

# PLOUGHSHARE

April /May 2008

Volume 16, No 3



## St Thomas' Brampton St Peter's, Holymoorside

### 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*



Two of our *Living Stones*  
'Fun'd' raising events.

Find out more on page 2

60p per copy (£3.00 per year)

## Sunday Services

During the vacancy the service pattern is planned to be as below. Communion will always be available in the Parish on a Sunday morning, either at St Thomas' or St Peter's. This is correct as the magazine goes to press. For up to date information please check the weekly notice sheet or [www.st-thomas-brampton.org](http://www.st-thomas-brampton.org).

	St Thomas'			St Peter's	
	9am	11am	6.30pm	9.30am	6pm
April 6	HC	MW -AA	EW	HC	EW
April 13	MW	HC	EW	HC	EW
April 20	HC	MW	YS	HC	EW
April 27	MW	MW	APCM	HC	EW @M
May 4	HC	MW -AA	EW	HC	EW
May 11	HC	HC	EW	HC	EW
May 18	HC	MW	EW	MW	EW
May 25	MW	MW	HC	HC	EW @M
June 1	HC	MW -AA	EW	MW	EW

HC	Holy Communion	MW	Morning Worship
EP	Evening Prayer	EP @M	Evening Prayer at Holymoorside Methodist Church
AA	All Age Service	YS	Youth Service (for all ages)
APCM	Short time of worship followed by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting		

### St Thomas'

Sermon themes and readings are available in Church or at [www.st-thomas-brampton.org/services.html](http://www.st-thomas-brampton.org/services.html)

Podcasts of the sermons and readings are available at [www.st-thomas-brampton.org/podcasts.html](http://www.st-thomas-brampton.org/podcasts.html)

- 9am** Fairly traditional using 'Common Worship' with a choir.  
**11am** A more informal service usually with a music group. There are children's groups (3 years old to school year 9) and a crèche.  
**6.30pm** Fairly informal usually with a music group.  
**6.30pm** Pathfinders (school years 7-9) meet.  
**8pm** CYFA (school years 10-13) meet.

### St Peter's

- 9.30am** Fairly traditional with organ music and using 'Common Worship' and 'Mission Praise'. There is Sunday Club (3 years old to school year 9) and a crèche.  
**6pm** A service of Evening Prayer. Fairly traditional with organ music and using the '1662 Service' and 'Mission Praise'.  
*(Note: the evening service on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month is held at Holymoorside Methodist Church.)*

## From the Church Warden

Here we are in springtime once again. Spring is a wonderfully refreshing time to appreciate God's creation. We see the bright colours in displays of new flowers and bursting buds and the air is fresh.

What a great time this is for our Parish as we look forward to new arrivals: Revd. Audrey Smith will join us as Resident Priest at St Peter's in mid April and Rev Matthew Barnes (Matt) is making preparation to move into the Rectory ready for his induction as Rector of Brampton St Thomas' on 5 June.



We are really blessed to be having two new ministers among us before the summer. We have now passed through our darkness and the light shines brightly ahead.

*'For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.' -2 Corinthians 4:6.*

As Ploughshare Distributor, may I take this opportunity to thank you all for your continued support for St Thomas' and St Peter's by taking and reading the Magazine.

**Bernard Blanksby**

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### **The Induction Service of the Rev Matt Barnes**

The service, conducted by the Bishop of Derby, will be held in St Thomas' Church on Thursday 5 June 2008 at 7pm. Everyone is invited to attend.

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### **The Annual Parochial Church Meeting**

The APCM will be held in St Thomas' Church on Sunday 27 April at 6.30pm. Everyone is encouraged to attend.

## From the Editor

The last couple of months have been busy ones in our parish. Some of the things that have happened are reflected in this edition of the magazine –the appointment of Matt Barnes as our new Rector and ‘Fun’d’ raising events for the St Thomas’ Living Stones project. (As the magazine goes to press we have Cliff College students with us for our HOPE 2008 week –more about this in the next magazine).

Myra Johnson has retired as St Thomas’ 9 o’clock organist. May I, on behalf of the Ploughshare readers add our thanks to Myra for the sterling work she has done.

This year Easter is exceptionally early –so early in fact that the ‘Easter Fun Page’ at the back of the magazine has been published after Easter!

### Mark Hoare

*The closing date for the June/July 2008 edition of Ploughshare is 9<sup>th</sup> May.*



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## Living Stones

### St Thomas’ Development Development Project

#### Fun’d Raising

Several Fun’d raising events have taken place in February and March.

Two are pictured on the front cover -Katie and Eleanor Lomas buying books at the **Nearly New Sale** and Julie Barton telling fifty ladies at the **Just Desserts** evening of the love of God through a fruit pavlova!

Other events have included **Lent Lunches** and a collection of unwanted **foreign currency**. Hand made **Easter cards** have also been on sale.

In May **John Prentice** will be giving a concert with the proceeds going to the Project (see page 16).

#### Open Meeting

An Open Meeting was held in February at which members of the congregation were updated on the Project. Subsequently a **leaflet** was published and distributed to every house in the Parish explaining the reasoning behind the Project and outlining the plans. (Copies are available in St Thomas’ Church).

Full details including the Living Stones leaflet and Fun’d raising pictures can

## Coming Soon...Our New Rector



**The Rev Matt Barnes**, at present Vicar of St Bartholomew's Clay Cross and St Barnabas' Danesmoor, has been appointed as our new Rector. Matt's induction service will be on 5 June.

Matt and his wife Mel have three children Ellie (10), Jack (8) and Amy (5).

Matt's working background has been in systems -you can ask him what this means when he arrives! He worked as an analyst in Bradford before feeling God's call to work for the church full-time.

After three years working for *Youth For Christ (YFC)* as a church youth and community worker based in Reading and Birmingham, Matt trained for the ordained ministry at St John's College, Nottingham. His curacy was in the Wakefield Diocese at S. Peter's, Stanley. He moved from there in 1999 to take-up his current post.

Although originally from Manchester, Matt studied in Huddersfield and is a Huddersfield Town supporter –I think he will be the only one in our parish!

Please pray for Matt and Mel as they prepare to join us. Also pray for the people of St Bartholomew's as they are losing a good friend and respected minister.

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## Why Was Easter So Early This Year?

Easter Sunday this year (on 23rd March) was unusually early. In fact Easter has not been this early since 1913. The earliest possible date for Easter Sunday is 22nd March, but the last time it was on that day was in 1818. The next time it will fall on 22nd March will be 2285 -277 years time!

These dates are determined by complex calculations which go back to the 6th century. Easter is the Sunday after the first full moon on or after 21st March, the day of the spring equinox. (The equinox is the day on which sunset is exactly twelve hours after sunrise.) This year the full moon was on 21st March, and so Easter was on the following Sunday, the 23rd March.

There have been many proposals to fix the date of Easter. Parliament passed the Easter Act of 1928 to do just this, but it was never implemented.

## Walsingham –a Place of Pilgrimage

*Peter and June Grayson went on a pilgrimage to Walsingham with the Community of the Resurrection in June last year. They tell us a bit about Walsingham's history.*

Walsingham in Norfolk has been a place of pilgrimage since 1061. The then Lady of the Manor, Richeldis de Faverches had a series of visions. The Virgin Mary appeared to her and showed her the house in Nazareth where Mary and Joseph brought up Jesus.

Lady Richeldis became convinced she should build a replica of the house here in England at Walsingham.

The first building was just a wooden one, but it attracted so many people that, in the middle of the 12<sup>th</sup> century, the Augustinians built a Priory dedicated to St Mary, to accommodate the large number of visitors to the 'Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham' as it became known. The ruins of this ancient Priory can be seen and are now known as the Abbey ruins.



A series of chapels were also built along the ancient Pilgrims' Way, which started at Kings Lynn. The most famous of these chapels was the Slipper Chapel built in about 1350 just over a mile away from the village of Little Walsingham, at Houghton St Giles. The chapel took its name from the place where the ancient pilgrims left their shoes and walked barefoot to the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham, which was, at that time, in the Abbey grounds.

For almost 500 years, the shrine was one of the main centres of European Pilgrimage and English Christianity, until Henry VIII ordered its demolition in 1539. However, in spite of Little Walsingham returning to the status of a quiet English village for the following three hundred years, it was to become a centre of Christian pilgrimage once again.

The **Church of England revival** has its roots in 1887. A new church was built at Buxted in Sussex and its Lady Chapel was built to the same design as the former Mary's House at Walsingham. A young man Alfred Hope Patten, who lived in Buxted, was then inspired to build another house based on the image seen by Lady Richeldis in Walsingham. He became a priest and in 1921 became the Vicar of Walsingham, where he was able to achieve his ambition.

Firstly, Father Patten commissioned a statue of Mary and Jesus. It was based on the ancient seal of the Abbey of Walsingham, preserved in the British Museum. This statue was placed in the parish church of All Souls, now St Mary's and All Saints, in 1922.

From the very first night, people began to gather around the carving, to pray and ask for healing. A variety of people came from many different places and the modern era of pilgrimage to Walsingham had begun.

As the numbers increased, Father Patten became even more convinced that he should rebuild the house which Mary had shown to Lady Richeldis. Not in wood this time, but in brick and stone. In 1931 his opportunity arrived. He was able to buy some land just across the road from the site where Mary had appeared to Lady Richeldis, and the building of the modern house began.



The church housing the Shrine

Seven years later the present Pilgrims' Church, which provides a cover for Mary's house, was completed and the carving of Mary and Jesus was taken out of the parish church and placed in the new house. This place is also known as 'England's Nazareth'.

The **Roman Catholic revival** began in 1896, when a benefactor, Charlotte Pearson Boyd, purchased the old Slipper Chapel and restored it for worship.

The first public pilgrimage to the Slipper chapel took place on the 20<sup>th</sup> August 1897. In 1934, when 10,000 pilgrims from all over England and Wales came to the chapel, it was declared 'The National Shrine of Our Lady for Roman Catholics in England'. Another statue of Mary and Jesus was installed in the chapel. Services are often held in the Slipper Chapel, set in the quiet of the countryside.

Today the National Pilgrimage to Walsingham for all denominations is held each year on Spring Bank Holiday Monday.

### **Peter and June Grayson**

*You can find out more about Walsingham and the Community of the Resurrection at [www.walsingham.org.uk/](http://www.walsingham.org.uk/) and [www.mirfieldcommunity.org.uk/](http://www.mirfieldcommunity.org.uk/) respectively.*

## Mental Health Awareness



*Bernard Sproston, Healthcare Chaplain with Derbyshire Mental Health Services NHS Trust tells us about his work and how he is promoting mental health awareness in local churches.*

Following retirement from full-time parish ministry in 2002 I have taken up a part-time post as Healthcare Chaplain at the Hartington Unit, the Mental Health wing attached to Chesterfield Royal Hospital. I assist the Derbyshire Mental Health Chaplain and the Spiritual and Pastoral Care Team based in Derby.

My main role is to provide for the spiritual needs and give pastoral support to patients ('service users'), who are unable to remain in contact with their place of worship and Christian community, and their families and the staff.

Sometimes I see myself as a 'go between' or 'gateway' for patients to be able to contact their own particular faith community leader. I am, therefore, required to be sensitive to the needs of the cultural and ethnic groups which are represented in the local community and help facilitate the appropriate pastoral support for patients' own religious organisations or faith communities. Sometimes my job can take me into the community to support a service user.

Since working as a chaplain I have come to realise how necessary it is to care for the spirit of a person and also how important spirituality is in the recovery of someone suffering with mental illness. Spirituality is increasingly being identified as having a vital part to play in the recovery from illness and the wellbeing of people.

Local churches can provide an enormous resource for people in mental distress, which is likely to affect most of us at sometime during the course of our lives. One in four people will suffer in a year of some form of mental distress but one in six more severely in a lifetime.

In 2004 a document '**Promoting Mental Health**' was published by the Church of England. Other faith communities helped to draw it up.

In 2007 St John's Walton formed a Mental Health Awareness Group to look at the '**Promoting Mental Health**' document. The group tackled issues raised in the document by applying its content to the needs of St John's and the parish of Walton.

The group identified such needs as having the church doors open at particular times during the week (i.e. Saturday mornings) for local people to seek a

sacred space for quietness and prayer. People might be in distress about their own health or that of someone they care for. It was suggested that whilst the church doors were open there could be in attendance trained church members with good listening skills to be able to offer prayerful support if required. Another identified need is the formation of a Befriending Scheme, especially for people feeling isolated and trapped in their own home by mental ill-health (for example depression). People with practical skills would offer their services. A third need is to look at the biblical approach to mental health.

These suggestions have been put to the Pastoral Team of St John's for discussion and hopefully implementation.

The meetings attracted interest from further a field than Walton with the result that some members of St Mark's Brampton launched their own Mental Health Awareness Group in January this year.

I see my mission as being to offer help to any church (or group of churches) within the Deanery of Chesterfield that is giving consideration to forming its own Mental Health Awareness Group using as a resource the '**Promoting Mental Health**' document.

The document is not a course to work through from start to finish, neither is it a resource to turn congregations into experts. It provides encouragement for what people are already doing within the church or other faith communities around issues of mental health. It asks churches to be more welcoming to people who are experiencing mental health problems and mental distress and also to give support to carers. The information it contains helps to increase the knowledge, awareness and understanding of mental health and ill health.

It is a tool to influence and educate attitudes and behaviour people have towards those with mental health problems. It helps the churches to recognise not only the need but also the contribution that can be made by those who suffer with mental health problems, or their carers, in worship and prayer life. I firmly believe that every church should study '**Promoting Mental Health**'.

## **Bernard Sproston**

*Bernard gave a talk at the January 2008 St Thomas' Men's Breakfast on this subject. He was supported by Adrian Brimington, a service user, who gave his testimony on how he became a Christian whilst suffering from mental ill health.*

*The Document 'Promoting Mental Health' is available from the Church England web site [www.cofe.anglican.org](http://www.cofe.anglican.org)*

## The Wedding of Robin and Val

*Robin Dawson and Reverend Val Cory were married at St Andrew's Church Surbiton on 19 January 2008. This is an edited version of an article that was published in the St Andrew's Church Parish Magazine.*



Over 300 parishioners, family and friends from far and wide gathered to witness the marriage of Val, a minister at St Andrew's and Robin, a longstanding member of St Thomas'. Val was escorted to the altar by Robin, her daughter Jo, and Robin's two daughters Kate and Sarah.

Val's outfit for the ceremony was glamorous and chic in equal proportions. She wore a shot silk bodice in oyster with a beautiful pearl sheen, with a pleated frill in a wrap-over style. The simple long length skirt in an oriental style print on black and cream complemented the bodice perfectly.

The overall effect was stunning with the weak January daylight reflected and enhanced by the diamante detail. A spray of flowers framed Val's short and elegant hairstyle and the bouquet of roses that she carried echoed both the oyster theme of her dress and the deep red of the Christmas season.

The choir had prepared some delightful and wonderful music. One piece had been especially composed for the wedding. This was a setting of a poem much loved by Robin and Val entitled *The Sect of Lovers*, by Jalal Al-Din Rumi. People commented after the service that the singing of both the choir and the congregation had been uplifting and inspirational.

The sermon was delivered by the Rev Robert Young, who had only met Robin relatively recently while he was engaged in relief work in Afghanistan. He likened the commitment that Val and Robin were undertaking to a strong bolt held fast by two nuts – their own love and the power of God acting as the second 'keeper' nut. This was also a clever reference to Robin's background in civil engineering. Robert's stirring tone was appreciated by the congregation, who found themselves laughing and reflecting at the same time in response to an amusing and animated address.

The exchange of vows was completed, Robin and Val were pronounced man and wife. A thunderous and prolonged round of applause followed as the congregation took its opportunity to express its joy and love for Robin and Val.

The newlyweds returned down the aisle to a Bach solo played on the 'cello, drawing to a close a musically inspiring ceremony.

Music greeted Robin's and Val 's entrance to the informal celebration at the YMCA immediately after the wedding ceremony. A harpist played in the background while friends of the happy couple mingled with parishioners from St Andrew's, and more volunteers from the parish helped the regular staff to serve sparkling wine and cake.

Robin took the opportunity to tell the story of his and Val's friendship and of how they have between them gathered friends from Liverpool, Chesterfield, Birmingham, Tamworth, Tanzania and Afghanistan, many of whom were present on the day.

The happy couple were cheered off on honeymoon following an evening meal with around fifty members of family and friends at an Italian restaurant. Rice was thrown as Robin and Val set off on foot to Surbiton Station to begin their train trip to Dubrovnik via Paris and Venice.

Following the publication of the original article in the St Andrew's Magazine Robin commented: *"I am particularly grateful for the description of Val's dress, firstly because I hardly noticed it, being rather pre-occupied in looking her in the eye, and secondly because I am not very good at describing ladies clothes anyway!"*



Robin and Val with Robin's daughters Sarah and Kate (left) and Val's daughter Jo

## **Dawn Edingborough –our Children’s and Families’ Worker**

*Since September last year Dawn has been our full time Children’s and Families’ Worker.*

I have moved up from Hertfordshire with my daughter Holly and although I have moved around a lot, this is the first time I’ve 'gone north'. My other daughter Lauren has just graduated from university and is living nearby and working at Brookfield School.



I have been involved in children, families and parish work for about 12 years and my passion is as strong today as it was when I first felt God calling me to this work. I have worked in a variety of settings right across the denominations but mainly with Anglican and Baptist churches. Before coming to St Thomas' I helped to set up a church plant on a housing estate in a Hertfordshire town. It was a very challenging but hugely rewarding project and I am classed as a 'founder member'- a great privilege, but it makes me sound really old!

### **Why am I a Children’s Worker?**

Well, I've always been a children's worker. I was the oldest of six children and we had a fairly rocky childhood, so I always felt a sense of responsibility, wanting to protect my younger brothers and sisters. Later I went on to train as a Nursery Nurse, gaining my NNEB certificate, before spending the next few years gaining experience in all areas of childcare, from being a nanny to day nurseries, state nurseries, hospitals, crèches and then working as a teaching assistant.

When I became a Christian 12 years ago, I knew that God was requiring my all, everything that I am. So I surrendered my whole life to Him to use me as he desired and required. It's not always been easy, but it's been awesome to see how He's taken all my experiences - good and bad and used them to help serve Him in reaching out to a lost and broken people. I've been able to work alongside children and their families during times of great stress as well as times of great joy. I have been able to bring God's love and compassion into their lives, introducing them to the healing that knowing Jesus can bring. There's no greater privilege than that.

### **What are my hopes and dreams for my work here?**

That as a church we will have a renewed vision and enthusiasm for the Children's and Families' work. I want us to draw together and then reach out to those on the fringes and even further away, finding new and exciting ways to be reflections of Christ. We need to model ourselves on Jesus and help those who feel lost to find hope and healing in His love.

I'd also like to see us giving the children already in our church the value they deserve by continuing to listen to them and by learning to appreciate joys they have and the problems they face.

This is God's world, and the children are His. They are precious to Him and we have a responsibility to make a stand and develop an example of counter-culture which our children will want to follow.

Just imagine how our community could be changed if all the children in church became disciples, apostles or evangelists. This is my vision -do you want to join me?

### **Dawn Edingborough**

*As well as having a heart for people Dawn admits that her other passions are all things pink and sparkly and chocolate! -Editor*

You can listen to Dawn's testimony at  
[www.st-thomas-brampton.org/testimonies.html#dawn](http://www.st-thomas-brampton.org/testimonies.html#dawn)

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## How Much Would it Cost to Hire a Mother?

.....asked Dawn Edingborough at the St Thomas' Mothering Sunday Service in March. She was very ably assisted by a number of mums!

One of the questions I've had on my mind on this Mothering Sunday is **'how much would it cost to hire a mother'**?

A mum does so many different jobs in looking after her children and we need to consider all these when we think of the cost of hiring her.

So what does she do and how much would she cost?

- Teacher £25,000 say (To tell us things)
- Nurse £15,000 (To look after us)
- Cleaner £10,000 (To keep us clean)
- Chauffeur £15,000 (To take us to places)
- Chef £20,000 (To cook for us)
- Judge £40,000 (To keep order)
- Footballer £30,000 (To entertain)
- Bank Manager £50,000 (To manage the finances)

Total £205,000



But of course mums don't stick to a 37 hour week. They are available 24/7. Add another £160,000 overtime and we get a **grand total of £365,000 – a £1,000 a day!**

Isn't it amazing that although our mums could charge thousands of pounds for what they do they choose to do it for free! Why is that? Because our mums **LOVE** us. Isn't it marvellous that our mums **LOVE** us so much.



But there is something else we can learn. What a mother does for her family is just a small picture of what God does. Each of the roles that a mother plays reminds us of what God does for us all.

- **Teacher**  
God guides us through life showing us what's best for us
- **Nurse**  
God cares for us when we're hurt
- **Cleaner**  
God forgives us and cleanses us from all our guilt
- **Chauffeur**  
God is always available and willing to help us
- **Chef**  
God provides the whole of creation with good food
- **Judge**  
God shows us the difference between right and wrong
- **Footballer**  
God shares our fun and He's close to us when we are sad
- **Bank Manager**  
God teaches us to use our resources wisely

God gives all this to us free. The Bible calls it God's Grace or favour to us. And why doesn't he charge us –because he **LOVES** us!

So, in the case of both God and our mothers, it's **LOVE** that is the key. It's because they **LOVE** us that they do everything the do for free –and in both cases that's a lot!

## Thank You Myra

*On January 27 this year Myra retired as the organist at St Thomas' 9am service. Keith Bates thanked Myra for her service on behalf of the choir and Bernard Blanksby on behalf of the congregation.*



Myra and husband Phil

### **Keith Bates:**

Well Myra, ladies and gentlemen, it was at Easter 1999 after the re-ordering of St Thomas' church that we returned to our homeland here to be told that there was to be a new service schedule and the choir were expected to lead the musical worship at 9 o'clock.

Fine but for one considerable snag, we had no organist. While we were considering the predicament and casting round for solutions a message came out of the blue to the effect that 'Myra will play the organ!'

I needed only to be told that Philip [Johnson] would be accompanying her on drums to complete my surprise! For I, in common with many others had not the slightest inkling that Myra played. This was truly a light very carefully camouflaged under a bushel. Myra was about to rescue us and we were extremely grateful.

Therefore began a period of eight years with Myra at the controls of the organ consol.

If you want an accurate description and explanation of the meaning of the words loyalty, dedication, commitment and the like you need only look to Myra's service as organist. I can't remember her missing a practice and more than once she delayed setting out on an outing or visit to play the organ first on Sunday morning. 'I won't let you down' and Mrs Reliable certainly didn't.

Myra was always supportive and co-operative. One thing that particularly found favour with me was that Myra always called me 'Boss'!

Unfortunately as happens to us all eventually increasing age, illness or infirmity catch up with us. Indeed Myra battled with various problems. Her eyesight was improved by laser treatment but mobility was becoming a problem. She put up with these things with great fortitude, a positive attitude and dare I say it, a stubborn unwillingness to give in.

However it was clear that the time had come after her hip operation when it was in her interest and welfare not to have to subject herself to the rigours and responsibilities of playing the organ.

Therefore today marks the official time of Myra's retirement. What she did for us over the years has been tremendous. She was brave to volunteer in the first place. Her commitment has been faultless.

Myra, we extend to you huge and sincere gratitude for all the service you have given to the choir, the congregation and the church in general.

In a moment we will be presenting you with a token of that gratitude and appreciation. What to get you posed a problem. I thought perhaps of gift voucher from Wicks or B&Q might be appropriate. But no, in the end we settled on something else of a bit more personal nature. So please accept this gift [a cameo brooch] from the choir Myra as a sign of our regard and thanks for all you have done.

**Bernard Blanksby:**

Well following on from what you have heard from Keith, Myra has had a long association with St Thomas' Church. She was baptised here and her parents were members of the church. Myra went to the Sunday School when the school building was opposite Johnson's shop. She also joined the Youth Club in the 1940s.

Of course Myra has been supportive of her husband Phil in the many roles he has had in the church.

Myra is rock solid and there is a chorus to a Harry Lauder song that reflects Myra's character so well.

*Keep right on to the end of the road,  
Keep right on to the end,  
Tho' the way be long, let your heart be strong,  
Keep right on round the bend.  
Tho' you're tired and weary still journey on,  
Till you come to your happy abode,  
Where all the love you've been dreaming of  
Will be there at the end of the road.*

Thank you Myra and please receive this gift [Hudsons' Music Shop vouchers] from the congregation.



From John Prentice's latest folk trio:

## **“A Pint, A Half and A Jill.”**

A concert of acoustic and folk music

7.30pm Friday 9 May 2008 at  
St. Thomas Church

### ***Proceeds are going to the St Thomas' Development Project***

John Prentice has most readily agreed to hold a concert in aid of St. Thomas' Development Fund. As many people are aware, John is a gifted musician who is well known in the local folk world. Together with his son Andrew and Jill, who are themselves accomplished musicians, we are promised a high-quality evening of a variety of musical styles. Knowing John there will also be a good deal of fun.

It is my hope that as many as possible from the church family, and friends of St Thomas' and St Peter's in the wider community will be present for this excellent evening. It will also be a pleasure to welcome our Lady Mayor, Councillor Chris Ludlow, who has accepted our invitation to attend.

We look forward to the concert in anticipation.

Book early and avoid disappointment!

Tickets are £6 and are available from:

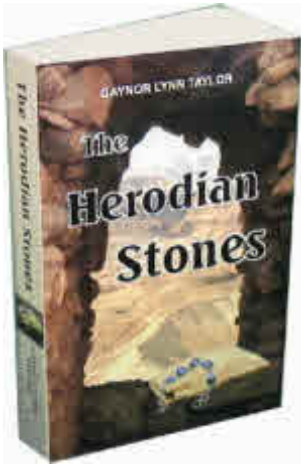
Anne Hewitt (in the Church Office)	558461
Janet Hamilton	279324
Maureen Thompson	224781
Eileen Balch	297099

### **Eileen Balch**



# The Herodian Stones

by Gaynor Lynn Taylor



*A review by Peter Cooney*

Novels set in the Holy Land during the time of Christ are nothing new: Ben Hur, Quo Vadis, The Robe – all were subsequently made into Hollywood blockbusters and still receiving regular airings on television.

What's different about The Herodian Stones, the first novel by Gaynor Lynn Taylor (better known to us as Gaynor Roberts and member of St Thomas' Church), is the idea of a detective story set against the New Testament backdrop of Christ's death and resurrection.

The sleuth and hero of the tale is one Commander Marc Tiro, a high ranking Roman called in to investigate the disappearance of some priceless jewellery once owned by Cleopatra.

The unique stones should have been held alongside the Emperor Tiberius's other treasures in the securely guarded vaults of Herodium, but much to the embarrassment of Pontius Pilate, when they are needed to fund some building works, the Herodian Stones have gone.

As Marc Tiro embarks upon his investigation we encounter brutal assassinations, decayed corpses, an ancient map with coded clues, dreadful family secrets and a strange religious sect. Interwoven into the tale are familiar names from the New Testament brought to life – Pilate, Mary Magdalene, Lydia, even a brief encounter with a pre-conversion Saul, the tentmaker.

It's clear that the author has meticulously researched the culture, geography and history of the era, so as well as being educational, it all makes for a cracking good read. And who knows... is Russell Crowe available?

*The Herodian Stones by Gaynor Lynn Taylor, £8.99, available from [www.godsendbooks.com](http://www.godsendbooks.com) or from St Thomas' Church.*



## Christian Aid Week

11-17 May 2008



Once again the challenge and privilege of the National Christian Aid door-to-door collection is approaching. Every year, St Thomas and St Peter's have responded to this vital appeal by delivering and collecting envelopes in our parish. May I thank all who have taken part in this over the years, and encourage you to do so once again.

This collection provides Christian Aid with a large part of its finances, which are used to redress the imbalance and injustice of poverty in our world. As a result of our efforts, communities in poor countries will receive assistance to build better lives and futures for all those who suffer in this way.

To go door-to-door collecting is an extra effort. You are never sure of the response you will receive. But the knowledge that this really makes a contribution is an enormous incentive to keep going - regardless!!

This year the longer roads have been reduced into smaller, more manageable numbers, in an attempt to achieve a greater coverage than last year.



Please respond to this if you possibly can. It would be such an encouragement to exceed last year's figure of £1,256

Remember the words of our Lord in Matthew 25:40  
*'In so far as you did it to the least of my brothers you did it for me.'*

**Eileen Balch**

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## Recent Additions to the Church Website

Easter edition of 'Spotlight'	<a href="http://st-thomas-brampton.org/spotlight.html">st-thomas-brampton.org/spotlight.html</a>
Latest testimonies	<a href="http://st-thomas-brampton.org/testimonies.html">st-thomas-brampton.org/testimonies.html</a>
Latest sermons	<a href="http://st-thomas-brampton.org/podcast_index.html">st-thomas-brampton.org/podcast_index.html</a>
Latest pictures	<a href="http://st-thomas-brampton.org/gallery.html">st-thomas-brampton.org/gallery.html</a>
Living Stones latest news	<a href="http://st-thomas-brampton.org/sttdev.html">st-thomas-brampton.org/sttdev.html</a>

## Diary Dates

### **Wednesday 2 April**

Novimost Day of Prayer

### **Thursday 3 April**

1pm Thursday Rendezvous, St Thomas'

### **Saturday 19 April**

Italian Lunch - 'A Taste of Tuscany', Holymoorside Village Hall

### **Monday 21 April**

7.30pm Annual Church Meeting, St Peter's

### **Thursday 24 April**

2pm Communion and Cuppa, St Thomas'

### **Friday 25 April**

7.30pm Furnace, St Thomas'

### **Saturday 26 April**

10am Flower Team Coffee Morning, St Thomas'

### **Sunday 27 April**

6.30pm Annual Parochial Church Meeting, St Thomas'

### **Thursday 1 May**

1pm Thursday Rendezvous, St Thomas'

### **Friday 9 May**

7.30pm John Prentice in Concert, St Thomas'

### **Sunday 11 to Saturday 17 May**

Christian Aid Week

### **Wednesday 21 May**

7.45pm People @ Prayer, St Thomas'

### **Thursday 29 May**

2pm Communion and Cuppa, St Thomas'

### **Friday 30 May**

7.30pm Furnace, St Thomas'

### **Thursday 5 June**

7pm Induction of Rev Matt Barnes as Rector, St Thomas'

Keep up to date read the weekly Notice Sheet or  
visit the Church Website  
[www.st-thomas-brampton.org](http://www.st-thomas-brampton.org)



# Easter Fun

Why does the Easter bunny have a shiny nose?  
*His powder puff is on the wrong end*

## Recipe For Easter Nests

*You will need*

Shredded Wheat (or similar cereal)  
Milk or dark chocolate  
Mini eggs

Combine crushed Shredded Wheat with the melted chocolate and shape into nest shapes in cake cases. Once the chocolate has set, place 2-3 mini eggs into the chocolate nests.

**Can you find the following words in our Easter word search?**  
Easter Jesus Egg  
King  
Cross Tomb

## Some Easter Facts

The first Easter baskets were made to look like bird's nests  
The custom of giving eggs at Easter time has been traced back to Egyptians, Persians, Gauls, Greeks and Romans, to whom the egg was a symbol of life.

What do you get when you cross a bunny with an onion? *A bunion*

What does a bunny use when it goes swimming? *A hare-net*

Why did the Easter egg hide?  
*He was a little chicken!*

What do you get when you pour hot water down a rabbit hole? *A hot cross bunny.*

E	A	S	T	E	R	K	C
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U	S	C	R	O	W	N	S
S	E	B	J	L	L	M	I
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