



ST THOMAS'S QUEST



*Bishop Nicholas at
St Thomas's Church, Salisbury*

Contents

Editorial: Hail and Farewell	2
Friendship in Action	4
The Organ Project Completed.....	6
The Episcopal University.....	9
Word Search	11
Traveller's World.....	13
The Long and Winding Road.....	16
Congratulations to Elara	18
Secret Believers.....	19
Census 2021.....	19
A Good Read.....	21
Word Search answers	22
Future events at St Thomas's	23
Chairman's Report	24

St Thomas's Quest editorial team: John Bruce-Ball; John Cox; John Gisby; Fi Green; Peter Horwood; Brenda Parry; Brenda Whitehead.

Grateful acknowledgements to Peter Aves; Colourview Print Solutions; The Friends of St Thomas's Church and to all who have helped in distributing the magazine.

To communicate about **Quest** contact John Cox, tel: 01722 332373, email: jfcox@googlemail.com

Hail and Farewell

On 20th June Bishop Nicholas came to the St Thomas's Parish Communion to bless the many features of the redevelopment of the church, including the restored organ (see page 6) and the new altar, designed and made by Matthew Burt of Hindon. All at St Thomas's were so pleased that Nicholas Holtam could come during his final days as Bishop of Salisbury. He has held this office for ten momentous years and throughout this time he has provided thoughtful, consistent and positive leadership. We wish him and Helen Holtam a very happy and well-deserved retirement.

In the photo on the front cover with the Bishop and Kelvin Inglis is Ali Alexander, curate at

St Thomas's who was ordained at Salisbury Cathedral on 26th June. We wish her the very best as an ordained priest.



L to R: Antony Feltham-King (Church Architect); Bishop Nicholas; Matthew Burt; Rev'd Canon Kelvin Inglis (Rector); John Foster (Chair of St Thomas's Redevelopment Team)



This summer also marks the farewell to this magazine. In May 2019 John Bruce-Ball (Chair of the Quest 2020 Appeal) and a group of volunteers met to plan a new magazine. It was agreed that six editions of ***St Thomas's Quest*** would run parallel to the Appeal, with information about exciting developments in St Thomas's and aspects of its role in Salisbury and the wider community.

The first issue came out in September 2019, with copies delivered to households and businesses in the parish and available to church members. Issues were free, thanks to costs being covered by the Friends of St Thomas's and the support of local advertisers. Despite

the disruptions of the pandemic the magazine has continued to appear, and so we have arrived at its final edition.

The ***Quest*** team thank all the contributors, advertisers, deliverers and readers who have been positive and responsive in such difficult times. We have been pleased to show that St Thomas's is not only an inclusive church for its worshippers and visitors, but also one that extends care and support to the charitable, commercial and cultural life of the city and beyond.

John Cox

NOBLE ART SUPPLIES



*Salisbury's independent retailer
for quality art supplies*

We stock Daler Rowney, Winsor & Newton,
Derwent & Unison and lots more.

34 Winchester Street, Salisbury SP1 1HG
01722 239517  

Friendship in Action



Jenny Coats and Jennie Hoare

There can be little doubt that many lasting friendships are forged in church, but pandemics, however rare, can be seriously disruptive, but they can, and do cement some relationships.

Take for instance the two Jennys: Jennie Hoare, who has recently celebrated her 90th birthday and the slightly younger 87 year old Jenny Coats, both stalwarts of the church's outstanding catering services, and for that matter every other

aspect of life at St Thomas's. I am well aware that there are at least half a dozen other Jennys more than a little active in church life, as well as many other 90 year olds, but I am focussing on this particular pair for the way they tackled the pandemic.

They have been friends for some 30 years, and grew closer around 20 years ago when little Jennie (Hoare) moved house and was living only a short walk from big Jenny (Coats), if I may be so bold as to describe them in this way. Sadly they had both became widows within a short time of one another which drew them even closer.

Big Jenny had come to St Thomas's when her parish church of St Edmunds finally closed its doors and was united with St Thomas's where she almost immediately took over the young wives group which had a winning netball team and an active tennis group as well as organising an annual Christmas dinner for the elderly, a harvest supper and a toddlers' group. Along with bringing up her four children, she was catering manager of the Playhouse for five years and subsequently did lunches at the Squash Club. Cooking you might say was always her thing which is hardly surprising since she successfully completed a two year course with the Institutional Management Association, the year before Mary Berry.

Her work for the church took a break while she nursed her husband who had Parkinson's disease, which along with the sadness gave her another cause, the Parkinson's Society, for which she still works tirelessly. Known fondly as the Marmalade Queen, she has been making literally hundreds of jars of marmalade mainly for Parkinson's but also for the church. This year literally weeks after have surgery for a hip replacement she somehow managed to produce some 260 pots of marmalade raising £600 for Parkinson's.

Little Jennie came to St Thomas's much later, arriving in Salisbury in 1984 when her husband retired from a lifetime of teaching and teacher training in Shrewsbury and

Nottingham including yearlong exchange trips to America and Sierra Leone. But retirement was not really on the couple's agenda; they volunteered for 15 years for the Citizens Advice Bureau and quickly became involved in parish work.' I had only been going to the church for a few weeks when I was invited to join the PCC,' Jennie told me. 'I felt flattered and delighted.'

Shortly after her husband died she became a particularly popular church warden. She managed the catering committee for many years organising the Saturday coffee mornings, Sunday lunches and many other events. She too is a pretty good cook, and so nimble it's hard to believe she is 90 and still ready and willing to help out with whatever is required. When we chatted she was involved in walking to Kenya in four to five mile stages of 50 miles for a Christian Aid appeal.

What she didn't mention when we first chatted was that she trained as a dance teacher and loved most of all teaching ballet to children. But that career came to an end when she and her new husband went to Shrewsbury. 'We quickly did the foreign trips and then I had three children in quick succession so dancing was left behind. My training had taught me to value exercise and that I have always continued, playing tennis, walking and generally keeping fit'..... a fine example to so many of us who jump in the car rather than walk.

There is so much to say about this amazing pair, but to get to the point, when lockdown hit family Christmases, they decided that since it was impossible to be with any of their children, as they are all a long way off, they would have Christmas lunch together. But that was just the start. They decided to 'Bubble'. They cooked for one another choosing exotic recipes for six that would last them for several days, and then they began to enjoy film afternoons: Saturdays at Big Jenny's and an afternoon mid-week at little Jennie's and so it continues thanks to Netflix. They are the perfect example of friendship in action.

Brenda Parry



THINK FRIENDS -THINK FUN -THINK CROQUET!

HAMPTWORTH CROQUET CLUB - SP5 2DU

For a warm and friendly welcome, come and visit our Club. We offer:

- 'All year round' Croquet in a beautiful rural location with parking
- 5 full size croquet lawns with a pavilion
- Use of the Clubhouse with bar, restaurant and changing facilities.
- Friendship and social events and FUN!

Interested? Try a taster session?

Call Steve on 07912 608733



The Organ Project Completed

On 28 February, our historic organ resumed its contribution to our worship at the 10.15am Sunday service, then still being pre-recorded. Ute Schwarting, our organist, introduced it with a Minuet by John Ireland and spoke of the project and the changes made to the organ, illustrating the new Trombone stop with gusto and enjoyment at the end of the service with the famous Widor Toccata. It had always been the intention to reintroduce the organ with a celebrity organist concert but Covid prevented this. We hope that a celebrity concert might be organised for autumn/winter this year.

Strong supporters of the project, David Halls from the cathedral and Richard Godfrey, former DAC organ adviser, have played the organ and confirmed that the project aims have been fully met and that it is a pleasure to play. John Norman, the Project Technical Adviser, has put it through very detailed acceptance tests, suggested a few easily-accomplished minor adjustments and changes, and signed off the work as fully satisfactory and to a very high standard.



**Nigel Orchard (Project Manager) and
Ute Schwarting (St Thomas's Organist)**

It has been a long haul since the PCC in November 2015 called for urgent proposals for repairing the organ. Its electro-pneumatic pedal action had extensively failed, the couplers were unreliable, the wind reservoirs were leaking and the action was described as 'like a workout at a gym!' We had also been advised to enhance the power of the organ in supporting the congregational singing by adding a new Trombone stop. There was already, from a few years previously, a faculty for refurbishment of the organ and rotation through 90 degrees to improve its sound in the nave, and for casing refurbishment but the cost was very high and it had not been pursued. Given the need to limit costs, the realisation that obtaining agreement and a faculty for major work on the casing would be very difficult, and the imminence of a major appeal for extensive works on the church fabric and furniture, the project team I convened submitted proposals for

only the essential repairs needed to make the organ again reliable and playable, some highly desirable further refurbishment, and some enhancements but no work on the casing.

2016 was a frantic year for the project team consisting of the music department's John Dempster, David Power, Ute Schwarting and Jane Beaumont, me as project manager and

Peter Horwood providing publicity and fundraising advice. A specification was drawn up, quotations sought (3 requested, two received), PCC approval obtained, a faculty application submitted and granted, a launch to the congregation and later to the city, fundraising and finally contract placement. Over the years, members of the congregation concerned at the deterioration of the organ since the last major works in 1969 had contributed some £80k, with some in a restricted fund (strictly for the organ) and the majority in a designated fund (that the PCC could use elsewhere if they wished). The PCC allocated those funds to cover the essential repairs but the project team was set the target of raising the further £55k for the highly desirable works and the enhancements, and defraying the designated fund expenditure by the end of 2016 to avoid clashing with the proposed major church refurbishment fundraising. A magnificent response mainly by the congregation met the financial targets and allowed contract placement with Stephen Cooke and David Coram in November that year. As Captain of the Bellringers, I am proud that the largest single event fundraiser was the sponsored peal, conveniently based on the 300th anniversary of our tenor bell.

The organ was to be taken out of service just after Easter 2018 with planned completion November that year though things did not quite work out to that timescale...

At the introductory service, Ute paid tribute to David Coram and Stephen Cooke, both of whom tragically died during the project, David in 2019 and Stephen in a motorcycle accident returning home after an organ progress meeting with us in October last year. She said: 'I don't want to brush over the terrible tragedies that have occurred during the process. No words can describe the loss of both our organ builders, first David Coram and very recently Stephen Cooke. They had visionary ideas for honouring the history of our organ and their craftsmanship will be seen in this organ for generations to come. They are both terribly missed.' David Coram was formerly Assistant Organist at Romsey Abbey and then, despite living near Salisbury, the organist and choirmaster at Hammersmith. He was a well-liked accompanist to several choirs in our area.

Stephen Cooke was apprenticed to Hill, Norman and Beard in the early 70s. After a short spell in computer programming in the banking sector he set up his own organ building workshop in Wiltshire in 1990. Since that time most notable projects have been the full restoration of the 3 manual Bryceson organ at St Mary's Steeple Ashton, the complete rebuild of the 3 manual Bevington organ of all Saints' Westbury, and extensive work undertaken on the chapel organ of Sherborne School for Boys.

Much of the work on our organ was carried out by Ed Cooke, Stephen's son who was fortunately able to complete the mechanical works after the death of his father. I am glad to report he is continuing the business, will continue to support our organ and is already involved in refurbishing a number of local organs and providing them with pedal Trombones! We wish him all success with this business. The very specialist voicing work was to have been done by Stephen but we had to call someone in to do this and we were lucky to get Joost de Boer who finished it in a couple of weeks just before Christmas 2020.

Our organ has been returned to full mechanical tracker action (no electro-pneumatics) as it was originally, and the Choir section (the lowest of the three manuals) now has the pipes that were in the original Samuel Green Choir section in 1792. A most pleasing link with the past!

I have dealt with a number of matters not in the main contract: the blower (hidden away out of sight in the boiler basement), has been completely rebuilt by James Richardson-Jones with a new control box and the humidifier overhauled. The electrical supply to the organ has been renewed. The organists' CCTV system has been repaired and a new and much more convenient VDU supplied. The organist's bench is on a new platform.

My heartfelt thanks are due to the PCC for unwavering support through this difficult project, to the congregation for their financial support and patience, to the project team, to David Halls and Richard Godfrey, to the contractors and especially to John Norman for providing advice and quality assurance. John actually worked on the Hill, Norman, Beard 1969 refurbishment of our organ before leaving the firm to work for IBM.

Two changes to the original proposals for the air distribution system were found to be desirable during the works. The PCC approved the works and the additional costs; the faculty had to be modified twice. The PCC also approved a contribution towards the cost of employing the contract voicer. With these additions, the works have been concluded within the budget. A leaflet about the organ is nearly complete. Three final (1%) contract stage payments are due at monthly intervals; when this is complete, I will be submitting a final report and accounts to the PCC. All previous major works to the organ are commemorated in gold letters on the organ casing. It remains for me to agree the wording for these works, to get the necessary permissions (probably including a faculty!) and have the words painted on the casing. Phew!

Nigel Orchard



Fawcetts
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS
AND BUSINESS ADVISERS

St. Thomas's and Fawcetts
- celebrating Salisbury's heritage together

We assist with business management and all aspects of taxation for a wide range of clients.

Fawcetts have been established in Salisbury for 90 years and provide a first class, personal and friendly service for our many and varied clients

Free initial no obligation consultations

Windover House, St Ann Street,
Salisbury SP1 2DR
01722 420920
www.fawcetts.co.uk

The Episcopal University

www.ecsssup.org



Here's a question for you: What is it that connects St Thomas's Church in Salisbury with the world's newest, and one of the poorest, countries? The answer is - an emerging Christian Foundation University in South Sudan. Since 1972, the diocese of Salisbury, of which St Thomas's is a member, has been in partnership with the Episcopal Church in the Sudans. This partnership began with a medical link, which is still giving significant support to the Primary Health Care Programme. Over time, another link was formed, supporting education in church schools and theological colleges. This has now increased and expanded as the needs of the country have changed to include The Episcopal University (TEU).

When South Sudan became independent in 2011, it was estimated that 30,000 young people were eligible for university but unable to fulfil their potential, as there were insufficient places. Sadly, there has been considerable instability within the country since independence, which makes education even more important in order to bring about stability, peace and development. As a completely new university, TEU is able to focus the courses on the needs of the country, which includes doctors, nurses, trained teachers, engineers, agriculturalists, lawyers and business people who are committed to building a peaceful and prosperous nation.



Rev'd Dr Joseph Bilal

South Sudan covers a vast area with considerable challenges including infrastructure to support transport, internet coverage and a lack of skilled people. The new university will reach out to people in various parts of the country by using five existing colleges as satellite campuses, in addition to the central campus near to the capital, Juba.

This is an exciting and ambitious project, which has already overcome many bureaucratic and logistical problems to reach the stage now where it can begin to function as a university. Church education in South Sudan is led by some truly inspirational and energetic people who refuse to be daunted by the many difficulties which they have to overcome. One of these people is Rev'd Dr Joseph Bilal who is now the Acting Vice Chancellor of

TEU. Joseph is no stranger to Salisbury and the wider diocese. As a young man he was supported by the diocese to spend time here as a youth worker in various parishes. His potential was recognised in that time leading to him taking a degree at Trinity College, Bristol and becoming a priest.

THE EPISCOPAL UNIVERSITY
A New University
For South Sudan & Sudan

Several years ago Joseph returned to South Sudan and has been the main driving force behind the development of TEU. It is a tragedy that there will be others with the same energy, enthusiasm and ability as Joseph who have been

unable to realise their potential. Some have managed to attend university, but only by leaving the country. TEU will open opportunities previously denied to the majority. The new university will have a focus on leadership for all its students and give them the opportunity to receive the training and qualifications within South Sudan which are necessary to strengthen their country.

St Thomas's is supporting this essential development work by donating £5000 each year for 5 years (2018-22). These funds will go through a UK based support group which will monitor and account for its use. The support group (a charity with its own Trustees) consists of suitably knowledgeable people in the UK who provide academic, practical and financial guidance as the university moves through its phases of development. If you wish to learn more about TEU, or give it your support, please go to the support group website at www.ecsssup.org. The Salisbury Diocesan website also contains information.

John Foster

A C Wallbridge & Company Limited Steeplejacks and Lightning Conductor Engineers

Unit 7, Centre One, Lysander Way, Old Sarum, Salisbury SP4 6BU
01722 322750 mail@wallbridge.co.uk www.wallbridge.co.uk

Wallbridge has been protecting the fabric of St Thomas' Church from lightning strikes for over forty years and are pleased to support this Quest 2020 publication.

We wish St Thomas' well with their ongoing renovation and restoration works.



St Thomas's Word Search

E	C	E	P	W	N	O	I	N	U	M	M	O	C
C	C	T	N	R	E	T	S	A	E	N	R	S	P
M	H	C	D	R	B	D	C	E	A	N	E	T	R
I	A	M	R	E	E	E	D	G	T	R	R	I	A
C	R	C	A	M	N	T	R	I	V	A	R	P	Y
E	I	R	Y	C	C	O	C	E	N	A	R	L	E
M	T	E	H	S	H	E	R	E	T	G	R	U	R
O	I	C	C	R	E	S	L	L	L	M	S	P	C
C	E	T	R	E	S	B	A	P	T	I	S	M	S
L	S	O	U	W	L	U	L	C	O	A	R	P	E
E	S	R	H	O	L	I	S	H	W	C	L	L	F
W	L	E	C	L	E	E	U	O	E	C	S	C	O
C	T	E	S	F	B	A	T	I	R	I	E	R	N
R	E	G	R	E	V	D	R	R	A	H	A	T	T

Aisle
Altar
Baptisms
Bells
Benches
Charities
Choir
Churchyard
Communion
Curate
Easter
Flowers
Font
Lectern
Organ
Prayer
Pulpit
Rector
Servers
Tower
Verger
Weddings
Welcome

Did you know that...

... the Elizabethan dramatist Philip Massinger was baptised in St Thomas's in 1583? He is buried in what is now the chancel of Southwark Cathedral in 1640. His memorial plaque is next to Edmund Shakespeare (William's younger brother).

You can listen online to the play 'Making Massinger' A 17th Century Salisbury Scandal by Simon Butteriss, created in 2021 (www.wiltshirecreative.co.uk)

BAILEYS OF SALISBURY
— THE BED EXPERTS —



60 NIGHT COMFORT EXCHANGE
60 NIGHTS TO CHANGE YOUR MIND

#LOVEOURPRICEPROMISE

WE GUARANTEE WE WILL NOT BE BEATEN ON PRICE OR SERVICE

SALISBURY'S ONLY INDEPENDENT FAMILY BED RETAILER
EXPERT UNBIASED ADVICE FROM THE BAILEY FAMILY. NO SALES COMMISSIONS

FREE DELIVERY - FREE INSTALLATION - FREE DISPOSAL

84 FISHERTON STREET - SALISBURY - SP2 7QY

M: 07403 180078 T: 01722 323235

Traveller's World

Among Salisbury's much appreciated independent shops is the award-winning *Traveller's World* in Catherine Street. This travel agency was set up in 1982 by Norman Hughes and Peter Eastaugh who maintain an active role in the business as partners. Over nearly 40 years Norman, Peter and their experienced staff have provided a consistently high quality of service in which it's possible for every client to meet a human face over the counter and receive knowledgeable and up-to-date advice and guidance. Norman points out that some companies rely on electronic means of communication and less experienced staff to save time and money – though not necessarily for the traveller's benefit.

The only major physical change to Traveller's World came with the purchase of two adjacent shops creating the current premises. However, the changes in travel and tourism have required constant adjustment. Norman explains 'I'm still learning' – from the early days when most holiday destinations abroad were in the Mediterranean, to the global range of later times. The staff share the traditional philosophy that 'travel broadens the mind' and opens up restrictive thinking. 'People are people, no matter where they live,' says Norman, 'and deserve the polite respect of travellers who are visiting.'

Climate change and environmental harm are a major concern of his staff in the advice they give travellers to minimise their carbon footprint and ensure green measures are in place where they visit. 'We can't force people to decide but we can give them the evidence of choices that are better environmentally.' In answer to those who question whether travel should still be happening, he gives the clear view that travel brings vital economic benefits to countries. This has become starkly evident during the pandemic. As an example Norman cites many people losing employment in nature reserves as guides and conservationists who are forced to make a living by other ways, many of which are not ecologically positive while nature suffers from their absence.

'The severity and duration of the disruption to global travel has been staggering – really tough all round.' Norman understandably and fervently hopes that the widest possible vaccination programme can happen. He can also see how some aspects of the world's fight against Covid-19 have brought out many positives in people engaged in medical and scientific work.

Asked to highlight something of his own travels, Norman recalled an independent journey by Jeep into the Peruvian Andes to visit isolated communities. Along the way he followed the expected custom of giving lifts to those on foot – whether with products to sell or with children and sometimes livestock. 'They all piled in!' he said but gave in return in their different ways. His wife was unwell from insect bites and the next morning 'outside the tent was a pyramid of oranges to help her get better...' Returning to a country after an interval has brought its own insights - in India with his young son sharing his Lego with other children who had never played with it, and at Petra in Jordan amazed at the extent of excavations since his earlier visit. As many seasoned travellers have found, he says the more places one goes to, the list of where one wants to go gets longer. 'Growing older you tend to travel at a slower pace, see things in more detail, and explore more broadly.'

As a part of his work at Traveller's World Norman arranges the changing window display. If you're walking along Catherine Street do look at it. The quality is a good indication of the work that goes on inside.



From left to right:

Paul, Chelsea, Samantha, Sarah, Vicki, Claire, Lorraine, Peter, Norman, plus Jenny (not shown).

John Cox

Did you know that ...

... Matthew Burt's stunning new altar is made from an English 'Tiger' oak? The roots have been colonized by Fistulina hepatica, the beefsteak fungus. The oak's timbers, rich in tannin, a natural preservative, react with the colonizing fungus in streaks of a darker colour, running through an otherwise pale grain and creating a rare and maverick tree.

Childrens Chance



Funding activities for children and young people in Salisbury

www.childrenschance.co.uk
info@childrenschance.co.uk
01722 415991

We are here to help; please contact us if we can support 1-2-1 tuition for children and young people whose education has been particularly affected by Covid-19.

Normal safeguarding and social distancing rules apply.



I. N. NEWMAN LTD

FUNERAL DIRECTORS



Monumental Masons

OFFICES IN SALISBURY AND FORDINGBRIDGE

- + 24 hour day/night service
- + Home visits if required
- + Pre-Pay Funeral Plans
- + Help with all funeral aspects

- + Flowers arranged
- + Service sheets
- + Funeral catering
- + A complete service

Private Chapels of Rest

Griffin House
55 Winchester Street
Salisbury
Wiltshire
SP1 1HL
TEL: 01722 413136

Griffin Mews
22 High Street
Fordingbridge
Hants
SP6 1AX
TEL: 01425 656286

INDEPENDENT FAMILY OWNED AND CONTROLLED BUSINESS

The Long and Winding Road

As hopefully Covid restrictions are drawing to an end, and sadly so are the days of Quest magazine, I thought those of you who don't know me might just have wondered who this Brenda Parry was who was writing so much about the church when I have only been part of your community for seven or eight years. So a bit about my past:

The long, winding and sometimes precipitous road from Dolgellau up the slopes of Cadair Idris to Cregennan Lakes, is truly one of the most beautiful roads in the world matched only in beauty by the route down the other side to Fairbourne. For me the lake itself is the nearest place I will ever come to God. But it's a long way from Salisbury, and I haven't been there for at least two years.



*Photograph of Cregennan Lakes,
by courtesy of Erfyl Lloyd Davies*

I have had a rollercoaster ride of a life spending 20 years of my career in Fleet Street, 20 years writing from Dolgellau and the past 14 in Salisbury lured by the beauty of the Cathedral, not exactly the mountains to which I had become accustomed, but built by man to the glory of God. I love to sit on a bench on the Town Path and wonder at the architecture of the Cathedral and indeed sit

inside, not only for my Covid jab, but there's always people around, lots of them. Cregennan Lakes I could have to myself, say my prayers out loud with only the sheep between me and the heavens.

Going to Fleet Street fulfilled a childhood dream and it didn't disappoint. I went first to the London Evening News, then the Daily Mail and after a brief spell at the Daily Express, spent the subsequent 12 years on the Daily Telegraph. There was nothing more exciting than to arrive at work and be told: 'keep your coat on' or 'have you got your passport handy?'.

It could mean you were driving anywhere in the country or indeed flying off to foreign climes. I recall covering the early rumblings of devolution in Wales when snow was thick on the ground when I received a phone call from the foreign editor asking me to return to London in order to fly the following day to St Lucia for the island's independence celebrations. What a week that was in tropical sunshine with my own pool outside my room's sliding window.

Or in a very different vein, on a bank holiday Monday being recalled from the pub with colleagues to be told that Lord Mountbatten had been assassinated in Ireland. We were each assigned various designations. I was to go directly to Sligo with a couple of colleagues on a private jet from a small west London air field. The jet failed to arrive so we flew BA to Dublin and then picked up a tiny aircraft which flew us to Sligo landing on the beach. It was a big story, followed by the Warren Point massacre and then the distressing funeral of the Irish fisherman's son who had also died in the explosion. We eventually flew back from Dublin on the plane that carried Mountbatten's coffin back to England.

I was living the life I had always wanted. But in 1980 my daughter was born, and although I was fortunate enough to have a nanny, my baby became the most important thing in my life, so when the Daily Telegraph moved out of Fleet Street, I took voluntary redundancy and went to live in a cottage we had in Dolgellau, in my husband's native Wales.

It was a blissful time bonding with my daughter in a place where she could ride ponies, play in the hills and go to school by the seaside, and I could continue writing not only for the Daily Telegraph but for most of the other papers who didn't have anyone in North Wales. We moved to a bigger house and became part of a wonderful community despite the fact that I didn't speak Welsh. I won't say I didn't miss London, I did and returned frequently to meet friends, go shopping and pop in the office. It was only after my daughter won a sixth form scholarship to way distant Oundle, that I began to feel a little isolated.

There was no way we could afford to move back to London and we looked around Bristol and Bath, but our house wasn't selling. It was only after our daughter had graduated from Edinburgh University and moved to Plymouth that we suddenly hit on the idea of Salisbury. It was the cathedral that sold it. But today, I have to say, it will be St Thomas's and its wonderfully welcoming community that will keep me here, unless my daughter gets her way and we move to be near her and her family in Pangbourne. I must confess to being a bit of a gypsy. I do enjoy a move.

Brenda Parry

Did you know that ...

... St Thomas's 'Doom' painting was hidden for centuries? The great medieval picture of the Last Judgement was whitewashed over in 1593, uncovered and restored in 1881, cleaned in 1953 and fully restored in 2019.



*Photograph of Cregennan Lakes,
by courtesy of Erfyl Lloyd Davies*

Congratulations to Elara

From St Thomas's to the Royal College of Music

Elara Jacobs has been a loyal member of St Thomas's Choir for 4 years, and has also enriched the musical life of the church with her instrumental playing. Over recent months she has taken part in two rounds of auditions and has been offered a place with a scholarship to study trumpet, tenor horn and saxophone on Saturdays at the Royal College of Music Junior Academy starting in September this year.



Elara's visit in April to meet the head of the junior department at the RCM.

Her musically talented family's performance in a past St Thomas's Christmas Tree Festival was Elara's debut aged 3 years on the cornet.

She played the fifth cornet part in a brass quintet rendition of *Good King Wenceslas*. She went on to sit her first cornet exam aged 5, and at the beginning of this year passed her grade 8 trumpet and tenor horn both with merit aged 9. She also plays saxophone, piano and drums.



Joining St Thomas's Choir

Elara joined the choir at the age of 5 and, shortly afterwards, was singing with the choir at Canterbury Cathedral. By the age of 9 she had gained the Bronze Award from the Royal School of Church Music.

The Choir has a great many benefits as choristers develop their vocal skills and theoretical and musical knowledge. Singing gives them confidence and the opportunity for socialising with events and trips. Children can join the Junior Singers from 4 years old and the Choir from 7 to 18 years when they will be singing with the adult members.

For more details contact John Dempster, the Director of Music, via the Parish Office, email: office@stthomassalisbury.co.uk

John Cox

Secret Believers

On 24th July my step-grandson is being christened. This will, of course, be an occasion for great celebration; you can take that for granted. Jane, my wife, is giving him a beautiful Bible, which she hopes Theodore, the baby, will treasure all his life. Is there any surprise about that? Well, no, not in this country, thank the Lord, but what if the same event were taking place in, say, North Korea, Afghanistan or even Morocco? Christians have to worship in secret in many countries. They meet in houses or apartments. They gather on remote mountainsides or deep in the jungle. Being discovered to be a Christian in North Korea is a death sentence. Most Christians there are sent to political criminal camps, from some of which inmates will never be released. The idea of a public christening would be madness.

According to the organisation *OpenDoors*, whose UK headquarters are in Witney, Oxfordshire, at least 340 million Christians around the world experience high levels of persecution and discrimination. What can the Christian church in this country do to help the 340 million? As I see it, to be able to help we need information, followed by ideas for making a difference. For all of this I would recommend reading the superbly produced illustrated booklets and literature that *OpenDoors* publish*.



OpenDoors

They say that our gifts, prayers and support make a huge difference to persecuted Christians around the world. Millions receive emergency food and aid, spiritual care,

smuggled Bibles and books, and legal advice. For 65 years, they say, that has been the calling: to stand with Christians who dare to follow Jesus no matter what the cost. Please contact me if you would like an *OpenDoors* booklet to find out more
aadmiller@btinternet.com.

Tony Miller

*For example, *OpenDoors* World Watch List 2021: The Top 50 Countries Where Following Jesus Costs The Most

OpenDoors UK & I, PO Box 6, Witney OX29 6WG
01993 460015 inspire@opendoorsuk.org www.opendoorsuk.org

Census 2021

The publication of the 2021 Census results is likely to provide an unusual surge of interest and comment throughout the country. This is because the public have become more aware of the country's social structure over recent years and therefore are taking more interest in it. Previous Census results were not published in such an active and sometimes febrile social media environment as today's. Opinions will be numerous, thought-provoking and surprising.

Data being collected on many subjects are more detailed than previously. For instance Marriage/Partnership status has 9 options, Ethnicity has 5 groups with a total of 19 options

between them. Sexual orientation is a voluntary entry with 5 options and Religion is also a voluntary entry with 8 options.

Users can now easily share content, talk to friends and argue points of view, often with several hundred other users expressing opinions via Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and similar sites. Many people are ready to enjoy this activity and will welcome this new source of wide-ranging information. It is a pure data generator and therefore an ideal source of information. By reason of its origin the accuracy is determined by the quality of the data contributors have made to it.

One example of a possible consequence concerns an advertisement placed by The Humanist Society. It tackles the attitude of many people reluctant to commit themselves concerning belief.

If you have no religion then say so. Don't fudge and register what you think you ought to think.

If this has been done by many people then it may have some influence on the future policies of the Anglican Church and Church membership. This has been in long and continuous decline and it may not be viable in less than fifty years. For an organisation in that condition such a finding may not be welcome. Other encouraging, worrying or remarkable results may well emerge. The date for publication has not yet been set.

John Gisby

The advertisement features a split design. On the left, there is a white background section for H.R. Tribbeck & Son, which is described as 'FAMILY JEWELLERS SINCE 1905'. Below this, the logo for 'HÉRIBELIN' is shown, followed by the text 'ATELIERS D'ORFÈVRERIE FINALE & FAMILIALE'. A single watch with a silver-toned case and a brown leather strap is displayed. On the right, there is a dark background section showing two watches with brown leather straps. One watch is positioned vertically, and the other is angled, overlapping the first. Both watches have silver-toned cases and light-colored dials with Roman numeral hour markers.

A Good Read

There is nothing like a good browse, either in a medieval church or in a bookshop. Combine the two and bingo, you have a very happy formula. Here at St Thomas's we have managed to do just that. While you are now welcome in our beautifully refurbished medieval church all day and every day, Covid restrictions permitting, you will soon we hope, on Tuesday and Saturday mornings, as well as enjoying a cup of coffee, be able to pick up a bargain book from our new oak bookcases.

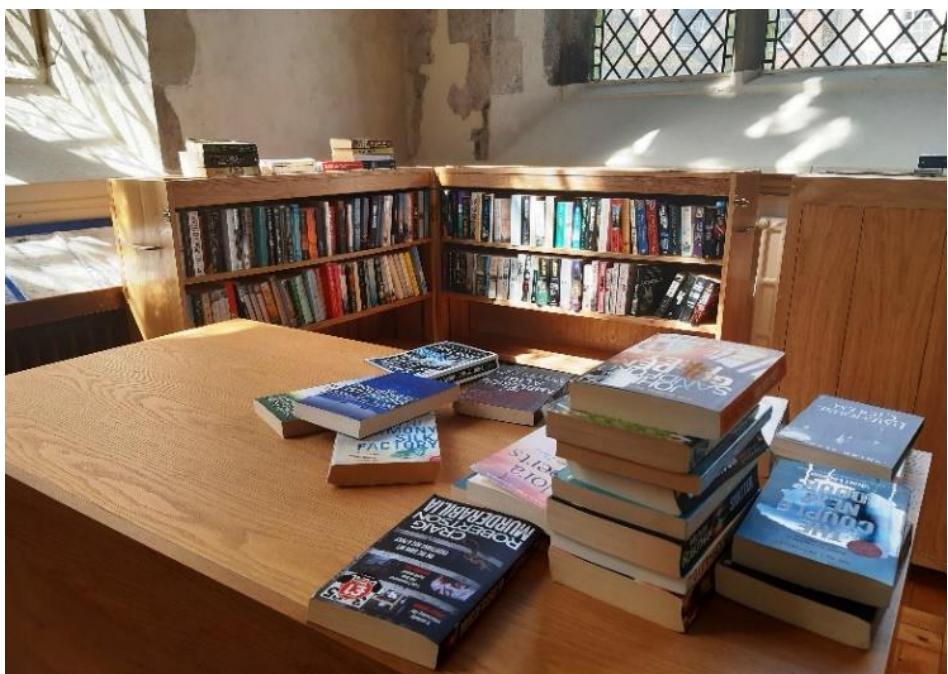
We have had a book stall for many years, which brings in some £3,000 to £3,500 a year, thanks to members of the congregation and many members of the general public, giving us hundreds of once read, well occasionally a bit more, books for us to sell.

Under the eagle eye and careful management skills of Geoff Bishop the books have been a steady stream of much needed church income, but sadly Geoff has now called time on the post, and the always helpful Bobbie Chettleburgh has stepped into the breach. She readily admits to not being equipped with Geoff's skill, but if enthusiasm has anything to do with it, the books will continue to be an integral part of church life.

Now all carefully arranged in the eight new oak bookcases by a team of enthusiastic volunteers, the books, fiction and nonfiction, will all sell at just £1 each, which in many cases is better than a bargain, it's a positive steal. In the past the books were laid out on the old pews; now they look much more appealing, although older members might find bending down to the bottom shelf a tad problematic. If you want to give us books, please bring them when the bookshop is open on Tuesday and Saturday mornings.

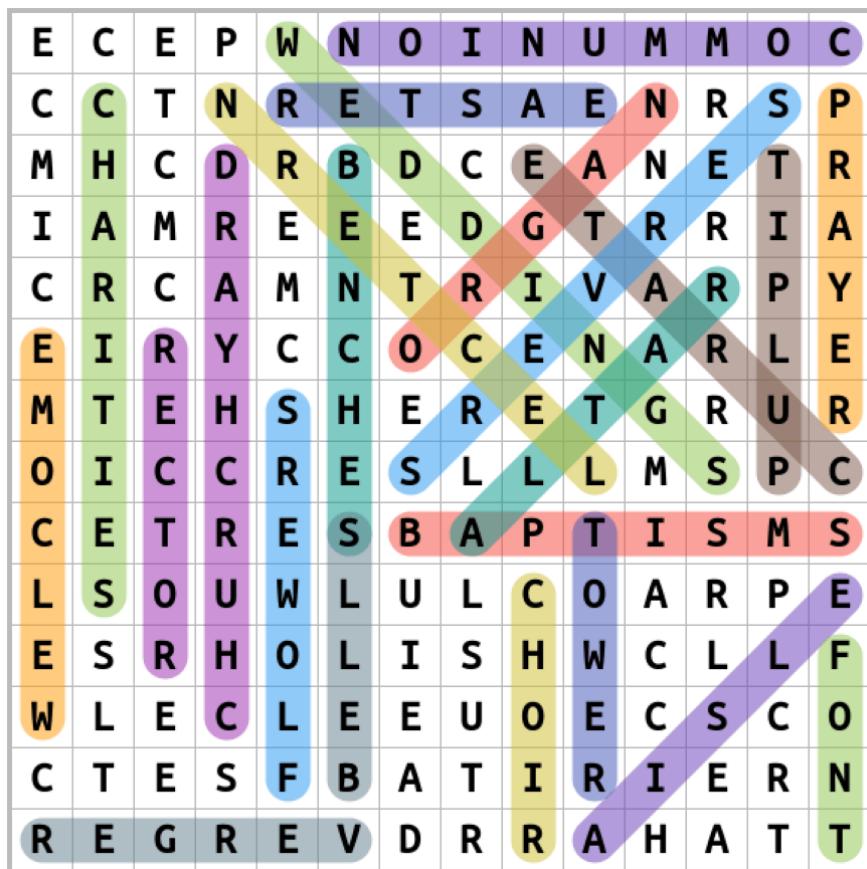
Otherwise you will find nowhere suitable to put them. And just one other thing, modern paperback fiction tends to sell very well. Thanks.

According to latest Government guidelines, we hope to be up and running after July 19. We will publicise details on our website.



Brenda Parry

St Thomas's Word Search Answers



A hand holding a small model of a brick house with a chimney. To the right, the company logo 'MM' in blue, with 'Myddelton & Major' written below it. The tagline 'Your property in Safe Hands' is displayed prominently.

**Residential Lettings
and Management**

49 High Street Salisbury Wiltshire SP1 2PD

01722 337579

lettings@myddeltonmajor.co.uk
www.myddeltonmajor.co.uk

Future Events at St Thomas's

Please put the dates in your diaries and keep your fingers crossed!

The Navy Larks – Saturday 2nd October 2021



Salisbury's own landlocked sailors, the Navy Larks are well-known for their robust and harmonious renderings of sea shanties and their own nautical compositions. Virus regulations permitting, we hope to be selling tickets for this concert after you come back from your summer holidays!

St Thomas's Autumn Fayre – Saturday 9th October 2021

All being well we are looking forward to holding our inaugural Autumn Fayre in St Thomas's on Saturday 9th October from 10.00 am to 3.00 pm. This will be a great opportunity to celebrate being out and about again, to appreciate the beautifully renovated church and to start your Christmas shopping early whilst enjoying our renowned home-baked refreshments.



St Thomas's Annual Christmas Tree Festival

The Festival is a community event celebrating Christmas with a wonderful and varied display of decorated trees and nativity scenes. Over the years thousands of visitors to the Festivals have enjoyed the exhibits, the hospitality and the fellowship.



Sadly this was not possible in 2020 with Covid-19 restrictions. Instead an online Festival was held which included photographs of the exhibits and recorded music by the many performers who would otherwise have played in the church.



Christmas Tree Festival 2019

Subject to government regulations, it is our intention that the Festival will run from the 30th November to 5th December 2021 once again in the Church. We are aware that the situation could change and there may be a need to revert to holding a second online Festival. Please watch out for announcements on the church website and in the media.

John Cox and Diane Emsley, Festival Co-organisers

QUEST 2020 Chairman's report

As you can imagine, there has been very little fund-raising in the last year. There is a summary of the financial position of the Guild on the back of the last Quest magazine, which shows that we have spent £500,000 on the re-ordering and refurbishment work in the church since the start of our Quest 2020 campaign.

We still have about £50,000 in the Guild account and that is being ring-fenced to pay for the new font, the removal of the old font, and the new cupboards in the South West corner of the church.

In the future, our sources of income will be legacies, trusts, and some income from events. We look forward to planning the next phase of work in the church, and to raising the necessary funds.

Thank you all for your support. Please come and see the fruits of your labours when you next visit the church.

John Bruce-Ball

You may wish to donate to the Appeal. There are various ways to do so. For further information visit <http://www.stthomassalisbury.co.uk/appeal/appeal-donate> or contact the Parish Manager Meryl Browning at The Parish Office:

St Thomas's House, St Thomas's Square, SP1 1BA

Tel: 01722 322 537

Email: office@stthomassalisbury.co.uk



'Help us save the Church of Angels'