

PLOUGHSHARE

April/May 2009

Volume 17, 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*



**Bishop Alastair opens the new vestry
at St Peter's Church**

60p per copy (£3 per year)

Monthly Pattern of Sunday Services

There is a variety of services each Sunday in both our churches. Details are set out below. Please note that changes may occasionally occur at short notice. For the latest up to date information please check the weekly notice sheet or www.st-thomas-brampton.org/diary.html

St Thomas'

Sermon themes and readings are available in church or at www.st-thomas-brampton.org/services.html

Recordings of the sermons and readings are available at www.st-thomas-brampton.org/podcast_index.html

For those who enjoy tradition:

9am A service of Parish Communion (*Morning Prayer once a month*) using 'Common Worship' and with the choir and organ.

For those with families:

11am An informal service that's 'family friendly'. Sung worship led by the worship band. Weekly crèche (0-3's) and children's groups (3-10 plus years old).

1 st Sunday	Family Worship
2 nd Sunday	Holy Communion
3 rd , 4 th (and 5 th) Sunday	Morning Worship

For those looking for something more:

6pm A relaxed service with in-depth teaching and extended worship led by the music team.

1 st Sunday	Informal Communion
2 nd , 3 rd , 4 th (and 5 th) Sunday	Evening Worship

4.30pm 'energize -1' for 10-14 year olds

8pm 'energize -2' for 14-18 year olds

St Peter's

9.30am A traditional service of Holy Communion every Sunday using 'Common Worship' and 'Mission Praise' accompanied by the organ. There is Sunday Club (3 years old to school year 9) and a crèche.

6pm A traditional service of Evening Prayer using the '1662 Service' and 'Mission Praise' accompanied by the organ.

(Note: the evening service on the 4th Sunday of the month is held at Holymoorside Methodist Church.)

See page 3 for details of Holy Week and Easter Services at our churches

From the Rector

Dear Friends,

Easter is a wonderful time of year as we celebrate the joy of God's love for us – it seems that nature itself joins with us in praise as all the beauty of spring bursts forth into wonderful new life. The link between the new life of Easter and spring is one that is often made by churches. It's a helpful reminder each year of how Jesus' death on the cross (winter) is miraculously transformed into new life (spring). This new life is one we are all invited to share in. I'm sure we'll all agree it's a great picture but for it to mean anything *to us* it first has to mean something *for us* personally, as individuals, and that requires a step of faith.



Faith is a strange thing, if you have it you can't imagine living without it, if you don't it seems like nonsense. The Bible says '*faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.*' Reason goes a long way in helping to discover faith and is vital in the process but there comes a point when you just need to step out and trust. We all need to grow in faith and so can I urge you this Eastertide to do just thatstep out and discover (or rediscover) a new and wonderful faith in Jesus. What have you got to lose?

A good 'first step' might be to come along to church for one of our services or give the church office a ring and ask to make an appointment for me to come and see you and talk about what 'new life, new faith' might mean for you. Go on, step out, start a new life today!

As a church we're stepping forward in faith with our 'Living Stones' Parish Centre project. This has taken another huge step forward recently with the granting of planning permission to build a new 'eco' style parish centre in the grounds of the church. There is still some way to go but I'm confident that we will soon be in possession of all we need to get started.

At the heart of this centre is a desire to birth new life and new faith in our community. Not just for those who are already members of St Thomas' but for everyone who lives in Brampton. I'd love to tell you more about our plans. If you have any questions or concerns then please don't hesitate to contact me.

**Matt Barnes, Rev'd
Rector**

From the Editor

Quite an auspicious magazine this edition! Two Bishops and an Archdeacon as well as articles about some of our current and former family church members.

On behalf of all readers may we ask for God's blessing on Jenny and Simon as they start their married life together. We also pray for Hayley, Robin, Lisa, Julie, Ben and Ashley as they set out on the next phase of their Christian journey following their recent confirmation.

We will also be cheering on Mark Torkington as he runs the London Marathon.

Out of the Mouths of Babes....

The First Sunday in Lent at St Peter's was memorable in many ways. The spring sunshine was breaking through on a still chilly morning. It was St David's Day and daffodils had appeared in the churchyard. Matt, our Rector, had come to preach to us.

His talk for the children was about Jesus spending forty days in the wilderness in preparation for His ministry. "What", the rector asked the six children sitting at his feet, "do you think you would need for a trip into the wilderness?"

In answer to his question he lifted up a large rucksack from which he produced, first, a pair of stout walking boots. Then followed an industrial-sized torch. The third item was a vacuum flask.

"But what," added Matt, "do we need to help find our way in a strange place?"

A map or a compass was an obvious answer but out of his rucksack he took a cross, which he held flat. "This is the only compass we need", he said. With arm outstretched, he told the congregation, "It points to God and it points to us."

"The cross", said Matt, "is so important for us all." At which point, the youngest member of his audience spoke out. "It marks the treasure!" she exclaimed. A wave of laughter rolled towards the altar.

We all recognized the unconscious wisdom of Emily's remark and noted this as a talk not to be forgotten.

Ken Franklin

Holy Week and Easter

Monday 6 April

7.30pm Holy Week Meditation St Peter's

Tuesday 7 April

7.30pm Holy Week Meditation St Thomas'

Wednesday 8 April

7.30pm Holy Week Meditation Holymoorside URC

Maunday Thursday 9 April

7.30pm Holy Communion St Peter's
followed by a bring and share buffet

7.30pm Agape St Thomas'

Good Friday 10 April

10am Activity Zone St Thomas'

11am All Age Service St Thomas'

2pm An Hour at the Cross St Thomas'

2pm The Last Hour St Peter's

Easter Sunday 12 April

9.30am Holy Communion St Peter's

10.30am Family Communion St Thomas'

6pm Songs of Praise St Thomas'

6pm Songs of Praise Holymoorside
Methodist Church

Some Diary Dates

See the weekly notice sheet or www.st-thomas-brampton.org/diary.html for other events

Sunday 26 April

6pm Annual Church Meeting, St Thomas' (for the whole Parish)

Friday 8-Saturday 9 May

Men's Walking Weekend –for more information contact John Small 277456

Friday 19-Sunday 21 May

Dadfest -A celebration of men, dads and kids helping fathers be better dads

Sunday 28 June

Mission Sunday for SAMS, St Thomas'

Our Archdeacon is to Retire

The Venerable David Garnett has announced that he will retire as Archdeacon of Chesterfield at the end of September. He will remain as Priest-in-Charge of Beeley and Edensor.

Bishop Alastair, the Bishop of Derby, paid tribute to the work that David had done in being alongside parishes and working as part of his senior staff team: "David Garnett has exercised an outstanding ministry as Archdeacon of Chesterfield, bringing a wealth of wisdom, insight and experience to a very demanding task."

He added: "I am delighted that he is able to continue his ministry among us, pioneering important work with the communities of Beeley, Edensor and Pilsley, and the Chatsworth Estate, especially in relation to our outreach to the thousands of visitors who come each year. As a diocese we say 'thank you' to God for what he has done and for what he will continue to contribute."

David says: "I have enjoyed being Archdeacon of Chesterfield and working with great clergy, hardworking churchwardens, excellent laity and wonderful Derbyshire people. The archdeaconry is an amazing mixture spreading from Glossop down to Idridgehay and over to the ex-mining parishes in the north-east of the county of Derbyshire." He added: "I would like to thank everyone for giving me such a fulfilling and rich ministry."

David has accepted an invitation from Bishop Alastair to be known as *Archdeacon Emeritus* after he steps down.

David Garnett was ordained priest in 1970 and worked in a number of dioceses including York, Ely, Carlisle and Chester. He was Team Rector of Ellesmere Port in 1996 when the invitation came to become Archdeacon of Chesterfield. He has served in the Diocese for the past thirteen years.

The late Bishop Jonathan used to say that the best thing about being a Bishop after being an Archdeacon is that people understood what a Bishop's role was! So what is an Archdeacon's role?



The role of Archdeacon is set out in Canon Law. It is described as 'being under the Bishop' and to 'assist the Bishop'. The Archdeacon represents the Bishop in the life of the parishes under his care.

The role of Archdeacon has a biblical base. In Acts, the Apostles appointed deacons to enable them in their apostolic task. The bishop is in the tradition of the Apostles (teacher, preacher and evangelist) and the Archdeacon in the tradition of Acts chapter 6 –seven deacons appointed 'full of the spirit and wisdom'. Today the Archdeacon assists the Bishop and frees him up for his apostolic task. He has to have the ear of those at diocesan level and parish level. Indeed it has been said that an archdeacon spends his time between being down in the engine room along side the crew and up on the bridge with the captain.

Most of an Archdeacon's work goes on behind the scenes. If worship is to be effective, the church roof needs to be in good order. If mission is to be effective, ministers need to be secure and to be looked after in their parishes. An Archdeacon, whilst having a spiritual and priestly ministry, is generally occupied with practical things. These are wide ranging and can include parish boundaries, interpretation of legislation, organising ministry (particularly during a vacancy), finance, housing, reordering interiors of churches –the list is endless but all necessary for the promotion of the gospel. As it was put once 'The more you believe in the Incarnation the more you worry about the drains!'

An Archdeacon also needs to be a good communicator. They are expected to go around their Archdeaconry preaching regularly to different congregations and also to be involved with difficult and sensitive matters that crop up in parishes.

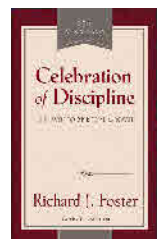
David had been doing all this whilst also being Priest-in-Charge of a Parish and also being an award-winning poultry breeder!

On behalf of the folk of St Thomas' and St Peter's I thank you, David, for all you have done as Archdeacon of Chesterfield and hope you enjoy your (semi) retirement.

Mark Hoare

Celebration of Discipline

Recordings of the Lent Course studying this book are available at www.st-thomas-brampton.org/easter2009.html#s



Confirmation Service at St Thomas'

A Baptism and Confirmation Service was held at St Thomas' Church on Sunday 22 February. The service was conducted by Bishop Jack Nicholls, (who has recently retired as Bishop of Sheffield).



Bishop Jack with the candidates and Matt Barnes -Rector of St Thomas' and Andy Broom -Vicar of St John's

The candidates were from St Thomas': Ashley Weatherall (who was also baptised by total immersion), Lisa Collins, Julie Lomas, Ben Marshall and Robin and Hayley Broadbent and St John's Walton: Sophie Green and Stephen Menary.



Ashley's baptism by immersion



Ashley gave a short testimony. He said that when he and his fiancée Lisa (who was also confirmed) had enquired about getting married at St Thomas' they had the Alpha course recommended to them –which they went on and completed.

He in turn recommended Alpha to anyone else who wanted to know more about the Christian faith saying that many of the questions that he had were answered both by Matt, the Rector, and others taking part.

Finally Ashley thanked everyone at St Thomas' for making Lisa and himself so welcome in the couple of months they had been coming to the church.

Listen to the service and see more pictures at www.st-thomas-brampton.org/podcasts2009.html#8

Run the Race –Mark Torkington

Mark gives his testimony and tells us why he is running the London Marathon on 26 April this year.



1 Corinthians 9:24 (NIV)

Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize.

It is a good Christian witness to share our testimony and it helps if we have reflected prayerfully and prepared ourselves for when opportunities will invariably present themselves. This is Jesus' Great Commission.

I was raised as one of five children in a family home in Heald Green and then Gatley near to Stockport. My parents are from a working class background and always worked very hard to raise a large family with

limited resources. They held to 'old-fashioned' principles as parents and brought us up to be decent, honest, considerate and diligent. My up-bringing was not Christian but it was happy, and these values do overlap with Christian main beliefs.

I had a fairly difficult time, (being bullied) in my mid-teens; and looking back now perhaps this was a necessary lesson for me to learn that I was not as self-sufficient as I liked to believe. This was also the time that I first turned to God, attending my local church in Cheadle. I discovered a whole new dimension in my life (colour and 3D - rather than 2D and B+W). My Christian journey had begun, but it was fairly lonely and sporadic.

At university (St Andrews) one of my best friends was a Christian, and again with the benefit of hindsight, I now realise that his (very natural and often under-stated) witness was very influential. He lent me a few Christian books which I found incredibly exciting –it was like discovering a whole new world. At his wedding in a castle in Scotland, I recall his speech; he talked about Jesus as his best friend and the most important part of his life. It was the first time that I realised that it was possible to 'know' Jesus as a person.

I trained to be a GP in the Lake District and met and married Jacqui during this time. Jacqui is not a Christian – though I still contend that her natural self is often much more 'christian' than mine. When our first child, Richard, was

/continued

born I very much wanted him to be christened and we both attended the local baptism course. This reinforced (and reminded) me of the pivotal importance of God in my life – though I have to confess that more pressing and material matters often pushed God to the peripheries.

We moved to Chesterfield in 1993 when I joined a general practice surgery in Brimington. Michael and then Katie were born, and I ensured that both children were christened –at St Thomas’. Christopher Frith was Rector and he invited me to attend the Alpha course at St John’s. I thoroughly enjoyed this course and for the first time in my life I had regular contact with a church and the benefit of Christian fellowship and love. By the end of the course I gave my life to Christ, and was confirmed soon afterwards. Jacqui attended a subsequent Alpha course –at my request –but has never (yet) discovered the importance of Jesus in her life.

I continue to work as a full time GP in Brimington and am now involved increasingly in the education of younger doctors. Medicine can sometimes be rather mundane but is often about serious or ‘life and death’ matters and I find that my Christian faith helps enormously. I believe that it helps me cope better and to care more.

My younger sister Mandy was killed two years ago in a road accident. She was the innocent victim of a speeding police van. Mandy came to Christ in her late teens and had become a very active Christian in her last few years, especially where she worked, in the physiotherapy department at Wythenshawe hospital. On the night of her death she had taken several work-mates to the final meeting of the Alpha course at her regular church. Mandy had just dropped her friends off and was driving home when she was killed.

Her premature death has caused a great deal of sadness and yet I recognize that God has been at work in increasing our dependence on his grace. My parents have come to faith since Mandy’s death and I know that she would have willingly given up her life in order to bring this about. My parents spend a lot of time now involved in charity work in South Africa and they do this in memory of Mandy. Jesus has become central to their lives and I can see God working through them. I continue to pray for my brother and other two sisters that they may also come to know God in their lives.

Mandy was a regular supporter of Oxfam and since she died I have taken over her monthly donation. I decided that I wished to do something significant as a testimony to Mandy’s life. I believe that God has led me to enter this year’s London Marathon, running on behalf of Oxfam and attempting to raise £2000. Anyone who would like to support this endeavor can speak to me in person or sponsor me on my web-page, at:- www.justgiving.com/marktorkington

What have been the main lessons of my Christian journey?

- God is real, and He loves each one of us dearly.
- We do not deserve his mercy but we are forgiven through his grace.
- Jesus is the Son of God and has paid the price of our sins; we are clothed in righteousness earned by the blood of Christ.
- We need to work in partnership with God and allow him to work through our lives –Mandy’s prayer was that God would use her as a *channel of his love*.
- It is easy to be tempted and to be distracted away from God; and we can readily slip into selfishness and sin.
- We must constantly guard our mind, heart and soul and confess when we sin and seek forgiveness, and truly repent of our self-centered ways.
- God’s Holy Spirit can free us from the slavery of sin.
- Christian living is tough; it is a daily (minute by minute) commitment.
- We are not protected from pain and suffering, but by the Grace of God we are helped through dark times, and we know we are destined to eternity in the presence of God, with no more tears or pain.
- We need regular fellowship and support from other Christians in order to share God’s love and help us keep our eyes fixed firmly on Jesus.
- The peace of God surpasses all expectations.
- The victory of God has already been achieved –Satan is defeated.
- If we have the love of God in our hearts we will obey him and nothing is impossible.

I conclude with this Bible verse:

Hebrews 12:1 (NIV)

God Disciplines His Sons

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.

Mark Torkington



If you would like to sponsor Mark running the Marathon speak to in person or by telephone or visit www.justgiving.com/marktorkington

Bishop Alastair Encourages Holymoorside to Build its own Cathedral

On Sunday 18 January, the Bishop of Derby, Alastair Redfern, officially dedicated the extension/modernisation work to the vestry at St Peter's Church in Holymoorside.

At a time when we are told of falling church attendance, it is heartening to see such extension work undertaken. In his address to the congregation, Bishop Alastair encouraged us saying that we were building a 'cathedral' in Holymoorside to the glory of God and for the benefit of the wider community, and for generations to come.

The building work was undertaken by Mr Tom Stockton, a well known and respected local builder, using local stone in keeping with the original building. Mr Stockton had worked with his team on a rebuilding project some years earlier when St Peter's was significantly extended and developed.

This latest work to the vestry has given the building a damp course, better and safer access for all, much needed storage space, additional room for use by the community and crèche. The work has also restored the building to its original appearance.

The fundraising activities have been many and various, including the church and members of the community and with support from a number of funding bodies. These include the Derbyshire Churches and Chapels Preservation Trust for grant aid distributed on behalf of Waste Recycling Environmental (WREN) from the Landfill Tax Credit Scheme and the All Churches Trust.

Polly Ryan



Before the service in the new vestry



A painting of St Peter's showing the new vestry

Bishop Alastair celebrates Holy Communion



Bishop Alastair with Tom Stockton and his wife

The Bishop having a chat with Tom



Being Resolved....to Show Care Passionately

At the beginning of the year at St Thomas' eleven o'clock service we had a series of sermons based on the theme 'Being Resolved'.

One of the weeks it was '*Being Resolved....to Show Care Passionately*'. David Sanderson spoke on this. He made reference to various passages in the bible where compassion is demonstrated, including the Good Shepherd in Psalm 23 and the Good Samaritan. David also had some contemporary illustrations of people and the church showing compassion. Through acts of compassion Christian love often shows through and people come to faith.

However David warned that showing care compassionately wasn't easy –it costs. It costs financially and time-wise. It needs patience and resolve and no small amount of courage.

So why do we do it? This poem, read in the service answers this question.

Why me Lord?

It costs, it hurts to really care
It takes my time, my finances and
my strength
Why me Lord?
Why do I have to care for others
Stop what I want to do, to lend them
a hand
Care enough to take time out to pray
Life is so busy and getting busier
Why me Lord?
Time is too short already
There is always so much more to be
done
So many voices, needs, urgent
demands
The pressures increase each day
Lord why me?

Because.....

*You are my child
You must care because I
care
I gave everything for you
For those I want you to care
for
I cared so much I died on
the cross for you
I paid the price for your sins
with my own blood
I died in your place
You care because I care*

Why not me?

Here am I Lord, send me!

Listen to the sermon and poem at
www.st-thomas-brampton.org/podcasts2009.html#1

Christian Aid Week 2009

10-16 May

This year it is vital that we give generously to Christian Aid.

However bad it is for richer nations, it is the poor and vulnerable in developing countries who will suffer most from the current financial crisis, which is not of their making.

Already hard-hit by soaring food and energy prices that pushed up inflation, causing food shortages and widespread hunger, poor countries can only look on helplessly as demand for their exports drops and vital remittances sent back by family members working in the industrialised world rapidly dwindle. To cap it all, richer countries, in a desperate bid to shore up their economies, are failing to honour aid commitments.



Julie Lomas is on a Journey

Julie Lomas is on a journey to become a Church of England Reader. At an 11am service in February –the Sunday of the evening Confirmation Service at which Julie was confirmed, she told us briefly what this entailed and why she was doing it.



I was brought up in the Baptist Church and baptised at the age of 14 by immersion in a church in Tynemouth in Devon. This was the first time I confirmed publicly my faith in God and said “Yes” to Him. It is a privilege to be able to do it a second time by being confirmed in the Anglican Church.

The reason I am on this journey is because over the last two years I have felt God calling me to walk down a path with him that may lead to some sort of formal ministry in the church. So in order to take advantage of the teaching and training that is on offer I am committing myself to God and the church family of whom I have been a member for over twenty years.

What I would like to emphasise is that you are never too old to say “Yes” to God. I was a teenager and I thought that was the time to say yes. But all through my Christian journey there have been opportunities for me to say yes in a more public way.

I am now going forward on this journey to gain experience, some training and teaching, and to do things that I have not done before. If I manage to complete the journey it should lead me to being licensed as a lay minister in 2010. But what is most important for me is that I walk closely with God and follow him where he leads me.

You can listen to Julie speaking at www.st-thomas-brampton.org/podcasts2009.html#1

Readers are unpaid lay people in the Church of England, from all walks of life, who are called by God, theologically trained and licensed by the Church to preach, teach, lead worship and assist in pastoral, evangelistic and liturgical work.

Happenings.....



St Thomas' men had a night out at the Thai Pavilion in February



Holymoorside Choral Society's Christmas concert raised £750 for St Thomas' Development Project. A cheque was presented by members of the society at an 11am service in February.



St T's Youth Weekend Away 2009

Dates: 6th to 8th February, location: Pately Bridge, Yorkshire.

This year's youth weekend away was quite unlike any previously as for the entire weekend we were surrounded by a beautiful and very snowy landscape. We have seen snow on weekends away before, but never this much!



Thankfully though the roads were all very clear and we reached Studfold Farm on the Friday evening without a problem. We took the Friday evening to settle in and played some games to help us get to know each other better.

We also had our first discussion session. This year all the sessions were based on Revelation 21:4 *"He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away"*. We had five sessions over the course of the weekend and used them to think about what God promises us for the future and how that can have an effect on our lives now.

On the Saturday we visited How Steen Gorge and saw icicles up to 3 feet long! We also spent some time building snowmen, creating the largest snowball possible, constructing an igloo and of course ensuring that all us leaders got completely soaked in a rather large snowball fight. In the afternoon we had a recycling challenge and some more sessions before settling down to watch 'The Winston Link' (a very amusing quiz show created specifically for the occasion).



On Sunday we visited Fountains Abbey, a stunningly beautiful National Trust site, before clearing up and departing. We went bowling in Harrogate on our way home to have a fun ending to a very fun and enjoyable weekend.

Everyone had a really good time learning, laughing, eating, sleeping (for a surprisingly long amount of time actually!), making friends and throwing lots of snowballs!

Kat Witham

Are Men Becoming Extinct?



At February's Men's Breakfast at St Thomas' the Rector led a discussion as to why the number of men in the Church is reducing fast and why the ministry to men is so important.

Some significant statistics suggest that in the last twenty years 49% of men have left the Church in this country. This is a broad brush statistic and it may vary between denominations and worship styles but for the Church of England it is a true reflection.

Statistics also show that that whilst men still dominate the priesthood, two thirds of the Church membership are women (look at our congregation) and the majority of church events are run by women.

Even more worrying is that the rate of loss of men from the Church is increasing. If the current rate of loss continues it is predicted that by 2028 men will all but have disappeared from the Church in the UK. This trend is also reflected in the number of men coming forward to become ordained. Since the year 2000 there has been about a 50% drop and the trend is accelerating.

What can we learn from others?

There is no gender gap in Islam, Buddhism, Judaism or Hinduism, nor is it a feature of the Eastern Orthodox Church. So it could be argued that men are still interested in spiritual things. This implies that the Church in the West alienates men and deters them from participating.

Why is it so vital to reach out to these missing men?

The commitment to Church is generally stronger if both partners are Christians and church goers. If only one is a Christian there can be stresses and strains set up within the family. Again research shows that 93% of families will follow a father to becoming a Christian where as only 17% will follow a mother.

Why is it getting harder to get men to come to Church?

Is the worship and fellowship that the Church of England (and other churches) offers something that men do not feel comfortable with, cannot relate to or engage with? For example women tend to relate 'face to face' with people – they can sit and talk with each other in a group or one to one. Men on the other hand relate 'side by side' –they will chat when doing activities together. Asking a man to sit down and tell someone about his faith is not natural.

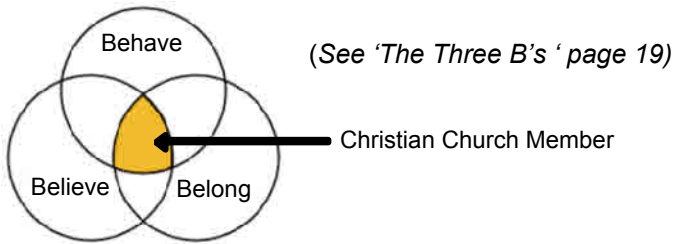
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However, if he is on the allotment he is far more likely to talk to his neighbour as they dig together.

What can be done to get and keep men in the Church?

There are three stages to becoming Christians and Church members. This can be illustrated by three interlocking circles.

When they all come together we get a Christian Church member. People can 'join' each circle in a different order although the Church's 'tradition' has been behave first, then believe and finally belong. However men usually need to belong first, then believe and then behave. So we have to get men to first belong to the Church –i.e. we need to create a space where men can belong. We need to encourage men to want to come to Church.



How can we do this at St Thomas' and St Peter's?

Social events -are they attractive to men? How often have you heard someone say 'I won't come to church –but I'll come and play cricket with you' or 'I'll come for a meal out or a quiz night'? We need to engage with people where they are comfortable.

To try and do this, over the next few months we are organising a number of events including meals out, a walking weekend, a 'DadFest' for Dads and their sons and the revival of the church cricket match. (Watch out for more details.)

Our services –are they in a style that men want? Do men like our modern worship songs or do they want 'Stadium Rock' type music where they can really sing out as if they were at a sporting event? Do they want long drawn out services and sermons –or something punchy and to the point?

Evangelism and outreach to others –where and what sort of things are men good at or are prepared to do?

As Matt said in a sermon recently –we all have a role to play in evangelism. We need to get on and reach out to men or else they will be an extinct breed in Church. Listen to the sermon referred to: 'Being Resolved to Share Christ Consistently' at www.st-thomas-brampton.org/podcast.html#1

The Three B's

The Church has often functioned under this paradigm:

1. **Behave** -an outsider must first prove that they can behave.
2. **Believe** -if they prove that they can behave, then the Church will help them learn how and what to believe.
3. **Belong** -once they prove that they can behave and they have learnt to believe, then the Church will let them belong.

Jesus works under a different paradigm:

1. **Belong** -Jesus lives in a way that he gives value and dignity to everyone. 'Sinners' wanted to be around him and he accepted them. He gave them a sense of belonging.
2. **Believe** -it is through belonging that Jesus teaches people how and what to believe.
3. **Behave** -after being accepted and being brought to faith (belief), Jesus teaches people to behave and live as he wants them to.

Jesus' model is the better.

Many churches (including ours) have slogans like 'Come just as you are' and/or, 'All are welcome here'; but do we **welcome everyone?**



The Wedding of Jenny and Simon Modi

The wedding took place on 17 January 2009 between Jenny (nee Travis) and Simon Modi.

Jenny was a member of St Thomas' for many years and is the daughter of Andrew and Elizabeth Travis. Both Jenny and Simon are doctors - Jenny is working in Manchester and Simon in Liverpool.

There were four bridesmaids who are well known at St Thomas's - Katie Travis, Becca Tyler, Sarah Dawson and Sarah Belshah (nee Frith).

The service was conducted by Christopher Frith. The choir consisted of members of The Derbyshire Singers, conducted by Joe Clark, and augmented by some of our own St Thomas' choristers. Philip Herrick was the organist.

