

50 Pence



July 2015

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 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

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

One of the great joys of modern life is Facebook. I particularly enjoy the musings of friends who express disappointment or incredulity over the vagaries and quirks of modern life. A friend recently shared his disappointment and sense of profound loss, which has left his commute to work so much duller now. What is the object of such grief you may well ask? **Well, it's an apostrophe on a bacon butty van that used to be in a layby** on the A167, that joyously read: Christines Snax's.

Given that I am the Vicar of a church dedicated to St Thomas the Apostle, I **can't afford to be too fussy about apostrophes, given my penchant for St Thomas' rather than the arguably more correct St Thomas's. My defence** lies in its use in the London Hospital of the same name, and the simple fact I think it looks nicer. However, before I am arrested by the apostrophe police I would like to reflect on it in this patronal festival month.

The grammatical quibbles surrounding apostrophes comes from the ability of their misuse to create misunderstanding around belonging. The success a **few years ago of Lynn Truss' (or is it Truss's?) Eats, Shoots and Leaves** bears this out. Yet, belonging is at the very heart of our Patronal Festival **Celebrations at St Thomas' (sic). The patronal celebrations are a chance for** us to declare our joy and hope at belonging to this faith community dedicated to that particular saint.

However, we do not need an apostrophe to remind us of that belonging, all we need is our shared life together in the Eucharist. Our service reminds us **of this in the words: 'Though we are many, we are one body, because we all share in one bread'.**

Thus, our belonging is not dependent upon the correct use of something, **but Jesus' love and grace which draws us together. I hope you will make the** most of our weekend of celebrations and give, to one another and St **Thomas, joyful and hearty thanks, and maybe, dare I say it, even thank's!**

Your friend and priest
Fr. Robert



Parish News

July is always an exciting month in the life of our church as we celebrate our Patronal Festival. This year we have re-jigged the timetable a wee bit, the biggest move being the transfer of the Vicarage Garden Party from Saturday afternoon to Sunday afternoon. Hopefully by doing this we will avoid clashing with every Primary School event in the London area! So fingers crossed!

The weekend begins with the parish BBQ in the vicarage garden at 6pm on the 4th July. Please bring something to eat and share, and bring a friend. From 9pm the BBQ area will be transformed into a cinema. This was hugely successful when we did this for the first time last year and hopefully people will enjoy it every bit as much this year, as we watch 'The Theory of Everything'. Please bring with you a jumper, blanket and refreshments and settle down for a great experience.

After our Patronal Festival Mass at 10am we will have drinks in the vicarage **garden followed by a parish picnic and all the usual fun 'n' games of the Garden Party.** There will be other foods available and, of course, that staple of English summers, cream teas! The Garden Party will finish at 3pm.

In other news the work on the organ is progressing very well, and will continue over the next couple of months (apart from August). Do check the news and photographic updates at the back of church. Also, during this period there will inevitably be some disruption in terms of when the church will be open during the week. There will times when the church may be locked, in order for equipment and organ parts to be safely stored. Please bear with us during this time, and rejoice at what a wonderful 'problem' to have.

The refurbishment of the organ has meant that Michael and the Worship and Music Outreach Committee are busy exploring ways of making the most of our 'born-again' instrument. Already, Ian Tracy, the organist at Liverpool Cathedral, is lined up to give our opening recital. Other very exciting musical events will be announced in the near future.

Other PCC committees have also been busy, especially the church hall one. We are about to redecorate the main hall and have had a meeting with our architect John Scott to explore how we can make the most of this wonderful community and church asset so we can better serve Hanwell. In all these projects we progress only with the help and support of one another and God. So may God continue to bless us and lead us as we share our life together.



Ealing Council's Fostering Service is on a journey to make sure every child and young person in their care is given the chance to be part of a stable and loving home. There is currently a national shortage of foster carers

and the situation in Ealing is no different.

In response to this shortage Ealing Council have launched a campaign aimed at recruiting more local foster carers in Ealing. It is important that the council can find local foster carers to continue their local service and to ensure children in their care can remain close to family, friends, school and all the services needed to support them.

If you want to find out more about how you can help to change a child's life for the better, Ealing Council, in partnership with Home for Good, will host an information event about fostering which is aimed at people of the **Christian faith. The event will be held at St Paul's Church, Ealing, W13 9XW**, from 7.30pm-9.00pm on Monday 6th July. To find out more contact Emma Harry 020 8825 8941 or email HarryEm@ealing.gov.uk



The Black Madonna at
St Mary's Church, Willesden.



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 by 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

Antonio's Story

Antonio's whole life has been marred by leprosy. Today he is unable to walk and has to depend upon others for all his needs. Antonio was just a child when he was diagnosed with leprosy and it has affected his whole life.

Because Antonio wasn't treated early on he gradually lost all feeling in his hands and feet. Horrifically, this meant that he would injure himself over and over again, without a sense of pain to

protect him. He couldn't feel sharp objects under his feet or sense that his hand was being burnt by the fire.

Antonio's injuries became infected because he often wasn't even aware that they were there, so he didn't keep the wounds clean. Even when he was

aware of an injury, keeping it clean living in a mud hut, sleeping in the dust and with no water supply in the village, was impossible. Tragically, Antonio lost a finger and all of his toes because his wounds became infected and ulcerated. His feet are badly deformed and he cannot walk on them except a short distance using crutches.

Antonio is Dad to five children and if it **were not for his wife Gabrielle's hard work, he would be begging for his and his children's survival. Gabrielle is also**

disabled because of leprosy but was treated earlier so is not as badly affected as her husband. She works hard in the fields to provide for the family and make sure that Antonio is looked after. It is incredibly hard for **Antonio to watch his wife struggling. He said "I wish I never had leprosy so that I could work and do not have to watch my wife struggle so hard on her own. I can't farm and I can't walk. What choice do I have?"**

Antonio feels embarrassed and ashamed that he cannot help his wife and **look after his children. His sense of dignity is gone. Yet it didn't have to be** this way. If Antonio had been treated early on and if his feet had been protected from injury and infection, he would be walking today. He would be able to support Gabrielle and provide for the children, he would be able to hold his head up high in his community. Leprosy does not have to be a life sentence.



The Barefoot Challenge was launched by The Leprosy Mission on Monday 1st June as part of its *Feet First* campaign to transform **the lives of some of the world's poorest and marginalised people in Mozambique.**

The challenge sees members of the public go about their daily business barefoot for one day – so whether it is shopping, going to work or walking the dog, doing it all bare foot! The idea is for those taking on the challenge to stand in solidarity with people affected by leprosy which causes nerve damage. As a result they often damage their feet as a result of a stone inadvertently caught in their shoe or by walking around barefoot on dusty and dirty tracks. This can lead to severe infection which can lead to terrible deformities.

Those taking part in the Barefoot Challenge are asked to donate to The Leprosy Mission. And the good news is between 1 June and 31 August their donation will be doubled as a result of the international development charity winning UK Aid Match funding from the government. Those taking part are encouraged to post their photos on Facebook and Twitter and nominate three friends to take up the challenge.

How to join the Barefoot Challenge:

Sign up online to go barefoot for a day between 1st June and 31st August 2015 – www.feetfirst.org.uk

Write the hashtag #FeetFirst on your feet and decorate at will!

Upload your photos and film on Facebook and Twitter

Tell people why you're doing it – to help protect the feet of people affected by leprosy in Mozambique.

Ask them to give a donation online (www.feetfirst.org.uk) or via text to support you. For example if they want to give £6 text FEET06 £6 to 70070 and £12 will be sent to Mozambique. Or if they want to give £10, text FEET06 £10 to 70070 and £20 will be sent to Mozambique. This is how your challenge will save lives!

Nominate three friends to take up the Barefoot Challenge!

Feet First will work with 4,000 ultra-poor people in Mozambique. Leprosy-caused nerve damage can lead to terrible deformities and even amputation. But through foot care groups, which help people to protect their numb feet, and by providing protective sandals, leprosy-affected people will be spared the wounds and ulcers that can lead to permanent disability. This means that people affected by leprosy can remain mobile and independent – able to look after themselves and not reduced to a life of begging.

St Thomas's 50+ visit to the Shrine of Our Lady of Willesden – The Black Madonna. St Mary's Church

Members of the Over 50's Club set off in two cars heading for the North Circular and the crowded area of North West London. Our destination was the Shrine of Our Lady of Willesden in the Parish Church of St. Mary's, founded in 938 by King Athelstan. Although the surrounding area is busy the Church is in the middle of an almost meadow-like churchyard and has a rural feel to it.

We were greeted by the Parish Priest, Father Andrew Hammond, and made very welcome. We sat at a table while he made us a drink and we then had our picnic lunch. Afterwards we were invited to sit near the steps of the chancel, while he told us the history of the church, and pointed out the various things of interest, including a very beautiful table used in the communion service dating from 1601, and a memorial to a man who lived during the reigns of Henry VIII and James I. It was explained that the church is very much part of the life of the parish, it being open all day long, and is visited by a constant stream of people from all different walks of life.

We then went into the Chantry Chapel next to the chancel to see the Shrine of Our Lady of Willesden. The image is of Mary holding the Christ child whose arms are outstretched. It is made of lime wood that has been ebonised. Father Andrew invited us to take part in a short prayer service which was appreciated by us all. This concluded a very interesting and uplifting visit.

Thank you to Father Robert for arranging this visit. For anyone wanting to go the Church is open every day except Tuesdays.

Marion Lewis

It was a lovely sunny day, ideal for the group that Father Robert took to this remarkable place on Wednesday 3rd June.

We had our lunch in this most Holy and Historical church, that sits majestically amidst the gravestones, to the strains of gentle church music. Tea and coffee were served by Fr Andrew, the vicar. As we shared our meal, I personally felt as if we were at the most sumptuous banquet in the most exclusive venue on earth. (Eat your heart out, Buckingham Palace Garden Party, The Ritz, The Savoy, The Dorchester!). After luncheon, Father Andrew gave us a brief talk on the life and history of the church. Apparently Christians have worshipped here since the tenth century. Water has flowed beneath the church for centuries, and is believed to have

healing properties. There are various stained glass windows. The east window in the sanctuary depicts a medieval king kneeling among other **forms and the high altar and bishop's throne complete this setting.** The pulpit is made of wood, as is the other altar in the nave. The font which dates back to Norman times is of Purbeck marble (around 1150AD) and is situated by the bell tower. There is an annual pilgrimage day. The floor is a combination of medieval flagstones and Victorian and modern-day tiles. There are around 200 people on the electoral roll and the diversity of the church is significant and admirable. We went into the Shrine for a service. The shrine is housed in the chapel of St Catherine of Alexandria and the stained glass window tells the story of Joseph in Egypt.. The screen is a thing of beauty (c1910). After the service, we went around the church looking at plaques and other things of interest. The door in the front porch dates back to AD13. In 1950, during some repairs and cleaning of the church, two bullets from the time of Cromwell (1650) were found in the door.

The organ is in good working order and as we come to the end of our **organ fundraising appeal, St Mary's are about to embark on their own** project to raise the £180,000 needed to decorate the interior ceiling and walls of the church.

We said our goodbyes and headed for home. I think the residents living on the surrounding estates are blessed to be served by this jewel in the heart of Willesden.

Eileen Sinclair

If you'd like to read some more about the fascinating history of this church, why not visit the website www.shrineofmary.org



The group on their outing to St Mary's Church, Willesden.

Patronal Fest

Saturday 4th July

6pm Parish BBQ

9pm Film Night

in the vicarage garden

The **THEORY** *of* **EVERYTHING**

Bring a blanket,
jumper, popcorn,
bottle and settle
down in front of
the big screen.



ival Weekend

Sunday 5th July

10am Patronal Festival Mass
followed by drinks in the vicarage garden

12-3pm Vicarage Garden Par-
ty
picnic in the garden, food & family fun



Guides at SYNAPSE

Synapse was a one-day workshop event held at Imperial College London on 7 June 2015. In biology, a *synapse* is where two cells come together and communicate with each other. In the same way, this workshop brought girls aged 10-17 together with scientists for a day full of science communication, **fun and learning. The participants were girls from St Thomas's Guides and 8th Acton Guides.** *Synapse* allowed the girls to experience immunology through hands-on activities in the Wohl Reach Out Lab at Imperial College London as well as through direct engagement with scientists currently working at the university. This event was designed to foster interest in science in general and immunology in particular, at an especially important time for girls as they select their GCSE and A levels subjects. The day was a great success, with 30 participants and eight contributing scientists from the National Heart and Lung Institute at Imperial College London.

Highlights of the day included:

It's in your genes – A hands-on activity involving DNA extraction from strawberries and staining cheek swabs to observe the cell nucleus.

How do they get there? – An interactive workshop on how the vascular system works and how inflammatory cells and blood vessels interact to fight off infection.

See it happen – This activity was a video presentation on the development of microscopy, from the simple light microscope to intravital and super resolution imaging, as well as a brief introduction to flow cytometry and how vaccines work.

Growing and dividing – A hands-on demonstration in the Wohl Reach Out Lab on cell culture techniques including freezing eggs in dry ice and liquid nitrogen and observing live cells in culture.

Other activities included making DNA models from sweets at lunch on the **Queen's Lawn at Imperial College London and a session in the afternoon** using French knitting to build a model of a vascular bed – this activity has previously been used in the *Blood Lines* exhibit at the Green Man Festival, the Science Museum and the Natural History Museum. The art work resulting from this activity has been donated to the participating Guide Units, the National Heart and Lung Institute at Imperial College London, and to our generous sponsor, the British Society for Immunology.

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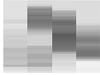
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We can only accept smaller items that can be collected in a car, not furniture. No jumble, clothing or broken items please. For local collection phone David Clarke on **07952 011543** to arrange a timed evening or weekend visit. E-mail David at david-clarke28@sky.com. If bringing items to the church, please arrange with David Jewell or Michael Mappin to take them from you.



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10th - tea, coffee and cakes
17th - tea, coffee and cakes
24th - tea, coffee and cakes
31st - tea, coffee and cakes

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



From the Editors

We look forward to seeing you all at the parish BBQ on July 4th and at the Garden Party on Sunday July

5th. It's going to be a

great weekend of celebrating St Thomas, our patron.

Jul + Sue

Copy date for the August Trident will be Sunday July 12th

Copy date for the September Trident will be Sunday August 9th

Copy date for the October Trident will be Sunday September 12th



Donations of the following are very welcome.

Meat (tinned ham or corned beef),
milk (UHT or dried), instant potatoes, instant custard, sponge pudding, rice, noodles, pasta sauce, small jars of instant coffee, **long life juice and men's shaving foam.**

Collection box in the church porch.

Diary Dates



JUNE

28th Sun 4th Sunday after Trinity

JULY

4th Sat Parish BBQ and film evening 6pm

5th Sun **St Thomas's Patronal Festival**

Garden party 12 - 3pm

6th Sunday after Trinity

PCC meeting, 8pm

12th Sun 7th Sunday after Trinity

14th Tue 8th Sunday after Trinity

19th Sun

26th Sun

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

30th Sun 13th Sunday after Trinity

*Baby/Toddler
Group*
St Thomas's Hall
*On Wednesdays from
10.30am until
11.45am.
All are welcome.
Free.*

SEPTEMBER

5th Sat Panto Kick-off BBQ (provisional date)

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 with kind permission of Stephen Brooks. www.stephenbrooksp photography.com

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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