

50 Pence



August 2015

The Trident



The Parish Magazine of



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SUNDAY

8.00 AM SAID EUCHARIST (BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER SERVICE)
10.00 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL (TERM TIME & NOT 2ND SUNDAY OF THE MONTH)
10.00 AM PARISH EUCHARIST
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

MORNING PRAYER

7.30 AM MONDAY TO FRIDAY (8.00 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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From our Vicar

Dear Friends,

'Off with their heads!' shouted the Queen of Hearts in *Alice in Wonderland*, and at the end of August, when most of us are looking back on a well-earned holiday, the church remembers one of its most famous beheadings.

On 29th **August the Church remembers the divorce of John the Baptist's head from his neck and the surrounding drama, which inspired Oscar Wilde's retelling, and Aubrey Beardley's infamous *Yellow Book* illustrations.** However, in spite of the almost operatic melodrama that surrounds John **the Baptist's martyrdom the gospels are much more subtle. What we have** is a wonderfully nuanced story of faith, doubt and reconciliation. In the story **John the Baptist is languishing in the clink at his majesty's pleasure and** reflects on a life foretelling and identifying the messiah. In his solitary confinement he questions whether what he thought, and had committed his life to following, was true. When his friends visit he asks them to go to Jesus **to ask if he really was who he said he was. Jesus's response is one of gentle** recognition and remembrance. He reminds them of what he has done, and what they have witnessed, so they return to John and share these reminiscences. John too remembers and so is restored and reconciled to his faith and fate.

August is a great month to pause and remember all that Jesus said and did. We can do this from the comfort of a deckchair or armchair, covered in factor 30 or a cardigan. Wherever you are do regard this month of rest as a **retreat and a chance to reflect. Much awaits us as the life of St Thomas's will** once again surge in September and there will be much to do as we continue to serve Hanwell and the world.

Enjoy the break and give thanks, perhaps not for the Queen of Hearts, but definitely for the King of Kings.

Your friend and priest
Fr. Robert



Parish News

In July we celebrated our Patronal Festival with a weekend of activities. The first thing that must be done is to say a huge thank you to all who helped out. This year we tweaked the format to avoid clashes with all the other events on the Saturday. Hence the weekend began with the Saturday evening BBQ, and then led into the film in the garden. Both events were well attended and the choice of film, *The Theory of Everything*, was perfect for the night.

It was good to see young and old alike grappling with time and black-holes on a beautiful evening in fading sunlight. Rather encouragingly we even had 6 people who came along having seen posters about the film.

The Sunday saw our Patronal Festival Mass followed by drinks and then the garden party. The move to Sunday clearly worked as larger numbers came along. Again, thank you to all who helped out with games, refreshments, face-painting, cream teas, impromptu BBQ etc!

Also in July we had a clear-out and tidy of the storage area under the hall stage. Thank you to all helped out amidst the dust and damp.

With the panto in mind the 'launch BBQ' will take place in the Vicarage garden on 29th August at 6pm. As well as the big 'reveal', and food, we are aiming to show last year's panto in glorious cine-vision.

It is planned that our church hall will have a 'make-over' during August. The inside of the main hall will get a much-needed lick of paint. This will ensure that the maintenance of the hall continues as we explore with our Architect options for a major redevelopment of the hall to ensure an even better provision for us and the community. Over the next couple of years these plans will hopefully begin to materialize. At this stage a survey is being done and the Architect will come up with some initial ideas. The Diocesan Funding `Advisor will then be consulted. Please pray for what will be a very major initiative.

During August there is a slight change in the weekly pattern of worship as Fr. Robert is on his holidays. Please take notice of the weekly pewsheets and public notices.

Regarding the organ work this is still ongoing although the builders will not be in during August as they have re-arranged work to complete on a school organ. Work will resume apace in September!

Finally, thank you to Sian and family for delivering Bev Bowles-**Bevan's piano which he kindly left to St Thomas's. This wonderful instrument is beautifully nestled in the Choir Vestry. This will be a wonderful addition to the choir and musical life of St Thomas's, as well as a lovely reminder of Bev.**



Prayer for the month of August

O Heavenly Father, we commend to you those who at this time of year are seeking rest and change. Grant them refreshment of spirit and renewal of strength, that they may return to the duties of their daily life better fitted for your service; Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Olney Hymns

Oh God the Olney Hymns abound
With words of Grace which Thou didst
choose,
And wet the elm above the hedge
Reflected in the winding Ouse.

Pour in my soul unemptied floods
That stand between the slopes of clay,
Till deep beyond a deeper depth
This Olney day is any day.

John Betjeman

The Divine Office of the Kitchen

Lord of the pots and pipkins, since I have
no time to be
A saint by doing lovely things and Vigill-
ing with Thee,
By watching in the twilight dawn, and
storming Heaven's gates,
Make me a saint by getting meals and
washing up the plates.

Cecily R Hallack



Ealing is currently experiencing a shortage in the number of foster carers needed to keep local children in care within the borough. Unfortunately

many people believe that their faith acts as a barrier to providing this invaluable service, when in fact many Ealing foster carers are practising Christians. We asked one of our Christian couples to share their experience.

Name: Joel & Maria

Year of approval: 2008 (7yrs)

What motivated you to become foster carers?

Because our hearts and lives have always been involved with children. We have been working with children since 1988 as part of the ministry in our local church in Brazil, Paraguay and in Spain. When we came to England, we heard about work as a Foster Carer through a friend and felt this was the right thing for us.

Tell us about your assessment process?

Our assessment was a long period of meetings in our home. The social worker was very kind and made it as easy as possible for us. The process was long because we had lived in Spain for 16 years and had to get a lot of information from there and translate some documents.



How has your faith helped you as a foster carer?

For us it was very important to know that God is with us in this challenge, we can pray in every situation and we can pray for every child who was in our care and we believe that it makes a difference in their lives.

What has been your most memorable experience as a foster carer?

We had a beautiful little girl, she came to us when she was only four days old. After four weeks she became very ill and she had respiratory failure so we called the ambulance and took her to the hospital. It was a long period and a difficult situation because we did not know what was wrong. Her **health became very poor she was sent to Saint Mary's Hospital intensive care unit** because she was diagnosed with whooping cough (pertussis).

It was a difficult time for us as a family but was a good time to live in God's hand. After she received the treatment in the hospital, she was with us for 11 months before being adopted by the same family that adopted her sister.

What advice would you give a potential foster carer?

The one thing all of these children and young people have in common is the need for care and support. Being a foster carer isn't always easy and you may face some tough challenges, but it's also very rewarding. If you foster with Ealing Council they will be there to give you advice, support and help every step of the way.

If you have ever considered fostering and would like to know more, please call us on Freephone 0800 731 6550 or email fosteradopt@ealing.gov.uk Alternatively we hold monthly information sessions at Ealing Town Hall, please check www.ealing.gov.uk for dates.

Asking

I never go forth to meet a new day
Without asking God as I kneel down to pray
To give me the strength and courage to be
As patient with others as He is with me!

Albert George Downer 1941 - 2015

Memories of the life and times of a boy's early years in this parish

Albert attended Oaklands and Bordeston schools (now of course Elthorne Park High), St Thomas' youth club, Scouts and was married there. His father, from Ealing, had the opportunity of a carpentry apprenticeship in the Midlands and lodged with a family who had a daughter he later married. Their only child, Albert, was born in Tipton but, after the War, returned to Ealing and lived for over 30 years in Elthorne Park Road. Albert was very artistic and became a draughtsman with Dubilier. He married Maureen (an Ealing girl) and later became a Sales Representative. A vacancy in the Midlands took them back to the area of his birth where they had two children, Sharon and Shaun, but sadly their son died in his thirties. Local (older) people may recall Mrs Connie Downer (Albert's mother) working at the old Sainsburys on the Uxbridge Road (opposite BHS).

Albert and a colleague formed their own Components company, he dealing with the sales side and his partner, the accounting. The business meant he was away from home for several days each week, but he enjoyed summoning room service at the hotels in which he stayed. Shortly before his retirement he realised his days of enjoying this luxury would cease as he could hardly expect his wife to take the role of room maid in the middle of the night. He did though request that she serve dinner during the interval when he watched a Manchester United match on TV. He could not run the risk of missing a goal. His love of football stemmed from the days of playtimes at primary school when two boys would remove their jumper (make-do goalposts). In those days we made our own entertainment: there was nothing in the playground in the way of apparatus, as nowadays.

Albert and I were at Oaklands together and recalled morning assembly, daily. Each class, leading off from the hall, saw all children standing by the doorways when Mr Dowling, headmaster, gave the command: "School, quick march". Mr Brand and later Mrs Elsie Hounslow or Mr Vale were at the piano. The teachers obviously knew the system and one by one would direct their class to march in, the first to the front, next behind until all were in place. We often sang "Onward, Christian Soldiers" that Albert hummed as he walked around his house and garden. It was therefore chosen as one of the hymns at his funeral service. In our schooldays the boys were always addressed by their surname but Christian names were used for girls. "Downer" we will miss you.

Valerie Grose



Albert Downer with his father and uncle on a Valiant coach tour. Valiant coaches used to take the Sunday School on outings and were well known locally.



50+ Barbeque at Warwick Road

1st July 2015

Many thanks to Nick and Caroline Robinson for their generous hospitality on the hottest day of the year for providing a feast of a barbeque for the 50+ group and guests (one as young as age 9). **Doc Robinson's garden was simply the best venue on such a day,** for had there been a case of heat stroke, or over-indulgence, instant medical skills would have been on tap.

We gorged ourselves on barbequed lamb, beefburgers etc washed down with various wines, guava juice, water and Hanwell Sunshine Special (you will have to ask Joseph and Arda Metcalf for details of this drink).

For dessert, there was fruit salad, melon, cheesecake, ice-cream, strawberries, or strawberry liqueur. My favourite of the day was baked banana with brown sugar, fresh lime juice with a dash of rum, mmm truly tropical! We finished off with coffee.

All in all a perfect day and the perfect start of the 50+ summer break. We will be back in action in the autumn.

Once more thanks, and here's to you Dr and Mrs Robinson – the 50+ Fellowship appreciates your kind gesture.

Eileen Sinclair.



The Mothers Union – Christian care for families worldwide

In 1876 Mary Sumner founded this wonderful worldwide Christian organization at Old Alresford Vicarage (Winchester) during her sojourn there as the **vicar's wife**.

Since this Christian organization supports and campaigns for families globally, Christians all over the world belong. We share a commitment to improve family life, and the lives of others through practical action and prayer. This year – 2015 is the 125th **anniversary of The Mother's Union in the London Diocese**.

Mary Sumner's Day August 9th

Mary Sumner's Prayer.

All this day, O Lord, let me touch as many lives as possible for thee and every life I touch, do thou by this spirit quicken, whether through the word I speak, the prayer I breathe, or the life I live.
Amen.

The Mother's 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.

Guides Go Bowling

One Thursday evening the Guides met at the Bowling Arena in Park Royal instead of at St Thomas's.

We checked in and got our bowling shoes and then we entered our names into the machines and started to play. Most of the Guides had played before, but it didn't take long for everyone to get the hang of it. For part of our evening we each had a platter of nibbles and a drink which we all enjoyed. We were able to play 2 games during the evening.

Thanks to Pauline Britton and Jane Winchester who accompanied us in Bev's absence.

The story behind ...

Dear Lord and Father of mankind

Dear Lord and Father of mankind,

forgive our foolish ways!

Reclothe us in our rightful mind;

in purer lives thy service find,

in deeper reverence, praise.

In simple trust like theirs who heard

beside the Syrian sea

the gracious calling of the Lord,

let us, like them, without a word,

rise up and follow thee.

...Drop thy still dews of quietness,

till all our strivings cease;

take from our souls the strain and stress,

and let our ordered lives confess

the beauty of thy peace.

This is the nation's second favourite hymn, according to a poll taken by the BBC Songs of Praise programme in 2013. But it did not originate in the UK, nor did it begin life as a hymn. It began in the USA, as part of a poem about a drug-induced religious frenzy.

John Greenleaf Whittier had been born in Haverhill, Massachusetts in 1807. His family were part of a pious Quaker community, and so the young John had grown up in an atmosphere of reverence, of waiting upon God in prayerful silence. Whittier wanted to be a poet, but his father directed him to journalism instead, in order to be sure his son could earn a living. Obediently, Whittier took up his pen and began to write for the papers. He was soon engaged in the fight against slavery, which he called **the 'national crime'**. He was frequently abused and criticized for his stand, and found his solace in turning to his first love, poetry.

In 1872 he wrote a 17 verse 'hymn-poem' called 'The Brewing of Soma'. It was an attempt to depict the futile ways in which mankind tries to engage with God. The story line is of priests of the Vedic religion (close to

Hinduism) brewing soma, a sacred ritual drink with hallucinogenic properties. The priests are hoping that Soma will give them an experience of the divine, but instead they simply get drunk. This failure is then compared to some Christians' use of "music, incense, vigils drear, And trance, to bring the skies more near, Or lift men up to heaven!" But all their effort is in vain. It is mere intoxicated folly.

And so the poem runs for 11 verses. Then, in verse 12, the whole scene changes, and we are not using props any longer, but simply looking into the loving face of the God of the Bible. We come to Him in penitence, and are met with grace and love. We encounter Jesus, and follow Him in obedience. The result is peace, stillness, and eternal life.

The poem became the hymn in 1884, when Garrett Horder took the **poem's final five verses and made them the hymn we love today.** Here in the UK we sing it to the tune 'Repton', by C Hubert H Parry.



From the Editors

August, being a holiday month, is quite quiet at St Thomas's, but please remember the panto kick-off BBQ on the 29th in the vicarage garden. **If you can't make it, but would like to be involved in the panto and you haven't received an email,** please either contact Sue (see details on the back of the Trident), or just turn up.

Jul + Sue

Copy date for the September Trident will be Sunday August 9th
Copy date for the October Trident will be Sunday September 12th
Copy date for the November Trident will be Sunday October 11th

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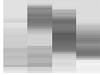
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Wanted: Donations of good quality household and personal items that you no longer want.

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 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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August

The Pop-In will be closed during August. It will re-open on Friday September 4th for tea, coffee and cakes.

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

Terracycle recycling for Organ Fund

We can no longer collect yoghurt pots as these are collected by the council in your green boxes and we can no longer collect baby wipe packets

We are still collecting
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long life juice and men's
shaving foam.

Collection box in the church porch.

Diary Dates

JULY

26th Sun 8th Sunday after Trinity

AUGUST

2nd Sun 9th Sunday after Trinity

9th Sun 10th Sunday after Trinity

16th Sun 11th Sunday after Trinity

23rd Sun 12th Sunday after Trinity

29th Sat Panto Kick-off BBQ

30th Sun 13th Sunday after Trinity

SEPTEMBER

6th Sun 14th Sunday after Trinity

13th Sun 15th Sunday after Trinity

20th Sun 16th Sunday after
Trinity

26th Sat Harvest Supper

27th Sun Harvest Festival



Baby/Toddler
Group

St Thomas's Hall

On Wednesdays

from

10.30am

Closed for August—
re-opens Wed 2nd Sept

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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