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November 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 November

O God, at this dark time of year, when our lives seem particularly busy, Help us to remember that You sent your blessed son to be the light that shines in the darkness. Help us to be thankful for each day that You have made, recognizing each one as a gift from You, to be treasured and lived fruitfully. Help us to follow You and walk in the light.

Grant, we pray thee, that our parish church may be a beacon, whose clear shining will lead many to You.

Through Jesus Christ our lord

Amen



Copy Dates

Copy date for December will be Sunday 8th November

And the magazine will be collated on that date so please let us have all your contributions by then.

Opinions expressed in this magazine are those of the individual contributors and not necessarily those of the Church, the Vicar, the editors or the PCC.

Adverts in this magazine are not necessarily endorsed by the Church, the Vicar, the editors or the PCC.



From our Vicar

Dear Friends,

November is a month when we are invited to pause, remember, and reflect. As the days grow shorter and the leaves fall from the trees, our thoughts turn to those we love and see no longer, and to the hope we have in Christ.

At the beginning of the month, we celebrate All Saints' Day, giving thanks for all those who have gone before us in faith and whose lives have pointed us towards God. At the All Souls' Service, we remember those who have died, especially those dear to us. Remembrance Sunday then gives us an opportunity to honour all who have lost their lives in war and to pray for peace in our troubled world. These occasions remind us that, even in grief and uncertainty, we are held in the love of God, whose light shines in the darkness.

A special thank you to our magazine editors

This month, I would also like to say a very big thank you to our current magazine editors Sue Cunningham and Jill Ashcroft for all the time, care and commitment they have given to producing the Trident. They have been doing this for 35 years, working behind the scenes collecting articles, news and notices each month. The Trident helps to keep us connected as a church family and enables us to share something of our life and mission with the wider community. We are very grateful for all that our editors have done.

We are now looking for new editors to take on this important role. If you enjoy writing, organising, gathering news, or helping to communicate what is happening in the life of our church, this could be a wonderful way to contribute. You do not need to have previous experience, and it may be possible to share the work with others. If you would like to find out more, please do have a word with me.

As we approach the winter months, may we continue to be a church that welcomes everyone, grows deeper in faith, and shares Christ's love with the community of Hanwell. May we also remember that the smallest acts of kindness, encouragement and generosity can make a real difference to someone's life.

With every blessing,

Julia



St Thomas'

Quiz night

Saturday November 14th

7pm for a prompt 7.30pm start

Come as a team or we can put you in a team

£20 adults; £15 children under 14

Fish and chip supper included but please bring your own drinks, glasses and nibbles.

For more details or to book, please contact

sue.cunningham@mac.com

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Or speak to Sarah or
Sue after church



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Two Collects for the Sunday before Advent

Stir up, we beseech thee, O Lord, the wills of thy faithful people; that they, plenteously bringing forth the fruit of good works, may of thee be plenteously rewarded; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Eternal Father, whose Son Jesus Christ is King of the universe and Lord of the universe, may we who have been crucified with him in this present life also reign with him in glory; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Yet more goings-on at the PCC

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) met on the evening of Tuesday 22nd September. Here is a brief summary of some of the discussions and the decisions that were taken.



Mission

It was reported that Saturday morning study sessions run by Leslie Pringle have proved to be very popular. The aim going forward will be to provide one such session every half term — 6 sessions per year.

The Eco-Group have been awarded a grant of £870 from 'Seeds4Change'. This will be used to finance a package of improvements to the church garden to make it an attractive and accessible area. The PCC agreed to proposed improvements in the garden.

Stephen reported that there had been strong demand for Saturday afternoon bookings of the church hall for children's parties; Friday evening bookings by GLOC for rehearsals had also resumed.

There was an extensive discussion on practical measures we could take to make our Sunday service more attractive to young people. Suggestions included making better use of the space at the back of the church, with a dedicated area including more tables, also changes to the liturgy on selected Sundays to make services shorter with more child-friendly content.

Finance

It was agreed that a generous donation for general church purposes recently received from a parishioner would be earmarked for special projects — 50% for Hall renovation and 50% for mission projects.

Hall Renovation

It was reported that Ealing Council had given planning consent for proposed external alterations to the building, subject to a number of conditions. The Hall Renovation committee would now take the project forward to the next stage.

Steve Purcell, Churchwarden.



Eco Church: Don't Doubt, Do!

What a wonderful Harvest Festival we had! We loved seeing the church filled not just with people, but with an amazing assortment of our animal friends. From stick insects through hamsters and guinea pigs to cats and dogs, it was a joyful reminder that creation comes in all shapes and sizes – and that we have a responsibility to care for it all.

We were also overwhelmed by everyone's generosity. The mountain of food donated for the food bank was a fantastic way to celebrate Harvest by sharing what we have with others in our community. Thank you to everyone who contributed.

Our creative prayer stations gave us another opportunity to pause and reflect – on Fairtrade, animals, our wider world and the environment. We hope they helped us think about how the small choices we make can make a difference. We also celebrated Fairtrade Fortnight, taking the opportunity to think about the people and communities behind the products we buy. Choosing Fairtrade where we can is one simple way of helping to support farmers and producers around the world. Big thanks to Margaret for organising – don't forget to order your advent calendar!

Finally, well done to our Youth Group, who have been putting their care for creation into action with a litter pick. It's great to see our young people getting stuck in and helping to care for our local environment.

Coming up...

Our next big Eco Church focus is **Toilet Twinning**, with a special focus on **15 November**. It might not sound like the most glamorous environmental topic, but access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene is fundamental to health, dignity and a sustainable future. We'll be sharing more about the initiative and how you can get involved – so watch this space!

And there's plenty more to come as we head towards Christmas. We've got some fun and practical Eco activities planned, so keep an eye on the newsletter and church notices.

In the meantime, we'd love everyone to embrace the St Thomas' Eco Church mantra:

DON'T DOUBT, DO!

You don't have to be perfect or change everything overnight. Just pick one thing you can do – and do it!

Hope for nature – and what we can do

You may have heard there will soon be wildlife appearing on our new banknotes. Featuring barn owls, hedgehogs, puffins and bees, some of Britain's

most familiar wildlife will be in our pockets. It is a lovely reminder of the extraordinary variety of nature around us – and of what we have to protect. It is particularly timely because the recent WWF report *Science of Hope* highlights both the scale of the challenge facing wildlife and some genuinely encouraging signs of recovery.

The headline statistic is sobering: **average populations of monitored wildlife have fallen by 73% since 1970**. But the report's message isn't simply one of decline. It highlights examples where determined conservation action has helped wildlife recover.

Bluefin tuna, once almost absent from UK waters because of overfishing, have returned following measures to control fishing.

Wild tiger numbers have almost doubled in 15 years, from around 3,200 in 2010 to about 5,700 in 2025, helped by protecting habitats and wildlife corridors.

Green sea turtles have also benefited from decades of conservation, including protecting nesting beaches and reducing accidental deaths from fishing. The message is simple but powerful: **nature can recover when people take action**.

And we don't need to look as far as the world's oceans or tropical forests to see this happening. Here in Ealing, local people are already making a difference.

At **Costons Lane**, volunteers have transformed a neglected site into a wildlife haven of wildflower meadows, ponds, hedgerows and woodland.

At Paradise Fields in Greenford, **beavers have been reintroduced**, helping to restore a species and create more natural wetland habitats. Ealing Wildlife Group's work has also included releasing **3,200 harvest mice**, creating **130 hedgehog highway holes**, putting up **160 swift boxes** and helping **10 peregrine chicks** to fledge.

And hedgehogs are very much part of the story. Local groups are creating a network of **Hedgehog Highways**, connecting gardens so hedgehogs can roam in search of food, shelter and mates.

What can we do at St Thomas'?

This is exactly the spirit behind our **St Thomas' Community Garden project**. We don't need to create a huge nature reserve to make a difference. Please do let us know if you can help by donating logs, stumps for seating, large cardboard boxes, bricks and/ or wood chip. Or, of course, your knowledge and time! If so, please email ecothomas@yahoo.com.

BEHIND THE "SEEN"

I've been thinking recently about something which is incredibly precious, entirely free, available at any moment we choose to have it and is increasingly rare in our world.

That thing is Silence.

The thought came to me the other evening when I was at a football match (watching my beloved Bristol City away to Preston North End, if you want to know). When we arrived in the ground, loud music was blaring through the loudspeakers, assaulting our eardrums with familiar tunes to keep us entertained. The music went on pretty much up to kick-off. The match proceeded, and at halftime, an announcer came onto the pitch to introduce some competition which involved fans kicking balls into the centre circle. It was supposed to amuse us, but hardly anyone watched. It did however mean an incessant stream of chat which, when it finished, was replaced by yet more music. The music continued almost up to the very moment when the second half kicked off. It's an experience I've had in many football grounds around the country, so not a comment on the good people of Preston, but it came home to me afresh this time.

It happened again early this week when I went to meet a friend for coffee. As I was waiting for him over my cappuccino, again, music was burbling away in the background making sure there was something in my ears at all times, just in case a moment of silence broke out.

In our public spaces, these days, it's as if we are not allowed to be left alone with our own thoughts for any length of time. The incessant noise filling every possible spare moment at the football meant that both before the game and at halftime it was virtually impossible to have a conversation. If you tried, you had to shout to make yourself heard, and even if you did, you couldn't hear the reply, so looking around, most people gave up, read the match programme or checked the half time scores on their phones instead.

It relates also to our constant habit of whipping out our phones at the least moment of quiet and boredom (yes, I confess, I do it too). The result is that



we are constantly bombarded by external stimuli - images, sound, music, voices - as if we are empty receptacles needing to be constantly refilled in case we might notice our own emptiness.

It struck me that the ability to be silent, to enjoy silence, to have time doing nothing, listening to nothing, simply becoming aware of one's own surroundings, and what God might be saying through what is happening in the moment, is a vital skill.

"For God alone my soul waits in silence: from him comes my salvation" writes one of the Psalmists. It is a practice we are in danger of losing in our noisy age. You have to actively choose to do it against the tide. Resist the noise. It's well worth doing.

GrahamTomlin (A former Bishop of Kensington)

'The Noble Boy'

The woman was old and feeble and grey.

And bent with the chill of a winter's day, the street was wet with the recent snow, and the woman's feet were weary, and slow. She stood at the crossing and waited, long, alone, uncared- for, amid the throng.

Down the street with laughter and shouts, glad in the freedom of school let out, came the boys like a flock of sheep, hailing the snow piled wide and deep, passed the woman so old and grey, hastened the children on their way, nor stopped to lend a hand to her, so frail, so timid, afraid to stir.

At last came one of the merriest troop, the bravest lad of all the group; he paused beside her and whispered low, "I'll help you across if you wish to go." He guided the trembling feet along, proud that his own were firm and strong.

Then back again to his friends he went, his young heart happy, and content; "She's somebody's mother, boys you know, although she's old and poor and slow. And I hope someone will lend a hand to help my mother you understand, if ere she be old, and poor and grey and her own dear boy is far away."

And somebody's mother bowed her head in her home that night, and the prayer she said was,

"God be kind to that noble boy, who is somebody's son and pride and joy."

Adapted from the poem 'Somebody's Mother' by Mary Dow Brine (1838-1925)

Donated to the magazine by Eileen.



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.

October Shopping List **

Vegetarian Mains (veggie chili, premade dhal, veggie curry, etc), Chunky Soups, Tinned Sardines, Tinned Fruit, Cereals

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, Caroline Baxter, Osa Boating, Nigel & Davina Brooks, Noel Chardon, Jenny Cornwell, Amy Dobbin, Leo & Estriana Douglas, Merfyn Edwards, Geraldine, Celia Griffith, Darren Hancock, Will Howson, Alison Johns, Ian King, Everard Lendor, Nick Lunn, Jane Marland, Dermot Molloy, Stuart Minty, Izzy Neale, Marion Newlands, Elizabeth Nsefik, Cynthia Noel, Sarah, Julia Schumman, Colin Spooner and Linda Williams

The recently departed: Dorothy Wiffen

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- *STAY FOR TEN MINUTES OR THE MORNING!**

November Dates

Friday 6th - tea, coffee and cake
Friday 13th - tea, coffee and cake
Friday 20th - tea, coffee and cake
Friday 27th - tea, coffee and cake

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

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Remembrance

In November we come to remember
How war tore our country apart,
From village and town and all
around
Men and boys left home and hearth.

Mothers and wives and sisters all
Saw their brave young men go
away,
For some it meant the ultimate price
As they gave their tomorrows for
our today.

Another Man left His home above
To rescue this world from sin,
It cost Him His life which He freely
gave
So new life could enter in.

In this world there will always be
war,
But the time will surely be
When the earth shall be filled with
the glory of God
As the waters cover the sea.



From the Editors

Lots going on in November and December at St Thomas'. We hope to see you at some of the events.

Jul & Sue



Sun 25th

Last Sunday of Trinity

November

Sun 1st

All Saints' Day Parish Mass at 10am

Parish Mass for All Souls at 6pm

Sat 7th

Pictures by the Park - The Great Escaper

Sun 8th

Remembrance Sunday

Sat 14th

Quiz Night at St Thomas' (see advert on page 4)

Sun 15th

2nd Sunday before Advent

Sun 22nd

Sunday before Advent (Christ the King)

Sat 28th

St Thomas' Christmas Fair (1-4pm)

Sun 29th

1st of Advent

Ealing Churches Winter Night Shelter (ECWNS)

December

Sun 6th

2nd of Advent - Christingle at 4pm

ECWNS

Sun 13th

3rd of Advent - Carol Service at 6pm

ECWNS

Sun 20th

4th of Advent

ECWNS

Thurs 24th

Christmas Eve

Fri 25th

Christmas Day

Sat 26th

St Stephen's Day

Sun 27th

1st of Christmas



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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