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January 2026

The Trident



The Parish Magazine of

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OUR CHURCH IS OPEN TO ALL FOR
Sunday Parish Mass 10am
Evening Prayer Sunday 6.30pm
Said Mass Tuesday at Noon



A Prayer for January

Almighty, eternal, just and merciful God, grant us the desire to do only what pleases you, and the strength to do only what you command. Cleanse our souls, enlighten our minds, and inflame our hearts with your Holy Spirit, that we may follow in the footsteps of your beloved Son, Jesus Christ.

Amen

St Francis of Assisi, 1182 – 1226

New Year 2026

If we put our hand in God's hand
As we enter this New Year
Not knowing what the future holds
But that our Friend is near.

We shall not fear what lies ahead
If He is by our side,
Nor wander from the pathway
If He will be our guide.

The Sinless One from heaven came
To dwell with us on earth,
He sought and bought us with His
blood
And offered us new birth.

Now as we travel through this year
He knows the things He's planned,
So let us trust and know just this -
Our times are in His hands.



From Rev Julia

Stepping into the New Year with Hope

A new year often arrives with a sense of freshness — a blank page with nothing on it, a chance to begin again.

In church we are mindful of the presence of God at this time, who walks with us through every season past and promises to go with us into every season to come.

Many of us will carry mixed feelings into January. Some will look back with gratitude — for blessings received, for prayers answered, for love shared and milestones reached. Others will hold memories of difficulty or loss. Yet nothing from the year behind us is unseen by God. The Psalmist reminds us: *“The Lord will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore”* (Psalm 121:8). This is assurance that God is always with us yesterday and today.

As we step forward, I am reminded of the words from the Tennyson poem: Ring out the old, ring in the new,

Ring, happy bells, across the snow:

The year is going, let him go;

Ring out the false, ring in the true.

His words remind us that the turning of the year is more than the turning of a calendar page; it is an invitation to let go of what has weighed us down, to “ring out” weariness, and to “ring in” hope, truth, peace, and compassion as gifts for the year ahead.

So let us begin this year with prayerful expectation. Let us look for God in everyday moments in kindness given and received. — in worship, in Scripture, in prayer and in bread broken together. May Christ be our guide, our peace, and our joy in the days to come.

Every blessing for the New Year

Rev Julia

Copy Dates

Copy date for February will be Sunday 11th January

Copy date for March will be Sunday 8th February

Copy date for April will be Sunday 8th March



Parish News

The Christmas Fair in November was a wonderful event. The church hall was full of people buying gifts, having photos taken and drinking tea and coffee. The band was great and the animals outside were so cute - one of the editors wanted to take a goat home with her! We understand that in the region of £1400 was raised for the hall renovation fund. Thank you to Kirsten and all who helped.

By the time you read this, both the Carol Service and Christingle will be in the past, but we imagine that both events were a great success.

Our first event in 2026 will be our pantomime - Aladdin - everyone is working very hard on this and it will be a great show. Please don't forget to book your tickets (see advert below).

We have our Parish Vision and Values Day on Saturday 17th January from 10am. Please look out for more details.

On January 24th, we're hosting a Ceilidh. These are always very popular so do come along.

St Thomas' Players
present
Aladdin
A Pantomime by Ben Crocker

8th,9th January 7:30pm
Sat 10th 1pm & 6pm
Adults £15 Children £5
Thursday Adults £10 Children £5

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FUNDRAISER

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Yet more goings-on at the PCC

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) met on the evening of Tuesday 25th November. Here is a brief update on some of the things that we talked about, and the decisions made.

Mission

Revd Julia announced that we will be holding a 'Parish Vision & Values Day' on Saturday 17th January. This event will be open to all. The aim is to start planning the next phase of our mission and ministry in the local community.

Revd Julia also announced that a new Curate would be starting to work with us from June 2026 onwards, for a period of 3 years. The new member of staff will be Nilesh Patel, who is being ordained Deacon on 27th of June, and his first service with us will be on the following day. Nilesh will be a self-supporting minister whilst with us, and therefore mainly active in the parish at weekends.

Encouraging progress was reported with our ministry to younger people. Nine young people had attended the Youth Mass on 23rd November, and five young adults had joined the evening event organised by Rowland.

Hall Renovation

Annabel reported that we had received a grant of £6,400 from the Benefit Trust to help towards the repair of the roof. The next phase of the work will be the development of space for small meetings on the south side of the Hall — an enlargement of our existing meeting room facility. The PCC agreed to the spending of up to £10,000 to start the design, planning, and permission process for this work.

Church Flat Roof Repairs

Steve reported that work on the lower flat roof of the church had recently been completed to deal with rainwater ingress to the clergy vestry and old

boiler room, and to carry out preventive maintenance above the Lady Chapel and Children's Chapel. Stephen reported that a Perspex dome (skylight) above the south corridor, which had become damaged during a gale, would be replaced in the near future.

Inspecting Architect

Steve reported that our Inspecting Architect, John Scott, is retiring and has tendered his resignation. John has given expert, dedicated service to the Parish over the past 7 years. It will therefore be necessary to start the appointment process for a new architect, well before our next periodic inspection, due to take place in September 2026.

Live streaming of Sunday Service

Live streaming is currently on pause because our equipment and software are life-expired. Finding cost-effective replacements has not proved easy. The Committee agreed to set up a working group to take this matter forward, with the aim of resuming live streaming so that the output can be viewed on our new website. This facility will also be useful for church weddings and funerals, since it is often requested on such occasions.

Steve Purcell, Churchwarden.

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 18th to 25th January

This year the prayers and reflections are from the Armenian Apostolic Church, along with the Armenian Catholic and Evangelical Churches.

These resources draw upon centuries-old traditions of prayer and petitions used by the Armenian people, along with hymns that originated in the ancient monasteries and churches of Armenia, some of which date as far back as the fourth century.

They extend an invitation to draw upon this shared Christian heritage and to delve more deeply into our fellowship in Christ, which unites Christians worldwide.

World Leprosy Sunday - 25th January 2026

We read about leprosy in the Bible and assume it is a disease of the past. But leprosy is very much a disease of today, with more than 200,000 newly diagnosed cases every year.

That means that every two minutes of every day, someone hears the words 'you have leprosy'. Three short words, but they carry thousands of years' worth of fear, stigma and shame.

Leprosy thrives in areas where poor nutrition, overcrowding, shared wash facilities and low standards of living naturally lower people's immune systems.

Lepers will suffer growing numbness and worsening nerve damage, ulcers and finally even amputations. They will also suffer the hurt and shame of being an outcast, often abandoned by their own families.

And this is where The Leprosy Mission steps in, and with the support of churches in the UK, works to help the sufferers of leprosy around the world. The Leprosy Mission is a medical Christian mission which helps people with leprosy both medically, spiritually, and practically. With your help, their Leprosy Mission Vocational Training Centres can give sufferers a chance to learn a skill and get a qualification.

In Mark 1, the leper said to Jesus, 'If you are willing, you can heal me.' That plea still stands today – if we are willing, we can help The Leprosy Mission to still do Christ's work of healing and rehabilitation today.

More details at: <https://www.leprosymission.org.uk>

It is not so much of our time and so much of our attention that God demands; it is not even all of our time and all our attention; it is our selves. - *C S Lewis*

Why we have Plough Sunday

In bygone years, the supply chain of food across Britain was fairly short: if it didn't grow in your local fields, you were apt to go hungry. Hence the widespread traditional custom of Plough Sunday – bringing a plough (and sometimes a lamb as well) into church and praying for God's blessing on the land in the year ahead.

Traditionally, Plough Sunday was held on the Sunday after Epiphany, which makes 11th January this year's special day. Parishioners would often walk through their village collecting alms for the poor, before gathering down at the church. Farmers would sometimes roll up on their tractors at the church door (though there are no stories of any farmer trying to bring his tractor into the church!) Work on the fields would then begin on Plough Monday, the day after the prayers for blessing.

These days, with supermarkets delivering food all year round, the nature of Plough Sunday has changed into a general celebration of farming and the work of farmers. In the C of E's Common Worship there is a suggested prayer for the 'Blessing of the Plough'.

The Roadmaker a blessing on you for 2026

God be shielding thee by each dropping sheer,
God make every pass an opening appear,
God make to thee each road a highway clear,
And may He take thee in the clasp
Of His own two hands' grasp.

From Prayers of the Western Highlanders

Terracycle Recycling at St Thomas' Church

Raising money for church and Hall repairs



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brand



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PLEASE NOTE: WE ARE NOT ABLE TO RECYCLE MEDICINE BLISTER PACKS

For more details see Terracycle website

<https://www.terracycle.com/en-GB>



The Leprosy Mission are no longer collecting postage stamps, but the good news is that USPG are collecting them, so please carry on leaving them in the box at the back of the church.



From the Editors

Dates for your diary are listed inside the back cover of this magazine and also in the parish news.

The editors would like to wish everyone a peaceful and healthy 2026

Paul & Sue



From the Ealing Foodbank

Thank you for continuing to support the foodbank. There are several local shops and supermarkets that have collection points and they're all listed on the Foodbank website: <https://ealing.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/>

There are other ways in which you can help.

If unable to drop-off at a local collection point, you can leave food donations in the green box in our church porch. However, there may be some delay in transfer to the Foodbank warehouse.

Monetary donations may be made through the Foodbank website, as above.

** please remember that our magazine is produced a month in advance - we publish the shopping list available to us at the time of going to press, so it's a good idea to check the most recent list on the website (see above) or Twitter: @EalingFoodbank or Instagram: ealingfoodbank.

Christmas Wish List 2025 **

Selection boxes, savoury biscuit selection, nuts & dried fruits, sweets, tinned fruit, tinned custard, tinned sardines and mackerel, tinned meat, tinned vegetables, toiletries for men and women

Thank you, but the foodbank has plenty of pasta at the moment.

Please pray for:

Those who are housebound, sick or in need: John Ball, Paul Ball, John Brake & family, Nathaniel Brito-Ault, Nigel & Davina Brooks, Ivan Carter, Noel Chardon, Jenny Cornwall, Patrick Dennerly, Daphne Dorival, Leo & Estriana Douglas, Merfyn Edwards, Gillian Fontaine, Geraldine, Celia Griffith, Darren Hancock, Ian King, Jaxon Prentice, Nick Lunn, Arda & Joe Metcalf, Dermot Molloy, Stuart Minty, Nicholas Robinson, Sarah, Gill Shaw, Keith & Sara Spillett, Colin Spooner, John Tozer and Viv

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POP-IN



POP-IN ON FRIDAYS
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FROM 10.00AM 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

16th January - Tea, coffee & cakes

23rd January - Tea, coffee & cakes

20th January - Tea, coffee & cakes

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

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A Green Start to the New Year at St Thomas'

A huge thank-you to everyone who took part in our *12 Ways of Green Christmas* challenge and made a green promise this Advent. If you didn't get the chance to make a promise in December, don't worry—there's still plenty of time to begin the year with a Green New Year's Resolution! For instance, why not undertake to join the Eco Group's next meeting taking place this month?

As we step into 2026, we look forward to a year of action together as we continue working toward our Silver Eco Church Award. Over the coming months we'll be launching a **Toilet Twinning initiative**, helping to support hygiene and sanitation projects around the world, **tidying the garden behind the Church** and putting a spotlight on **reducing plastic waste**, echoing this year's World Environment Day theme.

In keeping with that theme, please keep those bread bags coming in! Let's see if we can reach our next milestone of **~10kg (22lb) of bags**. That's approximately 2,000 bags or around **1 bag a week for everyone over 2026**. Every small step adds up, and together we can make a big difference.

In season in January

The start of the new year often brings cold, icy weather. It's an ideal time to make warming and nourishing soups



In season - January. Apples, Beetroot, Brussels Sprouts, Carrots, Celeriac, Celery, Chicory, Jerusalem Artichokes, Kale, Leeks, Mushrooms, Onions, Parsnips, Pears, Red Cabbage, Salsify, Savoy Cabbage, Spring Greens, Spring Onions, Squash, Swedes, Turnips, White Cabbage.



(JC - there will be Junior Church)

December

Sun 14th	Third in Advent. Carol service at 6pm
Sun 21st	Fourth in Advent
Wed 24th	Christmas Eve
	Midnight Mass at 11:30pm
Thurs 25th	Christmas Day. Mass at 10am
Fri 26th	St Stephen's Day (Boxing Day)
Sun 28th	1st after Christmas (Holy Innocents)

January

Sun 4th	Epiphany
Thur 8th-Sat 10th	St Thomas' pantomime
Sun 11th	1st after Epiphany (Baptism of Christ)
Sat 17th	Parish Vision & Values Day - 10am
Sun 18th	2nd after Epiphany
Sat 24th	Ceilidh
Sun 25th	3rd after Epiphany

February

Sun 1st	4th after Epiphany. Candlemas
Sun 8th	2nd before Lent
Sun 15th	Sunday before Lent
Wed 18th	Ash Wednesday
Sun 22nd	1st Sunday of Lent



If you would like to donate to St Thomas',
you can use this QR code to donate on your
smart phone. We're always grateful, so
thank you!



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