



June 2020

The Trident

Social distancing edition





The Parish Magazine of



Serving Hanwell and Beyond

Registered Charity no: 1130519

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CHURCH OF ENGLAND

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**



In the Day of Trouble

There is a God who
answers prayer
Who intercedes before the throne
The Son of God who ever cares
Who walks with us, we're not alone.
Though flood and pestilence should
come

He sees the path that we now tread
His rod and staff will comfort us
He knows the days that lie ahead.

We trust in Him who knows all things
And lift our prayers to heaven above
Our confidence is all in Him
Encompassed by unfailing love.

Amen



From our Vicar

Dear (virtual!) Friends,

For the second month running I find myself writing in **'lock-down'**. Like most I am trying to **'make the best of a bad job'** as my mother used to say. I have live-streamed

services in St Thomas', and then been forced to leave St Thomas', and now am back in St Thomas'.

My Monday reflections have considered the impact of this pandemic and the restrictions being placed on the Church, and I found out last week (4th May) **that my dissatisfaction with 'the powers that be' in the Church was shared by 600 co-signatories in a letter to *The Times*.**

In twenty years of ordained ministry I have almost prided myself on not being a paid-up member of the awkward squad. I regard, and take, my vows of obedience to the episcopacy very seriously; I can hardly call myself a catholic Anglican and then spend my time ignoring or rebelling against the wider Church! Yet, the daft, misplaced, perceived solidarity with others not able to go to work (even though my work is in my garden) was so severely at odds with the emails and telephone calls I received that I felt compelled to echo the sentiment that this retreat into our kitchens and sitting rooms was plain wrong.

Amidst the pain of the current pandemic and the understandable restrictions **being placed, to deny clergy access to theirs and their people's church was a painful blow to parishioners who want the prayers of the Church to go on in their church.** It is this symbolic articulation of a deep yearning which makes the rhythm of prayer so, so important.

In Church circles there is much unease about the place of 'vicarious faith'.

The Reformation was supposed to put an end to priests doing stuff on behalf of, and for the eternal benefit of, others. That critique is justified because it led to a passive laity and an abusive clergy, but the conditions were very different. Back then there was no restriction on movement, so the spectacle, and expectation that people would attend churches simply to watch and get a tick for attendance was farcical and deeply unchristian. However, when people could not attend churches, eg Communist Russia, simple things held their faith together and allowed for personal devotions to deepen. For workers in the fields the tolling of the bell by the priest, illegal as it was, reinforced the point that God cannot be silenced, and in acknowledgment they furtively made the sign of the cross. Faith did not die, it simply expressed itself differently and privately, waiting for the day when Jesus would overturn the temporal powers. Hence, when the Berlin wall fell, the people flooded back to their churches and partook of the Eucharist, and the people **included the state leaders.**

.....cont

We live in a less than ideal world in terms of a full worshipping community, but God is not silent. The bell will toll, the Eucharist will be offered, and prayers for you will be, and are, said. The spirit of the Ascension comes to the fore, as we are reminded of the on-going need of **prayer even if we can't see it. The Ascension is that annual reminder that** Christ, in heaven, is pleading for you and me. There is on-going intercession from the very lips of the one who commanded creation, spoke forgiveness and healing and blew his Holy Spirit on the disciples. That is an enormous, mind-blowing idea, but that is the promise. Wherever you find yourself, be it in a bed in Ealing Hospital, alone in a flat **off Boston Road or with your loved ones in your semi's garden on** Elthorne Avenue, Jesus is praying for you.

We live, and it looks like we will have to go on living, with frustrations, and making the best of a bad job, but we are not alone. We are still the body of Christ, albeit fractured, we are still the family of God though separated, and we are still His children though we find ourselves in different nests. So, continue to pray for each other, call each other, and picture each other and do so confident that that is exactly what Christ is doing.

Your friend and priest

Nature out and about

The lockdown this Spring has at least given nature a brief respite. Wild goats, herds of deer, sparrowhawks, stoats, snakes, badgers, spawning toads and songbirds all seem to have enjoyed the peace and quiet.

We, in turn, have enjoyed watching them from our windows. As Mark Thompson, a presenter on *Stargazing Live*, said, **“This lockdown is giving people a chance not just to connect with our families, but also to connect with nature around us. It has given us the chance to recalibrate.”**

Shield me

○ may God shield me, and may God fill,
○ may God watch me, and may God hold;
○ may God bring me where peace is still,

To the King's land, eternity's fold.

Praise to the Father, praise to the Son,
Praise to the Spirit, the Three in One.



Curates Corner: Mother Julian of Norwich

Last month Fr. Robert reflected on one of my great heroes of faith, so I thought I would add my own thoughts.

The school where I used to work had a huge quote on the wall, but I never knew how inspiring its author was. It was the famous quote referred to last month:

'All shall be well, and all manner of things shall be well'

Last month (8th May) was the feast day of an amazing champion of prayer in the church, a woman known as Julian of Norwich. She was born in the fourteenth century in Norwich, Norfolk, which was a bustling centre of commerce.

She pursued a life of solitude and prayer in the middle of this busy urban setting. She asked her bishop to enclose her in a small cell on the side of the church – **the church in question was St Julian's Church; it is thought** that is where her pseudonym came from. She had one window that looked out on to the city and the other one to the church sanctuary. This enabled her to offer prayer and wisdom to those in her city, and to engage with the worship in the church building. We can learn from Julian in the way we pray and in our intercessions. Let us do so with one window on to our community and one window on to the Church.

'Julian' fell seriously ill at the age of 30, and whilst lying on her bed she had a series of visions of Jesus on the cross. Prior to this she had been praying for a revelation of Jesus. These experiences so affected her that she wrote about them in a book. She chose to write the book anonymously, she never signed her manuscript, however this is the earliest manuscript written by a woman in the English language. SHE IS AMAZING.

Her book is called, 'Revelation of Divine Love' and still inspires people today. This is my current reading. The words may be from the medieval period but are an extraordinarily eye opening read on this anonymous woman. Because of her devotion to Christ, her revolutionary writing has impacted people down the ages.

**The good Lord didn't create
anything without a purpose.
Mosquitoes come close, though.**



Parish News

Despite the obvious downsides to the current pandemic, I thought you may want to know the impact of our live-stream services.

Since, 18th March to 4th May these are the averages:

Morning Prayer has reached 190 people and been viewed by 54 per day,

Middy Mass has reached 284 people and been viewed by 84 per day,

Night Prayer has reached 129 people and been viewed by 66 per day, and

Sunday Mass has reached 590 people and been viewed by 249 per day.

These are crude statistics from Facebook, and so health-warnings are given, **but there is much to rejoice in. It's not just St Thomas' people who are** watching, and I know this from the numerous emails and messages I am receiving in gratitude, and for prayers. People from Turkey to Canada have been in touch, as well as India and the Philippines.

Please do continue to join us in prayer and pray for the world, which has got a little smaller for us since we started filming.

For those unable to access the internet the Church of England is offering an excellent and free telephone service which has hymns, reflections and prayers on it. Here are the details:



A free phone line of hymns,
reflections and prayers



From the Editors

So here we are editing our second edition of the Trident **remotely. Unfortunately, we suspect that this won't be the last.**

If you know of anyone who would like to read this magazine, please let Sue (email address on the back) know. Ideally we can email it to you, but we can also print a few copies if that would be easier. It will also be on the church website. Stay safe and well.

July & Sue

Copy Dates!

Copy date for July is on Sunday June 14th

Copy date for August is on Sunday July 12th.

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.



News from our Girlguiding groups

Rainbows, Brownies and Guides have all met together virtually using Zoom. The girls have enjoyed seeing their friends. They have played games together and the Rainbows even did some cooking together!

The Brownies and Guides have been sent regular challenges to have a go at if they wish. These have included making board games, learning about light bulbs and tools and other creative tasks. We have tried to link these activities to challenges they would have been doing at our normal meetings and it has enabled many of the girls to complete Theme Awards etc. Some girls from all 3 groups have been looking at their Badge Books and completing the challenges needed to earn badges. These we are looking forward to presenting when we get back to real meetings.

If God sends you down a stony path,
may he give you strong shoes.



Toilet twinning

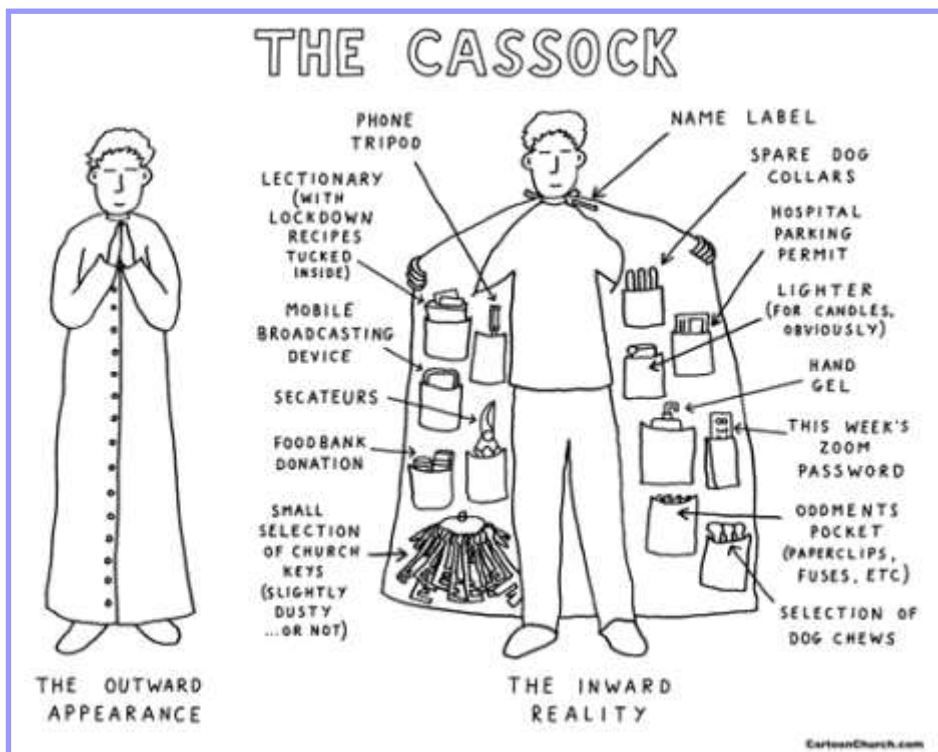
In November Bev and Pauline talked to the congregation about toilet twinning, a charity who provide toilets and teach good hygiene in many

countries around the world.

As a result of the Bingo we had at the Christmas fair and donations given at the Christingle service we were able to raise £220 and with a donation from the mission committee we have managed to sponsor 5 toilets.

We have a picture of each toilet and details of the country it is in.

These will be displayed on the doors of the toilets in St Thomas church hall. We all look forward to seeing our twins when we finally get back in the church hall.





The Ealing Foodbank is busier than ever at the moment and is very grateful for all donations.

...**At the moment, the foodbank will only be able to** receive donations at the central store in Hanwell on Wednesdays between 10:00 and 16:00.

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 **

Vegetable curry/chilli - tins,
Macaroni cheese/cheese ravioli in tomato sauce - tins,
Fray Bentos tinned pies - cheese & onion/vegetable Balti,
Tinned meat - beef, lamb, chicken, ham,
Rice pudding & custard (ready made),
Peanut butter,
Instant coffee,
Shower gel/hand wash/bars of soap,
Size 6 nappies.

Thank you but the foodbank has plenty of pasta & pulses at the moment.

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

'When Just The Tide Went Out'

Last night as I lay sleeping
When dreams came fast to me
I dreamt I saw JERUSALEM
Beside a tideless sea

And one dream I'll remember

As the stars began to fall
Was Banksy painting Alun Wyn
On my neighbour's garage wall

And dreams like that sustain me
Till these darkest times have past
And chase away the shadows
No caring night should cast

But times like this can shine a light
As hardship often can

To see the best in people
And the good there is in man

And I remember Swansea with
nobody about
When the shops were closed like
Sunday

And just the tide went out

And I remember Mumbles with the
harbour in its keep

And the little boats at anchor that
fish the waters deep

And I heard the seabirds calling
As the gulls all wheeled about
But all the town was sleeping now
And just the tide went out

And when these days are over
And memories remain
When children painted Rainbows
And the sun shone through the rain

And the thought of all the nurses
who stretched all the pain

And I hope the carers never see a
time like this again
And I prayed last week for Boris
Who knocked on Heavens door
And I thought of voting Tory, which
I've never done before

And though the sun is shining now
I've no immediate plans
So I'll write a book on 'Staying In'
and 'Ways To Wash Your Hands'

And now more days of lockdown
Three weeks of staying in
And I'm running out of vodka
So I've started on the gin

And my neighbours are complaining
I've heard them scream and shout
At the sound the bins are making
When I take the empties out

And when all this is over
And our fragile world survives
I hope that God is caring now
For the ones who gave their lives

And I'll pray we'll find an answer
For my faith is cast in doubt
And God draws back the heavens
And all the stars come out

And I'll remember mornings with
nobody about
When the shops were closed like
Sunday
And just the tide went out.

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permission of Max Boyce MBE

June 1940 – a month to remember

June 1940 – 80 years ago – was a dramatic month in the Second World War, and one which saw two of the most memorable speeches in English.

As the evacuation of Allied Forces from Dunkirk was completed, recently appointed Prime Minister Winston Churchill told the House of Commons on 4th June: **“We shall fight on the beaches, we shall fight on the landing grounds, we shall fight in the fields and in the streets, we shall fight in the hills; we shall never surrender.”**

Surprisingly he did not broadcast it to the nation: it was not recorded until 1949, **“for posterity.”** When he spoke, the French had not surrendered, and the idea that **“in God’s good time”** the USA might conceivably have to ride to the aid of a ‘subjugated’ England actually depressed as many people as it invigorated.

Two weeks later, on the 18th June, with the battle in France lost, Churchill did address the country directly with a rallying call in what must indeed have seemed a very dark hour. **“The Battle of Britain,”** he said, **“is about to begin. Upon this battle depends the survival of Christian civilisation.”** He concluded by saying that if Britain were to last a thousand years, people would still say, **“This was their finest hour.”**

June Anniversaries.

It was.....

250 years ago, on 11th June 1770 that English explorer Captain James Cook discovered the Great Barrier Reef off Australia when his ship ran aground on it and was severely damaged.

60 years ago, on 16th June 1960 that Alfred Hitchcock’s suspense film *Psycho* was released.

50 years ago, on 29th June 1970 that following the Vietnam War, US troops were withdrawn from Cambodia.

30 years ago, on 1 June 1990 that US President George Bush and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev signed an agreement to end the production of chemical weapons and to destroy existing stocks.

Also 30 years ago, on 22nd June 1990 that Checkpoint Charlie in Berlin was dismantled. It remained an official crossing point between East and West Germany until re-unification in October. The guard house is now on display in a museum.

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Nicholas Robinson (07867 785 394)

“The key to wisdom is this – constant and frequent questioning, for by doubting we are led to question, and by questioning we arrive at the truth.”

Peter Abelard

No plastic please, we're the National Trust

The National Trust is going to get rid of its plastic membership cards. Replacing the five million membership cards with a paper alternative will save 12.5 tons of plastic each year.

The new cards will be made from a strong and durable paper, with a water-based coating. The cards will be recyclable and compostable.

The National Trust also has plans to almost completely remove single-use plastics from its sites by 2022. It has already replaced all disposable food packaging with compostable products. Next, it wants to remove plastic drinks bottles and eliminate plastic packaging from its shops.

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