony you must use both the black and the white keys”.**

The school occupies 2 square miles near Accra, and has top class facilities. There are extensive sports fields, a swimming pool, nature reserve, arboretum, demonstration farm, hospital, museum, 2 libraries, music rooms, printing press, 2 chapels, 2 gymnasias and a post office. They are said to provide for African children as complete an education as for European or American children.

One of the houses at Achimota School is named in honour of Stopford, and **there are also 2 British schools named after him, Bishop Stopford’s School** in Enfield, and Bishop Stopford School in Kettering. The school in Enfield was founded by Stopford while he was Bishop of London, to provide an Anglican church school for the children of Enfield. There were several church primary schools in the area but no secondary.

Stopford was appointed Bishop of Fulham in 1955, Bishop of Peterborough in 1956, then Bishop of London in 1961. Following his retirement from that role he went to Jerusalem as Vicar-General from 1974 until early 1976, then was appointed Bishop of Bermuda at Hamilton Cathedral until his death later that year.

The Biblical Round (from the Christian Aid Quiz)

Every answer is a character or place from the bible.

1. The first man
2. Moses & the Israelites escaped from this country
3. He fled from Sodom & Gomorrah. His wife was turned into a pillar of salt.
4. The writer of the shortest of the 4 gospels. He was not one of the original disciples.
5. There are 2 books of the Old Testament which are named after women but only one of the names is also half of a duet that **performed the unforgettable 1968 hit "Cinderella Rockerfella"**.
6. The son of Noah with the shortest name
7. **This is one of Paul's letters and shares its name with half the title of a Shakespeare play about a fictional Roman general**
8. The famed biblical strongman
9. Husband of Bathsheba who was effectively killed by King David. Also the first name of a nasty piece of work in David Copperfield.
10. Take the first letter of each of the answers to questions 1-9 and add the letter H. Rearrange to make the name of an Old Testament character. He would doubtless be self-isolating during the current crisis and consuming large quantities of champagne.

Answers on page 14

**Only when it is dark enough,
can you see the stars.**

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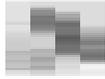
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Quiz Answers

1. Adam
2. Egypt
3. Lot
4. Mark
5. Esther (the duet was Esther & Abi Ofarim)
6. Ham
7. Titus
8. Samson
9. Uriah
10. METHUSELAH (6 litre bottle of champagne = 8 standard bottles)

Terracycle recycling for Organ Fund

We are collecting Tassimo pods which can be put in the crate by the hall. Cat food packs (clean please) and crisp packets can be delivered to Pauline's home as long as you email her first paulinesbritton@hotmail.com



Waste not accepted

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

Find out more at www.terracycle.co.uk



The central store is at St Mellitus Church, 1 Church Road, Hanwell W7. Open between 10:00 and 16:00 on Wednesdays. To maintain social distancing, please come to the front door of the church hall & step back.

The foodbank will answer you, and should then come round to the car park and the double green doors will be opened for you. You will need to bring food items in by yourself. You can always contact the foodbank on 07769 759 756 or email info@ealing.foodbank.org.uk

Please do not drop food in at the cafes and remember that at the moment, all the churches are closed. However, there are donation points at many of the local supermarkets which are listed on the website. <https://ealing.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-food/>

THE CURRENT SHOPPING LIST **

Longlife juice & squash - 1litre, Savoury biscuits/crackers, tinned fruit/vegetables, peanut butter, ketchup & mayo, vegetable curry/chilli—tins, Macaroni cheese/cheese ravioli in tomato sauce - tins, tinned meat - beef, lamb, chicken, ham, baked beans, shower gel/hand wash/bars of soap, shaving foam & razors, nappies sizes 3 & 5

Thank you but the foodbank has plenty of pasta at the moment. But please note that baked beans are back on the list.

**** please remember that our magazine is produced in June for July, so it's always best to check the current list on the Foodbank website.** <https://ealing.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-food/>

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