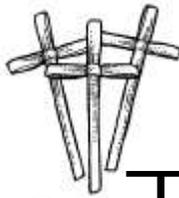


50 Pence



March 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.

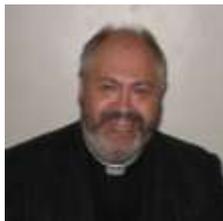
REGULAR MEETINGS

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

I write this at the start of the season of Lent with all its accompanying devotions. On Monday afternoons there is a quiet hour which ends with the Rosary recalling what **seems almost quaintly entitled the 'Sorrowful Mysteries'**. **Tuesday evening** we make our own short pilgrimage around the church stopping 14 times to **remember the magnitude of Jesus' final hours**. **And throughout the early** part of the week Lent Study groups reflect on what Christianity is all about. Against this backdrop Easter day seems a distant abstract hope, yet a hope it is.

Easter hope only makes sense when one considers what has gone before. Were Easter simply nice story, the fizz in religious champagne, then its power would be lost. Yet its power is retained because of what it shows us, and what it shows us is transforming.

Easter reminds us who has the last word. Light conquers darkness, life defeats death, forgiveness trumps sin, and love overwhelms hate. These **'soundbites' can only make sense when one looks at the journey to the cross**, because without the death of Jesus the despondency of everyday life **is reinforced**. **Thus, Nietzsche's soundbite about God being dead is proved**, because the conditions of the death of God are met, i.e. we make God just like us, and thus, being like us he must die. However, Easter reminds us that God is not just like us, but rather we are called to be just like him.

Easter tells us that in the midst of pain, torture, abuse, ridicule, jealousy, and hatred, God receives all of that and transforms it. Hence, the crown of thorns is replaced by the crown of new life.

This unique message is only possible and valid because it is set within the context of real life. The Easter story, and the events of Lent and Holy Week, tell us that God stands in solidarity with all who suffer pain and loss, but ultimately it is an empty tomb and a life-giving Spirit that creates Easter gardens out of deserts and wastelands.

Can I then encourage you to remember the breadth of the Easter Story, pain and the joy. Once remembered reflect on it for your life and embrace it. Easter is unique, Easter is good news, Easter is as much for us as it was for those people 2000 years ago.

So raise a glass of that which you have fasted from, bite into that chocolate **egg, and say 'Alleluia, thank you God for the empty tomb!'**

Your friend and priest

Fr. Robert



Parish News

This month I have highlighted the news items so that **hopefully they 'jump-out' a bit more, which I hope helps as** there are some important pieces to note.

The **Not so Grand Piano**. On 11th March 1994 a Faculty (i.e the **Church of England's equivalent of planning** permission) was granted for the grand piano to be allowed to be placed **inside St Thomas'**. This was donated by **Geoffrey Malpass a former chorister at St Thomas'** who had (according to the two brass plaques in the vestry safe) himself been given it by **'Brother Walter H Hollis President 1927-1946'** and **'Phoebe Jane Hollis and Her devotion to the PSA Born August 1898, Died January 1952'**. Thus the piano has stood in **St Thomas'** for just over twenty years.

It has only been used occasionally by us when the organ was out of order and for choir practices, but regularly by the Broken Consort on a **Thursday. However, Broken Consort no longer meet in St Thomas'** as they now use the music rooms at West Drayton School, and the choir **use a portable keyboard which allows them to practice 'in-situ', as** opposed to rather artificially around an instrument at the back of the church. Michael Mappin, our Director of Music and Organist, has on a couple of occasions petitioned the PCC to remove it as it was costing us money in tuning and possibly will cost us money in repairs, plus it is not **really 'fit for purpose'**. **Indeed, although it looks impressive, it is unusable** for anything more than choir practice and the perceived needs of Broken Consort. If we were, as we did when Lesley Garrett came, to hold a professional concert reliant of a piano we would have to hire an instrument for the occasion.

The PCC felt that while it was only costing us the expense of regular retuning and the Broken Consort were still using it then we would not consider its removal. However, since then, as already mentioned, **Broken Consort are now longer in St Thomas' and a castor needs repairing.** In addition, Bev Bowles-Bevan kindly donated his very high quality upright piano, and thanks to the panto profits we have been able to purchase a very good quality Yamaha digital piano. All of this means that the grand piano is now largely a very large dark-wood table for leaflets in a light oak church that could, hopefully, use the space better as we have more concerts and events etc.

In Light of the above the PCC at our last meeting decided to actively pursue removal of the grand piano. The reason for this long explanation in the news part is that the grand piano has a sort of sentimental mystic

about it, with some assuming it is a first rate instrument that has been a part of **St Thomas' since the building was built. Thus, the PCC were keen that** the history and rationale was clearly stated.

What happens next is that we will explore the best outcome for this instrument which will hopefully go somewhere it will be used and the investment needed in repairs and upkeep will be enthusiastically embraced. Also, we will need to apply for a faculty as it was granted one originally. If you have any questions do speak to Fr. Robert or Michael Mappin. Now to briefer news.

Gardening. **We are very blessed at St Thomas' in having a very small** handful of volunteers who every Friday morning work on the church garden. I know how important this is for our on-going mission as it tells people (who tell me!) that this is a place which is cared for and loved. Thus, a huge thank you goes to those Friday morning ladies! The PCC decided it would be good if we could help their efforts by giving them a boost by having a Saturday morning tidy-up on 27th February from 10am. They have given us some tasks, and if we could fulfil the proverb about *many hands making light* work that would be great so please do join us.

Women's World Day of Prayer. This year we have the privilege of **hosting the Women's World Day of Prayer. Please do come and support it.** It is on Friday 4th March 1.30pm.

Lenten Devotions. Can I say a huge thank you to all who have and are ensuring that we are keeping a holy Lent. Please do continue to support the study groups, services, and Choral Devotions over this season, and also our *Churches Together* Good Friday Walk of Witness.

Ian Tracey. On 16th April 7.30pm we are very fortunate to be able to have Ian Tracey (Organist at Liverpool Cathedral) giving our opening Organ Recital. Please do come and encourage as many as possible to come and support what will be a remarkable event.



Prayer for the month of March

O God, whose blessed son did overcome death for our salvation: Mercifully grant that we, who have His glorious passion in remembrance, may take up our cross daily and follow Him; through the same your son Jesus Christ or Lord.

Amen

Hanwell W.I.

Did you know that there is a branch of the Womens' Institute in Hanwell?

We are a young branch, in WI terms, having been founded just over two years ago and we meet monthly on the second Wednesday of each month at 7.30pm in the William Hobbayne Centre in Lower Boston Road in the Community Suite (not the big hall).

We are women from all age groups and from all areas (currently from Hanwell, West Ealing and Brentford - no catchment!). There is a monthly programme of speakers/activities and we sometimes meet socially over lunch/supper in a local restaurant. We are hoping to develop more outings in due course.

Why not come and see for yourself? No obligation to join.

See you soon!

For further info about the WI, please contact hanwellwi@yahoo.co.uk

Programme of Events 2016

Month	Date	Topic/Speaker
January	13 th January	Wills and Powers of Attorney Ben Davies of Prince Evans
February	10 th February	Games Nights
March	9 th March	Authentic Indian Cooking
April	13 th April	'Women who have murdered'
May	11 th May	The Titanic
June	8 th June	'Hanwell Spring' – A walk around Hanwell with Mary & Angela
July	13 th July	Flowers - Art Workshop
August	10 th August	Pub Social Evening
September	14 th September	Learn all about Foraging
October	12 th October	AGM
November	9 th November	History of Shoes
December	14 th December	Christmas Festivities And a Fun Talk by Rosie on 'Forgotten Cocktails and hangover cures!'

Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month. 7.30pm in the William Hobbayne Centre, St Dunstan's Road, W7.

Us

(The new name for USPG)

A letter to the Mission Committee

Thank you St Thomas the Apostle, Boston Road, Hanwell for your support

Thank you for your donation of £300 for our Rapid Response Fund for Syria.

Your donation will help Us to work with our partners in supporting the humanitarian crisis in Syria in supplying food boxes and other essential items such as bedding and blankets to refugees in Lebanon and other Middle East countries. It will help to feed poor families, provide emergency treatment in hospital and provide pastoral care to people who are struggling to cope with the ongoing violence and civil unrest.

Whenever Us receives a request for emergency help, we endeavour to act in a holistic way. Thanks to our close links with Anglican churches all over the world we are able to act quickly – often within 24 hours, meaning communities can access aid quickly.

We assess detailed budgets and proposals before deciding how we can best offer further and ongoing support.

Your contribution really does help. It enables Us to support our brothers and sisters when they most need it.

If you would like to know more about our work with the world church, please contact Us by phoning 020 7921 2200 or send an email to info@weareUs.org.uk or visit www.weareUs.org.uk

Thank you once again for your support.

With best wishes on behalf of all of Us

Priscilla Mountford
Support Care Manager, Us

Ealing Animal Welfare

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St Thomas' Fun Run!

Sunday 24th April at 2pm

5K or 2.5K

Starting and finishing at St Thomas' Church Hall, Boston Road,
Hanwell

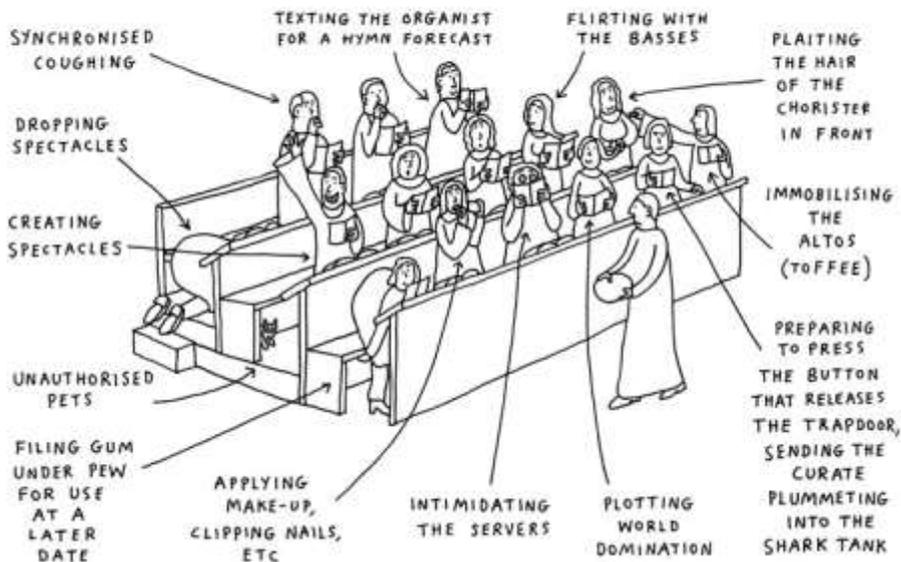
Come and join us for a walk, jog or run around Elthorne Park and the fields beyond

Only £5 entry fee. All finishers will receive a medal and there will be awards for the fastest in different age categories.

For more info, please contact Sue (07850 889948/
sue.cunningham@mac.com)

THE CHOIR

MINOR MISDEMEANOURS TAKING PLACE IN YOUR SUNDAY SERVICES



Recommended.....

Some five or six years ago I realised that a career in financial services was not for me and that God was perhaps calling me to something different. So began my journey discerning my calling to Ordination as a Priest in the Church of England. It will not surprise you that the Church of England has a very thorough, and rather long, process to be followed!

The process started with a chat with my priest (our Fr Robert) and he supported my being put forward to the next stage. At this point a Director of Ordinands starts to play a part; someone appointed by the Bishop to consider vocations to ordination within their Diocese/Area. This Director **of Ordinands then works through the Church of England's nine criteria with** potential candidates. The criteria are an incredibly comprehensive list: Vocation, Ministry within the Church of England, Spirituality, Personality and Character, Relationships, Leadership and Collaboration, Faith, Mission and Evangelism and Quality of Mind. After many discussions, with my Director for Ordinands, a second Director of Ordinands and a lay assessor I had to meet with Bishop Pete for him to confirm that he was happy for me to go to the final stage.

This last step is to attend a Bishops' Advisory Panel (BAP); 48 hours as part of a group of up to 8 potential candidates where we are interviewed three times, each give a presentation, lead a group discussion, partake in numerous group discussions and complete a pastoral exercise. The advisers **at this Panel come from the national church and advise one's Bishop as to** whether you should be recommended for training for ordination or not. A BAP is nothing like a secular job interview; as well as being intellectually demanding it requires you to give all emotionally and spiritually.

Many of you will know that I went through this process twice. I first went **to a Bishops' Advisory Panel in June 2013. The result at that time was that I** was not yet ready to be recommended for training for Ordination. As you **may tell from the criteria being told you aren't ready is a pretty devastating** result; the thoroughness of the criteria mean you lay your whole self out and ask if that is what is required. I would describe my emotional reaction to receiving a not recommended decision as similar to grief. However, the **response I received from Fr Robert and all those at St Thomas' was** astoundingly positive. I could not have received more love and been any more affirmed by those in our community. Those around me may not have realised but that response was crucial to how I dealt with the not recommended decision and how I can now see it as one of the best things that has happened in my life.

Thanks to the amazing support of St Thomas' and those who started questioning (after a sensible breathing space) whether I would try again I did indeed embark on the journey once again. My second BAP was in December 2015 and shortly before Christmas I got that call from Bishop Pete saying that I had been recommended for training for Ordination. The journey is still stretching ahead of me; the recommendation is for training which I need to pass through before I am finally ordained. As well as **thanking everyone for their tremendous support I would second Fr Robert's request in last month's Trident for your prayers as I choose colleges and** embark on my training. I am incredibly excited to go off to train but will **also be very sad to leave St Thomas' where I have felt so cared for and** affirmed in answering my calling from God.

If you think God might be calling you to something else I would really encourage you to explore that calling, it is a challenging process but one in which God accompanies us and which can have surprising results. I would be very happy to talk more about my experience or I can thoroughly recommend a conversation with Fr Robert. The Church of England also has a number of resources including this website: www.callwaiting.org.uk.

Sophie Schuil-Brewer

News from the Brownies

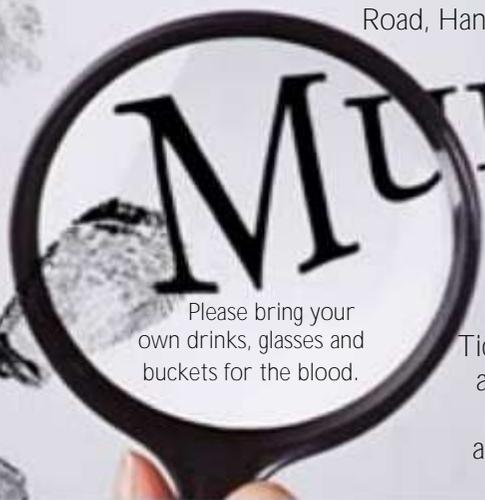
The Brownies have been busy recently doing 2 important badges. Some have been thinking about animals and doing their Friend to Animals Badge. This has involved finding out about endangered animals and also working animals. They have also been thinking about caring for their pets. Another group have been doing their Disability Awareness badge. For this badge the girls have looked at mobility, they have found out how to communicate with deaf people by learning finger spelling and also they have tried to find out how blind people manage both inside the home and outside.

These two badges overlap when we think about Guide Dogs for the Blind. We recently had a visit from a lovely lady and her guide dog Violet. Our visitor had been blind from birth and she showed us some of the gadgets she uses to make life easier for her. She explained how her Guide Dog helps her and we were all able to stroke the dog. We were very lucky as our visitor was once a winning Paralympic swimmer and she brought along some of her badges to show us. We are now raising money to support the Guide Dogs for the blind and we are hoping to raise enough money to sponsor training of a Guide Dog puppy.

7th Hanwell (St. Thomas's) Scout Group

Fish and chips will be served.

on Saturday 12th March 2016 at 7.30
at **St Thomas' Church Hall, Boston**
Road, Hanwell, W7 2AD



Please bring your own drinks, glasses and buckets for the blood.

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arris107@virginmedia.com



Please continue to donate by using the green Foodbank bins situated inside the church porches and choosing any items from the following list:

Remember it is not a great quantity we ask you to bring each Sunday, we only need each of you to bring one item from the list on the church bulletin. But to bring one every week would be great!!

Main meal (Vegetarian, chicken or stew. incl curry)
Fish (tuna, salmon)
Pasta in tomato sauce

Sponge pudding or long-life cakes
Dried milk
Dried potatoes

So when you come to church with your handbag, your house key, etc, remember to bring your Foodbank item.

Thank you.

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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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- *MEET YOUR FRIENDS AND MAKE NEW ONES!
- *STAY FOR TEN MINUTES OR THE MORNING!

March

- 4th - tea coffee and cakes
- 11th - tea coffee and cakes
- 18th - tea coffee and cakes
- 25th - CLOSED

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
Coffee bean packaging
Coffee jar lids
Tassimo pods and foil bags
Biscuit wrappers

Ella's kitchen baby
food pouches & lids

Find out more at

www.terracecycle.co.uk



Baby/Toddler Group

St Thomas' Hall

On Wednesdays from
10.30am until
11.45am.
All are welcome.
Free.

Copy dates!

April Trident - Sun March 13th
May Trident - Sun April 10th
June Trident - Sun May 8th

Diary Dates



FEBRUARY

28th Sun 3rd Sunday of Lent

MARCH

4th Fri

1.30pm Womens World Day of Prayer at St Thomas'

5th Sat

Churches Together in Hanwell meeting at St Mellitus

6th Sun

Mothering Sunday

12th Sat

Murder Mystery Evening at St Thomas'

13th Sun

Passion Sunday

20th Sun

Palm Sunday

Choral devotion at 6.30pm

24th Thurs

Maundy Thursday

25th Fri

Good Friday

27th Sun

Easter Day

APRIL

2nd Sat

Churches Together in Hanwell meeting at North Hanwell Baptist Church

16th Sat

Inaugural Organ Recital at 7.30pm

24th Sun

APCM at 11.30am in the hall

St Thomas' Fun Run 2pm

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.stephenbrooksphotography.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.

www.thomashanwell.org.uk



PARISH DIRECTORY



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