

St Thomas News

What's on at St Thomas' this week?

- 10.30 am Sunday Worship
Harvest Thanksgiving—4th October
Dedication Festival—11th October
- Wednesday Morning Prayer at 9am on Zoom
- Bible Study on Friday at 2pm on Zoom

All links can be found in your emails

If you are not receiving emails from St Thomas',
please contact: stthomasfp2@gmail.com

Harvest Thanksgiving

Loving God, you crown the year with the harvest,
We thank you for the lovely fruits of the earth.
Help us to use them as we should;
To feed the hungry, and to keep us healthy,
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Our harvest gifts this year will support the food bank at St John's Brownswood Park. Particularly needed are:

Toiletries and household items:

Bars of soap, Razors, Shaving gel, Deodorant, Washing up liquid, Washing powder, Shower gel, Shampoo, Toothpaste, Toothbrushes.

Non-perishable food items, especially:

Instant coffee, Tinned meat/fish, Breakfast cereal, Biscuits.

Please bring gifts to church bagged up – they will be collected as you enter

If you are not able to come but would like to contribute:

<https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/sjebp-soupkitchen?>



The office of Churchwarden is a very ancient one, going back to the 13th century, and the duties of the post included taking care of the Church building and its contents, as well as 'keeping order during divine service'! Together with the vicar they are responsible for the day-to-day running of the parish. We asked Heather Pascall, who is retiring from being one of St Thomas's churchwardens at the Annual Parish Meeting, to tell us more about her career and her life at St Thomas'.

How long have you been at St Thomas's, and how long as Church-warden?

I became a member of the congregation 38 years ago when my eldest daughter was one, and over the years my three children and four grandchildren have all been baptised here. In November 2019 my eldest daughter was married here by Rev Stephen Coles. I have been a Churchwarden for almost 4 years.

You have a full-time job and a family – please tell us a little about your career up to now

One of my first jobs was in the Fashion Industry, and I still do embroidery and knitting as well as trying to brush up on my sewing skills. Members of the congregation who know my fashion background know that I was keen to arrange a clothes swap once a month, and I am still very keen to have a Knit and Stitch Club when we can have groups meeting again in the hall. Currently I am a News Reference Specialist at the British Library, St Pancras, based in the Newsroom in the News Media Collection department, answering queries relating to News Media. I have some wonderful colleagues and work with lovely Curators. Due to legal deposit, all newspapers are held at the British Library, and it's an interesting job. It's really good when members of the congregation come to the BL - it's lovely when they come to the Newsroom and

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We are open in church for Holy Communion on Sunday mornings. 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.

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see me sitting at the Reference Desk or when I answer a remote enquiry and they realise that it's me.

Your interest in history, particularly the slave trade, encouraged you to organise afternoon talks around the October Black History Month at St Thomas' for several years. What other aspects of this historical interest are you engaged in?

I am an Adult Tutor teaching several courses, mainly around the slave trade, namely: Female Abolitionists: Their Essays and Poetry; Writings and Poetry on Slavery; The Royal Navy and the Atlantic Slave Trade; London and The Slave Trade; The Barbary Corsairs; Ethics and the Slave Trade; and Africa before the establishment of the Atlantic Slave Trade. The two other courses I teach are: Colonial Soldiers in World Wars I and II; and The Black Presence in Europe during the Interwar Years, focusing mainly on the UK, France and Germany. I am also a Guided Tour Leader at Somerset House. In my spare time I love to read, and am currently reading Tombland by C. J. Sansom, and Women, Race & Class by Angela Y. Davis. I am always rereading my favourite book, Frenchman's Creek by Daphne du Maurier.

Is it easy to find time to fit in the churchwarden's job as well?

I have had lots of support from Senior Churchwarden Justice Konneh, Rev Stephen Coles and the PCC. Former Churchwardens as well as the Diocese have also been available to advise and help out.

Is it a rewarding thing to do?

It is an interesting role. We have to remember that we are the Bishop's Representatives in the Church and are there to maintain order. Most people when they sit at the back do not realise just how much work goes on before the service, during the service and at the end of the service.

Do you need any special skills?

Special skills... I thought long and hard about that. You have to be diplomatic came top of my list! And be approachable and understanding.

What's the strangest thing that you have had to do?

The most difficult and strangest thing has been being a Churchwarden during a Global Pandemic and having no priest in place. It has been very tough with lots of pressure.

With great thanks to Heather from all at St Thomas' for her work as a Churchwarden.

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>

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.

Contact our interim priest:

Revd Pauline Nashashibi:

email: priest.stthomasfp@gmail.com

Or phone to talk:

Phone 020 7263 8268

Mobile 07530 969 444



Annual Parish Meeting (APM)

Please come to St Thomas' Annual Parish Meeting — everybody is welcome.

This important meeting, open to the whole congregation, usually held in April, was postponed for obvious reasons...

It will now be held by Zoom on Wednesday

21st October at 7pm

Full details including the agenda will be sent in an email but **urgent for now:**

Please check that you are on the electoral roll and, if not, please join.

Please consider becoming a member of the PCC (Parochial Church Council) – six new members are needed.

Three new members are also needed to join Deanery Synod.

Please consider standing for election as a churchwarden.

The electoral roll and application forms to join, as well as application forms to join the PCC or are all available on St Thomas's website at: <https://www.stthomaschurch.co.uk/annual-parish-meeting>