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St T's

St Thomas with St Maurice

Welcome to your Parish Church in the Groves



Is something missing from this issue? If so, please mention it — or even better: write an article (80 - 180) words for the next one!

In Quotes:

Possessions:

I have tried to keep things in my hands and lost them all, but what I have given into God's hands I still possess.

Martin Luther

Christianity is all about

Christianity is not a collection of truths that one has to believe, of laws one has to keep, a list of prohibitions. That would be repugnant. Christianity is a person that loved me so much that he demands my love. Christianity is Christ.

Oscar Romero 1977

Phil Moore writes:

This is a good opportunity to thank all the people who have worked so hard over the last month. We had a lovely Harvest Festival and Harvest Lunch. Our St Crux day went well and raised over £700. We also held our cafes and other regular events such as Mothers Union.

'St T's Play and Praise' opened its doors to the community for parents/ carers with preschool children.

This, along with all the work that goes on week by week has taken lots of work, much behind the scenes. **A very big thank you!**

Molly baked a wonderful Harvest sheaf. This amazing loaf was given to children of Park Grove School as a reminder of their own Harvest Festival which they celebrated at St Thomas' with parents and staff.



IDENTITY, PURPOSE, VALUES

Over the last few weeks many comments have been added to the flip chart over coffee. The PCC added their ideas too. Here's what you wrote.

Do you think anything is missing – or are there things you'd like to remove?

What are we like? (Identity)

Parish based. Lovely : very welcoming ☺ . Too old. Second home. Aware. Outward looking. Self facilitating community. Fairly traditional but not afraid of /prepared to change. Mission Unit. Quiet. Changing Church. Positive. Welcoming. Insular. Welcoming friendly Church.

What are we here for? (Purpose)

To serve God, especially in service to people in the Groves. To worship God, make friends and find support - from God and fellow parishioners. A center from which we can go out and serve. Christianity. Prayer, God's blessing. To worship, praise and offer thanksgiving. Worship. Meaningful worship. To share God's love with those around us.

What is important to us? (Values)

Family, children, the next generation. Providing pastoral care. Fellowship. People. Family, friends, good fellowship. Lead next generation towards walking in likes of Christ. Sharing God's love with all ages and making our church & its services accessible to all in the parish. God, sinning, friends and family. God is the most high in importance to us. Developing our relationship with God and getting to know Him better.



TREASURER HUNT!

Chris Leach

For five years Chris Leach has done tremendous work for us as our treasurer. I want to express sincere thanks to Chris on behalf of us all. Her work has been immensely important.

Chris will be resigning from this role at the AGM next March. I am grateful to her for giving us plenty of time to prepare for a change of treasurer.

The new financial year begins in January. It would be great to have someone in place to work on the new accounts from January while Chris is still in post to offer support. This would give a smooth transfer of treasurer's duties. For this to happen we will need to begin the process of introducing the systems to the new treasurer before Christmas.

Please pray that the right person or people will be drawn to this important work. Also pray and

Bishop Martin's 5 points:

- relate to the current local population.
- create appropriate worship patterns for local people.
- pay the parish share and raise money needed for the fabric.
- broaden the use of the church and hall, radically reordering if necessary.
- focus on mission.

Calendar

10 am services.

8 November	Remembrance Service
15 November	Family Communion
22 November	Holy Communion
29 November	All Age with baptism
6, 13 December	Holy Communion
20 December	Carol Service
27 December	Holy Communion

Christmas Services

13 December	Christingle	4pm
20 December	Carol Service	10am
Christmas Eve	Crib Service	4pm
	Midnight Communion	11.30pm
Christmas Day	Family Communion	10am

Prayer in the Groves

4 Wednesdays from 11 November to 2 December 10.30am. A 30 minute prayer

service followed by open Church for people to come and go as they please for quiet personal prayer and thought.

Advent Course

3 Monday evenings. 7.30 at Hansom Place

Other Events

Every month:

Coffee morning 10.am 1st Saturday
Mothers Union 2.30 pm 3rd Tuesday
Choir 7pm Wednesday

St Thomas' in the Community

4Cs Cafe 1.30 pm 2nd Wednesday
St T's Play and Praise Toddler Group
1.30-3pm Mondays in term time

Please support these events with your prayers and come along if you can.

think about whether God might want you to be involved.

WHERE ARE WE WITH THE BISHOP'S FIVE POINTS?

In the last issue we have seen several more encouraging developments:

- The PCC decided to buy a projector and screen. This is now in use in services. (No more juggling bits of paper!)
- We have continued to add new hymns to our existing repertoire.
- St T's Play and Praise Toddler Group has opened on Mondays 1.30-3 pm.
- Successful grant applications have not only enabled us to buy toys for Toddlers but also to begin some refurbishment which we hope will benefit others using the Hall (Guides and Brownies, children's parties, Mothers union, cafes, other bookings etc.) So far, the office in the Hall has been refurbished to be a place for small meetings as well as storage of Toddler materials.

Several of the bishop's points relate directly to these developments.

CAN YOU THINK OF MORE EXAMPLES?

Spotlight

GERALD SNOWDEN



Gerald lives in the parish and has been a member of St Thomas' for

many years. He is one of our Church Wardens.

LUCY AXELBY



Lucy graduated from the University of York St John this year. She lives in the Groves, cares about

the area and is our student link.

DAVE STIRK



Dave sings in the choir and has been part of St Thomas for many years. He is also

one of our Church Wardens.