

Ploughshare April/May 1996 (scanned version from the original)

**From the Curate
Judith Henderson**

Spring Cleaning Time

Dear Friends,

As I write this our minds are full of the development plans for St. Thomas'. The gift day is close; by the time you read this, it will be over. It is also the season of Lent, a time for reviewing our lives and traditionally, giving things up. (You can imagine that's a struggle for me!) Again, by the time you read this, it will be Holy Week and Easter will be very close.

We have been '*Fixing our eyes on Jesus*', considering the basis of our faith. It's a bit like a spring clean -in the building and in our lives. Spring cleaning involves getting rid of dust and cobwebs, sprucing up the paint work, perhaps redecorating. It's a time for getting rid of things we no longer need. Positively it is about making our homes welcoming places -warm, secure and bright.

Our lives need a spring clean too. Repentance and seeking forgiveness gets rid of our personal cobwebs, letting the light reach every corner of our lives. We need to evaluate what we no longer need and to equip ourselves for the future.

As we celebrate the risen life of Jesus let's invite the Holy Spirit to renew and empower us to live by the Light of Christ as witnesses to the warmth and security of the love of God in Jesus.

Our homes can be bright and fresh for the spring; our Church warm, bright and welcoming for us and our friends in the community. Our, lives can be spring cleaned through repentance and faith, and we can be filled with the power of the risen Jesus, so that we will be enabled to welcome others into sharing our life in the churches of the parish.

Hallelujah - He is risen!

Judith Henderson

Link Mission Partners –Andy and Mandy Lines

Since the last edition of Ploughshare we have received a letter of grateful thanks for all the Christmas cards and gifts from our churches to the Lines family. They went on holiday to Chile in January so we have had no update on their workload, so let us uphold them in prayer, asking for spiritual strength to enable them to do the Lord's work with continued enthusiasm.

Richard and Dorothy Banks

Welcome to the Brooms

Our long awaited Curate responsible for St John's is coming!

Andy, Tina, Daniel and Chloe Broom are assured of a big welcome. In fact, many can't wait for them to be living and working amongst us.

There will be a WELCOME SERVICE for them right in the middle of the Cup Final at 3.30pm on Saturday 11 May, in St John's Church Centre. It wouldn't have happened then if Norwich City had been in the final! We do believe in miracles but that might have stretched even Andy's faith, anyway!

We look forward to welcoming a large contingent from All Saints', Wellington on this occasion, as they come to say their sad farewells and to see something of Andy and Tina's near challenge. We shall have a special speaker, the Revd Tom Johnson from Ashover. The occasion will usher in a new era in the life of our parish.

Face to Face with Pam Brimelow

Pam is the Rector's Secretary. She holds together much of the administration of our churches.

Pam, are you a local person?

Yes. I was born in Brampton and I have strong family links with the area. My immediate family attended St. Mark's Church, although I was baptised and confirmed at St. Thomas'.

When I was fifteen we moved to Newbold and I joined St. John's Church. Canon Moore, the Rector, did a great deal of good work with young people and I was welcomed into the Youth Club and the Girls' Friendly Society. Those were the days! I remember with gratitude the Christian fellowship extended to me.

I have spent most of my life in education, either as a pupil or as a teacher. My first experience of school was at the age of four at Old Road School (now Old Hall Junior School). I have many fond memories of my classmates and of the excellent teachers who taught me. My ambition to teach had its first stirrings in those early years. At the age of eleven I transferred to St. Helena Girls' High School. After completing my secondary education there I went on to train as a teacher at Stockwell College in Bromley.

My teaching career brought me back to Derbyshire where I worked in several infant and junior Schools. In 1974 I was appointed Head Teacher of Brockwell Infant School.

What were your main memories of Brockwell Infant School?

My initial feelings were a mixture of excitement and apprehension. The school had a good academic record and had been managed by a much respected Head Teacher. I had to be on my mettle! However, being head gave me control of the curriculum and the opportunity to initiate new ventures.

I had particular pleasure in co-operating with Brockwell Junior School in founding a Parents' Association which went on to flourish and lend an amazing amount of support to both schools. Parental helpers were also welcomed into the school where they did invaluable work in many areas of the curriculum, not least in helping children to learn to cook! I loved to work with the children, especially when I could give them individual attention. Sadly it became increasingly difficult to find time to teach. I also enjoyed leading assemblies, although I did not find it easy. It was particularly rewarding to get the children involved. When I left Brockwell I felt I was leaving a happy community where the welfare and education of the children came first.

What has led you to take such a big change of career?

I had always been a "career teacher" and had assumed that this was how the pattern of my professional life would continue until I reached official retirement age. However, policies changed at Government and County level and when early retirement was offered to senior staff I was stimulated into thinking that there were other things I could do with my life if I was prepared to grasp the nettle! I did not have a "master plan" but knew I wanted my life to take a new direction.

I enrolled at Chesterfield College and spent the next two years taking courses in Business Administration and Information Technology. When the post of Rector's Secretary became available I saw this as both a challenge and an opportunity to use my skills in the service of the Church. At first, there was a lot to learn, especially finding out who everyone was. So many people are involved -a bit like school really!

What did the Christians for Life Course, two or three years ago, mean to you?

I had been coming to St. Thomas' for a while when the course was announced and I had a strong feeling of "This is for you". I was extremely nervous and I felt out of place at first. The other members of the course were rather younger than I was. But, after a week or two, that stopped being a problem. I was fully accepted into the group and I am pleased to say we still meet as an Open House group.

Christians for Life was a turning point in my life, an opportunity to get to grips with my faith. I was brought up in the Christian Faith, but somehow hadn't ever realised that it should be a personal matter. I now recognise Jesus Christ is my saviour and that I need to have a personal relationship with Him. So, yes it was a very important step for me.

Quest Club

Many of you will have seen the colourful wall display "Jesus is for Everyone" which was put together by guest Club children and leaders in St Thomas' Meeting Room. It is just one example of the kind of activities the children get up to each Thursday afternoon. If you would like to see more, why not join us at our Open Afternoon on Thursday 16 May? It's a little later in the year than usual, but don't let that put you off!

At the Open Afternoon this year, as a follow-on to the project supported two years ago, Quest Club will again be raising awareness and funds for Novimost, the young people's Christian organisation started in Mostar, Bosnia during the darkest days of the war there.

A lot of effort is always put into the Open Afternoon, and parents, friends and other visitors are invited to come along at 3.45pm prompt and enjoy a happy hour or so in the company of guest Club. So please remember the date - Thursday 16 May.

Welcome to Edison Muhindo

The Revd Edison Muhindo, from Uganda, is staying in our parish for three weeks over the Easter period. He will be preaching in each of our Churches. He will have plenty to teach us.

During term-time, Edison is undergoing a course of study at St John's College, Nottingham. He is married to Dorothy, a nurse and they have three young children.

Book Review

How Do We Know The Bible Is True?

(Reasons a kid can believe it) by Lynn Waller, Zondervan Publishing £4.50

Once you have picked up this book and started to read it, you'll probably have difficulty putting it down. Only after that will the children get a look in! Thus is an excellent book to have on hand when your children ask you questions about the Bible, especially if they have been teased by non-Christian friends who say the Bible isn't true, or out of date.

Our children do get some flack from time to time, about being Christians. The importance of being able to reassure them of Bible truths cannot be overstated. This book can't cover everything, but it makes a good job of what it does cover.

It's an easy, enjoyable and informative read, probably to suit age group 7 -12 and it has been written for children to read themselves. A Christian child would certainly be able to give a copy to a non believing friend to read.

I strongly recommend it.

Pauline Latimer

Operation Christmas Child – Surprise Auction

The charity Operation Christmas Child, best known for the Shoebox Appeal, is organising a 'Surprise Auction' at The Olde House Hotel, Loundsley Green Road, Newbold, Chesterfield on Friday 26th April, at 8pm.

All proceeds from this event will go towards the refurbishment of a hospital/orphanage in Blon, Belarus. Here, children severely deformed as a result of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster are hidden away following the tragedy. Operation Christmas Child visits this hospital, taking essential supplies, and is gradually refurbishing the building; although this task seems endless.

Following last Spring's visit, the voluntary workforce realised how stimulated young children seemed to be with music, something which we take for granted. When one of our workers went into a bedroom to complain about the volume, (in the interest of the children -or so she thought), she was amazed at the sight of all the `swaying bodies'. As a contrast to constantly lying still through lack of stimulation, these children were responding to something. As a result of this, OCC committed themselves 12 months ago to this provision.

Unless a company has come forward to donate the sound system, money raised at our auction will go towards the cost of the audio system and tapes. If it is donated in the meantime, money raised will be used for a further part of the refurbishment project.

On the tenth anniversary of the Chernobyl disaster, the local support group want to raise awareness of the extent of the damage. Our own country still spends £12,000,000 monitoring the effects of the fallout following that same disaster. Over 580 farms are still affected 10 years later. So you can imagine the devastation which still remains in Belarus and the surrounding areas. Children are still being born deformed, and consequently abandoned through shame into these institutions!

Hosted by Adrian Fidler, a professional auctioneer from FidlerTaylor & Co, with many excellent and varied items on offer, the evening should be very enjoyable. Whatever hobbies or pastimes you may have, whatever occasion is looming, we will have something to suit your taste and your pocket. Do come along to support Operation Christmas Child if you possibly can.

Admission is free. Detailed catalogues will be available from Jane Simmonds, Carol Woodward or other members of the support group. (Price 50p)

Items donated so far include:

- ◆ A 'Rally Experience' at Silverstone. A 2hr rally driving course, worth £99, with professional instructors. This has been kindly donated by A.D. R. Accident Repair Centres, at Sheepbridge.
- ◆ A bottle of brandy from Croatia -37 years old!
- ◆ Signed photographs of Liverpool F.C. players (framed)
- ◆ A flying lesson at Sheffield Aero club Worksop, worth approx £40.
- ◆ Tickets for 2 people to go along to the filming of a BBC Pebblemill programme.
- ◆ A round of golf with a professional.

Many family tickets to various places of interest, including:

- ◆ The North Yorkshire Moors Railway; Jodrell Bank; Treak Cliff Caverns; Speedwell Caverns; Pub through the Ages tour at Tetley's Brewery; Eureka; The White Post Farm Centre; RAF. F. Coningsby; National Railway Museum; Sherwood Forest Farm Park; Heights of Abraham; Twycross Zoo and Chester Zoo.

For adults/teenagers assorted vouchers including:

- ◆ Free facial; Guided tour round Buxton Opera House; Cinema tickets; Donnington Race Track; Ironbridge Gorge Museum; Drayton Manor and Blackpool Pleasure Beach.

For the more energetic we have vouchers for:

- ◆ A fitness suite membership; Ice skating; Swimming; Dancing lessons and a Skiing voucher.

For the less energetic we have a variety of 'activities' including:

- ◆ Driving lessons: alcoholic packages; food packages -including many home-made delights and meal vouchers.

Other assorted items also donated include:

- ◆ A signed football from Nottingham Forest F.C.; A turkey for Christmas 1996; room stencilling; toiletries; knitted toys; garden plants; garden manure, watercolour; glassware and others. Some special 'surprises' are also guaranteed on the night!

Jane Simmonds