



Welcome to the 3rd edition of *The Word*. In this issue we are focusing on some of the groups (including ministries) that are active in our parish. If you would like to know more about them then please contact the group leader, the Parish Office or email us at [parishnews@friar.org](mailto:parishnews@friar.org)

If you would like to feature your group, ministry or activity in a future edition then please send a mail to the above address. Your contributions are vital to keep alive the communication within our parish family. Ideally articles should be up to 75 words but if space permits the article can be longer.

## Scripture Sharing

Our Scripture Sharing group meets fortnightly on Thursday evenings for approximately an hour. We meet in the Becket Centre to study the Word of God - usually the Gospel of the following Sunday. This process, known as "Lectio Divina", is a means of understanding and praying through the readings which we hear at Mass.

If you are interested in joining this group you are invited to come along on Thursday evenings at 7.30pm. Dates will be announced in the parish weekly newsletter. It is not complicated and no formal knowledge of the bible is needed. Everyone is welcome. To quote a former Pope: "Ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ".

*Sr. Sandra (on behalf of the Scripture Group)*

## First Communion

The programme runs from late September to April on a Saturday morning from 10am to 12noon. We usually have about 110 children in two groups meeting on alternate Saturdays. The next programme starts in September and we are losing some of our most experienced and hard working volunteers so we desperately need volunteers to help on 10 Saturday mornings with administration and organisation. If anyone feels they can commit to this then please contact Jackie Reilly on 07952 077546.

*Jacqueline Reilly, First Communion Lead Catechist*

## St Thomas' Under 5s Group

The group runs twice a week from 9.30am to 11am; Tuesdays (age 0 to under 5, run by Sheila Browne) and Wednesdays (age 0 to under 2, run by Rachel Woolf) during term time. We have a wide range of age appropriate toys which have largely been donated or "bought" with Sainsbury's vouchers kindly donated by group users and parishioners. We charge 50p per head per session. Nada, our lovely tea lady, serves refreshments which are all included in the cost. There is no waiting list to join and we have run for many years by word of mouth.

*Rachel Woolf and Sheila Browne*

## The Music Group

The Music Group which plays at 10am Mass on Sundays provides an alternative musical support to the liturgy. The singers are accompanied by keyboard, guitars, drums and other instruments as available. Songs of modern worship from a variety of sources are used, Catholic and otherwise which it is hoped will appeal to families and young people.

It is very enjoyable to belong to TMG and anyone who has musical skills whether vocal or instrumental is invited to contact a member of the group or check our website: [www.musicgroup.org.uk](http://www.musicgroup.org.uk)

## Woodford Green Bereavement Support

Since January 2013 we have been running a monthly group to help people who have suffered bereavement and are trying to find a way to cope. Our meetings are held every month on the second Thursday at 7.30pm. We also organise the November Bereavement Service and the Summer Afternoon Tea. Our tea this year is to be on Sunday 2nd July at 3pm. If you wish to have any more information about the group or the tea please phone Angela on 020 8505 0356.

*Angela Barnes*

## Franciscan Missions

Frank and Rosa Fitzpatrick organise the support of the Franciscan Missions within the parish. The central office for this work is at the friary in Glasgow. Here in Woodford we raise awareness of the missionary work in South Africa mainly but also in India and we do this through the distribution of the newsletter *The Troubadour* three times a year. In addition we



encourage parishioners to take a collection box home – collectable from the Parish Office – fill it with your small coins and return it to the office. We count the money, issue you with a receipt if you would like one, and send a cheque to the Glasgow office for onward transmission. Each year we arrange for an appeal to be made by a missionary priest at all the masses on one weekend, hand out envelopes for your offering, collect them back the following week and account for all the contributions.

Each year this parish contributes a total of some £12k to the missions. The work is not onerous – the main task is counting the pennies in the boxes - and we are not looking for extra help at the moment. However we have been doing this work for nearly 30 years and the time must come when we will need someone to take over from us.

*Frank and Rosa Fitzpatrick*

## Stewards of the Gospel

Changes to St Thomas? Have your say now on the [Latest Proposals](#)

*William Yeung*

## Pastoral Parish Council news

The Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) has many roles in the life of the parish and these are constantly evolving. Originally set up to "help the Parish Priest" it now sees itself becoming much more than this and will, as the availability of clergy reduces, take over the running of parishes.

As you will know from the weekly parish newsletter our AGM will be held on 16th July after the 11.30am Mass. We need at least two fresh new faces on the Council not just to continue the existing work but also to bring in new ideas and perspectives to the Parish.

Being a member involves meeting once a month and also doing a little work outside the meetings. Please do not just leave it to others but consider joining us.

### New PPC Constitution

Recently the Parish Council has been working on a new, updated constitution to be approved at the AGM. Details of both the old and new constitutions can be seen on the parish website by following these links:

Current - [Present Constitution](#) New - [New Constitution](#)

*Kit Tranmer, Chair of PPC*

### IT and Communications

The IT and Communications committee is a small group of four people. We are currently working on a new parish website and also are responsible for producing *The Word*.

Our goal with the new website is to provide our visitors with an easier way to learn about our church and parish. Amongst the new features the site contains integrated social media buttons for Facebook and Twitter to foster improved communication with our parishioners, both old and new. We will be constantly updating our content with helpful information, articles, blogs, newsletters and announcements.

We hope you find the new website fresh and modern. Keep an eye out for future announcements for a go live date!

*Michael Eggleton and Paul Kinman*

St Thomas of Canterbury Church, High Road, Woodford Green

**Saturday July 1st at 7.45 pm**

A celebration of the Centenary of the  
Diocese of Brentwood

**Concierto de Aranjuez**  
**Soloist: Carlos Bonell**

**Accompanied by**  
**The Aurelian Ensemble**

**Conductor: Tim Hooper**

**Leader: Michael Gray**

*Together with the Parish Choir*

*Tickets: £15 & £12 from the Parish Office 8504 1686*  
*Free entry for school students accompanied by adults*

Profits donated to the Parish Jumbulance appeal



Every child has the power in them to achieve great things. But with one in six people still living without electricity, the hopes of millions of the world's children are all too often a distant dream.

Renewable energy can transform lives for children – so they don't have to rely on unpredictable, dangerous and unhealthy energy sources.

The UK already spends money on energy access for the poorest communities through the World Bank - but currently less than 3% of World Bank energy spending supports the kind of energy that we know tackles poverty.

We're calling on Melanie Robinson, the UK's representative at the World Bank, to shift the balance to support renewable energy which tackles poverty, so everyone can have the chance to fulfil their God-given potential.

Please sign CAFOD's petition today at:

<https://e-activist.com/page/7676/petition/1>

## Parish sponsored walk for bccs

The walks that take place each year in parishes around the Brentwood diocese are a major fundraiser for bccs (Brentwood Catholic Children's Society). bccs provides essential counselling for children and young adults of all faiths and none up to the age of 18 years.

Our walk this year took place on Saturday 17th June. Thank you to everyone who took part - a total of **40** parishioners from St Thomas and our neighbouring parish of St Edmund's in Loughton - and to all who sponsored the walkers. Report [here>>>](#)

Find out more about bccs at <http://www.bccs.org.uk>

*David Underwood*



## Internet resources

Pope Francis at the Vatican:  
<http://w2.vatican.va/content/vatican/en.html>

Follow Pope Francis on Twitter:  
<https://twitter.com/Pontifex>

St. Thomas Parish Website:  
<http://www.stthomaswoodford.org>

The Art of Dying Well - what does the church say about death? <http://www.artofdyingwell.org/>

Steward of the Gospel: What is all about?  
[Steward of the Gospel Questions](#)

Order of Friars Minor in Great Britain:  
<http://www.friar.org/home>