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May 2026

The Trident



The Parish Magazine of

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A Prayer for Pentecost

Loving Father,

This month we thank You for the gift of Your Holy Spirit which You promise to all who call on Your name, turn away from self-centred living and put their trust in Jesus. Help us to do that, Lord, so that when events in the world and the circumstances of our own lives are difficult to understand, we have Your Holy Spirit who brings life and power. He will lead us into all truth and give us the words and thoughts we need to experience Your peace in the midst of turmoil. Help us to open our hearts to receive Your Spirit afresh and move into each new day confident that we are yours and that in You is our true security.
Amen.

Copy Dates

Copy date for June will be Sunday 10th May
Copy date for July will be Sunday 14th June
Copy date for August will be Sunday 12th July

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From Rev Julia

Dear friends,

As we continue through the Easter season it is a reminder to us that Easter is not just a single day but a season of renewal, hope, and new beginnings. The empty tomb speaks into our own lives, encouraging us to look for signs of resurrection even in places that feel weary or uncertain. Where there is love, forgiveness, and courage to begin again, Christ is alive among us.

This sense of new life is also reflected in the wider Anglican Church as we welcome the appointment of a new Archbishop of Canterbury, the Rt Revd Sarah Mullally as the first woman to take on this role. This moment marks both continuity and also a fresh direction in the life of the Church of England. We pray for wisdom, humility, and strength for her as she takes on this role. Leadership in the Church is never about one person alone, but about guiding all God's people in truth and love.

In her first sermon she said: "As a Church we are a pilgrim people and we are called to trust that nothing will be impossible with God, even when we see so much in the world that seems impossible....The Church through the ordinary lives of its people , continues to do so many extraordinary acts of love."

She invites us to be people of hope and Easter itself invites us to be people of hope in a world that often longs for good news. It calls us to live differently—to be generous in spirit, patient with one another, and attentive to those in need.

As we journey through this Easter season together, may we carry the light of Christ into our homes, our community, and beyond. Let us be witnesses to resurrection life, trusting that God is always at work, bringing new life out of old.

With every blessing,

Rev Julia

Christian Aid Week - 10th to 16th May

It's that time of year again – when Christians across the country raise funds for Christian Aid's programmes, which help those suffering poverty and injustice worldwide.

Since 1957, Christian Aid Week has brought faith and action together to help families survive poverty and violence, and communities rebuild after crisis.

It says: "This is all thanks to the amazing support of churches, communities and individuals who choose to walk, run, bake, dance, make, and do whatever it takes to help make lasting change.

"Through our locally led work with partners around the world who are rooted in their communities to lead change, your valuable support will help communities ravaged by poverty and the effects of the climate crisis.

Christian Aid welcomes anyone who would like to be involved this year in raising support. And there are various ways to take part:

- Give online or through collections.

- Fundraise with friends, family, colleagues or your community.

- Take part through your church with worship, prayer and events.

- Volunteer locally to support Christian Aid Week activities.

Archbishop of Canterbury to visit West Africa

This summer, from 26th July to 8th August, Archbishop Mullaly will visit the Anglican Church of the Province of West Africa "to strengthen the ties between the See of Canterbury and the Province".

Archbishop Mullaly will visit Ghana and Cameroon at the invitation of Dr Cyril Kobina Ben-Smith, the Bishop of Asante-Mampong and Primate of West Africa, who was among the 26 Primates to attend the archbishop's installation at Canterbury. The visit is part of Archbishop Sarah's commitment to building relationships across the Anglican Communion.

All in the month of May

It was:

400 years ago, on 4th May 1626 that the Dutch explorer Peter Minuit arrived on the east coast of what is now the USA. He negotiated the purchase of Manhattan Island from the Lenape Native Americans for \$24 worth of cloth and buttons. (Equal to about \$1,150 today.)

200 years ago, on 29th May 1826 that Ebenezer Butterick, American tailor, was born. He and his wife invented tissue paper dress patterns in multiple sizes, and thereby revolutionised home dressmaking.

175 years ago, from 1st May to 15th October 1851 that the Great Exhibition was held in The Crystal Palace, Hyde Park. More than 10,000 exhibitors attended what is regarded as the World's first Fair.

100 years ago, on 4th to 12th May 1926 that the UK's General Strike was held. The Trade Union Congress (TUC) called a General Strike in support of 1.2 million coal miners. The strike lasted nine days, and had little effect.

90 years ago, on 7th May 1936 that British aviator Amy Johnson made the fastest-ever (at that time) solo flight from England to Cape Town.

Also 90 years ago, on 27th May 1936 that the RMS Queen Mary began her maiden voyage, sailing from Southampton to New York.

80 years ago, on 11th May 1946 that the first CARE packages for Europe arrived in Le Havre, to help people who were starving after WWII.

75 years ago, on 3rd May 1951 that the Festival of Britain and the Royal Festival Hall in London were opened.

Also 75 years ago, on 25th May 1951 that British spies Guy Burgess and Donald Maclean fled to Moscow. They were members of the infamous Cambridge spy ring.

70 years ago, on 24th May 1956 that the first Eurovision Song Contest was held in Lugano, Switzerland. It was won by Switzerland.

65 years ago, on 31st May 1961 that Michael Ramsay became Archbishop of Canterbury (until 1974).



Beware bread for ducks

The Canal & River Trust, which looks after Britain's waterways, has warned that bread is 'junk food' for ducks. It can lead to excessive droppings, which spread disease. If bread is left to rot, it can trigger noxious odours which can kill fish and encourage algae, as well as rats and mice. So – what DO ducks eat? Try corn, peas, lettuce and seeds.

In season in May

Artichoke, asparagus, aubergine, beetroot, broccoli, carrots, Jersey Royal new potatoes, lettuces, peas, peppers, radishes, rhubarb, spinach, spring cabbages, spring onions, watercress.



The Nation's favourite churches, and favourite stained-glass window

The East Window in Carlisle Cathedral has been declared the nation's favourite stained-glass window (in a recent survey by the Association of English Cathedrals).

As for the nation's favourite church, there is no one clear winner. But according to data from the National Churches Trust, the following ten churches are consistently rated highly:

St Paul's Cathedral London; York Minster; Coventry Cathedral; St Mary's Redcliffe, Bristol; Shrine of our Lady of Walsingham; Durham Cathedral; Lincoln Cathedral; St Bride Fleet Street; and Tundergarth Parish Church.

14th May is Ascension Day....

Hail the day that sees him rise

To his throne above the skies;

Christ, a while to mortals given,

Reascends his native heaven. - *Charles Wesley*

2nd May - Athanasius, the theologian who gave us the Nicene Creed

This is the name behind the Athanasian Creed. Athanasius (296-373) was born into a prosperous family in Alexandria in Egypt, studied in the Christian school there and entered the ministry. He was twenty-nine years old when he accompanied Alexander, the bishop of Alexandria, to the Church's first ecumenical Council, at Nicaea in 325.

Although Athanasius could not take part in the Council's debates because he was a deacon and not a bishop, Alexander consulted him on the meaning of biblical texts and theological distinctions. With Emperor Constantine sitting as President, 300 bishops argued about the Person of Christ. How is He the Son of God? Is He God or man or both together? Did He exist before He was born? If we worship Him, does that mean that we are worshipping two Gods?

The young Athanasius saw that some bishops wanted to impose the teaching of Arius on the Church. Arius was a popular preacher in Alexandria who taught that Christ was not eternal but was a 'Saviour' created by the Father. Athanasius worked with his bishop,

Alexander framed what became known as the Nicene Creed. Our Lord's full divinity was safeguarded in the words, 'eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, light from light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one substance with the Father.'

When Bishop Alexander died in 328, Athanasius succeeded him as Bishop by popular demand. For the next 45 years Athanasius' devotion, scholarship, and forceful leadership established the Nicene Creed in the Christian Church. His enemies, both in Church and state, conspired against him, and he was exiled five times from the See of Alexandria and spent a total of 17 years in flight and hiding. It was his uncompromising stand for Nicene theology that gave rise to the familiar saying, Athanasius contra mundum, 'Athanasius against the world.'

Athanasius' name will always be linked with the triumph of New Testament Christology over every form of reductionism. Of his many writings the most significant was his great study on the person and work of Christ; 'On the Incarnation of the Word of God', written before he was 30 years old. The whole Church of Christ is always in need of bishops, leaders and theologians in the mould of Athanasius.



More goings-on at the PCC

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) met on the evening of Tuesday 24th March. This is a brief update on some of the things that we talked about, and the decisions made.

Historic Panto props

The Committee was told that a skip had been booked for 11th April so that old scenery and stage props used in past pantomimes and no longer required, could be removed. Many such items are stored on the stage and under the stage, and removing them will free-up valuable space as well as removing a fire hazard.

Mission

It was reported that the Growth Group has continued to meet, the aim being to encourage church growth, with a focus on deepening personal spirituality. Possible future developments include informal faith seminars; a 'Christian Basics' course; reinvigorating a programme of regular film nights.

A report on work with young people was also presented. We will be having a Confirmation Service at St Thomas' on 20th September when Bishop Lusa will be confirming Oliver Allen, Leo Hewlett, and Ben and Toby Howson.

The Eco-Group reported that they were applying for a grant to tidy up and reorganise the back garden (alongside the south side of the church) so that it becomes an attractive and peaceful place.

It was agreed that we would have a pitch at the Hanwell Carnival on 20th June, with the aim of promoting St Thomas' in the local community.

Finance

Steve presented a draft copy of the 2025 Annual Accounts to the Committee, explaining that this document was currently with our Examiner for

checking, with the aim of formal approval by the PCC on 21st April when complete. The general picture is an encouraging set of accounts with a surplus of nearly £9,000 on routine expenditure; this surplus enabled £4,542 (10% of stewardship giving) to be set aside for charitable giving by the parish during 2026 and a similar sum to be set aside for future Church maintenance. The Hall Renovation Project ended the year with a balance of just over £50,000 in the bank and available to be spent; this was after paying about £87,000 for complete roof renewal and gutter replacement during 2025. Using money received in the past from a very generous legacy, the south roof of the Church had been renewed during 2025, and repointing and window repairs carried out, the total spend being just short of £150,000.

Steve pointed out that although the accounts were generally very pleasing, the Stewardship income (regular, planned congregational giving) remained virtually the same in 2025 compared with the previous year, but with the same number of Stewards. Ideally, people contributing in this way should regularly reconsider church giving compared with personal income and spending. We may need to run a Stewardship Campaign to encourage such a process of individual review.

Hall Renovation Update

An application for planning permission to cover the proposed work of creating a separate side entrance and lobby for the meeting room, is now with planning consultants. The expected date for receiving approval from Ealing Council is mid-June. A series of fund-raising events is planned for 2026.

Worship Update

Revd Julia announced that we are going to try holding a sunrise service at 6 a.m. on Easter Sunday. Education Sunday will be celebrated on May 17, and Oaklands and Elthorne Park schools will be involved.

Steve Purcell, Churchwarden.

Terracycle Recycling at St Thomas' Church

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Superdrug for recycling.

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

Don't forget the APCM on May 10th in the hall after the service.

Julia & 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.

April Shopping List **

Tinned vegetarian meals (chilli, bolognaise, curry etc), tinned vegetables, instant coffee, tinned fruit (pineapple is a favourite), tinned custard and rice pudding, honey and peanut butter.

Thank you, but the foodbank has plenty of pasta and baked beans at the moment

Please pray for:

Those who are housebound, sick or in need: John Ball, Paul Ball, Caroline Baxter, The Brooks Family, Ivan Carter, Noel Chardon, Jenny Cornwall, Patrick Dennerly, Daphne Dorival, Leo & Estriana Douglas, Merfyn Edwards, Geraldine, Celia Griffith, Darren Hancock, Alison Johns, Ian King, Jaxon Prentice, Nick Lunn, Jane Marland, Arda & Joe Metcalf, Dermot Molloy, Stuart Minty, Izzy Neale, Nicholas Robinson, Sarah, Julia Schumman, Gill Shaw, Keith & Sara Spillet, Colin Spooner and Leslie Stanton.

Those recently departed: John Tozer

Those to be married: Geraint Jones & Gabrielle Brockis

Those preparing for confirmation: Ben & Toby Howson, Leo Hewlett, Oliver Allen

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- 15th - Tea, coffee & cakes
- 22nd - Tea, coffee & cakes
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(JC - there will be Junior Church)

April

Sun 26th **4th Sunday of Easter - Mark the Evangelist**

May

Sun 3rd **5th Sunday of Easter**

Sun 10th **6th Sunday of Easter**

APCM at 11:30am in the church hall

Thurs 14th **Ascension Day**

Sat 16th Blues Café playing at St Thomas' 8 -10:30pm

Sun 17th **Sunday after Ascension Day**

Sun 24th **Pentecost**

Sun 31st **Trinity Sunday**

June

Sun 7th **1st of Trinity**

Sun 14th **2nd of Trinity**

Sun 21st **3rd of Trinity**

Sun 28th **4th of Trinity**

July

Sun 5th **5th of Trinity**

Sun 12th **6th of Trinity**

Sun 19th **7th of Trinity**



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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