

# St Thomas News

## HELP OUT...

Over the course of these newsletters we have brought you information about the running of St Thomas's. Whilst the church is dependent on the generous giving of the congregation, monetary donations are not the only way you can help. There are a number of ways in which you can give your time and effort to support St Thomas'. Please consider what you can do - for instance could you be a PCC member?. The Annual Parish Meeting was planned for April, but due to the pandemic this was postponed, and must now be held by October. PCC members serve 3 years at a time and every year a third of the PCC members must be re-elected. This gives a chance for new people to join and to use their talents.

### Ian McSeveny is currently our PCC Secretary and he says:

"I am a director of a medical charity working with Palestinians in difficult conditions through our offices in Gaza, West Bank and Beirut. We have a fundraising team based in London.

I have been coming to St Thomas's for over twenty years, and am a former Churchwarden. I'm stepping down as Secretary due to increased workload in my charity and to focus on my other roles at St Thomas's, as the Sacristan and assistant to the Treasurer and Gift Aid recorder."

We asked Iain to tell us more about his role as PCC Secretary.

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### What's on at St Thomas' this week?

- 10.30 am Sunday Worship back in church! - There will also be a recording on YouTube available Sunday evening
- Wednesday Morning Prayer at 9am on Zoom
- Bible Study returns on Friday at 2pm on Zoom

**All links can be found in your emails**

We have reopened the church for Holy Communion. We have suitable social distancing and other safety measures.

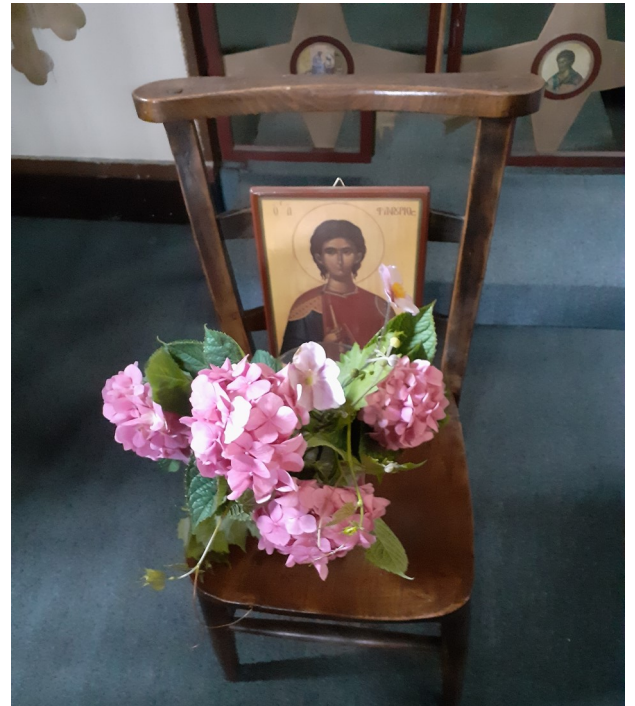
We are confident in our arrangements, please do feel able to attend if you are well.

**N.B—Face coverings are now mandatory in churches, please come prepared.**

If you are unable to join us at 10.30am in church our online services are continuing on YouTube, they will be posted after the service.

<https://tinyurl.com/y6kvnxyv>

St Thomas's Road London, N4 2QP Charity Number 1179777



Picture of icon of St Phanourios in the Lady Chapel and flowers on the chair in front of the iconostasis.

### Ο Άγιος Φανούριος (St. Phanourios)

In St Thomas's Lady Chapel there is an icon of St. Phanourios, a Greek martyr saint from Roman times, honoured in the Orthodox Church. St. Phanourios has become famous for assisting the faithful in revealing lost or hidden spiritual matters of the heart, objects, directing or revealing actions that should be taken, restoring health and similar situations. (φαίνω = I show, uncover, reveal)

On the day before his feast day (27th August), a neighbour, Jenny Christodoulou, whose church in Cyprus is named for St. Phanourios, asked if she could bring flowers from her garden to honour the saint, as she has done for many years.

### Why is there an Orthodox Chapel in St Thomas's?

Between 1981 and 2005 a Latvian Orthodox congregation worshipped regularly at St Thomas's, led by Father Alexander Cherney.

The presence and fellowship of Alex, his wife, Helen and the Latvian Orthodox congregation greatly enhanced the life of St Thomas's and lives on through the furnishing of our Lady Chapel, their Chapel of St John the Baptist.

### **What is the PCC and why does it need a Secretary?**

The PCC works with the incumbent to promote the mission of the church in the parish, the care and maintenance of the building, and all financial matters. As the church is a registered charity, the PCC members also act as trustees. If you are on the electoral roll of St Thomas's, you can stand for election to the PCC. Elections are held yearly.

The Secretary agrees an agenda for each meeting with the Chair and collates and circulates the papers and minutes of meetings. They also act as the contact person with the Charity Commission and wider church authorities including the Stepney Area office and the Diocese of London.

### **Is it a paid job?**

No, members of the PCC and the officers are not paid.

### **How often are meetings held?**

In a normal year there are six or seven meetings

### **How many hours do you spend on it?**

For each meeting it will take around two hours to prepare and a similar time afterwards to draft the minutes. There are other ad hoc requirements in relation to correspondence and various returns with the Stepney Area, the Diocese and the Charity Commission. The preparation time for the Annual Parish Meeting takes around 10 hours, mostly in collating the various reports into the Trustees Annual Report.

### **You have a full-time job – is it easy to find time to fit in the Secretary's job as well?**

It is easy to do this unless you have many other similar commitments.

### **Is it a rewarding thing to do?**

Yes. The role is central to the smooth administration of the church and brings you into regular contact with the incumbent, other church officers and members of the PCC.

### **Do you need any special skills?**

An ability to plan ahead is important so that papers are ready for the PCC meetings. It is a good idea to read the minutes of previous meetings as a guide to minute taking. There are also lots of resources on the Diocesan website that provide advice on the role of the Secretary.

## **St Thomas's solar panels**

After the solar panels were fitted, St Thomas's signed up with Good Energy to receive the Feed-in Tariff (FiT). Good Energy will pay us for the excess energy the panels generate beyond our own usage.

We are delighted to report that St Thomas's has just received the first payment - over £300!

To see a picture of the panels and learn how much energy the panels generate each day: <https://www.stthomaschurch.co.uk/eco-congregation>

### **Contact our interim priest:**

**Revd Pauline Nashashibi:**

**email: [priest.stthomasfp@gmail.com](mailto:priest.stthomasfp@gmail.com)**

**Or phone to talk:**

**Give Generously:**

**If you are able to give at this time, we would be very grateful. Your contribution is very important and helps to continue life here at St Thomas.**

**<https://tinyurl.com/y9php2pp>**

Scan the QR code below:



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**Do you know anyone who doesn't have access to a computer? Please print this newsletter for them if you can. Perhaps they might like to know there is a FREE phone line called Daily Hope, 0800 804 8044, offering a collection of well-known hymns, the stories behind the hymns, joining in with Morning or Evening Prayer, or receiving the latest relevant public health advice.**