

50 Pence



January 2018

The Trident




The Parish Magazine of



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CHURCH OF ENGLAND

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'.

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 | | |
| | 10.30AM | MOTHER AND BABY/TODDLER GROUP |
| 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

One of the features of the school run for me now is the accompanying songs of Monty Python. Alexander has discovered the unadulterated joy of the *Lumberjack Song* and *Eric the half a Bee*, so **Monty Python's Greatest Hits** is

on a constant loop in the car. However, one of his favourites begins:

'The most interesting thing about Charles Ist is that he was 5 foot six inches tall at the start of his reign, and 4 foot eight at the end...'

On 30th January Charles 1st is remembered in the Anglican Calendar. My copy of the Church Diary says, in no uncertain terms, 'Charles, King and Martyr, 1649'. However, the original 1662 Book of Common Prayer had this day as a 'Red Letter Day' and declared him 'Blessed'. Even though, for some reason, later publications of the Book of Common Prayer seem to have mysteriously dropped his feast day from the Calendar, a group called, 'The Society of King Charles the Martyr', unapologetically call him Saint Charles. Given the intrigue around his ecclesial title, it could be argued that 'the most interesting thing about Charles 1st is [NOT] that he was 5 foot six inches tall at the start of his reign, and 4 foot eight at the end', but rather his status in the history of the Church in England.

He certainly reintroduced bishops to Scotland, revived an interest in the religious life, after his forebear Henry VIII's monastic, er, 'redistribution of wealth', and he also oversaw the refurbishment of cathedrals and churches. However, how these ecclesiastical activities prompted his early departure from the Court in front of the Banqueting House, Westminster, rather than the fact he was an obstinate monarch, is debatable. These two elements cannot be divorced from one another, but surely other factors loomed larger in the minds of Parliamentarians than bishops, monks and interior design.

In the end though, the words on his lips were declarations about God, and his life within the life of God. Charles saw his life and work within the life and work of eternity.

As we begin a new year it is a good time to reflect on where we place our life. Do we place our life within eternity or something more ephemeral? The experience of King Charles I reminds us that even the most powerful cannot escape pain and reality at it harshest, but life can be met with courage with God at our side and within.

Whatever this new year throws at you as an individual, and us as a **community, may we face it confident of God's presence.**

May God grant you a joyous, prosperous and peaceful New Year!

Your friend and priest

Fr. Robert

Parish News



Two big things are still pending as I write this. The first is the St **Thomas' Church Panto. 2018's is Puss in Boots and promises to** be a wonderful production. There may be tickets left, so please contact Sue by checking out the details on the poster in this Trident.

The second important thing are the Parish Hall Surveys. Some have been returned already, and thank you to all who have done them. If you have not filled out a survey please, please, please do so. There is a copy enclosed.

On February 4th Bishop Pete, the Bishop of Willesden, will be coming to St **Thomas' for a Confirmation service. If you are interested in Confirmation** please contact me asap. If already confirmed please pray for our candidates whose names will appear on the pewsheets leading up to the day.

Finally, can I say a huge thank you to all who helped out over Advent and Christmas.

To put together services and devotions of such variety, profundity and joy is a massive 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 oasis, mulled wine and mashed tea, thank you. Once again, this season is a time when thanks are **most heartfelt but don't seem to match the scale of what is achieved. I have said it before, and I say it unreservedly again, without everyone's help Advent and Christmas at St Thomas' would feel very poor.**

Fr. Robert



Prayer at Epiphany

Lord of all, Creator of all,

Please shine your light into this dark world. Reveal yourself afresh we pray. Bring new sight and understanding to eyes blinded by commercialism, materialism, self-seeking and cynicism.

At the start of this New Year, Lord, soften hearts and give wisdom, so that many will search and find you, just as the wise men searched and found you.

And for we who already know and love you, Lord, shine on us that we might reflect **your light and make a difference, day by day. In Jesus' name. Amen.**

St Thomas' parish hall redevelopment

St Thomas' parish hall was built just over 50 years ago. Since then, it has been an amazing gift to the community. Each week numerous groups use it for various activities, making it an invaluable place for everyone from the youngest to the oldest in our community. The hall is now in urgent need of some repairs to enable it to be a gift for the future. However, rather than just patching it up, we would like to take the opportunity to make the hall an even better place for the community, offering improved facilities for new and existing groups and making it more attractive as a space for community events.

Thus, we would be really grateful if you could take a couple of minutes to fill in the survey below so that we can do our best to take account of your needs.



St Thomas' Parish Hall Survey

1. What is your perception/impression of the parish hall?

2. What changes would encourage you to use the parish hall more?
Tick all appropriate:
 - a. Improved external appearance
 - b. Improved internal appearance
 - c. Improved facilities (please specify below)
 - d. More activities/groups of interest to me
 - e. Promotion of existing activities/groups
 - f. Other (please specify below)

3. **Are you aware of any potential groups which currently don't have a place to meet, and who might like to use the hall.**

Once filled in please return to: Parish Hall Survey St Thomas' Vicarage, 182 Boston Road, Hanwell, London W7 2AD or parishhallsurvey@gmail.com

St Thomas' Players Presents:
Puss In Boots

a Ben Crocker Pantomime

Adults: £10

(Thursday all Tickets: £5)

Children: £5

Showing at
St Thomas'
Parish Hall,
Hanwell, W7
on: 4th and 5th
Jan at 7.30pm; 6th
at 1pm and 6pm.

Box Office: 07850 889948 (Sue)

Email: stickets@me.com



RAINBOW VACANCY

1st Hanwell Rainbows Unit is looking for a new leader.

Rainbows is a youth group for 5-7 year old girls and is part of the Girlguiding association.

Girlguiding is a leading charity for girls and young women in the UK. We build girls' confidence and raise their aspirations. We give them the chance to discover their full potential and encourage them to be a more powerful force for good. We give them a safe space to have fun.

1st Hanwell Rainbows meet on Monday evenings during term time for 1 hour from 4.55pm - 5.55pm at St Thomas' Church Hall on the Boston Road. We have a lovely team of volunteers.



It is a great chance to develop your leadership skills and to make new friends, and to put on your CV.

If this sounds like something you would like to do, please get in touch with Amy Newlands by email: amyhnewlands@hotmail.com or mobile: 07713584130.



From the Editors

Thank you to those who helped to bundle the Christmas magazine and also to all of you who took bundles to deliver to houses in our parish.

Please do fill in the parish hall survey as it will help us to plan our hall **improvements**. **Please book your tickets for the panto soon as they're** selling fast.

Happy New Year from both of us.

Julia & Sue

Copy Dates!

Copy date for February will be Sunday 14th January

Copy date for March will be Sunday 11th February

Copy date for April will be Sunday 11th March

For all cat lovers at St Thomas'!

OLD WOMAN TO CAT

Cat, smoother soother than a velvet glove,
How can you thus reply to my caress?
In giving, I receive the touch of love
Yet the gnarled knuckle and the brown age-blotch
Are there for those mysterious eyes to watch
And I thought beauty shrank from ugliness.

Queen Cat, to whom I kneel with joints that creak,
There is no grace in my antiquity
But only movements difficult and weak,
Whereas you move with pure fluidity.
Bear with me, lovely one, and though I grow
Unlovelier still, pretend you do not know.

M Bond

THE PLAIN FACTS

By a PLAIN *but* AMIABLE Cat

See what a charming smile I bring,
Which no one can resist;
For I have found a wondrous thing---
The fact that I exist.

And I have found another, which
I now proceed to tell.
The world is so sublimely rich
That you exist as well.

Fact One is lovely, so is Two,
But O the best is Three:
The fact that I can smile at you,
And you can smile at me.

Ruth Pitter

The 3 Wise Men?

We think of the 3 wise men following the star and visiting Jesus in the stable, but according to the Church of England General Synod, there **weren't necessarily 3 of them, they were not necessarily wise, and they weren't necessarily men!**

At the week long General Synod in London in 2004, a subcommittee led by the Bishop of Sheffield, the Rt Rev Jack Nicholls, was revising the short **prayers or "collects" of the Book of Common Worship. They had been urged to change the term Magi, which is used in the Book of Common Worship, to Three Wise Men, on the grounds that this is how people usually refer to them. However, Rev Nicholls said that "to translate the term into something more universally understood is to miss the point being made." Matthew deliberately used an exotic word, Magi, in his Gospel, to emphasise the exotic nature of the visitors to Jesus. 'Magi' is a translation of the name of officials at the Persian court. It is a word which discloses nothing about the number, wisdom or gender embodied in the term. The Persians were unlikely to have been women, but the possibility can't be excluded.**

That Jesus' visitors brought 3 gifts, gold, frankincense and myrrh, is theologically undisputed, and the fact that there were 3 gifts probably led to the jump to conclude that there were 3 men as well.

An excellent New Year's Resolution for everybody

Here is something very easy, and very good, for you to do this year: simply eat more slowly.

It could save your life.

Recent research in Japan has found that diners who gobble their food quickly are five times more likely to develop metabolic syndrome, the name for a cluster of dangerous health problems such as high blood pressure, diabetes and obesity. Those of us who eat quickly are also more than three times more likely to gain weight.

Scientists believe that eating quickly prevents the brain from noticing when the body has taken in too many calories. Unused calories are then stored as fat, which places pressure on the heart. Eating fast also appears to cause spikes of blood sugar, which can stop insulin from working effectively. Metabolic syndrome affects one in four adults in Britain.



Thank you for your support. Please continue to give by providing any of these items in one of the green Foodbank collection boxes situated inside the church porches.

The revised list of items needed:

Tinned fruit, tinned meat, tinned vegetables, tinned fish (not just tuna!), long life sponge puddings, dried herbs, stock cubes, gravy granules, salt, pepper.

An up to date list can always be found at <https://ealing.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-food/>

Some modern tips for the Wise Men's journey

Suppose you are going abroad, to pay your respects to a newly born royal baby. **But the country you visit is under foreign occupation, and you don't know where the baby is.** What can you do to make sure you are successful?

When travelling abroad in foreign places, first think carefully about your transport – how many camels will you really need? How will you feed them on the way? And what about relying solely on the stars at night for navigation? Would a Satnav during the day help things along a bit?

When you arrive in the country, be sensitive to the political situation. It may be unwise to go straight to the authorities and ask them where their future king has just been born. This can make leaders uneasy, and can even **get innocent people killed.** **Also, be aware of the country's attitude to different gods,** especially if you have gone along intending to worship one in particular.

Don't worry if you are given only part of an address, say, only the name of the town where the baby may be. Go there, and trust that somehow you **will feel 'led' to the right house.**

Sadly, crime is common in many foreign cities, so if you are carrying expensive presents like gold or frankincense, it is best to keep them out of sight. A coat with large pockets, or even a loose cape, will work fine.

If any problems arise after you find the baby and pay your respects, don't hang about. Pay attention to that nightmare you had last night, and get out of the country before you are arrested. Be happy to take a different route home. After all, it is all under the same stars. Above all, be wise, and have a Happy New Year!



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| Wednesday | 10am - 5pm |
| Thursday | 10am - 7pm |
| Friday | 10am - 8pm |
| Saturday | 10am - 8pm |
| Sunday | CLOSED |

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on January 10th*

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Diary Dates



DECEMBER

31st Sun 1st Sunday of Christmas

JANUARY 2018

6th Sat Churches together in Hanwell meeting at Hanwell Methodist Church 10.00 - 11.00

4th - 6th **St Thomas' Pantomime!**

7th Sun Epiphany

14th Sun 2nd Sunday of Epiphany

21st Sun 3rd Sunday of Epiphany

28th Sun 3th Sunday of Epiphany

FEBRUARY

3rd Sat Churches together in Hanwell meeting at St Mellitus Church 10.00 - 11.00

MARCH

3rd Sat Churches together in Hanwell meeting at South Hanwell Baptist Church 10.00 - 11.00

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

5th - CLOSED

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.

PARISH DIRECTORY



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