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50 Pence



January 2017

The Trident



The Parish Magazine of


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WE DO HOPE THAT YOU WILL FEEL WELCOME TO COME TO OUR SERVICES

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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Diary Dates



DECEMBER

18th Sun

Advent 4.

Nine Lessons and Carols 6.30pm
Christmas Eve. Midnight Mass 11.30pm
Christmas Day

24th Sat

25th Sun

JANUARY

1st Sun

5th (Thurs) -7th (Sat)

7th Sat

1st Sunday of Christmas

ST THOMAS'S PANTO!!!!
 Churches Together in Hanwell prayer meeting at N. Hanwell Baptist Church 10-11am

8th Sun

28th Sat

15th Sun

22nd Sun

29th Sun

Epiphany

PCC away day
2nd Sunday of Epiphany
3rd Sunday of Epiphany
Candlemas

FEBRUARY

4th Sat

Churches Together in Hanwell prayer meeting at St Thomas' 10-11am

MARCH

4th Sat

Churches Together in Hanwell prayer meeting at South Hanwell Baptist Church 10-11am
 PCC meeting

28th Tues

Our vision is to be a place of welcome to all, sharing the joy of our Christian faith, and building on over 80 years of service within our community using our gifts for the benefit of all people.

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POP-IN

POP- IN ON FRIDAYS
AT ST THOMAS' 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!

January

6th - CLOSED

13th - tea, coffee and cakes

20th - tea, coffee and cakes

27th - tea, coffee and cakes

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

Copy Dates!

Copy date for the February 2017
magazine will be Sunday January
8th.

Copy date for the March
magazine will be Sunday 12th
February

Baby/Toddler Group

St Thomas' Hall
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10.30am until
11.45am.

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From our Vicar

Dear Friends

Can I firstly wish you a very happy New Year!

One of my abiding memories of school happened during the first week of me starting a new school. I sat in a Latin Class (a first!) and was told to conjugate the verb amo.

"Sorry sir?" was my bewildered reply. "What's the problem, don't you know what amo is?" came his curt reply. "Yes, sir it's what you put in a gun." This seemed to increase his ire, and he barked, "Get to the Art Room where *your* time will be better spent". And so ended my very brief flirtation with Classics. However, as history, it has always fascinated me and especially how it expressed itself in terms of faith.

There was a famous Roman called Titus who won an important victory in the first Jewish War. Titus is often portrayed in art as flying in to heaven on the back of an eagle. This moment was what the Romans called an 'apotheosis'; a man becoming a god.

That ancient belief seems to tap into something primeval. We, especially at the new year, believe that if we try, we could make something of ourselves. This year I really will keep my resolutions and be svelte and shiny and improved. Of course, that's all well and **very** good except when we begin to start admiring ourselves too much.

That was the Roman disease. It was, and is, the temptation to aim at being more than human, the temptation to take charge of ourselves, in other words the wrong type of pride.

In January we arrive at Epiphany. It is the moment when kings come to meet a baby. It is the moment power bows down to frailty. Epiphany is a lesson about pride and effort. The Kings did not kneel at the crib to admire a superhuman. This first glimpse of the God amongst us, is a glimpse of frailty and dependence. That is how God takes human form.

Christ turned the ambition of Titus on its head. Here was God who came to us and lived as one of us. Christ was, in fact, the one person who has lived a life in which he neither imposed himself nor apologized for himself. He never sought to be more or less than human. Again and again he resisted the invitation to take charge, impose himself, or do it better. Christ knew the great good news; it is God, and not our own effort, that will redeem us. Christ was the great good news that it is in being properly human that we can come close to God.

Good luck with your New Year resolutions, and may God bless you in 2017.

Your friend and priest
Fr. Robert



Parish News

Oh yes it is! It's Panto time at St Thomas' once again. This year's production is *A Christmas Carol*, and as I write this I can confidently say it will be as good as ever, so please buy you tickets now.

The actors, directors, and production people have worked incredibly hard, and have produced something

which will bring us all together, so thank you to all involved.

Christmas as ever is very busy but very joyous as well. To put together the sheer variety of services and devotions is a monumental task and only possible thanks to very dedicated people. If you stuck *Jelly Tots* on a Christingle, thank you. If you sung at one of our services, thank you. If you lit candles, put flowers in oases, mulled wine and made tea, thank you. This season seems to be *the* season when thanks are heartfelt but don't seem to match the scale of what is achieved. Without everyone's help Advent and Christmas at St Thomas' would feel very poor, so again Thank you all!!

In December we also had our 50+ Fellowship group Christmas Lunch which marked the end of a very full and varied year of activities and events (a report will follow in next months magazine). Do please come along if you can, it really is a great way to get to know other people. Also, this year we had a party for the very youngest in our Church family which was a great success. Obviously the adults had to er, 'test' the food as well!

The musical life of the church is really developing thanks to Ed's leadership, and Esther our Junior Choir Leader is beginning her community outreach part of her job by setting up and leading a choir at Oaklands Primary School. This is incredibly exciting and marks a new area in our life as a Church. Please remember this in your prayers.

In January the PCC will be having their Away Day and we will be looking at the vision and finances of the Church to see how we can continue to grow. Again, thank you to all for your work and efforts over the past few weeks.

Fr. Robert



Prayer for the month of January

Lord of the Years, At the start of this New Year we ask for your presence, protection and guidance for every minute of every day of every month ahead. Thank you that we do not go into this New Year alone.

Thank you for loving us so much that you gave us Jesus to lead us to you. May we commit ourselves afresh to serve you, to love you and to share your love with those who don't yet know you. May we make a difference for your Kingdom in 2017. In Jesus name. Amen

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PANTO 2017
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Friday	10am - 8pm
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Sunday	CLOSED




In the UK, professional care workers can issue food vouchers to people in crisis so that they can visit their local Foodbank and be helped.

When they turn up at the Foodbank they receive:

- a 3 day food supply
- a cup of tea or coffee and a chat
- help in finding other professionals who can help them out of their crisis.

In the UK, 1 in 5 of the population live below the poverty line. In Ealing last year, 4130 clients in crisis received a 3 day emergency food supply.

Please continue to donate by using the **green Foodbank collection boxes** in the church porches (clearly labelled Foodbank). The list of wanted items updated on 9th December is: dried milk, cereal bars, meat or fish soup, instant mash potatoes, vegetable curry, macaroni cheese and shaving foam.

St Thomas' church contribution this year amounted to 930 lbs, included 214 lbs at Harvest only!!

Well done everyone and thank you for your support.

Greetings from Cambridge.....

It seems a while since St Thomas's gave me such a wonderful send off to Westcott House in Cambridge. My first term has been an eventful time, and has passed very quickly!

Arriving at Westcott House was quite an experience; so many emotions in leaving Hanwell and arriving at a new place, let alone the fact that I was arriving at theological college. I was very lucky that a friend's husband kindly drove me up to Cambridge in an incredibly full car (I don't travel lightly). We were met by a group of returning students who were fantastic at helping us unload my numerous belongings up two flights of stairs. My training started with tea with my tutor group and then a welcome Communion.

As part of my training for ordination I am undertaking a Cambridge Bachelor's Degree in Theology for Ministry. This means I've had to matriculate (join) a Cambridge University College (although Westcott House is in Cambridge it is not a college member of Cambridge University). I was allocated to join St Edmund's College (an extremely friendly and international postgraduate college). I initially thought this just meant completing a form but that is not the Cambridge way. I needed to purchase an academic gown, attend a ceremony where I shook hands with the College's Master and signed to join Cambridge University for life. This was followed by a delightful dinner. It was a very special evening that I'd never imagined that I would experience.

During the week my days are a mix of chapel services, set lectures and the less formal. The day starts with Morning Prayer at 7.40am sometimes followed by Eucharist. The community will then share breakfast together before we go off to our various lectures. I have a number of classes of Life & Service which concentrate on the skills for ministry. I also have numerous Greek classes; I've recently discovered an app for my phone to help with vocabulary which is becoming rather addictive! The standard of lectures is exceptionally high; my Christian Doctrine lectures are given by the Regius Professor of Divinity who has the incredible skill of being able to communicate very complex theories in a clear and engaging way (with the odd joke!). In addition to the weekly lectures for each subject I have three supervisions each term for which I must write an essay or essay plan which will be discussed in a small group with our supervisor. This is to help me prepare for the three hour exams I will have in May.



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The days then sometimes have the less formal: serving tea and coffee in the Common Room as part of the rota of duties we share at Westcott to support community life, training to join the tech team (so I can help set up the sound systems for Westcott House services) or bar training. Westcott House Common Room has a licensed bar and students take it in turns to serve behind the bar – that wasn't a skill I was expecting to pick up from theological college!

Being in Cambridge has in itself offered a number of opportunities. In my first weeks I was able to attend a Faraday Institute lecture on "Living Forever; A Worry for Religious Belief?" The Institute runs lectures and courses that interlink science and religion. I have also been able to observe with Cambridge Street Pastors which was an excellent way to be able to see Cambridge. I went out on the Saturday before Halloween so there was a huge number of people out socialising in impressive costumes. The Street Pastor team did a fabulous job and responded to seven incidents of young people who needed medical attention; much more than I had ever seen in Ealing.

Everyone at college has Sunday placements in local parish Churches or College Chapels. My placement is with Queens' College Chapel; the chapel is a beautiful space. The choir are amazing and are led by Ralph Allwood, who led a Community Choral Day at St Thomas'. Seeing Ralph at Queens' was a lovely reminder of the amazing music at St Thomas'. I attend Evensong on Sunday and Wednesday evenings at Queens helping with setting up for the service. During the year I will take various parts in the services, leading and preaching so gain more experience in ministry.

I have already been able to wear the cassock alb which I purchased with St Thomas's very kind gift to me. I will use the remainder of the very generous gift to purchase a cassock next term when the vestment retailers come to visit Westcott House.

I am writing this at the start of December, at the end of my first term; I am very much looking forward to time off over Christmas (although I will have reading and an essay to work on). I am also very much looking forward to visiting St Thomas' in January in time for the Panto so I will hopefully catch up with you all then.

Many blessings, Sophie

St. Thomas Apostle 50+ Group visit to new teaching block of Elthorne Park High school.

2nd November 2016

Nine of us gathered in the church hall and then set off to the Balfour Beatty site offices in Elthorne Park.

There we were greeted and were kitted out with hard hats, high visibility vests and protective gloves. We all looked very smart.

The site manager and two colleagues joined us and escorted us on to the building site itself.

We were told that, at present, there were no external works or holes in the ground or trenches going on in the vicinity so it was safe to proceed. We hope that the reader will have seen the new building. Modern, very stylish and a good and larger replacement for the original 'C block' that had previously stood in the same place.

The structure of the new building had been prefabricated in Austria complete with already triple glazed windows.

Walls and floors are made from solid wood and were delivered in flatpack form by lorry.

We entered by the west end of the building into a new assembly hall with high ceiling. This was a multi-purpose space for the whole school.

Directly ahead the drama studio was being fitted out. For performances this studio will become the stage and the audience will be seated on terraces of fold-away seating.

We went through to the reception area and saw the sixth form café and the open plan school library beyond. Workers were installing plaster board, joinery, ducting and electrical equipment.

On first floor and second floor there were many class rooms, long corridors, toilet facilities being equipped and as a bonus there were good views over the park.

Although we could see the spaces for the different activities we could also see the various parts of the structure, the various trades in progress and the various equipment of the building process.

On the roof are solar panels for electricity and rainwater will be collected to be stored in underground tanks.

Our guides explained the energy efficient structure, plenty of triple glazed windows but few actually able to open. With 30 or more energetic pupils per classroom that sounds like a job for a state of the art ventilation system.

We saw carpenters, electricians, toilet cubicles being created, ventilation ducts and floor vinyl laying.

Our guides answered many questions about the operation and installation process.

As you would expect there were hints here and there of technology to be used in the management of the building and in the teaching environment. ITC was mentioned but we didn't know what it meant.

We saw preparations for new 'blackboards' which aren't anything like blackboards any more. More like giant TV screens on which the teacher can write and rub out! Can you believe it.

Class rooms are going to be lit by only a handful of the latest low energy LED light fittings.

After a good look round we returned to the site cabins and, just as we were getting used to them, we gave our new outfits back to the supervisor.

The building is due for completion in January 2017.

Our thanks to the project manager and staff of Balfour Beatty.



From the Editors

A lot of interesting things to read in this months magazine - an update from the foodbank; what our 50+ group have been doing and so exciting to hear all about Sophie's first term at Wescott House. All that remains for us to do is wish you all a very Happy New Year. See you at the panto!

Julie & Sue

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.