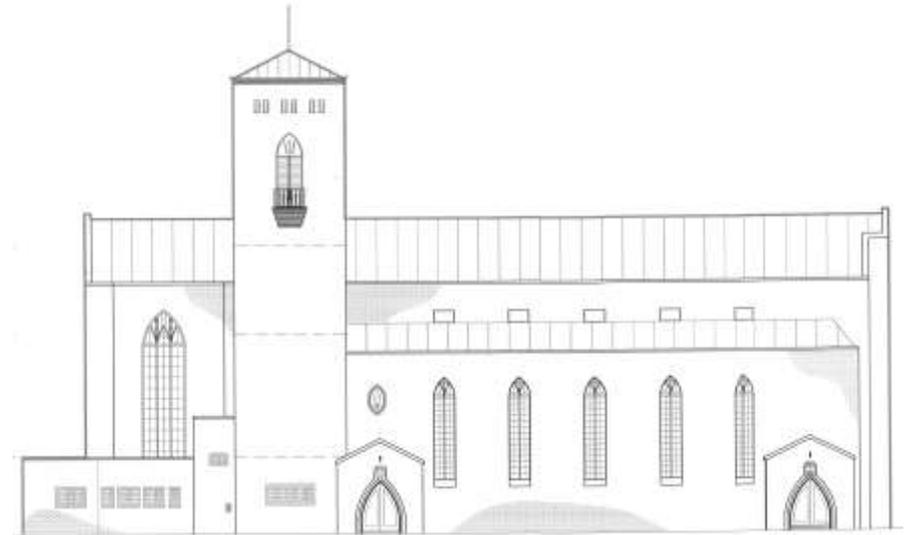


50 Pence



July 2013

The Trident



The Parish Magazine of


ST THOMAS THE APOSTLE
BOSTON ROAD, HANWELL, W7 2AD

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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 AM 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:
WWW.THOMASHANWELL.ORG.UK

PLEASE E-MAIL US AT st.thomas.office@btinternet.com



From our Vicar

Dear Friends

As I hope I never tire of saying, one of the great things about this parish in this corner of Hanwell is our Dedication.

St Thomas, with his common sense and later missionary zeal, seems an ideal patron in a world rightly suspicious of people pedaling unquestioning absolutes. In the Gospel of

John, St Thomas has his metaphorical knuckles gently rapped by our Lord as he is told off for his faith only resulting from the sight of Jesus risen.

However, Thomas was not alone in this regard, the other 10 were not **exactly shouting, "He is risen indeed, alleluia!" when the women told them** of their experience by the empty tomb.

So I would argue that what follows is the most important; Thomas' declaration of Christ as 'Lord and God'!

This year's Patronal Festival gives us a good chance to focus on Thomas' declaration as we will be having a Festival Mass and a Confirmation celebrated by Bishop Pete.

Those receiving the sacrament of Confirmation will, like St Thomas before them, declare Christ as Lord and God, a statement made, in most cases, on **their behalf. However, although the declaration of Christ's lordship and divinity is important, it is what happens next that reveals the significance of that declaration.**

Legend has it that St Thomas left for South India where he shared the good news of what he had discovered for himself, and revealed its power in the **life he led. St Thomas, perhaps conscious of our Lord's chastisement, but** definitely empowered by the Holy Spirit, showed forth in his life what he had declared with his lips. Our prayer should be that our candidates experience a similar reality in their lives, but also that those of us who are already beneficiaries of this sacrament display a similar hope.

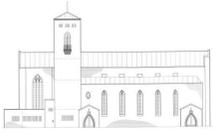
Over the next few months we will be reflecting on how we can be a missionary church, and celebrate 80 years of very visible witness to this community. My prayer is that we reveal the hope and joy of Jesus as Lord and God confidently, compassionately and creatively as embraced by the Diocesan-wide Vision.

Like St Thomas before us we have to be more than words, we have to be deeds as well. May we continue to be, and explore new ways in which can, do that as a church aided by his prayers.

St Thomas pray for us.

Your friend and priest

Fr Robert



Parish News

The August lull is inevitably (being a church dedicated to St Thomas) preceded by a July storm. I suspect 'storm' is the wrong word, as it is far too negative, belies the many exciting things that have and will happen, but I'm sure gets the metaphorical ideal!

One exciting piece of news is that the new Website is up and running and I am thrilled, perhaps for the first and last time, to say it has caused the breaking of the 10th Commandment among some of our Christian brothers and sisters! If the world wide web had been around instead of oxes and asses I am sure Moses would have included it. Seriously though, do look and make use of it. It is meant to be a missionary tool and resource for us as a church community. It contains rotas, news, liturgies, history, galleries and so much more - please do enjoy it.

As I mentioned in the Vicar's letter our Patronal Festival Day (3rd July) will include a Pontifical Eucharist and Confirmation with the Bishop of Willesden. This is at 7.30pm so please come along and support it and the candidates.

Later that week we will be having a Vicarage Garden Party from 3.30pm on 6th July which will include family fun and games, and Cream Teas. The following day our Parish Eucharist will continue the celebrations and culminate in a Choral Evensong at 6.30pm on the 7th. Please support and invite people along to share in our celebrations and life together.

On 6th June David Jewell, Gill Shaw and I attended a joyous launch of the Diocesan mission strategy called 'Capital Vision 2020'. The themes I touched on last month are: Compassion, Confidence and Creativity. These headings will form the framework for us as a parish, not simply because it aligns us with the diocese and our Bishop, but they seem genuinely helpful headings for us to adopt and review as we share the good news of Jesus Christ in Hanwell.

Also, in June there was the Hanwell Carnival and again the Churches Together in Hanwell were present. This is a wonderful way in which we can not only share, but also minister to the community.

Over the past few months there has been a constant encouragement for prayers and action regarding the need for leadership in our Cub pack. Well, like the old adage about waiting ages for a bus then three come, lo and behold we have a new Akela, Christian Riesner and additional leaders including Caroline Lumb. This is a great joy and real answer to prayer. Please continue to offer your prayers and support to our uniformed organizations who do so much wonderful work with our young people. At the end of May the Church Hall boiler received the plumbing equivalent

of the *Last Rites* after nearly 15 years of sterling service. We have a shiny new boiler which was fitted by Alex Shaw at no charge for his time and skills. On behalf of the many users, thank you Alex! Finally, at our Corpus Christi celebration on Sunday 2nd June we were very privileged in having Canon Prof. Simon Oliver with us to preach on the central act of Christian worship. For those who were not able to be there his sermon is on the website News Section (subtle hint!). Also, Christ the Saviour Ealing very kindly loaned us a Monstrance for the Eucharist in order that the Mass might culminate with a Blessing using the consecrated host. That serves as a powerful reminder of Christ being in our midst. May he continue to be so over the next few weeks!



Prayer for the month of July

O Lord Jesus Christ, who said to your servant Thomas the Apostle, I am the Way, and the Truth, and the Life: Mercifully grant that we, looking to you in faith, may find in you the way that leads to the Father, the truth that makes us free, and the Life that is life indeed, now and always

Amen



From the Editors

Lots going on in July at St Thomas's. On the 3rd, we have the confirmation service with the Bishop of Willesden and then on July 6th, there's the garden party and parish BBQ.

July & Sue

Copy date for the August Trident will be Sunday 14th July
Copy date for the September Trident will be Sunday 11th August
Copy date for the October Trident will be Sunday 8th September

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 by kind permission of Stephen Brooks. www.stephenbrooksphotography.com



St Thomas's Panto 2014

At our recent PCC meeting, the overwhelming consensus was that we should try, if at all possible, to put on a pantomime next January. It was sorely missed by the community and also by our young people.

BUT:

We arrive at the same problem as last year -

WE NEED A DIRECTOR AND SCRIPT WRITER!

We need, ideally, two willing people. who can take an existing script (of which we have a supply) and re-write it to reflect the ages and abilities of the cast. Then we need a director to guide our cast towards a pantomime that can be performed to the public during the first week in January. Rehearsals start in the weekends before Christmas, but it is on the days between Christmas and New Year that most rehearsing is done and you **would need to be free then. Yes it's hard work, but it's enormously rewarding and you'd get loads of support from parents and others with props, box office, scenery building, costumes and the rest.** If you, or if you know of anyone or two people who would be willing to take this on, please contact Sue Cunningham (phone number and email is on the back of this magazine), or Father Robert. **You don't have to be a worshipper at St Thomas's** - this is very much a community project. So please, if you can think of anyone - please let us know!

Solar power

Somebody finally invented a solar-powered laundry dryer.
It's called a 'clothes line'.

Our mission supports... Mothers' Union

Mothers' Union is an international Christian charity that seeks to support families worldwide.

Mary Elizabeth Sumner founded Mothers' Union in 1876 when her daughter Margaret gave birth to her first child. Mary, who was well aware of the responsibilities and burdens of bringing up her three children, felt that providing for their physical needs was not enough. She believed that the primary responsibility was to raise children in the love of God. Twenty years later **The Central Council of Mothers' Union was formed with Mary as president, the central vision being that marriage, parenting and prayer were key to the future of families.**

Due to Mary's Anglican Communion connections membership quickly spread both here and abroad. Thus the influence of Mothers' Union increased. Just prior to the Second World War evidence was given to the Royal Commission on Marriage and Divorce to raise the minimum age for a woman to marry to 16. The 1960s and 1970s saw more relaxed membership rules and in the late twentieth century they had to face issues such as the ordination of women, homosexuality, poverty in the developing world and inequalities within societies worldwide.

Today Mothers' Union has 4 million members in 81 countries. Prayer is still central. The Wave of Prayer maintains a constant chain of intercession across the global membership. They continue to promote family life and support those struggling through homelessness, poverty, relationship breakdown and imprisonment.

The Mothers' Union Prayer

Loving Lord,

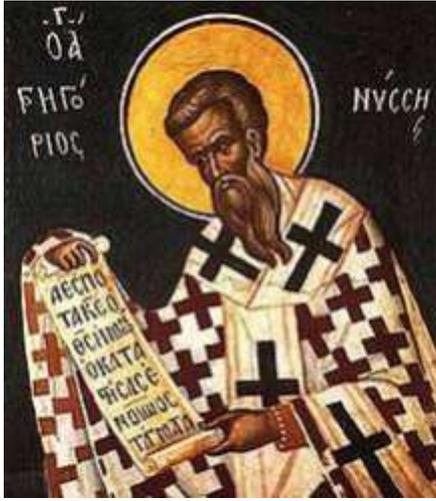
We thank you for your love so freely given to us all.

We pray for families around the world.

Bless the work of the Mothers' Union as we seek to share your love through the encouragement, strengthening and support of marriage and family life.

Empowered by your Spirit, may we be united in prayer and worship, and in love and service reach out as your hands across the world.

In Jesus' name. Amen



On Sundays and Holy Days we declare with the Church throughout the world, **and across the centuries, 'I believe in the Holy Spirit the Lord the giver of life...'**

That statement of faith is part of the heritage of the saint we remember this month, Gregory of Nyssa. Here is a biography of his life from *Saints on Earth*.

Gregory of Nyssa 19 July c.394

Gregory was both a speculative theologian, and a mystic. Along with his brother Basil and Gregory of Nazianzus (see 2 January) he is known as one **of the three 'Cappadocian Fathers' whose thought developed and influenced** the doctrines of the Holy Spirit and of the Trinity in the fourth century.

Born in 335, Gregory initially trained as a rhetorician, and endured a painful marriage before entering the monastic community that had been founded by **his brother. While the rest of Gregory's family embraced the ascetic life** wholeheartedly, Gregory was less enamoured of it, and although a member of the community he continued to study rhetoric and philosophy, and to seek an outlet for his own free expression of the Christian faith.

In 371 he was consecrated by his brother Basil as Bishop of Nyssa, a small insignificant town in the region of Caesarea. This event was not entirely without political overtones and dubious motives. He later became Bishop of Sebaste, a much more influential and attractive city, but he eventually returned to Nyssa. The Arian conflict, and the vacillating allegiances of the rulers of the Empire, meant that Gregory spent the period from 376 to 378 in exile.

In 379 his brother Basil died and Gregory, released from his influence, wrote his most creative theological works. He critically engaged with his theological opponents while respecting both Scripture and tradition. Gregory was a distinctive theologian. Orthodox in thought and theology, and passionate in his defence of Nicaea, he was not afraid to speculate and assimilate philosophy and learning from other sources into his theology, as long as it resulted in orthodox thought. No other Father of the fourth century made so extensive a use of philosophy as he did. Guided by excellent authors, making good use of his various sources, and required by

controversies and theological debate to hone his doctrinal pronouncements to precision, Gregory made a significant contribution to the elaboration of church theology.

Gregory has been called the 'Father of Mysticism' and his mystic thought concentrates upon the unknowability of God. He stresses the constant journey and search of the soul towards God. The soul of the believer is **aware of being the object of God's love, and the loving response of the soul** is to desire more of God. For Gregory, love marks the soul, love draws the soul and love ignites the soul.

'The soul that looks upward towards God, and conceives that good desire for his eternal beauty, constantly experiences an ever new yearning for that **which lies ahead.'**

Commentary on the Song of Songs

Teas at June Parade

The teas and cake sale after the Parade Service in June were taken over by the Guides as they have a special project for which they are raising money. Since 2009 the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS) has been using the Thinking Day celebrations (22nd Feb) to support the United Nation's Millenium Development Goals. These goals are a blueprint for improving social and economic conditions throughout the world.

The theme for 2013 is " Reducing child mortality and improving maternal health" The Senior Guides have been working on activities surrounding this theme to raise awareness of the challenges girls and young women face in many areas of the world.

Following the service on Sunday 9th June the Guides sold teas and cakes in the Hall to raise money for the Thinking Day Fund in support of their efforts to raise awareness of these issues. £140 was raised, all of which will go to the WAGGGS. The Guides would like to thank everyone who supported them and a special thank you to all the parents and friends who made cakes to sell.

Jill Johnson & Senior Guides

Renting the Best Seats in Church

Do you sit in the same seat week in and week out at St Thomas's? What would you do if someone was sitting in 'your' seat when you arrived at Church? Would you ask them to move, or would you diplomatically sit elsewhere? Historically, there have always been problems regarding church pews and seats.

One Sunday in 1596, at Oxford All Saints, a Mrs Elinor Burnett sat in the **seat of Mrs Alison Brown, bidding her to "give her elders and betters their room". But Mrs Brown refused to give way, replying that she "did acknowledge her to be her elder but not her better". In those days people insisted that they owned the pews, and had paid good money for them. Some screwed ownership plates to them, such as JP Charlesworth, at All Saints Church in Wakefield.**

A court judgement of 1612 declared that a church "is dedicated and consecrated to the service of God, and is common to all inhabitants", and so it therefore belonged to the bishop. This confirmed a decree of the Synod of Exeter of 1297, and yet the unlawful sale and traffic of pew rental continued for centuries with connivance of churchwardens and clergy. In fact pews were still being rented annually as late as 1970 at Much Wenlock, Shropshire.

Some pews were erected with a diocesan faculty (establishing their right to exist in the church). These were naturally regarded as a type of private property. Some were rather eccentric, for example a Mr Thomas Ireland, from Warrington, set up a pew in 1631 "in the manner of a scaffold 12 feet high on pillars of wood overlooking the pulpit and congregation".

To a newcomer to church, the effect of rented pews was very off-putting. **A Monmouthshire man admitted in 1882 "I did go once, but the people were all shut in, and the folk in the boxes looked at me as if I had got in without paying; so after walking up and down several times, like a man in a station trying to get a seat when the train is full, I went home."**

After the Reformation, preaching formed an important part of services, yet many of the congregation sat in their pews facing away from the preacher. Other inconveniences occurred. In Llangattock Church in Carmarthenshire, **"Mrs Crawshay brought her dogs and had tea served on a table in her pew during service". Fires were stoked in pews, by snug owners oblivious to the**

disturbance.

Some churchmen did stand out against what they called 'pew abomination'. In the 17th century Archbishop Laud complained about the chatter or 'jangling' when people were seated in their pews and not paying attention to the service.

Pews could be bought and sold, as well as rented. In Yeovil in 1837 pews in the parish church sold well at auction, on behalf of the churchwardens, fetching between £16 and £90 each. Some were bought by investors, and one such investor bought 13.

The great movement against pew rents came in the 19th century. In 1842 the reformer Francis Paget published a novel, *Milford Malvoisin, or Pews and Pewholders*, with its moral that **"the wealthy few have driven, in many places, the poor from our churches". The scandal was that the poor were edged out to perch on benches and stools in the odd bits of space left at the back or edges of the church, hence the expression 'going to the wall'.**

The end of rents came with the physical removal of pews, and the parallel dismantling of a society where substantial numbers of citizens all went to church.



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2. If it stinks or explodes, it's Chemistry.
3. If it doesn't work, it's Physics.

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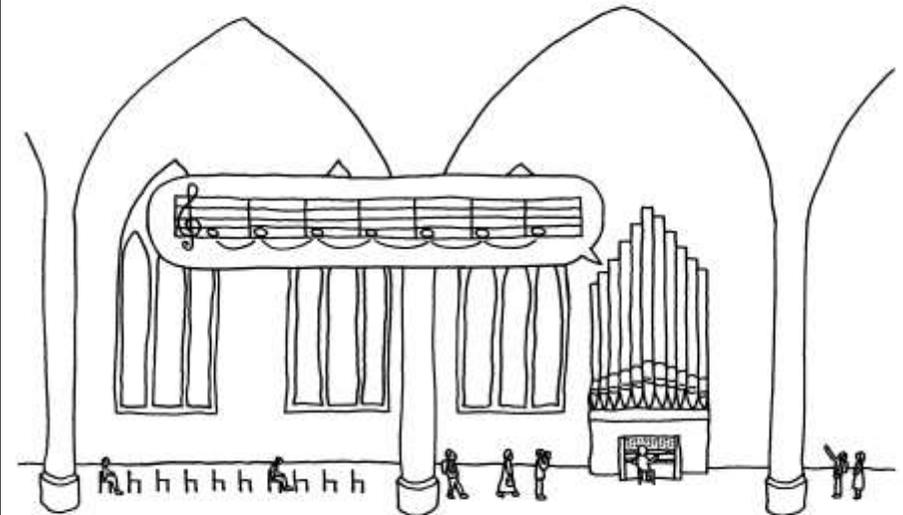
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Wanted: Donations of good quality household and personal items that you no longer want.

Items needed include: Unwanted heirlooms, antiques, paintings. Ornaments including china, brass and glassware. Jewellery, watches and clocks. Coins, banknotes, stamps and medals. Old games and toys like cars, trains and dolls. Musical instruments, cameras and Sports Memorabilia. Curios etc. All proceeds from their sales will go straight to the Organ Fund!

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. If bringing items to the church, please arrange with David Jewell or Michael Mappin to take them from you.

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ORGAN FUND—POTS AND PODS

Since April 2012 we have been collecting

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Activia yoghurt pots

Shape yoghurt pots

Kenco Coffee wrappers

and Tassissimo coffee disks and plastic wrappers

and have recently added non savoury biscuit wrappers

This has so far made over £100 for the Organ restoration fund



We also collect and recycle.....

Coffee jar lids

filter coffee and coffee bean bags

and individual coffee sachets

Terracycle recycle these things into shopping bags, plastic dustbins, park benches and similar items.

If you have any of these items please drop them into the collection boxes in the front porch of the church or in the hall. where you will find collecting boxes on the stairs.



Diary Dates

JUNE

30th Sun

5th Sunday after Trinity
6.30pm - Choral Evensong

JULY

3rd Wed

7.30pm Patronal Festival Mass & Confirmation
Celebrant & Preacher-The Bishop of Willesden.

6th Sat

Vicarage Garden Party 3 - 5.30pm
& evening BBQ from 6pm

7th Sun

6th Sunday after Trinity

14th Sun

7th Sunday after Trinity

21st Sun

8th Sunday after Trinity

28th Sun

9th Sunday after Trinity

AUGUST

4th Sun

10th Sunday after Trinity

11th Sun

11th Sunday after Trinity

18th Sun

12th Sunday after Trinity

25th Sun

13th Sunday after Trinity

SEPTEMBER

1st Sun

14th Sunday after Trinity

8th Sun

15th Sunday after Trinity

15th Sun

16th Sunday after Trinity

22nd Sun

17th Sunday after Trinity

24th Tues

PCC Meeting 8pm

29th Sun

18th Sunday after Trinity



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!

July

5th - tea, coffee and cakes.
12th - tea, coffee and cakes
19th - tea, coffee and cakes
26th - tea, coffee and cakes

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

Baby/Toddler Group
Wednesdays in
St Thomas' Hall
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10.30am until 11.45am.
All are welcome.

PARISH DIRECTORY



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