

A YEAR IN THE LIFE OF THE PARISH



An Update on Church Activity for the Annual Parochial Church Meeting
27th April 2008

2007/2008

St Thomas' Brampton
St Peter's Holymoorside

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Foreword from the Churchwardens.

Bernard Blanksby
Church Warden

Karen Riley
Church Warden

This was an exceptional year notable for the fact that we had a double vacancy in clergy posts. Rev'd Alex Simpson resigned his ministry at St Peter's on 20th May 2007 and moved to Norwich where he could be nearer to his family. Rev'd David Mouncer resigned as Rector of St Thomas' Parish on 4th November 2007 due to ill-health. This created an additional workload for the Church Councils and representatives as they constructed the necessary profile documents in accordance with Diocesan procedures so that applicants could be interviewed and considered. We thank everyone involved in this for their time and attention.

Other pressures came to bear on people with leading, preaching and organising responsibilities to ensure that our services and activities carried on as near normal as possible. We thank all who have contributed in any way to ensure that both churches continued to operate in an acceptable way.

Now we can look forward to a challenging and exciting time when Rev'd Audrey Smith will be licensed and Rev'd Matthew Barnes inducted to serve in their posts.

Building to Grow: We made a decision to continue working on the Development Project during the vacancy because time was running out. Planning permission only allowed two and a half years to start work on the site.

Our Development Committee had to be rearranged after David Mouncer retired. Paul Benson took up the leadership roll; Emma Atkinson and Eileen Balch joined to put some energy into the team. Others gave advice on fund-raising, funding and financial strategy.
So what has been achieved?

- We have decided to phase the building project.
- The priority in the first phase is to build a Parish Centre separated from the church building.
- Our ideas and rough plans were discussed with the Borough Planning Department and Diocesan Advisory Committee. Both meetings were positive and helpful.
- We arranged three congregational presentations in which many questions were asked and answered.
- We developed a new approach to fund-raising and a variety of events have been organised.
- Other ways of raising funds were discussed and our first action was successful.
- The Parish was circulated with information about our Living Stones Project and the local media invited to help with publicity.

We trust you will continue to support us as we organise new events to raise funds.

Comings & Goings: Dawn Edingborough was appointed Children's & Families Co-ordinator and has produced a 'Review and report on the way forward' document with detailed schedule which was accepted by the PCC.

Barbara Goodacre resigned as leader of the Communication & Co-ordination team. As no one volunteered to take up the position, Anne Hewitt took on co-ordination but the communication position has not been filled. We offer thanks to Barbara for 3 years of service.

Heather Hollington resigned as Church Secretary and Anne Hewitt was made full time Parish Administrator until the new incumbent decided what his requirements would be. Thanks go to Heather for her differing roles in the office and taking on other activities in the church.

Julie Brown completed her term standing in as Children's Worker. We thank Julie for helping out at a difficult time.

Our thanks also go to Myra Johnson who retired as St Thomas' 9 a.m. Service organist after almost nine years and to Alan Kitchen who retired, due to ill - health, after nine years of work on his computer arranging and rearranging all the names and details on St Thomas' Service rota sheets.

Unusual Occurrence: In the early hours of one Tuesday morning the church bells rang out in an unaccustomed manner. A neighbour, awoken by the noise, rang the police. The police arrived on the scene to find a smashed door to the meeting room and a forced door to the old Vestry. Still the bells clattered and the police moved up the tower to apprehend the ringer. At last there was silence. The ringer was immediately searched and found to have the church safe key in his pocket. Later, yet still in the early hours, David Mouncer was roused to check the contents of the safe and surrounding area. Fortunately, nothing of importance was considered to be missing. At the time of writing, the case had not been before the Court.

Statistics including St. Peter's, reported to the Diocese for 2007.
14 baptisms, 5 marriages and 25 funerals were held in the Churches.

Attendance at services of worship on Sundays and midweek:

	<u>Adults (16+)</u>	<u>Children</u>
Week commencing October 7th:	227	42
Week commencing October 14th:	196	38
Week commencing October 15th:	392	45
Week commencing October 22nd:	309	56

Average attendance at normal Sunday services:
Adults (16+) = 204 Children = 40

Number of communicants on Easter Day = 244
Number attending worship on Easter Day = 333
Number of communicants on Christmas Eve & Christmas Day = 222
Number attending worship on Christmas Eve & Christmas Day = 484

Number of persons on the Electoral Roll = 286



Update report from St. Peter's, Holymoorside by Mark Marsden & Ian Wright (Churchwardens)

The main feature of St Peter's this year has been change. The departure of Alex Simpson, our resident minister, in May and the unexpected departure of David Mouncer in November could have had a paralysing and disheartening effect. We have missed Alex sorely, but, having had the benefit of his stimulating spiritual leadership during the previous five years, St Peter's has been able to take on the challenges presented by this in a very positive and determined spirit and to good effect.

We are very grateful for all those who have so generously ministered to us during this time to enable us to continue our morning communion service: to Bernard Sproston and others from St John's, to Rodney Ward and Tom Comley and to our Parish lay readers. That we have been able to continue our evening service has been due entirely to the courage and hard work of four of our own members who, between them, have conducted all our evening services. The congregation has remained faithful, and numbers at morning service have remained roughly constant, whilst the number of people attending evening service has risen.

All our usual activities have continued: our children's work, (Sunday Club and crèche), our work with Churches Together in Holymoorside, the study group and the social group which meet every Tuesday, the ecumenical Bible study group and prayer in church during the week have all carried on business as usual.

The year has not, however, been merely a time of maintaining the status quo. In September 2007, following initial investigations, the DCC voted unanimously to start the process needed to obtain a faculty for rebuilding the church vestry. One of the most important uses of the vestry is to accommodate the crèche during Sunday morning service – a purpose for which it could hardly be less suited and which poses serious health and safety implications.

The objectives in rebuilding are

- to make a safe environment for the crèche;
- to eliminate the ever-present and serious problems of damp;
- to provide much-needed storage space;
- to remove an entry/exit door that opens directly onto the road.

In addition the new building will also be more aesthetically pleasing and in keeping with the rest of St Peter's.

Plans have been drawn up, a building fund has been set up, the Diocesan Advisory Committee has responded very positively at the first stage in our application for a faculty, and some enthusiastic fund-raising has already taken place. During the coming year we will be obtaining a faculty, holding a gift day and applying for grants.

We would like to place on record three lots of thanks:-

- Firstly to Alex Simpson for his outstanding leadership and ministry to us during the last five years. He has left his mark permanently on St Peter's, and we are hugely grateful to him for all he gave and for all he meant to us.
- Secondly, thanks are due to all the members of St Peter's who have risen so magnificently to the challenge of the vacancy, which will have lasted almost a year.
- Thirdly and by no means least our thanks to all the folk at St Thomas' who have given advice and support during this period of uncertainty.

We look forward to welcoming Rev Audrey Smith to St Peter's in April and to working with her to further God's work in Holymoorside. Similarly we look forward to greeting the new rector Rev Matt Barnes who will join us all in June.



St Thomas' Mission & Ministry Teams

Update report for Worship & Teaching Team by Bill Galloway(Acting Team Leader) and the Worship and Teaching Team

I write as one who is merely 'keeping the seat warm' as we await the arrival of our new Rector. Although we knew in our hearts that it was likely to happen it was still something of a shock when David Mouncer actually resigned. I take this opportunity to express my deepest thanks to David for the God-inspired contribution he made to the worship and teaching in both our churches. He was truly led by our vision statement and I think it right to remind us all of that vision in this section of our Parish Report.

Share the love of Jesus

We aim to become more like Jesus every day
as we respond to His love for us and
as we share the good news of Him with others.

All that we do in Gods service and to His glory can be considered as worship as the following reports, from specific areas of responsibility, clearly demonstrate. I offer my sincere thanks for these contributions and also especially for the dedicated work that so many people have done during this past year.

Emma Atkinson reports on Open House Groups

Open House groups continue to play an integral part in the life of St Thomas'. They offer a place for worship, teaching, pastoral support; a place where people can enjoy fellowship and build deeper relationships with one another; a place where you can meet with God, pray, praise, learn and share.

There are currently around 135 people meeting in 12 different groups. They meet on different days of the week, at different times (daytime and evening) and in different places. Some groups meet weekly and others fortnightly. The groups have members from across all three services, as well as supporting those on the fringes - for whom House Group IS church. In short, there really is something for everyone.

Since September, the groups have followed a series on 2 Corinthians and also spent two sessions looking at Hope 2008. For Lent this year, they are following a 6 week DVD resource called Intelligent Church from Faithworks, featuring Steve Chalke, Tony Campolo and Jim Wallis.

Mark Vaughan is an Open House group leader and writes about his experience: "Two words I can best describe what House Group means to me are, family and acceptance. My group is a place where I feel really at home with my close friends from St Thomas'. I feel safe and accepted to just be me without any pretending!! I see Thursdays nights as an important extension of Sunday mornings, where we come together for fellowship (sometimes a nice bit of pizza!), to worship God and get closer to him. To learn more about him and feel challenged to change and to reach out with his love to other people".

If you are not currently a member of a group and would be interested in joining one or finding out more, please contact Emma Atkinson on 551388.

Bill Galloway reports on Sunday Services

For a good proportion of the past year we have been in the unique situation of having to organize our services against a background of simultaneous vacancies at St Thomas' and St Peters. The fact that we have been able to do this is due in no small measure to the help of our Rural Dean, and a number of additional retired clergy. My grateful thanks to all of them and to our own dedicated team of Leaders and Preachers for the selfless giving of their time and gifts.

On two Sundays during the first quarter of 2008 we had open house groups running our evening services. I was much encouraged by the quality of these services and by the willingness of people to step outside their comfort zones and make really effective contributions. With proper nurturing many positive benefits could flow from such an initiative. However it will be for our new Rector to decide whether or not to develop and continue with this on an occasional basis.



Keith Bates reports on the Choir

There has been no change in the role and duties of the Choir over the past year; the regular pattern of leading the musical worship at the 9am service has been observed with special contributions to the Annual Memorial Service and the Annual Christmas Carol Service. Additionally we have been able to present a few extra pieces from time to time on Sunday mornings.

Illness and increasing age have continued to exercise their influence, but we have been delighted to recruit two new male members who, along with the others, are dedicated to the cause. Again we have been pleased to receive the help of our occasional supporters, who make a telling contribution. However, we still need more members, and any interested volunteers should contact us, please. A warm and friendly welcome is guaranteed, without any forbidding entrance requirements or audition. The ability to sing in tune and enthusiasm are sufficient qualifications.

During the year our organist, Myra Johnson, has retired, and to mark this there was a special ceremony and expression of thanks, during a 9.00am Service. She was presented with an oval cameo brooch, set in 9 carat gold, from the choir, and with flowers and a gift from the congregation, in recognition of her devoted and invaluable service over 8 years.

In Myra's stead we are delighted to have Philip Herrick and Andrew Travis as our current organists, and thank them most sincerely for all that they are doing.

As always we must thank the constant and dedicated service of our Choir members and pray that the coming year brings better health for them. Keith Bates

Pat Clayton reports on St Thomas Music Group

The past year for the music group has been an exciting one. We have continued to grow in strength and confidence, and we have seen much more collaboration between musicians from all three services over the year.

Some team members attended Worship Central at Holy Trinity, Brompton in London in May and October, and found it a very rewarding event for worship leaders and musicians. It has certainly inspired us to find new ways to work together as a team.

Indeed one of the outcomes has been to set up meetings every couple of months with all the musicians at St Thomas, in an effort to work together as a team, pray together and share our ideas.

We have also done a lot of work behind the scenes to improve administration, for example by producing individual music folders, which are helping us to be better organised.

The services over Christmas were a special highlight for us, particularly Christmas Eve, where we introduced some new and exciting songs; these proved a hit not only amongst the music group but with the congregation too, many of whom gave us very encouraging feedback.

As Easter approaches we are looking forward to working with the choir in a joint performance during the Easter Day service. Our prayer is for the music group to continue to develop, and to find new ways to inspire all of us in our worship.

Philip Herrick comments: "I am very much aware that members at all levels have given generously and creatively within some very tight commitments: work, family and health. I am very grateful for what is offered. There is a willingness to look beyond the routine to be experimental and expressive and focus on what we are about: to help the congregations experience a deeper corporate time of praise and worship to the Lord. We are fuel to the fire."

Bill Galloway writes in conclusion

We have so much to be thankful for in both of our churches but we still need more people to come forward and serve the Lord by taking on one of the many tasks required for the smooth running of our services and the fulfilment of our vision statement. Please consider how you might help in this and if you need practical support to get started, please in the short term contact me and in the longer term our new rector.



Update report for Children & Young People Team by Phil Michell and his team

A BIG Thank You!

Once again I would like to start this report by thanking all those who have helped with our children's and youth work over the past 12 months. Without your dedication and commitment our children's and youth work wouldn't happen. As each year goes by it's great to see how our children and young people's view of God changes and develops and grows from 'knowledge' to 'relationship'. So a big thank you to all who have contributed.

Good Byes

I would like to say a special thank you to those volunteers who have 'retired' from being helpers or leaders this year. I would also like to say thank you to Julie Brown. She stepped in last year to co-ordinate our children's work while we went through the process of recruiting a full time children's and families worker. It meant a lot to have someone in that role for those 9 months and all that she did was greatly appreciated. We wish her well with her new career in teaching.

New Children's & Families Worker

In September Dawn Edingborough moved to Chesterfield and started her job as our new full time Children's and Families Worker. Her commitment and enthusiasm have been evident right from the start and we have already benefited tremendously from her ministry among us.

The following reports will give you an idea of all that has been happening in the past 12 months:

Dawn Edingborough reports on Children's and Families work

Discoverers

Numbers are steady overall, between 25 -35 per week.. Unfortunately with several leaders needing to step down for various reasons, we will be needing to recruit more staff, especially those who are willing to lead and teach.

Due to the shortage of leaders we are having to combine the All stars and Sparklers, therefore teaching ages 3-8 years together, which tends to cause difficulties at times, and we also have to teach the older Trailblazers as one group, although this seems to work better.

Running an All Age Service once a month has helped as now leaders and helpers are only required for 3 weeks in a month.

At present we are continuing to use the Scripture Union LIGHT material, but will be looking at other available resources, with the possibility of using something new next year.

Kidzone 627

We ran our midweek group for a term, but with fairly low numbers and helpers not always available, we decided to take a break for a while. We are looking to re-launch in the Autumn with a new name and a new look. We want to expand the group to encompass infant school age children too. The leaders are still meeting regularly in order to pray, plan and prepare for the re-launch together.

Halo Party

We decided to keep our Alternative Halloween Event smaller and simpler this year, mainly due to circumstances. It was still enjoyed by all the children who attended aged 2-12 years and they all went away chanting, "We hate darkness, we love light!"

Christmas Craft Morning

Over 100 children attended this event, with their parents over the course of the morning. As people moved freely from craft to craft, stopping off for a drink and cake on the way, many conversations were struck up between church members and families from the community who wouldn't normally come through our doors.

The morning closed with some upbeat carol singing led by Josh Wheeler and friends.

The event was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone- helpers and visitors alike.

Extra Activities

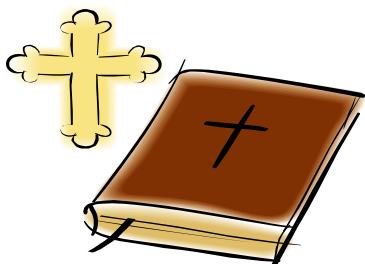
Dawn has continued to build on the good relationships we already have with both Westfield Infants and Old Hall Junior School by taking assemblies at both.

She has visited both Westfield and St Thomas' Nursery to lead regular Bible Story Sessions and was involved in the Christmas services of Old Hall and St Thomas' Nursery.

Several exciting new ideas and initiatives were presented in Dawn's report to the PCC and her plans have all been approved for future implementation and development- so watch this space!!

Gemma Machin reports on Youth Work

CYFA continue to meet on a Sunday evening after the 6.30pm service at St. Thomas' The group have taken part in sessions on the life of Christ, challenging new methods of extreme prayer and are currently working through Global Issues with the help of material from Christian Aid. CYFA currently attracts around 15 young people to its regular Sunday evening meetings in the Church. Members are a mix of Church young people and those with no previous connections to the church, many of whom have been brought along by existing members. Social activities have included movies, games and snowboarding!

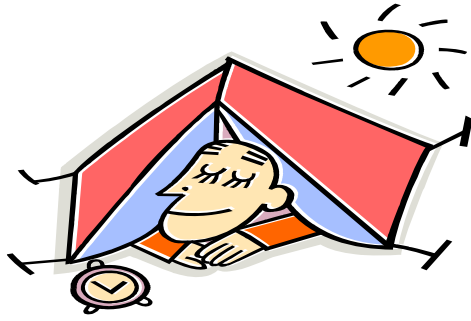


Pathfinders' numbers on Sunday nights are normally around a dozen to fifteen. Discussion topics during the last year having included Revelation, Armageddon, Fears, Hopes and Dreams. Sunday evenings are normally a mix of games, discussion and interactive learning. Sunday social activities have included movies, laser quest and cooking.

Pathfinders and CYFA enjoyed a joint **weekend away** February this year to the Chellington Centre near Northampton, featuring an interesting trip to Milton Keynes and a High Ropes course adventure. Gemma, and several CYFA members also attended the Pure weekend away in October organised by churches working together across Chesterfield. These weekends are wonderful opportunities for developing old and new friendships, having a great time together, playing some great music, sharing in great times of prayer and fellowship and learning some cool stuff along with being challenged about major life decisions. Weekends away over the past year have tried to incorporate a little more sleep and chill out time helping everyone to come back feeling happy, rested and revived as opposed to happy and tired out!

Other **Pure** (inter-church) youth events during the past year have included gigs, socials, ski-ing, ice skating, and a Christmas Ball organised by Gemma and held here in St. Thomas'. Seventy young people attended the ball and enjoyed a superb three course meal, live music from a string quartet during the meal, and Winter Wonderland scene that could not be forgotten. (Particularly since we all keep finding bits of snow!) Major thanks to all who helped with food and clearing up afterwards!!

Rapture, has kept the same successful format - with Bible study sessions that are held for Pathfinders and CYFA members with a joint meal and discussion in between. Both Pathfinder and CYFA studies are 'peer led' on a regular basis, giving the young people a chance to develop their leading, communicating and team work skills. Despite several changes of venue for Rapture over the past 12 months, numbers have remained high, topping 25 people for the joint meal time on some weeks.



The **Summer Camping** trip was a great time to relax and chill out, until the weather got the better of everyone. 15 of our young people spent a week away, camping out in the Peak District (and later, camping out in St. T's) visiting the highest peaks - soaking in the views, and visiting the deepest caverns.

Our **18-25s** group continue to meet weekly every Monday evening, sharing food and fellowship together. They have recently been studying the lent course material with the rest of the church house groups, and previously enjoyed studies based on material by John Ortberg and Philip Yancey. Attendance has recently grown, as members of CYFA have reached 18 and been integrated into the group.

Gemma does a great job at pulling these events together, but they would not be possible without the support of her team of **wonderful volunteers**, currently Scott Atkinson, Jake Howe, Steve Willis, Steve Philips, Kathryn Shemwell, Phil Foster, Sophie Saunders and Phil Michell. The last year has also seen the raising up of young leaders from within CYFA who have started to take a supervised leadership role in Pathfinders. So far, the willing volunteers of this scheme have been Kat Witham and Gareth Simmonds whose contributions to the leadership of Pathfinders have been invaluable.

A particularly positive area of growth in the past year has been monthly **Leaders Team Meetings** held on a Wednesday evening. Gemma has been working to improve communication and a sense of unity amongst the team. So far, these meetings have proved successful and beneficial to the members able to attend.

If you already volunteer and help in some way with our youth work, then thank you so much. You are helping to change and form lives. We could not continue without you! If you're not already a volunteer, but are keen, or at least willing, to get involved, then please talk to Gemma. Join in our mission and ministry, for ...

**“...we will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the LORD,
his power, and the wonders he has done.”**
Psalm 78:4b

Kat Witham reports on Furnace

Furnace has been taking place on the last Friday of every month for over a year now. The event has continued to develop and progress with new and different ideas being tried each month. Testimonies have been given by a variety of people including people from outside St. Thomas' congregations, these have all been very interesting and inspiring. The average attendance at a Furnace event is about 40 people and we have had people from as far as South Derby come to see what we are doing. The Furnace team of Becky Riley, Josh Wheeler, Gareth Simmonds and Kat Witham are currently training new team members to take over the running of Furnace in the summer. New team members include Sam Wheeler, Eleanor Lomas and Katie Lomas, they have already contributed creatively and helpfully to events.



Update report for Evangelism & Nurture Team by David Sanderson and his team.

We are grateful to the number of people, some seen and others in the background, who put in a lot of work for the smooth running of the work of this section of our church. Very little would happen without our voluntary workers. There is a lot of work which lies behind the reports below from the different committees.

David Oldale reports on First Thursday Rendezvous

First Thursday Rendezvous continued throughout 2007, meeting every month except in August. The average attendance has been 45, drawn from Church members and the rest of the Community in almost equal numbers. We have enjoyed simple lunches and a lot of fun and fellowship together. A 'Thought for the Day' is an integral part of the proceedings. In addition, sometimes we have a speaker and we have a variety of board games and quizzes.

Our May meeting consisted of a coach outing into the Derbyshire Dales and Peaks. It proved an opportunity for people to bring friends and family with them. In December we enjoyed an early Christmas Lunch and party.

It is planned to continue meeting at 1pm to 3.30pm on the first Thursday of each month throughout 2008. This year, 'Thought for the Day' will focus each time on a line from the Lord's Prayer. We cater for seniors aged 55 upwards and we promise a warm welcome to any newcomers whether they be from outside the Church or from within the Church family.

Nanette Sanderson reports on Summer Rendezvous

Once again we held our 3 day event in August with a total of 50 seniors attending. The church was decorated with bunting and balloons and a variety of activities were put on for folk to enjoy – from learning more about Chesterfield history to stretching our legs on an interesting walk around Brampton. Or maybe watching the art of cake decoration or taking part in wood turning. These are just a few examples of the many activities put on over the 3 days. Also an excellent 2 course meal was enjoyed every day. The Christian 'Thought for the Day' centred around 'memories' and we heard some very interesting stories on what God has done in people's lives.



Summer Rendezvous ended with a special Sunday Celebration service when many seniors took part. One of the highlights was a hilarious play with the title 'Eternal Youth' acted out by the 'Two D's'

Summing up in the words of someone who attended: 'Summer Rendezvous was marvellous. No one needed to feel that they didn't belong irrespective of whether they are churchgoers or not'.

John Goodacre reports on World Mission

The PCC decided that, from the beginning of 2007, the church will be giving equal financial support to nine organisations over the next three years (from the 10% of our giving that is tithed to world mission work). The PCC also continues to make some financial support available for church members on Mission where the term of service will exceed three months (usually young people undertaking voluntary work during a gap year). One representative for each of our nine mission agencies or people within St Thomas' comprise the World Mission Committee, which normally meets twice each year. The Committee met in June 2007 and in January 2008.

The regular World Mission Sundays have been most interesting and very informative, with our visitors speaking at each service. Three were held during 2007, rather than four as in previous years. Attendances at the lunches have varied between about 60 and 90. Last March we had a

visit from Stan Jenkins, who spoke about the work of Tear Fund. In June Capt Alan Park and Doris Gould from Holy Trinity Church came to speak about the work of Church-on-the Bus and we had an opportunity to explore the Bus over lunch time. In November 2007, Simon Barrington of Samaritan's Purse preached at all three services on the World Mission Sunday. Those who braved the weather visited the warehouse to see where volunteers help to sort and pack parcels for distribution by Operation Christmas Child. In February this year, John Grayston of Scripture Union visited us to preach at all three Sunday services and to speak about developments in their work, particularly using web-based resources to engage with young people in the 21st century.

Those leading the intercessions in our Sunday services are asked to include prayer for the selected mission topic or society; normally the same subject at all three services. Thanks are due to Allan Kitchen who has worked out the rota of subjects for many years. Usually our intercessors have evidently familiarised themselves with the current needs and lead the prayers in a thoughtful way. Thanks are also due to them.

The World Mission prayer events have continued on Wednesday evenings every three months, although with reduced attendances as they conflict with those Open House groups that have decided to meet every week. These meetings provide us with a window on the world and a further way of participating in world mission. A leaflet containing subjects for prayer has been produced for each of these quarterly meetings and distributed to church members in the notice sheet the following Sunday. Open House groups have again been invited to include regular prayer for World Mission in their meetings, but few have done so. However, in view of the reduced attendance at the quarterly prayer events, the PCC has agreed that these should be discontinued for the present.

In addition to the World Mission Sundays currently being planned, we hope to arrange visits from our various mission partners when possible, when they happen to be in the country.

The World Mission notice board continues to be a good source of information for church members with an interest in World Mission. Copies of the latest news and prayer letters from our mission links are usually available. Members who wish to be kept up-to-date can ask the church representative for each link to add them to the circulation list.



David Sanderson reports on Baptism preparation Team

Our baptism preparation team continues its valuable work of making initial contact with people who want their children baptised. There have been some changes in the team as some members have moved on and others have joined. Dawn Edingborough our children and family worker has joined the team and we hope to improve our follow up strategy. During 2007 we had 12 children baptised from 11 families.

David Sanderson reports on Town and Parish Mission

We have been involved in the Hope 2008 project in Chesterfield during 2007 and 2008. The early phase of the project came to a conclusion with a visit of a mission team to Chesterfield which included people from Cliff College sharing with us in the work of St Thomas (March 9th to 16th).

During the time they were with us we were able to hold a litter pick around Walton Dam, they visited some of the new houses in the parish, we had helpful evening of witness from people from overseas, a 1960s afternoon for seniors and a family event on the final Saturday. They also preached at a couple of services on the Sundays. There were some positive outcomes from the visit. Some of our house groups are giving thought to how they might forward Hope 2008 project.

MISSION ACCOUNTS 2007

2006	Income	2007
1,249.62	Balance from previous year	1,736.64
17,200.00	PCC Allocation	15,824.00
702.61	PCC Development Fund	
137.63	Bank Interest C of E	
311.78	PCC Organ Fund	
2,003.45	Donations including Gift Aid	1,472.99
21,605.09	Total	19,033.63

2006	Expenditure				2007
<i>Total</i>	<i>Agency</i>		<i>PCC Allocation</i>	<i>Other Donations</i>	<i>Total</i>
1,360.00	Christian Solidarity Worldwide		1,650.00		1,650.00
	Church on the Bus		1,650.00	1,107.92	2,757.92
	Operation Christmas Child		1,650.00		1,650.00
1,371.00	NoviMost International		1,650.00		1,650.00
1,360.00	Overseas Missionary Fellowship		1,650.00	35.00	1,685.00
2,550.00	Scripture Union		1,650.00		1,650.00
2,550.00	South American Missionary Society		1,650.00		1,650.00
1,957.45	TEAR Fund		1,650.00	365.07	2,015.07
900.00	Robin Dawson		600.00		600.00
2,550.00	A Goodacre		1,650.00		1,650.00
5,270.00	Projects not supported in 2007				
1,736.64	Balance carried forward		2,075.64		2,075.64
21,605.09	Total		17,525.64	1,507.99	19,033.63

*Christian Aid money was not paid through the Mission Account in 2007. The amount raised was £1,294.08 (2006 -£585.00)

Robert Batten



Update Report for Caring and Sharing Team by Janet Turville and her Team

Caring and Sharing

Its that time of year again, the time to take stock of the past year to learn from our mistakes and to applaud our successes. As a church community we are called on to love one another as ourselves. This involves caring not just for our immediate neighbour within the church but also our neighbours in the Parish. Some things we are very successful with, others I would like to see develop. As we enter into a new era in our parish with the appointment of a new Rector I would love to hear from anyone who has ideas on how we as a church can best be a caring and sharing community

in the wider parish. In the meantime here are reminders of what we have been doing this last year.

Nannette Sanderson reports on Residential Home Visits

A small team from our churches take a short service once a month in the residential homes in our parish. It is the church going to the people who are unable to come to us, and we are welcomed into the Homes as representatives of the church.

In December we held a special carol service in each of the Homes and extra folk from St Thomas' joined us for this joyous event. In addition we were able to hold a very special event at the invitation of the manager at Chatsworth Lodge when candles were lit and special messages were read out in memory of loved ones.

If you feel God is calling you to this special piece of service for Him then do join us on every third Wednesday of the month at 1.30pm in the Church Vestry.

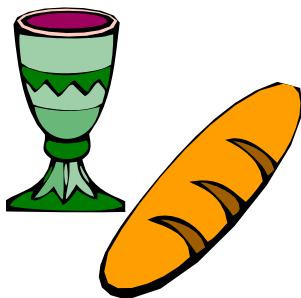
Janet Turville reports on the Marriage Enrichment Weekend

Last April a weekend was held in St Thomas to encourage couples in their marriages. Seven couples took part, some about to be married others who had been married for a number of years. All those who attended the workshops thoroughly enjoyed themselves and had many positive comments to make about the weekend. Tony and Anne Hobbs from Christian marriage Ministries ran the weekend using a mixture of teaching and opportunities for the individual couples to work through questions together. This is an event that we will look to hold again in the future.

John and Brenda Trickett report on Communion and Cuppa

Communion and cuppa continues to meet on the last Thursday afternoon of every month.

It provides a service of Holy Communion, followed by fellowship for a number of our more senior church members who find this most helpful. How ever numbers are dropping and we would like to encourage everyone in the church who is free on a Thursday to consider coming along and to invite others to join you, you don't have to be a senior member to enjoy the fellowship. As always we would welcome volunteers to help with the driving.



Valerie Durkin reports on Home Communion

Alan Sheldon & I have continued this year to take communion to those of our congregation who are no longer able to attend church. We only visit a few, but very dear, number of people.

We feel privileged to be able to represent St Thomas's in this way. The people we visit become firm friends and we are able to share in their concerns and pray through their worries. In our own small way we encourage and comfort with God's word and the reassurance that the simple communion service brings.

Janet Turville and Catherine Mann report on Sick Visiting

During the interregnum, Catherine Mann has taken on the responsibility for Sick visiting in the parish. Catherine liaises with Anne in the office each week to establish who is sick and who needs a visit, she then either visits herself or ensures that someone is visiting. Catherine also follows up at the end of each month with each person listed in the book for prayer for the sick and checks whether they wish to remain on the prayer list, this also gives opportunity to check on the support they are receiving from the congregation, which Catherine has found to be good.

Janet Hamilton reports on the work of the Social Group

The Social Group has had a pretty lean year this year. Apart from helping with faith lunches, our only major event was the Summer Fete. Unfortunately the weather was against us and it was not the success that we had hoped for. A lot of hard work went into the organisation, and a lot of help was given for which we thank all those involved.

We had planned on an event in the latter part of the year but with the interregnum coming upon us things seemed to come to a halt! However, this year we are back on track and look forward to some exciting and fun times. We had a good response to our questionnaire and we now have enough suggestions to keep us busy for the next two to three years!

We also look forward to our new Rector, Matt Barnes arriving and hearing what plans he would like to see happen. So this year we ask you to keep an eye open for what is coming your way and help us to make this a fun and happy time for all the church family.

Janet Turville reports on Totzone

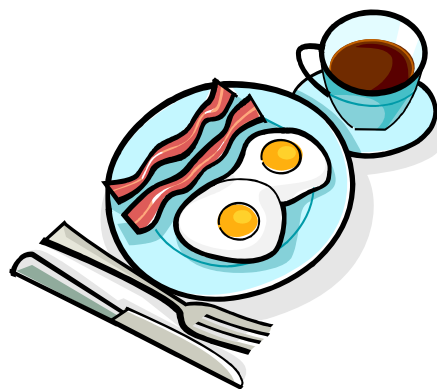
Totzone has continued to grow and flourish this last year, with many new mums and children coming along. Last May I stepped down from running Totzone when work commitments intervened and until September Barbara Goodacre held the fort. With the advent of our Children and Families Worker the co-ordinating and organisation has now passed to Dawn. Other helpers have come on board and the team now consists of Dawn Edingborough, Barbara Goodacre, Pauline Simmonds, Pat Lawley, Barbara Blanksby and Doreen Smith who all do a wonderful job of welcoming newcomers and building relationships with all the mums and carers who come along. It has also been good this year to see more mums from the congregations of St Thomas come along, and to begin to see mums from Totzone attending all age services.

Bernard Blanksby reports on Men's Breakfast

Men's breakfast had its ups and downs in 2007. We had six meetings and our planned June walk round Hardwick Park was washed out by the floods. Attendance ranged from 6-13, a drop in numbers compared with 2006.

David Holden provided full English breakfasts with an occasional Continental style delicacy. Problems with the fire alarms keeping everyone awake were attributed to the aroma of burning toast but we all appreciated David for his culinary delights and the hours he put into them.

We had talks on 'hot steel rolling', 'manly prayer' and 'fun with words'. Also David Oldale spoke about diabetes, Mark Hoare gave a tongue-in-cheek look at Health and Safety entitled 'Conkers Bonkers' and Robin Dawson talked about some people he met in Afghanistan.





Julie Lomas reports on the Prayer Email

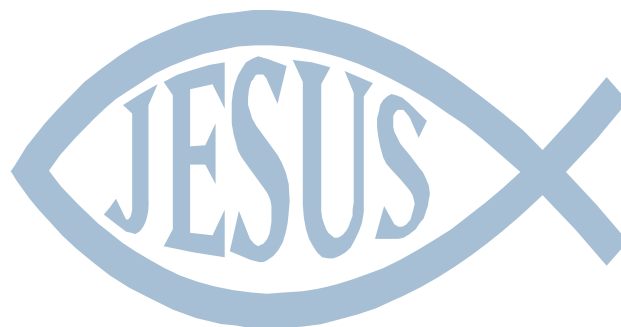
Prayer ministry using e-mail was first thought of by Emma Atkinson two years ago, and I took over this time last year thinking it was something I could do from home at a time when committing to do things in church was difficult for me.

Looking back I am most grateful to Emma for having got us started, and to God for nudging me in the direction of taking it on, because I have found it a real privilege to sit at my computer once a week and compose an e-mail that is now received by some 65 people.

There have been times when circumstances, events, and people's needs have been immense, and I have found it hard to find the right words, but my prayer has been, and remains, that as people open up their e-mail they will meet with God as they sit at their computer and read what is before them. All that then matters is their relationship with God – one to one.

For this report, I asked people for some feedback on how they used the prayer e-mail – here is a selection of the replies:

- It helps me to keep up to date on issues that need prayer every week and helps me to focus those prayers. I have been very grateful for prayers said for me and my family and am comforted to know so many people are holding those things before God. No matter where we are in the world we can still access the prayer email and pray for or be prayed for the things it contains.
- I particularly like the fact that we get updates or information about answered prayer or a section on giving thanks. This is always exciting and an encouragement
- It really provides focus for me, and I generally pick one thing per day to pray about after printing it off and keeping it in my Bible so I don't lose it! So practically it really works for me. Also, as I feel I'm on the fringe of what's happening in Church so much of the time because of my work and family commitments etc., it helps to keep me up to date with things.
- It keeps us in touch with church life very effectively
- Reminds me each time that I haven't spoken to the Lord or listened to him for a while



Anne Hewitt reports on the Church Office



Adapting to change and ever changing circumstances has been a challenge since last April. At some times a juggling act, to say the least. I am glad to say that all balls have been kept in the air.

Many thanks to the Mission and Ministry Team Leaders, who have stepped in to help in many areas. A special thanks to Nanette Sanderson who has conducted most of the Funerals Services since David left. Since April 2007 the office has organised approximately 50 Church or Crematorium Services for St Thomas' and St Peter's. Thanks also to David Sanderson:

along with his other responsibilities he has stepped in and conducted a number Baptisms / Thanksgiving Services with a number still to be planned.

Despite the departure of Alex and David we have ensured services continue on Sundays and throughout the week. Bill Galloway has been a great help in organising Sunday morning readings and helping to organise / re-organise man power to ensure the smooth running of all our services.

During the year the office has be involved with the administration for the recruitment process for the positions of Minister in Charge at Holymoorside, the Children and Family Worker and Rectors position. I have been encouraged and motivated by the positive outcomes of these vacancies.

As for many of us it was very difficult to say goodbye to David. His company friendship and support in the office has been sorely missed. Along with the retirement of my good friend, Heather it has I admit been a bit lonely at times. I have now worked with 2 Rectors about to be 3, 3 Parish Administrators and 2 Secretaries. Something I said?

As well as adapting to the many changes this year the office has continued to produce useful leaflets such as the Programme of Events, The Sharing and Learning Together, Mission Prayer Leaflet, the Weekly Notice Sheet , the Vacancy Prayer leaflet and with the help of Jake Howe and Janet Turville – Easter Spotlight to name but a few.

Thanks should be given to the work of all the volunteers who continue in their different roles. Margie Foster and Sue Wheeler (who continued till last summer) for their help in the office; Pam Brimelow and Ray Batteson for completing the marriage registers; Allan Kitchen, Pam Brimelow, Martin & Gill Bailey and Sue Ward who compile our Sunday Service rotas and Mark Hoare who co-ordinates the church website and also edits Ploughshare.

The use of the Church building has despite our inadequate facilities seen steady usage from music groups such as the Co-operative Choral Society and Chesterfield Male Voice Choir, Brookfield and Old Hall Schools, a Walking group, a Slimming Club and Children's parties. The Church was also taken over again for use as a Polling Station.

I am looking forward to the next few months. Getting to know and work with Rector number 3. I have a number of ideas as to how information can be monitored more effectively and how the office systems could be updated. With an ex-systems analyst in Matt this should be very productive. I look forward to a positive and God centred year.

Mark Hoare reports on the Website and Ploughshare

www.st-thomas-brampton.org

The website continues to be regularly updated. It is used by regular church attendees, those on the fringes, and those living and working away from Chesterfield, both in this country and abroad. Largely thanks to Phil Riley every sermon and testimony last year was recorded and placed on the website.

Ploughshare continues to be published. There have been many interesting articles. Thanks to everyone who has contributed. I hope those whose arms I twisted have recovered! Also thanks to David Holden for setting it out and Bernard Blanksby for organizing the distribution.

I am always on the lookout for articles. So rather than have me twist arms please volunteer articles for inclusion

Paul Benson reports on the Development Project

It was reported last year that little progress had been made in respect of the development project. However, there had already been a number of milestones reached to enable St Thomas' to move towards realising the construction of a Parish Centre. The milestones were:

- A generous Pledge Day, where £290,000 was raised. (To date over £350,000 is in the bank with £70,000 worth of pledges still to be received.)
- Approvals had been received from the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC) and the Chesterfield Borough Council Planners for a linked Parish Centre with refurbishment work to the Church.

It was appreciated that the linked scheme was estimated to cost somewhere in the region of £1.5million and, although we had a successful Pledge Day, alternative options had to be investigated to ensure that we took advantage of the existing planning permission, which would expire in June 2010.

Following a Development Project Update Meeting held in July 2007, the congregation were asked to consider a number of options to enable the project to progress. It was recognised that the majority of the congregation wanted to see a Parish Centre built but they wanted to see what could be achieved with the money that had been pledged.

In August, Rev David Mouncer met with the Architect and looked at ways of adapting the scheme to reflect our pledges and an amount of money that we believed we could raise through grants and loans. This meeting resulted in the consideration of a separate Parish Centre, a reduced specification and the omission of refurbishment works to the Church. Based on this proposal, it was estimated that build costs would be approximately £1million.

Through a series of Development Project Update Meetings held in the Church before and after Christmas the congregation were informed of the proposals to construct a separate Parish Centre, one not linked to the Church, and given an indication of how the build could be funded.

In addition to the money already pledged by congregation members, a programme of 'fun'draising was launched before Christmas. The purpose of the 'fun'draising events was two fold, to;

- raise additional money for the project. To date over £1,000 has been raised through a small number of events.
- open-up opportunities for parishioners to access the Church and meet with members of the congregation.

This month, a meeting was held with the Archdeacon to inform him of St Thomas' proposals to phase the development project, constructing a Parish Centre separated from the Church and carrying out refurbishment works to the body of the Church at a later date. The meeting was attended by the Archdeacon, the DAC Secretary and the Diocesan Architect with representation

from the PCC Sub-development Committee (Bernard Blanksby, Karen Riley and myself) and also St Thomas' 'new' rector, Rev Matt Barnes. This meeting was positive for a number of reasons namely:

- Support was given by the Archdeacon to progress with the development of a separate building and proposals to phase the programme
- The Planners have agreed to consider opportunities to replace proposed materials with alternative ones to allow for an alternative specification that would result in reduced build costs. However, the Planners would want to see elevations viewed from the road constructed of stone. The Diocesan Architect agreed with the Planners proposals.
- We have been asked to submit a further DAC certificate (including drawings, a brief specification, an indication of the costs and how we intend to fund the project) because the project is to be phased.

Over the next few months and hopefully prior to the arrival of our new Rector we intend to carry out the following:

- Meet with the local Planners to agree the external construction of the proposed separate building
- Commission the architect to produce drawings, reflecting the Planners comments, for pricing purposes
- Submit the DAC certificate
- Complete an application for grant funding and prospective loan

May I take the opportunity to thank the members of the PCC Sub-development Committee, St Thomas' PCC and St Thomas' congregation for their support, willingness and enthusiasm to see this project realised. Let us all continue to pray that this year we will see the construction of St Thomas' new Parish Centre.

