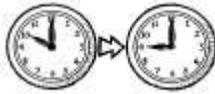


50 Pence



October 2016

The Trident



The Parish Magazine of



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CHURCH OF ENGLAND

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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:

WWW.THOMASHANWELL.ORG.UK

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



From our Vicar

Dear Friends

September always sees me become the proud recipient of a letter and number of posters advertising a National Pilgrimage at Westminster Abbey in October. This

Pilgrimage takes place in 'Edwardtide' i.e. the The Octave of the Translation of St Edward the Confessor.

St Edward the Confessor's feast day is on 13th October and celebrates the translation of his remains to the Abbey in 1269. St Edward was one of the patron saints of England until King Edward III decided to have a saint who knew one end of a sword from another, and thus chose St George in 1350. In spite of the dubious motives surrounding George, Edward was an even more bizarre choice 300 years earlier. What we know of Edward the

Confessor from his biggest fan, Osbert of Clare, is that he had, "outstanding height, distinguished milky white hair and beard, and long translucent fingers". We know from other sources that he made ecclesiastical appointments on the basis of political expedience, and often flew into rages. However, translucent fingers won the day, and he became the only English monarch to become a saint.

Whenever we hear stories like this, it is tempting to dismiss this as irrelevant rubbish, and yet these lives teach us something very important.

The important lesson is that saints come in all shapes and sizes, and are far from perfect. This is as it should be as Christianity is about redemption - it is a house for sinners, and not a cosy club for the perfect.

So as we come to God as we are, we come in the expectation that God will make us into what we can be. Over years, as we break bread together, worship, pray and study scripture, we are, through the Holy Spirit in us, made more like Christ.

It is all too easy to wag long 'translucent' fingers at others when ultimately we are called to help them become saints.

May God in the new season enable that harvest of saints to be realized.

Your friend and priest

Fr. Robert



St Edward the Confessor
on the Bayeux Tapestry

Parish News



September always prompts a flurry of activity into a season of comings and goings.

Coming our way in October is Harvest, our Confirmation Service and our Caribbean & International Night.

Our Harvest Festival this year is on 2nd October. This is **one of our three 'full' parade services, and this year, will**

be followed by a bring and share Harvest Lunch. Please do encourage people to come along. This year as well as boxes going to some of the older members of the parish, we will send our gifts to the Ealing Food Bank. Please do check the desired items on the back of the service sheet.

This year's Confirmation will take place on 9th October. We have six candidates including 3 adults. This is a great chance to recall our own **baptismal vows and confirm our intention to serve God's world and Church.**

The Caribbean and International Night is on 15th October 8-11.30pm. This annual celebration of our diversity will be another opportunity for people to bring and share a dish from their homeland or heritage. The cost will be as last year i.e. £5 Adults and £3 for pre-High School Children (bring your own bottle). As we share the food and fellowship there is the chance to have a boogie, so come along and have a great night.

Another coming to St Thomas' will soon be a new Director of Music, once the interviews have taken place in September, so watch this space.

As well as comings there are goings, most noticeably Sophie who is off to Westcott House, Cambridge to begin her training for the sacred ministry. Please remember her in your prayers. Thank you to all who kindly donated to her leaving gift, which became gifts! She has ordered herself an alb and a cassock, and promises to send a picture of herself in all her ecclesiastical finery. We look forward hearing from her as she pursues her course.

Finally, we have received some initial architectural drawings of the Church Hall. It is very early days, but will hopefully be the start of a journey to develop a space which will serve us and our community better.



The 50+ Fellowship Lunch

Well not even the eyesore that is the Elthorne Park High School extension could dampen our spirits on the 7th September, as we gathered in the vicarage garden for our luncheon. We were a happy group, praising, and partaking of the goodies each one of us had brought. We were at peace with nature. Pausing



between mouthfuls, we reminisced about timeless essential herbs, spices, health drinks and food products, famous for their nutritional and health qualities, which we took for granted. These same commodities now sell at exorbitant prices. During the meal I received some strange looks from a couple of people who shall remain anonymous (however – **here's a clue** – their names begin with C and R). The reason? - well, I hugged the fried plantain! Who could blame me, with all the outcry these days regarding **sugar and 'chocolate' which has to be eaten responsibly. I get my sugar rush** wherever I can find it, and where better than the humble plantain which contains natural sugar (my excuse). The sun suddenly came out, and as we all basked in its warmth, there were smiles of contentment.

We were privileged to have with us Laurel, a church member from our link church, Christ the King in Carriacou. She was very informative about the activities of her church. She was able to update Father Robert on current events at the church in the Caribbean. We spoke of many things and touched on the life of Mother Teresa, one of my favourite people (long before they decided to make her a saint). I admired her for her love, humility and commitment for the people of Calcutta.

Father Robert expounded about the saints and martyrs, and of those who are recognized in the Church of England, and the Church of Rome. Chloë reminded us that the following day was the birthday of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Some of us took our leave, but not before we had volunteered Father Robert for the washing up. As I headed for home, one significant word **came into my thoughts: 'love'.** It suddenly dawned on me I had just shared lunch with a group of people filled with the love of Christ. That same love which all the saints, from the past, the present, and the future, possess: **'unconditional love'.** I felt very humbled by this realisation, and went on my way vowing to work on my act.

Eileen

Thank you.....

Earlier this year I wrote in the Trident about my being recommended for training for ordination to the priesthood in the Church of England. Over the following months I chose a theological college (Westcott House in Cambridge) and prepared to move away from London. Time is a funny thing, you think future events are such a long way away but the time has come and I leave for college on 25th September. I am incredibly excited to **be going to college but am very sorry to leave St Thomas'; I will really miss this church and community.**

I am sure every Ordinand thinks their sending church is amazing. **St Thomas' has been a truly special community for me. When I received a knock-back from my first Bishop's Advisory Panel St Thomas' congregation** were there to comfort me, showing incredible care and love. You then supported me in becoming a pastoral assistant and I have received huge support for my Street Pastoring from you all – both of which have been crucial in my formation for priesthood so far. You have also been incredibly patient with my practising preaching on you. I have learnt so much from my time as PCC secretary and from my interactions with you all. I received so much encouragement from so many people to return for **a second Bishop's Advisory Panel. Although God would probably have found a way I truly believe that without St Thomas' I would not be about to embark on training for ordination.**

I may have been spoilt for my future ministry; St Thomas' is such a welcoming and loving community. I will also have very high expectations for my training incumbent once I leave college. My comments above apply to Fr Robert as well but he has also gone out of his way to guide me and help train me as much as possible. His patience and wise words have been and will be invaluable for me.

Thank you St Thomas' so much for everything; I will miss you and continue to keep you in my prayers. I will send through the odd article for the Trident so you will know how things are going and I do hope to be back to visit. Much love and blessings to you all
Sophie





Prayer for the month of October

O Lord God, the Father of lights, from whom comes every good and perfect gift; pour out your heavenly blessing on your people in this parish; that through their faith and fellowship your holy name may be glorified and your church be strengthened in your service. Through Jesus Christ our Lord

Amen



From the Editors

Quizzes abound during the next couple of months. On October 29th, we have our scout quiz and on November 12th, **we have our St Thomas' quiz.** These will have different quiz-masters, so it would be lovely to see you at both of them. Please note our very early copy dates for the November, December & January magazines (on page 14).

Jul + Sue

AUTUMN

The leaves are falling, falling as from far, as though above were withering farthest gardens; they fall with a denying attitude.

And night by night, down into solitude, the heavy earth falls far from every star.

We are all falling. This hand's falling too - all have this falling-sickness none withstands.

And yet there's One whose gently -holding hands this universal falling can't fall through.

Rainer Maria Rilke



Items specifically needed at the moment are:
Tinned fruit, tinned vegetables, long-life puddings and cakes, sugar, nuts, deodorant.

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

**7th Hanwell (St Thomas)
Scout Group
presents**



Saturday 29th October

St Thomas' Church Hall, Boston Road

6.45 for 7.00pm start

Please bring your own drinks and glasses

Come as a team, or if you like we can put you in a team

Tables of 8

Entry £12 (Children under 14 £10) - Includes supper

Prizes for the winning team

To book a table or a place

Contact: Richard Thompson 020 8840 2375

Email: richardthompson@btinternet.com

St Thomas' Annual

QUIZ!

St Thomas' Church
Hall, Boston Road

Saturday November 12th 2016
7.30pm for a prompt 7.45pm start.

Come as a team, if you like,
or we can put you in a team.

Fish and chip supper included,
but please BYO drinks.

Tickets - £10 adults; £7 children under 14



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POP- IN ON FRIDAYS

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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!

October

7th - tea, coffee and cakes
14th - tea, coffee and cakes
21st - tea, coffee and cakes
28th - tea, coffee and cakes

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

Copy Dates!

Copy date for the November
magazine will be
Sunday 2nd October.

Copy date for the December
magazine will be Sunday 23rd
October

Copy date for the January 2017
magazine will be Sunday
December 4th.

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Diary Dates



SEPTEMBER

25th Sun 18th after Trinity
27th Tues PCC meeting

OCTOBER

2nd Sun 19th after Trinity
Harvest Festival followed by Bring and Share lunch
9th Sun 20th after Trinity
15th Sat Caribbean & International night.
16th Sun 21st after Trinity
23rd Sun last after Trinity
29th Sat Scout Quiz
30th Sun 4th before Advent

NOVEMBER

6th Sun 3rd before Advent
12th Sat **St Thomas' Annual Quiz**
13th Sun 2nd before Advent
20th Sun Last before Advent
27th Sun Advent Sunday

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

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.

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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