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November 2020

The Trident



The Parish Magazine of


ST THOMAS THE APOSTLE
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CHURCH OF ENGLAND

Our church is now open for the following services.



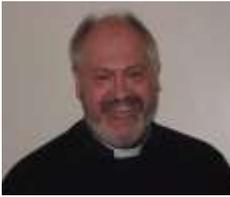
CHURCH OPEN FOR
Sunday Parish Mass 10am
Children's Church 4pm
Sunday 7.30pm
Said Mass Tuesday at Noon
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Masses: Tues (Public) & **Wed** (Private)
at Noon
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Night Prayer (Private Mon-Thurs) **7pm**

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



From our Vicar

Dear Friends

This month is the month when remembrance comes to the fore. On the eleventh day of the eleventh month at the eleventh hour we pause to remember those who have died

in 'conflicts past and present'. This moment is usually recorded by news channels as they show clips of shoppers pausing, workers downing tools and crowds silenced. This year one wonders how it will be marked, as we live in an almost permanent state of readiness to lock our doors from those around us. What has been interesting over the past few months are the references to the 'spirit of the blitz'. Few will know what that spirit was first hand, but there is something in the nation's consciousness that, in times of strife, always alludes to it. It is difficult to say the least, to give a compelling argument which correlates the threat of Coronavirus and Nazi Germany. In fact it is probably rather crass to do so, but this 'blitz spirit' is a sentiment which rears its head whenever we as a nation feel under threat.

Clearly COVID continues to threaten, and once again I find myself in the bizarre position of writing something which in two weeks may be out of date. So rather than crystal-all-gazing or business-as-usual talking, I will do what the church sacramentally does - remember the past to transform the future.

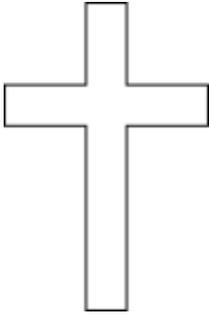
Every Sunday we 'do this in remembrance'. I hope those who attend and those who watch us on Facebook will note though, that this is not simply a trip down memory-lane, but a transformative act. The expectation is that as we are fed in this corporate act of remembrance we then go out and feed. The same is true of Remembrance Day and Remembrance Sunday. For those days to mean something, and continue to resonate for us, they have to be more than remembering the past as an academic or sentimental exercise. We remember so we may show gratitude, so that we may commit ourselves to offering a different future; 'their today, for your tomorrow'.

This November asks us, as individuals and a nation, to look backwards and forwards, whilst all the time trying to navigate a changing present. This is mind-boggling and stressful, and yet, as this month and the Mass reminds us, this is often the experience of the world.

Good remembrance always draws us to the heart of the issues. In the Church **we remember Christ's death and passion, but also that that was not the last word. Without resurrection hope such actions are merely retelling old stories. With resurrection hope the present and future are transformed. In the midst of all this uncertainty we can be certain of God's enduring presence and love. That is truly worth remembering.**

Your friend and priest
Fr. Robert

Profession of Faith



Lord you have
Always given
Strength for
The coming day,
And though I
Am weak
Today I believe.

Lord you have
Always given
Peace for
The coming day,
And though of
Anxious heart
Today I believe.

Lord you have
Always kept me
Safe in trials,
And now, tried
As I am
Today I believe.

Lord you have
Always marked
The road for
The coming day,
And though it
May be hidden
Today I believe.

Lord you have
Always spoken
When time was ripe
And though you be
Silent now
Today I believe.

This poem was given to
us by Davina Brooks.

**Children's
Church
Sundays
at 4pm in
Church for
Activities, Holy
Communion &
Benediction**





Parish News

As the year draws on we now have a pattern of worship more akin to the pre-COVID pattern and, miracle of miracles, has been able to be the same for two months! However, as the year progresses we are becoming increasingly aware of the big services and events that are celebrated from November onwards, beginning with Remembrance Sunday and including Nine Lessons and Carols etc. Can I **assure you that although we don't know what we will be allowed to do, we** are exploring as many options as we can to ensure that these seminal moments in our lives are celebrated. Please look out for information and updates. Again, thank you, for your continued support and prayers. I am very grateful for all who support me particularly on Sundays.

This year we are forced to have our APCM 'virtually'. This AGM will be on Tuesday 27th October 8pm on ZOOM. Since 10th October I have been including on Saturday's email the link to the meeting. Thankfully, the Electoral Roll revision period was fulfilled in Feb/March so that is one piece of 'house-keeping' sorted. Also, the 2019 Accounts have been examined and approved by the PCC.

Please do support the APCM and if you require any help in terms of being able to access it please speak to Fr. Robert.

Finally, a reminder that next month on 29th November Archdeacon of Northolt, Catherine Pickford will be coming to preach. This is wonderful as it will be the first time our new Advent Set from a legacy from Ammini Burman will be used. As we speak Shaan Latif-Shaikh is sewing away. Please continue to pray for one another, serve one-another, and bless one another: **we have a special community here in St Thomas!**



A free phone line of hymns,
reflections and prayers

God can use our mistakes

I believe that God can and will bring good out of evil, even out of the greatest evil. For that purpose he needs men who make the best use of everything. I believe that God will give us all the strength we need to help us resist in all time of distress. But he never gives it in advance, lest we should rely on ourselves and not on him alone. A faith such as this should allay all our fears for the future. I believe that even our mistakes and shortcomings are turned to good account, and that it is no harder for God to deal with them than with our supposedly good deeds. I believe that God is no timeless fate, but that he waits for and answers sincere prayers and responsible actions.

Extracts from the writings of Dietrich Bonhoeffer in prison

19th November: Hilda - Abbess of Whitby

Hilda played a key role in the early English Christian church, and she may even have been the first to encourage the writing of Christian poetry. She was born a princess, into the Deiran (Northumbrian) dynasty, and her sister became Queen of the East Angles, with whom the Deiran had connections.

In those days East Anglia had close ties with the Gallic Church, and because of her sister, Hilda came under that influence. She was actually on her way to take her monastic vows near Paris when the Bishop of Lindisfarne, Aidan, called her back to Northumbria.

Back home, she went into seclusion for a time, before being sent to be abbess of a religious house in Hartlepool in 649.

Eight years later, Hilda felt moved to establish a religious community at Streasnaeshalch (later renamed Whitby). Her community was a royal establishment, a double monastery (both men and women) and became famous for its learning, with five bishops having trained there.

Whitby was also, of course, the venue for the famous Synod of Whitby in 664. With Hilda acting as hostess, the Synod met to decide upon the date of Easter. The issue at stake was greater than that, though, for the decision would sway the Church in Britain to adapt either the Celtic or Roman traditions. Although Hilda defended the Celtic church customs, she accepted with grace the decision of the Synod to accept the Roman date for Easter, and she then worked to unite the Church throughout the land.



A prayer for Remembrance Day

God give peace.

Help us to lift our eyes above the torment of this broken world, and grant us the grace to pray for those who wish us harm. As we honour the past, may we put our faith in your future, for you are the source of life and hope, now and for ever.

Amen.



A prayer for November

God, our judge and saviour, teach us to be open to your truth and to trust in your love, that we may live each day with confidence in the salvation which is given through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.



Monday 2nd November 7:30 - 8:30pm

Illustrated talk and discussion on

“Was St Paul the Architect of Christianity?”

Much of Christian teaching comes not from the words of Christ but from St Paul - mainly from his letters in the New Testament. Learn more about the man and his great influence.

This will be on Zoom. Please contact Father Robert for details.

Nurture your friendships

Lockdown has damaged our social life, so badly that many of our friendships may not be the same for up to a year after lockdown. And **although Zoom is ‘extremely good’ at slowing down the rate of a friendship’s decay, ‘nothing on earth is going to stop a relationship quietly sliding away, if you don’t once in a while meet up physically.’**

So warns an Oxford University academic, Robin Dunbar, who is an **evolutionary psychology professor**. He was talking to **BBC Radio 4’s Today**.

Bishop of London

Geoffrey Fisher, 1939-1945

Geoffrey Fisher was born in 1887 in the rectory of Higham on the Hill, Leicestershire, the youngest of 10 children of the Rev Henry Fisher. A Fisher had been rector of Higham since 1772. He was educated at Marlborough College, a public school in Wiltshire, and at Exeter College, Oxford. He was very talented academically, coming out with a triple first, but also at sport, rowing and playing rugby.

His first job was back at his old college, Marlborough, where he joined the teaching staff, but during the summer holidays he attended Wells Theological College and was eventually ordained priest in 1913. In 1914, at the age of only 27, he was appointed headmaster of Repton School, a position he held for 18 years. Within 2 months of his appointment he had to contend with problems arising from the outbreak of the First World War. 6 teachers and 60 senior boys volunteered for the armed forces, as back at school he dealt with reduced staffing levels and apprehension among his pupils. **Fisher's predecessor as head was religiously inspiring and intellectually stimulating, but was not organised or disciplined.** Fisher himself was more ordered and efficient, modernising the curriculum and instilling firm discipline. Roald Dahl was a pupil of his, and once remarked on the severe discipline!

On leaving Repton Fisher was recommended by the Prime Minister Ramsay MacDonald to King George V as Bishop of Chester. It was unusual for a bishop to be appointed without experience as a parish priest, and there were reservations about his appointment from some of his clergy. He and his wife, Rosamond, worked very hard, but lack of pastoral experience sometimes showed, and they were a little out of touch with the lives of the working class people in the diocese. However their good humour and informality won them many friends, at home and abroad. He was a confident bishop, and had no hesitations over his own faith. He drew attention to discrepancies in the remuneration of clergy, as some were very poorly paid, he tackled the lack of a consistent appointment system, and campaigned for financial support for church schools, overseas missions and clergy widows.

When he was offered the chance to become Bishop of London, Fisher thought long and hard about whether to accept the post. The diocese at the time was riven by factions and came close to disintegrating. WWII had just broken out, and in the nightly bombing of the London Blitz 23 Wren

churches were bombed, some beyond repair. **But Fisher's organisational skills kept the diocese functioning, and he went about his duties "with a calm diligence", returning each night to sleep in the cellar at Fulham Palace.**

One of the main themes of Fisher's life and work was Church Unity, and he was passionate about this. The war and strong leadership from the Archbishop of Canterbury had begun to improve relations between the various Christian churches - Anglican, Roman Catholic and nonconformist. Fisher supported this and acted as chairman of the joint committee in which **the Anglican and Free Church "Religion and Life" movement co-operated with the Roman Catholic "Sword of the Spirit" led by Cardinal Hinsley, in the cause of "moral regeneration and social reform".** In 1960, by which time Fisher was Archbishop of Canterbury, he became the first Archbishop of Canterbury to meet a Pope since the English Reformation four centuries earlier. His visit marked the end of centuries of hostility between **Canterbury and Rome. To him, strengthening ties didn't necessarily mean** converging theologically, but better relations grew out of free communication and mutual respect.

As Archbishop of Canterbury, which he became in 1945, Fisher officiated at the marriage of Princess Elizabeth in Westminster Abbey in 1947, and led the coronation service in 1953.

One of his aims in his years as Archbishop was to make clearer the **Church's position on the marriage of divorced people.** He staunchly upheld the rules preventing divorcées from remarrying in church (famously intervening when Princess Margaret was linked romantically to the divorcé Peter Townsend), but also had a profound compassion for all those whose lives had been wrecked by a disastrous marriage. As the Guardian wrote at **the time, "that road lay over a knife-edge of perplexity and contradiction, but he trod it creatively".**

In 1961 Fisher retired from Canterbury and for the first time in his life became a parish priest, assisting in a country parish near Sherborne in Dorset. He enjoyed getting to know everyone in the village and playing chess with some of the boys. He died in 1972 aged 85.

A prayer for All Souls

Loving God,

Thank you for all those who have shaped our lives, but whom we no longer see. Help us to remember them, and trust that they are at peace with you.

Amen.

In praise of peanut butter

One quirky change of life under Covid-19 is that for some reason, we are eating more peanut butter. According to a recent report in The Grocer, sales of the stuff rose by 35.5 per cent in the Spring.

Peanut butter producer Kirstie Hawkins (Whole Earth brand) is delighted. **“Peanut butter offers an easy way to add more nutrition to breakfast and snack choices.”**

Whatever the reason, sales of peanut butter, at £98.9million in the past year, are now £2million more than those for jam.



Who Knew?

Adam Faith, the popular singer in the 1960's, was born in 1940 in a house which used to stand just inside Acton Park. The house was destroyed during the Second World War, after which the family moved to Goldsmith Road in Acton.

His birth name was Terry Nelhams-Wright and he rose to fame having many singles in the UK top ten charts. He also appeared on TV, most notably in 'Budgie' which aired in the early 70's.



From the Editors

Welcome to the November Trident. We hope you enjoy reading it.

July & Sun

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.

Copy Dates!

Copy date for December is on Sunday November 8th

Copy date for January is on Sunday December 13th

Copy date for February is on Sunday January 10th



Green grow'th the Holly

A music manuscript from about 1515 and attributed to King Henry VIII has the words:

*Green grow'th the holly,
So doth the ivy,
Though winter blasts ne'er so high
Green grow'th the holly.*

The next three verses take us through spring, summer and autumn, so this is clearly not a Christmas carol, unlike the familiar 'The Holly and the Ivy'. What may not be known is that holly and ivy are two of the very few native evergreen trees, and in past times must have been especially popular in providing greenery during winter months.

With its shiny spiky dark green leaves, holly is surely one of the most easily recognised trees in this country. Though often bushlike, holly can grow up to ten metres high with a straight trunk and pyramid shape. It is *dioecious*, meaning each tree is either male or female, explaining possibly why the one in your garden never has any berries!

Nowadays we associate holly with Christmas wreaths and garlands, cards and carols. Pre-Victorian times saw holly branches used as Christmas trees, with the spiky leaves representing Christ's Crown of Thorns and the red berries as drops of blood. Holly brought into the house was regarded as protection against evil spirits and as a refuge for good 'faeries' who would guard the residents of the house in return.

It is interesting to note that where no person or animal brushes by a holly, the leaves lack all spines except the one at the tip. This includes upper leaves on mature trees. A bit like people – be nice and they won't be scratchy!

Back to 'Green grow'th the Holly'. The final verse ends:

*The God of life can never die,
Hope! Saith the holly.*

How wise. Where would we be without hope?

“Nothing in life is to be feared, it is only to be understood. Now is the time to understand more, so that we may fear **less**”.

Marie Curie

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The central store is at St Mellitus Church, 1 Church Road, Hanwell W7. Open between 10:00 and 16:00 on Wednesdays. Please come round to the double green doors to the church hall, where volunteers will receive your donations. Please wear a face covering. You can

always contact the foodbank on 07769 759 756 or email info@ealing.foodbank.org.uk

Most churches are now open and there are collection points at local supermarkets. Full details are on the Foodbank website.

THE OCTOBER SHOPPING LIST **

Biscuits - sweet and savoury, long life fruit juice and squash, tinned fruit & vegetables, tinned soup, baked beans, vegetarian chilli, curry, pies (Fray Bentos), Ketchup & mayo, tinned fish, jam & peanut butter, ready made custard - tins or cartons, nappies - sizes 5 & 6

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

** please remember that our magazine is produced in October for November 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.

<https://ealing.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-food/>

Twitter: @EalingFoodbank.

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