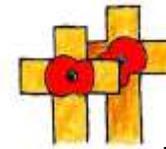


50 Pence



November 2014

The Trident



The Parish Magazine of


ST THOMAS THE APOSTLE
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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

FOR MORE INFORMATION LOG ONTO OUR WEBSITE:
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PLEASE E-MAIL US AT st.thomas.office@btinternet.com



From our Vicar

Dear Friends

Remembrance Day this November marks 100 years since the start of World War 1. There are now no survivors from that war alive so the recollections and stories are now deposited with families, friends, historians and institutions. It is their (our) responsibility to ensure that those stories continue to be told.

The 'war to end all wars' did not live up to that axiom, but the world was changed forever as a result of that war. Those of us glued to our sets on a Sunday evening watching Carson and Lord Grantham negotiating the 'village memorial' are reminded that times had indeed changed.

Hence, those events of 100 years ago recalled at St Thomas' this

Remembrance Sunday will place us within, and add our voices to thousands of others that reflect on change brought about by pain.

This aspect is one that the Church has always observed. Our central act of **worship is the Eucharist, which recalls Christ's suffering and death, but does so knowing that that event is more than a moment in time. Rather it is an event which, through recalling, is made present here and now. The gospels refer to this 'doing in remembrance' as anamnesis (the opposite of amnesia), and understood this to mean that the transforming things of this event being recalled are made present now. Therefore, the salvation remembered on that green hill faraway is as relevant and real for us now as it was for those who witnessed first hand the events of Calvary.**

This essential aspect prevents the temptation to minimize the cost and sentimentalize the sacrifice. Therefore, what is true of the remembrance of the Eucharist is also true for the centennial act of remembrance around the 11th of the 11th. This is the challenge for us as we continue to see wars and hear rumours of further wars: how does our remembrance transform us? Those who gave their lives did so for all sorts of reasons, but I suspect they would be one in the desire to ensure that the result of their actions was that things would be different. Any other outcome would seem pointless. As we remember those who fell at our Parish Parade Eucharist let us also remember that death is not always the end, but does open the possibility of transformation. May our prayers be added to those who have gone before so that sacrifice, in whatever form, may lead to healing and new life.

Your friend and priest

Fr. Robert



Parish News

Forgive me for beginning this month's Parish News on a personal level. On 16th October I had my PhD **viva (oral exam) to 'defend' my doctoral thesis.** I passed (with minor corrections ie typos) so I wanted

to extend a big thank you to all the parishioners who have been so supportive and expressed interest in it.

October saw other significant events. We had our annual Caribbean Night; **can I send a big thank you to David Noel (Rose's son) for all his work.**

Also in October the PCC had its Away Day where we reviewed our parish Mission Action Plan in light of the Church of England Missional research called **'From Anecdote to Evidence'.** **This was a really productive day and an excellent opportunity for the PCC to spend time away together.** We are incredibly blessed with a wonderful group of people who are concerned **about serving Hanwell and the wider church. Please check out the 'photo board' at the back church to see the PCC members. Do chat to them about their work.**

In November we will be celebrating Remembrance Sunday with our uniformed organizations, and it will have special significance this year as we will be marking 100 years since the start of the first world war.

At the end of November we have our Christmas Fair. Please contact Sophie Schuil-Brewer who is organizing the event if you can help in any way. We **need people to do all sorts of jobs, big 'n' small from setting up to stall running, from raffle donations to drink making.**

As we approach Advent and Christmas please look out for the devotions during these seasons.



Prayer for the month of November

O almighty God, who can bring good out of evil and make even the wrath of man to turn to your praise: Teach us to live together in charity and peace; and grant, we beseech you, that the nations

of the world may henceforth be united in a firmer fellowship for the promotion of your glory and the good of all mankind; through Jesus Christ our Lord

Amen



From the Editors

This is the time of year when your editors go into over-drive preparing our special Advent and Christmas magazine. The quiz **is being devised and the special services finalized.** If you'd like us to include anything in this magazine, please let us know as soon as possible. Remember it is circulated to 3500 houses!

BUT - PLEASE NOTE THE EARLY COPY DATE!

The magazine will be collated on that date as well

July 2014

Copy date for the December Trident will be Sunday November 2nd

Copy date for the January Trident will be Sunday December 14th

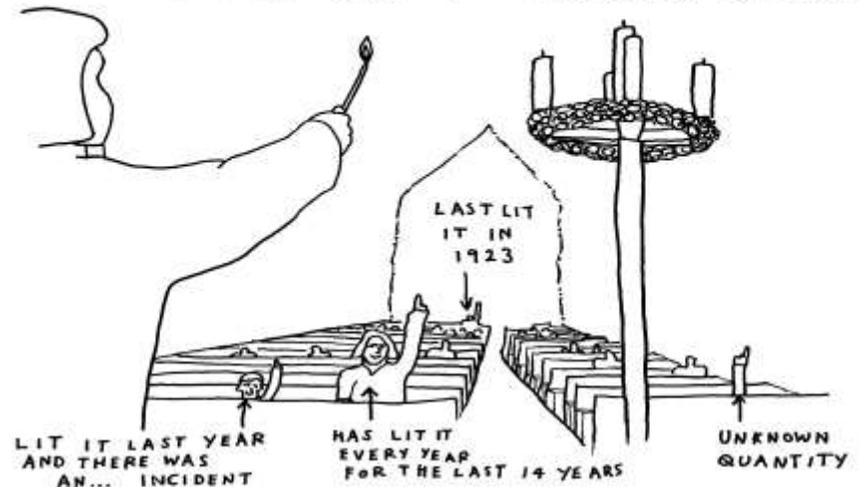
Copy date for the February Trident will be Sunday January 11th

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.

The photograph of Father Robert on page 3 is reproduced with kind permission of Stephen Brooks. www.stephenbrooksphotography.com

ADVENT

DURING THE SUNDAYS IN ADVENT THE VICAR MUST CHOOSE SOMEONE TO LIGHT THE ADVENT CANDLE. IT IS ONE OF THE YEAR'S MOST DIFFICULT DECISIONS





St Thomas's Quiz Night

This will be held on Saturday November 15th

7.30pm for a 7.45pm start

Tables of 6 or 8

£10 adult £7 children under 14)

Fish and Chip supper
BYO drinks and glasses.

To book your table, please contact Sue
(07850 889948 / sue.cunningham@mac.com)
Or see Sue or Sarah after church on Sunday



Wanted!

An old bike (the older the better) for one of our young people to cycle to and from the railway station. If you have one that you could part with, please contact me (Sue - contact details on the back of this magazine.)



A reminder below of foods that are welcomed at **Ealing's Foodbank**. There are collection boxes in the entrances to the church.

Please also note that the foodbank cannot accept fresh, refrigerated or frozen foods.

Sugar - (500g packet)
Soup
Pasta sauces
Cereals
Jam
Rice
Tinned sponge pudding
Toothpaste

Bag for Life
Powdered milk
Tinned rice pudding
Instant mashed potato
Tinned meat - (eg stews, casseroles etc)
Cartons of long-life fruit juice
Tinned fruit.



Christmas Fair

29th November 2-4pm

St Thomas' Church Hall

Games, toys, gifts
and refreshments

Fun for all the family



Merry Christmas

Caroline Baxter recalls....

I was very interested to read the memories of Valerie Gross in a recent copy of The Trident. This awoke in me memories of the muffin man, with Mrs Parker taking care of queue control. I recall our next door neighbour going to join the queue very early morning and being relieved by my sister **or myself when we had had our breakfast. I also remember a small baker's** on the corner of Oaklands Road. They delivered bread and cakes using a small pony and cart. Warm crusty rolls were delivered to our home every Tuesday before it was time to go to school. The driver would dismount and disappear into the darkness of the cart with a large flat-bottomed basket which he would fill with bread and deliver door to door on our short road. Then off he would go to the next street until his round was **completed. I don't think his money was ever stolen.**

Milk was delivered to our doorstep from Watson's Dairy, next door to us.

All the men working there were very chatty. I spent many happy hours sitting on a churn watching the bottle-filling machine, until I got a cold bottom and went home for a drink of the white stuff and a biscuit. If you went to the dairy shop on a hot day, you could lean against the **marble-topped counter to cool off, although you'd get a steely look from the** shopkeeper if you were misbehaving.

I remember going to St Thomas's during the war and being advised to lay face down if we heard the air-raid warnings, with heart thudding if you heard a doodlebug coming. We had to stay put until the all-clear was sounded.

Sunday School started at 2.30pm in the old Tin Church in those days, and Brenda Watson and I used to walk there hand in hand. If we were early we would go into Elthorne Park and play in the dried-out pond, except the **pond wasn't completely dry, but full of squelchy mud! I'm sure we arrived at church much muddier than when we'd left home. We'd receive a** scolding from our mothers, who had to scrape together coupons etc to keep us neat and tidy. Even bits of ribbon were looked after carefully. Often they would alter their own clothes to make smaller versions for the children.

Around 1947 my father flew to Singapore to join a glass business being set up by an Australian. My mother, sister and I followed in 1951. I was 13 by

then, and we travelled for 4 weeks on a cruise liner. During the journey I had my first taste of garlic! We returned on a passenger cargo boat with only 12 passengers; my parents had a suite, with a sitting room as well as a sleeping cabin and a bathroom.

I returned to England and was confirmed in 1952 by Rev Osborne. He asked me to take on some Sunday School teaching, starting with a class of eight 5 to 6 year olds in the kindergarten under the care of Kathleen Murphy. Preparation for the class took place on Thursday evenings at **Kathleen's house on Uxbridge Road. To get there I used to walk through** Kensington and Westminster cemetery, which was a bit spooky on dark winter evenings. I took over the baby class when Betty Humphreys left to get married, and this was my first encounter with Sara Spillett (nee Duce) in her red coat, white bonnet and rosy cheeks. We used to meet in the old Tin Church in a rather dark room behind the stage. At one point the main service was moved to 9.30am, but it was soon changed back as the elderly and frail found it difficult to get there on time. I also found it difficult to go to the 8am service, rush back home for a quick snack and get back for 9.30. Sometimes I ended up running the mile between our home in West Ealing and the church, so the extra 30 minutes were very useful.

I had started work by then, and soon took driving lessons. I purchased a little A30 known as ADA who needed a bit of encouraging up hills. She was a great boon and made going to and fro to various church meetings a lot easier. I belonged to several church groups and committees and was on the PCC for 15 years. Peter Hawkins and his mother came to the vicarage, followed by Cyril Sharp and Elizabeth. The new hall was eventually completed which gave more space. Keith Bennett played the piano at our opening and closing sessions and then Susie Cosstick took on this role. I can still remember some of the words. A pair of candlesticks was procured plus a small cross so it felt a bit like church for the children. Mr Baker was superintendent and Mr Barrett and then Mr Davidson.

For our summer outing we used to hire a double decker bus to take us to Chessington, where we would play on the paddle boats and slides. I remember a purse being dropped in the bear pit. But we always accounted **for everyone for the return journey, so I don't think anyone was eaten!** When I think of the number of children we had, I wonder how the four of us (Mary Elson, Mrs Garrett, Winnie Martin and myself) managed. None of **the 5 children to 1 adult ratio then. Health and Safety wasn't an issue in** those days!

Jean Wearn took over when I gave up. During this time the annual garden party started. The craft and produce show started round about this time too, run by Ted Wearn and John Elliott. Janice Elliott and I would be in church quite early as there were a lot of entries to book in and lots of discussions over what was fruit and what was veg as we always had a professional judge. Ted always managed to cajole a friend to undertake the job without payment, except a nice lunch provided by Jean.

Until I recently had a visit from the Jenkin twins I had completely forgotten about the formation of the Companions of Christ Guild by Ron Elliott aided by John Bennett, Mr White (who used to wind the clocks at Buckingham Palace, at a time when Prince Charles and Princess Anne were children) and a few others. I believe this was an amalgamation of the Senior Sunday School and the Bible Class.



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HYMN: The story behind ... JUST AS I AM

The hymn ‘Just As I Am’ must be one of the most famous in the world. It has been sung by tens of millions of Christians at Billy Graham Crusades the world over, just for starters! Yet it was not written by a professional who **was ‘aiming’ at a specific market, as many songs seem to be written today.** Instead, it was written by an artist in Victorian times.

Her name was Charlotte Elliott, and she was born in Clapham in 1789. She grew up in a well to do home, and became a portrait artist and also a writer of humorous verse. All was well until Charlotte fell ill in her early 30s, and slid into a black depression. A minister, Dr Caesar Malan of Switzerland, came to visit her. Instead of sympathising, he asked her an unexpected question: did she have peace with God? Charlotte deeply resented the question and told him to mind his own business.

But after he left, his question haunted her. Did she have peace with God? She knew that she did not, that she had done some very wrong things. So she invited Dr Malan to return. She told him that she would like to become a Christian, but would have to sort out her life first.

Dr Malan again said the unexpected: “Come just as you are.” The words were a revelation to Charlotte. She had assumed that she would have to put her life in order before she could hope to be accepted by God. Instead, she realised that Jesus wanted her just as she was - and he would take care of the sin. Charlotte became a Christian that day.

14 years later, in 1836, Charlotte wrote some verses that summed up how it had been between her and Jesus that day. They ran:

*Just as I am, without one plea,
But that thy blood was shed for me,
And that thou bids't me come to Thee
O Lamb of God, I come! I come!*

*Just as I am, tho tossed about
With many a conflict, many a doubt
Fightings within, and fears without,
O Lamb of God, I come! I come!*

Charlotte could not have dreamed that 150 years into the future, her verses would be sung by millions of people all over the world, as they responded to the Gospel presented at many great Billy Graham crusades, and made their way forward to do just as the hymn describes - to come to Jesus **Christ, despite sin and fear and doubts, to come ‘just as I am.’**

AS ADVENT BEGINS... CREATE YOUR OWN CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS

A natural remedy for festive fever has been prepared by the Christian conservation charity A Rocha UK – in the form of an eco-friendly online Advent calendar. It offers daily doses of environmental advice on everything from Christmas trees to the drastic plastic of shop-bought decorations.

Each calendar window opens on a practical plan to soothe the stress on both pocket and planet. The online Advent calendar will be available at – <http://arocha.org.uk/advent> – from 1st December.

A Rocha UK recommend avoiding the ‘drastic plastic’ of shop-bought Christmas decorations. Instead, it encourages you to make your own. Ideas to get you started include making a stunning candle holder by cleaning out an empty jar of chocolate spread and sticking threads of beads on it. (Buy them in a material shop.) Tie a discreet bow of hessian thread around the top. Or why not make tree decorations from off-cuts of wood from the bargain bin of a local building store, then paint them?

Those are just for starters. Feel free to share your own creations on **A Rocha UK’s group Facebook page, or Tweet @ARochaUK, using #arukadvent.**

(Adapted from A Rocha UK’s new festive resource, their online Advent calendar. Available from 1st December at <http://arocha.org.uk/advent>. You can sign up for reminders on Facebook and Twitter. A Rocha UK is a Christian charity working for the protection and restoration of the natural world).

“Do all the good you can. By all the means you can. In all the ways you can. In all the places you can. At all the times you can. To all the people you can. As long as ever you can.”

John Wesley.



Find us on Facebook!

 **St Thomas The Apostle, Hanwell.**

This is a closed group, so please email Father Robert or Sue and we will add you.

 **St Thomas’s Panto**

2015 - Aladdin! Is an open group. So sign up and keep updated on how rehearsals are going.

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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 david-clarke28@sky.com. If bringing items to the church, please arrange with David Jewell or Michael Mappin to take them from you.



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November

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.

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Diary Dates



OCTOBER

26th Sun Last Sunday after Trinity

NOVEMBER

2nd Sun 4th Sunday before Advent
 9th Sun Remembrance Sunday
 Parade. Requiem Eucharist

15th Sat **Quiz Night at St Thomas's**
 16th Sun 2nd Sunday before Advent
 23rd Sun Sunday next before Advent
 30th Sun 1st Sunday of Advent

DECEMBER

7th Sun 2nd Sunday of Advent
 14th Sun 3rd Sunday of Advent
 Christingle - 4pm
 21st Sun 4th Sunday in Advent.
 Nine Lessons and Carols.
 24th Wed Christmas Eve. Mass at 11.30pm
 25th Thurs Christmas Day. Parish Eucharist at 10am
 28th Sun 1st Sunday of Christmas

JANUARY

4th Sun Epiphany
 11th Sun 1st Sunday of Epiphany
 18th Sun 2nd Sunday of Epiphany

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