

50 Pence

May 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 (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

50 years ago, at the start of the second Vatican Council, the then Pope John XXIII prayed for a 'new Pentecost' to sweep through the Church. The work that followed revolutionised

the Roman Catholic Church, and its effects have been hotly debated ever since. These debates have revolved around subtle points of theology and philosophy, and have impacted on the wider ecumenical scene.

The various debates have polarised opinions with two one-time theological bedfellows, Hans Kung and Joseph Ratzinger (later Pope Benedict XVI) now bitter 'theological enemies'. This strained relationship even manifested itself in an 'Apple Fool' doing the rounds this year, saying that Pope Francis had made Hans Kung a Cardinal; the social media went into ecclesiastical meltdown!

**One wonders then if this was the 'new Pentecost' John XXIII hoped for? Yet in the midst of this academic angst there is a truth revealed; that 'the Spirit blows where it wills'.**

The month of May invariably celebrates the birthday of the Church, as it celebrates the Feast of Pentecost. On this day we recall the Holy Spirit descending on those disciples accompanied by the sound of a mighty wind and the speaking of tongues. Nothing could be further from the image of controlled debate, presented papers, and the ruminations of Church Leaders on the future of the Church. Hence, what some have chosen to conclude is that the 'true' Church should hold no truck with such formal structures. Yet in adopting that position they fall into the same trap of not allowing the Spirit to blow where it wills, by suggesting that the Holy Spirit cannot operate within structures and liturgies.

The truth is that most of us have a preference for one style over the other, and that is usually shown in the type of church we attend. Thus, the challenge that always confronts us is how do we ensure the Spirit blows where it wills? Also, how do we cope with the pain of that Pentecost experience, which sometimes takes us into painful places?

Thankfully, St Paul had to negotiate these dilemmas in Corinth two thousand years ago. There was a church which had more 'spiritual wind' than it could cope with, but that wind soon turned into a load of hot air. St Paul, in chapter 13, famously draws them back to the true heart of Pentecost and thus the Holy Spirit and love. The eastern Church still refer to the Holy Spirit as the 'divine love', and it is that wind of love which should blow freely through all that we do.

It is for love and because of love that we exist. Ours is not a building or community which stands merely to impress, ours is a church which stands for love come down.

**So this May, let us courageously echo John XXIII's hope, but do so singing and praying the words of Bianco da Siena:**

*Come down, O love divine,  
seek thou this soul of mine,  
and visit it with thine own ardour glowing;  
O Comforter, draw near,  
within my heart appear,  
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.*

Your friend and priest  
Fr. Robert

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## Parish News

**The May's Parish News can have a feel of 'after the Lord Mayor's show'.**

This rightful dominance of Lent, Holy Week and Easter not only refocuses us on the cross and resurrection, but renews us for what is to come. All this is done by the most beautiful and powerful liturgy the Church has to offer.

So it is only right to begin with a big thank you to all who made this season so special. Paradoxically there is a huge, huge, amount of work needed in order to provide the space, quiet and reflectiveness of the season. I am very aware of all who have ensured that the Lent, Holy Week and Easter **devotions have 'said' what they need to say.**

A couple of special things happened this year compared to last year. Firstly, we had Lent Study home groups. The themes of the Groups revolved **around items and activities within St Thomas' and how they inform our pilgrimage and devotions.** All those who attended loved the experience, and like Oliver Twist are asking for more. As well as the content, what seems to have been most widely appreciated was the chance to share and get to know people. This aspect of fellowship is incredibly important and I am thrilled to hear how this developed. I can honestly say we will not wait until Lent next year before they happen again. Thank you to Colin Lomas, Sue and Roger Grange, and Sarah Chapman for hosting the study groups! Also, this year the demands of school holidays meant that Passion Sunday (Lent 5) rather than Palm Sunday became the day for our Lenten Choral devotion. **St Paul once said that 'All things work for the good of those in Christ Jesus', and Ian Fletcher on BBC2's W1A, paraphrases it, 'well that's all**

**good then'. Both, I think, were onto something as it gave this day a very special feel.** This Sunday importantly marks the point when the readings and devotions of the Church move from Lenten acts of penance to the looming **centrality of Christ's cross and passion. This aspect is sometimes lost** between the joy of Mothering Sunday and the powerful uniqueness of Palm Sunday. This year however, thanks to Michael and his gathered choral ensemble, Passion Sunday returned to the calendar. Again, thanks go to all who made that possible and a poignant event.

**April also saw our APCM (the church's AGM), but at the time of writing** this has not happened yet. What has happened, of course, is that some PCC and Deanery Synod members are coming to the end of their time in office and are standing down. We all owe them a big thank you for the time they have given to the running of this parish. Also, thanks should be extended to the various officers of the PCC for their immensely hard and valuable work. **Those who are joining the PCC for the first time will, I'm sure, find them a great bunch to work with as we see the Mission Action Plan come into fruition.**

Finally, just a reminder that the May Fair is happening on 10<sup>th</sup> May 2-4pm. If you can help at all please speak to Sophie Schuil-Brewer.

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## Prayer for the month of May

Oh Lord our God, who sent your Holy Spirit to be with your church for ever: Renew the same spirit within us, that our hearts may be cleansed from evil things, and the fruits of love and goodness may be in our lives; to the glory of our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Amen

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## From the Editors

The next event in our calendar is the Spring Fair on May 10th. **Sophie is organizing this and I'm sure she would be glad of your support.**

*Jul + Sue*

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

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# St Thomas' May Fair

Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2014, 2-4pm

**St Thomas' Church Hall**

Boston Road, W7 2AD

In support of The Bishop of London's Mission Fund  
And the Angola London Mozambique Association

## Helping Children to be Children

Games and fun for all the family, lots of interesting stalls, toys, gifts, Caribbean food and cream teas treasure hunt and Mr Cosmo's magic show and workshop and

**St Thomas' Big Bake Off**

**and St Thomas' Little Bake Off**

(Adults and children can enter baked goods on the day by 1.45pm which will be sold off in pieces following judging)

(For more details:

[sophie.s-b@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:sophie.s-b@hotmail.co.uk))



# The Vicar's APCM Report

On 8<sup>th</sup> July 1933 the Earl of Jersey laid the foundation stone to this wonderful building we call our spiritual home. This solemn ritual 80 years ago was the tangible action of a Church looking to the future. St Thomas' had been a missionary community of faithful priests and people determined to ensure that the love of God would be made manifest for future generations, so that day marked the culmination of their efforts.

We are the inheritors of that vision and hope, which was more than bricks and mortar, it was a way of being Church. The missionary adventures of those early worshippers, in partnership with a Diocese who made funds available, reminds us that as the body of Christ we are a living organism who gather to be fed and to feed others. It is this missionary challenge which has confronted us this year as we look at how we can share the good news of the gospel in a way that best reflects who we are.

Walt Disney, better known for the Lion King than Lion of Judah, said one of the most profoundly missionary things ever,

***'Do what you do so well that they will want to see it again and bring their friends.'***

That approach has to be the one for us. There is no point doing what others do well (they may as well go there). We have a very rich life and many gifts which we should look to share, and then people will come and bring others.

It was this logic that led to the PCC having an Away Day at the Convent in Chiswick. There we looked at what we can do well, what we struggled with and how can we make the most of the positives, and confront the challenges. The results of this process led to our Mission Action Plan, and Vision Statement

Our Mission Action Plan highlighted 6 areas we wished to concentrate on:

Form a visitor Welcome Team.

Develop the connections between church and the Tots group.

Have a young person's consultation.

Form an Advertising/Communication Committee.

Establish a pastoral Care and visiting team.

Church Hall development group.

How these are developing will be reviewed at our next PCC Away Day in September 2014. However, before then there are opportunities to serve in

any of those areas. As our Vision statement makes clear we want to **recognize and use the gifts within St Thomas' so please do not be too shy or modest.**

The breadth of gifts within our church means that some on-going things are still core activities, but not listed in the six areas. The hope is that the six areas will help develop and embed the wonderful work which exists already. An obvious case is the rich musical tradition of the parish which should be celebrated, developed and publicized. The worship of St **Thomas' is something we 'do well' and ought to proudly invite others to.** This is made possible because of the hard work of very many people.

Perhaps obviously, the choir and liturgy are a locus of much that is good. **Hence, it was with mixed feelings that we said a very, very fond 'Thank you and farewell' to Bev as our Director of Music. Bev has served not only St Thomas', but the wider Church for decades, and so it was a joy to** receive a letter of thanks from the Bishop of London, read and presented by the Archdeacon. Bev continues to support the work of the choir and continues to express his enthusiasm for the future. The obvious joy he **expresses to me in the presence of Junior Choristers at St Thomas' is** extremely moving. Indeed the growth of this area has become one of the great themes of the year. A special thank you must go to Michael, and all those who help with the Juniors; keep the prayers and pizzas coming!

Yet to restrict the appreciation to the choir and music is to ignore the amazing work that goes on in the background from Cleaners to Florists, from Servers to Sidesmen, from Intercessors to Readers - all have ensured **that the beauty of holiness is reflected in St Thomas'; Thank you all!**

However, although there is much to celebrate there are constant challenges. The parish finances are a perennial issue. We are able to break even by virtue of the rent from the aerial. This means we are able to thank God (and mobile phone users!) for that blessing, but have to ask ourselves important questions about giving. We are supported by the wider Diocese and this should not remain the case forever as, compared to our brothers and sisters in other communities in the Diocese, we do face the same socio-economic challenges. The solution to this is twofold. Firstly, regular **sacrificial giving, and secondly, more people at St Thomas'. Both factors** are whole-Church factors so we, again, need to ensure our Mission Action **Plan is working for us as Christ's body in this part of Hanwell. At this stage** I ought to, and very happily do, say a huge thank you to Sheila our

Treasurer, and Davina our Stewardship Secretary (who is hanging up her Ledger after many, many years!) for all their work and optimizing of our funds.

I do want us to be aware that there is much to be encouraged by. There are lots of exciting things which happen, and we have lots of connections in the community. One big encouragement was the re-appearance of the Panto at the beginning of this year. This is, I have discovered, an enormous part of the church and community. A lot of work was done, by an incredibly talented bunch of people, and *what* a show it was! Happy players, happy panto-goers,... **and a happy Treasurer.**

The penultimate thing I would like to do is say a massive thank you to the officers and members of the PCC. We have a phenomenally good PCC who are committed to growing the life of this great church. The Mission Action Plan was very much *our* plan, and that will make such a difference as we face the mission of the Church together. Sadly, as ever, some members coming to the end of their period are standing down. I feel a very genuine sense of loss because of the varied gifts and personalities they have brought to the vision and running of this parish, so an enormous thank you goes to them.

Finally, on a very personal level, thank you so much for your support, love and friendship towards Sarah, Isobel, Alexander and myself.

**Here's to our 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!**

Your friend and priest  
Fr. Robert

## Have a Laugh

**I changed my iPod name to Titanic. It's synching now**

Jokes about German sausages are the wurst.

How does Moses make his tea? Hebrews it.

I stayed up all night to see where the sun went. Then it dawned on me.

**This girl said she recognised me from the vegetarian club, but I'd never met herbivore.**

# At Kew

*Go down to Kew in lilac-time, in lilac-time, in lilac-time;*

*Go down to Kew in lilac-time (it isn't far from London!)*

**And you shall wander hand in hand with love in summer's wonderland;**

*Go down to Kew in lilac-time (it isn't far from London!)*

The cherry-trees are seas of bloom and soft perfume and sweet perfume,  
The cherry-trees are seas of bloom (and oh, so near to London!)

**And there they say, when dawn is high and all the world's a blaze of sky  
The cuckoo, though he's very shy, will sing a song for London.**

**The nightingale is rather rare, and yet they say you'll hear him there,**

At Kew, at Kew, in lilac-time (and oh, so near to London!)

The linnets and the throstle, too, and after dark the long halloo

And golden-eyed *tu-whit, tu-whoo*, of owls that ogle London.

**For Noah hardly knew a bird of any kind that isn't heard**

At Kew, at Kew, in lilac-time (and oh, so near to London!)

And when the rose begins to pout and all the chestnut spires are out

**You'll hear the rest without a doubt, all chorusing for London:-**

*Come down to Kew in lilac-time, in lilac-time, in lilac-time;*

*Come down to Kew in lilac-time (it isn't far from London!)*

**And you shall wander hand in hand with love in summer's wonderland;**

*Come down to Kew in lilac-time (it isn't far from London!)*

Alfred Noyes

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.

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[www.stephenbrooksphotography.com](http://www.stephenbrooksphotography.com)

## St Thomas's 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Prayer Book - Reminder

Back at the start of the year I wrote about a book of 80 prayers put forward by those connected to St Thomas's that we are collating to celebrate our 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Throughout our 80 years we have been praying; praying for our world, for the Church, for those who govern us, for those in our community, for those we have lost, for who are lost in illness or loneliness and for ourselves.

We all have those prayers that speak to us, that contain the words that seem to encapsulate perfectly what it is we wish to say to our Lord. These may be our own words or they may be those written by those who came before us. They may be well known and oft quoted or they may be obscure.

If you would like to contribute a prayer (either written by you or someone else) please pass it to me, Sophie Schuil-Brewer, either on paper or electronically by sending it to [sophie.s-b@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:sophie.s-b@hotmail.co.uk). When you pass me your prayer please also write a short piece detailing why the prayer is special to you.

I am extending the date for prayers to 31<sup>st</sup> May 2014. If you are unsure about what prayer you would like to donate please do speak to me (my number is 07771 514691).

We will then be collating the 80 prayers and the reasons they are special to the individuals into a little booklet which will be sold as part of our 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations.

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## News from the Guides

On a beautiful weekend in March the Guides set off for a weekend at the PGL Activity Centre near Guildford. This was an event open to all Brownies and Guides in the county. It was to celebrate the Centenary of Brownies. We stayed in chalet rooms that each held 6 girls. The meals were all very good. It was a weekend full of fun and exciting activities. We played Aeroball and had a session on problem solving. We went abseiling and then climbed high up in the trees for the zip wire ride. Many girls conquered their fear of heights on the giant swing and the trapeze. The trapeze was the most difficult climb. We had to climb to the top of a telegraph pole and then jump off to catch a trapeze swing or to hold onto a giant ball. One of the highlights of the weekend was when Maddie Thomson made her Guide Promise on top of the pole about 10 metres up! Something she will remember for ever. On the Saturday evening there was a long night hike around the Devils Punchbowl. Everyone had a really good and challenging weekend.



## Recycling for the Church Organ

This venture has really taken off and we have now reached a total of £300. Thank you to everyone who is putting their items in the box in church and on the hall landing.

In answer to some questions:

It can be any make of sweet biscuits wrapper not just McVities

The yoghurt pots and drinks must be the Actimel /Shape /Danone brand

I am especially short of Baby wipe wrappers

They have increased the minimum amount I need to send off . If anyone has contact with a nursery or baby minder, please can you ask them to save their packets, and put them in the collection box .

The church is open during daylight hours and the box is in the front porch. The hall is open most evenings and the box is just inside the door, on the stairs



Thanks, Pauline



## St Mary's Players present

"A Rise in the Market" by Edward Taylor  
Broad comedy, satire and innueundo 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

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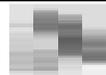
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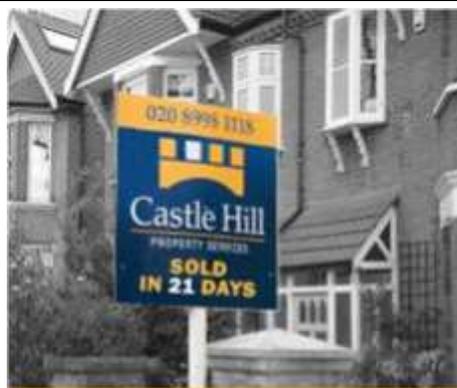
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We can only accept smaller items that can be collected in a car, not furniture. No jumble, clothing or broken items please. For local collection phone David Clarke on **07952 011543** to arrange a timed evening or weekend visit. E-mail David at [dclarke@nds.com](mailto:dclarke@nds.com).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

## Diary Dates



### APRIL

27th Sun

2nd Sunday of Easter  
APCM 11.30am

**St Thomas's Fun Run 2pm**

### MAY

4th Sun

3rd Sunday of Easter  
Spring Fair.

10th Sat

11th Sun

4th Sunday of Easter

18th Sun

5th Sunday of Easter

20th Tues

PCC 8pm

25th Sun

6th Sunday of Easter

29th Thurs

Ascension Day

### JUNE

1st Sun

Sunday after Ascension Day

8th Sun

Pentecost

15th Sun

Trinity Sunday

## Baby/Toddler Group

**St Thomas' Hall**

from

10.30am until

11.45am.

All are welcome.

Free.



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!

May

2nd - tea, coffee and cakes  
9th - tea, coffee and cakes  
16th - tea, coffee and cakes  
23rd - tea, coffee and cakes  
30th - tea, coffee and cakes

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

## 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



<u>VICAR</u>	REV. ROBERT CHAPMAN		
	ST.THOMAS'S VICARAGE 182 BOSTON ROAD W7 2AD		3302 1040
		<a href="mailto:fatherrobert@thomashanwell.org.uk">fatherrobert@thomashanwell.org.uk</a>	
<u>CHURCHWARDENS</u>	DAVID JEWELL	195 BOSTON ROAD W7 2AA	8567 2940
	GILL SHAW	<a href="mailto:gillshaw36@aol.com">gillshaw36@aol.com</a>	8567 0999
<u>PARISH OFFICE</u>		<a href="mailto:st.thomas.office@btinternet.com">st.thomas.office@btinternet.com</a>	
<u>PCC SECRETARY</u>			
<u>TREASURER</u>	SHEILA BURT	<a href="mailto:sheilamburt@talktalk.net">sheilamburt@talktalk.net</a>	8579 3950
<u>STEWARDSHIP SEC.</u>	DAVINA BROOKS		8840 1245
<u>ELECTORAL ROLL</u>	SIAN BOWLES-BEVAN	<a href="mailto:sianbb@sky.com">sianbb@sky.com</a>	8579 6920
<u>SENIOR SERVER</u>	DAVID JEWELL		8567 2940
<u>SENIOR SIDESMAN</u>	PAULINE BRITTON	<a href="mailto:pauline.britton@tiscali.co.uk">pauline.britton@tiscali.co.uk</a>	8578 2786
<u>SACRISTAN</u>	ANDREW LUMSDEN	<a href="mailto:andrew.n.lumsden@btinternet.com">andrew.n.lumsden@btinternet.com</a>	8567 9991
<u>CHOIR</u>			
<u>MISSION COMMITTEE</u>	SARAH HOLROYD	c/o THE VICARAGE	
<u>HALL BOOKINGS</u>	GILL SHAW		8567 0999
<u>SUNDAY SCHOOL</u>	SUE GRANGE	<a href="mailto:sue@grangefamily.co.uk">sue@grangefamily.co.uk</a>	07970 426924
<u>RAINBOWS</u>	AMY NEWLANDS	<a href="mailto:hanwellrainbows@yahoo.com">hanwellrainbows@yahoo.com</a>	07713 584130
<u>BROWNIES &amp; GUIDES</u>	BEV TREMAYNE	<a href="mailto:b.tremayne@sky.com">b.tremayne@sky.com</a>	8897 7045
<u>GROUP SCOUT LEADER</u>	MIKE HARRIS	<a href="mailto:arris107@virginmedia.com">arris107@virginmedia.com</a>	8567 1177
<u>CUBS</u>	CHRISTIAN RIESNER	<a href="mailto:christianriesner@btinternet.com">christianriesner@btinternet.com</a>	
<u>SCOUTS</u>	DOUG ROWE	<a href="mailto:dougrowe@talktalk.net">dougrowe@talktalk.net</a>	
<u>BEAVERS</u>	GILL SHAW	<a href="mailto:gillshaw36@aol.com">gillshaw36@aol.com</a>	8567 0999
<u>SAFEGUARDING OFFICER</u>			
	CHARLOTTE CAROTENUTO	<a href="mailto:ccaroten@fastmail.fm">ccaroten@fastmail.fm</a>	8567 7128
<u>CHILDRENS CHAMPION</u>			
	LEANDA HOMER	<a href="mailto:leandahomer66@hotmail.com">leandahomer66@hotmail.com</a>	07801 277086
<u>TRIDENT EDITORS</u>	JILL ASHCROFT	24 ERLESMERE GARDENS W13 9TY	
		<a href="mailto:jill.ashcroft@erlesmere.com">jill.ashcroft@erlesmere.com</a>	
	SUE CUNNINGHAM	26 KENT AVENUE W13 8BH	07850 889948
		<a href="mailto:suez.cunningham@btopenworld.com">suez.cunningham@btopenworld.com</a>	