

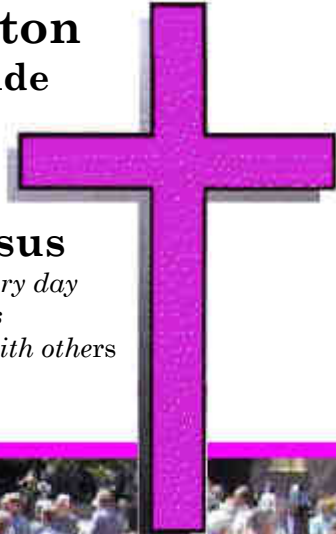
PLOUGHSHARE

August/September 2003

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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*



Whats the occasion? - Page 8

From the Churchwarden JULY 2003



Have you moved house recently? A few weeks ago I helped a friend to move and I must say I agree with whoever it was who said moving is the third most stressful experience you can have! We are all faced with moving at certain times in our lives for various reasons. Young people changing schools, leaving home for the first time, going to university: others of us changing jobs, retiring or re-locating. None of us can escape change.

The more middle-aged among us usually find change disturbing. It makes us feel insecure. Most of us are comfortable where we are and with what we know, we are reluctant to give up long held ideas and habits. Do you ever feel that you would like to freeze life where it is? Perhaps it took everything we have to get where we are - "Let's go" is not what we want to hear. Decisions have to be made - what to take, what to leave behind, what to dispose of. Is this the chance you have been waiting for to 'set your house in order'? Are you strong enough to leave behind the things that have served their purpose? Are you a victim of misplaced sentiment? Practicality verses sentimentality is not easy to deal with.

Change can also be painful, especially when it means leaving behind people you love, because they are unable or unwilling to move. We all need time to deal with these feelings. Viewed in a positive way change can be seen as a challenge, a chance to further your career or to take your life in a new direction, as an opportunity to wipe the slate clean, to move on and start again. Whatever the nature of the change perhaps it would help us to deal with it better if we saw it as an opportunity to re-evaluate our lives on practical, personal and spiritual levels.

Attitude can either keep us moving on or cripple our progress. It's up to us. If we allow him, God will work in our lives, taking away the things that don't belong and pruning those that do.

He will remove the things that have served their purpose, refuse to change, will give trouble in the future, are standing in the way of something better, are holding us back.

Jesus said, "I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful." John 15: 1-2

Do you have traditions in your family? Perhaps to do with birthdays, Christmas etc. Be honest, are you happy with all of them? Is it time 'the wind of change' blew through some of them? Unfortunately traditionalism can squeeze the life out of us if we don't keep it in check. I'm not talking about the right kind of traditions: the ones that give us deep roots and an anchor in the storms of life; traditions like believing the Word, loving God, living for others and becoming 'salt and light' wherever we go. I am talking about the difference between petty prejudices and Bible principles, refusing to be bound by religious practices that turn non-Christians 'off' and keep them out of God's kingdom. We need to stand on the side of openness, allowing room for the untried, the unpredictable and the unexpected, while holding fast to the truth. We need to be on our guard so that we don't become self-appointed wing-clippers frowning on anything new, shooting down all who attempt to fly, and pouring others into the mould of our personal preferences. We read in the Bible how for some people faith depended too much on maintaining a particular tradition or style than was healthy. The Galatian Christians, for example, had fallen into that danger and it is surprisingly easy today for us to follow suit. We all have our 'traditions', patterns of spirituality, church life and worship which we regard as authentic, important, even vital expressions of faith. We too can be in danger of defending our 'traditions' as the only real way of worship. Many of these Galatians were sincere people who wanted to inject spiritual discipline into their lives, but the Christian life cannot be lived to a formula: 'do it this way, and you'll get it right with God'.

Because so many problems result from reckless haste, the Bible talks a lot about 'waiting on God'. And that's a good thing. But look out, you can wait too long! God said, "I have begun .. Now (you) begin to conquer and possess ..." Deuteronomy 2: 31. Are we saying, "I'm waiting for God to move?" Maybe he's waiting for us to move! God

promised Abraham a great future, but it didn't happen until he left his comfort zone and went out -"Abraham ... obeyed and went even though he did not know where he was going" Hebrews 11 : 8. When Pharaoh's army trapped Israel at the Red Sea the Lord said to Moses, "Tell the Israelites to move on." Exodus 14:15. The time for waiting and praying was over, in order to receive their next blessing the Israelites had to face and overcome their immediate fear and march across the Jordan when it was in flood. It happened only when they started moving!

The disciples left everything to follow a man they didn't even begin to understand. They had dreamed of a Messiah who would establish a kingdom and overthrow Rome, so the crucifixion blew their minds. And the resurrection created problems too, now they had to preach a controversial Gospel that could cost them their lives. They certainly didn't know how much it would cost them or change them when they decided to follow Jesus.

If you think accepting change is difficult - try introducing it to others! We are all resistant to change to some extent - venerating the past to such an extent that no progress or growth can be made. The period of the vacancy in this parish will soon be at an end. Meanwhile there is still a great deal to be done, not least in the day to day running of our churches. In spite of all the 'busyness' we need to prepare ourselves for change, to keep an open mind and a positive attitude, so that we are able to rise to the challenge. We know God disturbed many people, Abraham, the Israelites in Egypt, the disciples, Paul and others we read of in the New Testament. Their outlook and attitudes were changed in order that the gospel could be shared. In the next few weeks perhaps

- we should take some time to give ourselves a spiritual audit and
- reflect on where are we going as a church and why.

The God we serve is a God of change; he is always on the move. In the opening sentences of the Bible we read "In the beginning ... the Spirit of God was hovering (moving) over the waters" Genesis 1: 1-2. And he is still moving today! As Christians we need to respond to issues which affect all followers of Jesus. How can we pray for growth and then defy change? The people of Israel had to move when the cloud moved; otherwise they would have been left behind! Are we prepared to play an active role in promoting the future of the

Christian faith, or do we prefer to be 'left behind'?

I feel there are some questions I should be asking myself. I wonder if you will ask yourself similar questions in the weeks and months to come.

Am I excited by the prospect of change? Am I ready for change? Is our church ready for change? Am I willing to support any necessary changes? Am I aware of God's hand on all that is happening in this parish? Do I see change as a blessing? Am I spiritually ready to face the challenge of change in the world-wide church?

I feel I need to pray, "Father, whatever it costs, help me to move on with you."

Pam Brimelow (Church warden)

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS:

WE WELCOME INTO THE CHURCH IN BAPTISM

St Thomas'

6 July Ciara Erin Cox

St Peter's

1 June Jasmine Mia Kerry



We congratulate on their marriage

St Thomas

24 May Karla Strong and Dean Wall

28 June Caroline Hammond and Sean Cummins

WE EXTEND SYMPATHY TO THE RELATIVES AND FRIENDS OF
THOSE WHOSE FUNERALS HAVE TAKEN PLACE IN
RECENT MONTHS

12 June John Marshall (83)



Dear Diary,

Dates to remember during the next few months:

Wednesday 10th September - The service of Installation and Induction for our new Rector, Rev David Mouncer. The service starts at 7.30pm, but must arrive early for a seat!

Friday 12th September - 7.30pm "Showstoppers" at St Thomas', performed by Robert Spencer and friends. Something a bit different to cheer us all up at the start of the autumn!

Wednesday 17th September - the monthly visit to local Residential Homes, taking a short service to residents at Chatsworth Lodge, Brookholme and Rydall House - meet at 1.10pm at St Thomas' to share in this quiet yet important ministry to the spiritual needs of the most elderly in our parish.

Wednesday 24th September - Alpha is back! The autumn Alpha course, finding out some of the answers to life.

Sunday 28th September - Harvest thanksgiving in our churches - a time to thank God for all the good things he provides day by day, and to share them with others in need, locally and internationally. Services at St Thomas' at 9 and 11am, and at St Peter's at 9.30am.

Julie

Vacancy Update...the final installment



As you are reading this David Mouncer and family should be in Chesterfield and settling in to the new rectory. They were due to move to Chesterfield at the end of July. David's induction is on Wednesday September 10th at St Thomas' and he formally takes up his duties on the following Sunday.

During part of August David, Lisa, Benjamin, Elizabeth, Joshua and Samuel will be away on holiday. The rest of the time will be spent, no doubt, getting to know the area and getting ready for the start in September.

Our prayers have been answered.....the new rectory is ready and the children have been allocated places at the local schools. Let us continue to pray as they settle in and David prepares himself for his ministry at St Thomas' and St Peter's.

Our vacancy will have lasted just over a year. This may sound a long time but I believe that God has had his hand on us throughout this time. At no time has the process of appointing a new rector stalled...we have always been moving forward from one stage to another and everything has fitted into place. God has provided us with the people to continue His work during the vacancy and to do what was necessary to appoint David. We praise God for this!

I should like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has helped in any way. I cannot name everyone but would like to single out just a few.

First the office staff, Julie, Anne and Enid. The amount of administration they have done is enormous; and they are still hard at it preparing for the induction service and beyond. Someone said to me recently that as warden I must have had to write many letters and reports during the vacancy. I had to admit I had not written a single

one and had only signed about three pieces of paper...a testament to the efficiency and hard work of the office staff.

Secondly I should like to thank Robin Balch. He and Eileen came to Chesterfield to retire about two years ago. Little did he know he would be back in front line ministry within a year! Robin can now retire again although I know he will be very active in supporting David in his ministry.

Finally I should like to thank Pam Brimelow my fellow warden. As well as her duties on Sunday, Pam has spent hours 'behind the scenes' working away. During the week she has often been at church once or twice a day making sure everything is going smoothly. Pam is in her fourth year as warden; most wardens only serve for three years.

So, as we approach a new chapter in the history of our parish, let us continue to pray for God's blessing and look forward with excitement to the future.

Mark Hoare



A Celebration and Welcome to Pat

I am very pleased for both Pat Clayton, herself, and St. Thomas' Church, that she has now been licensed, 12th July 2003 at St Mary's (Crooked Spire) Chesterfield, to serve the Church in the Office of a Reader, after being selected and trained by Derby Diocese. We warmly congratulate her on this achievement and the ministry that it gives her.

I am sure that Pat has greatly enjoyed and benefited from the training that she has received. Sometimes it may have appeared long and demanding. However the care and expertise given and the opportunity to study theology and pastoral issues, would have been of enormous value. Remembering my own training more than 10 years ago, I know she would have gained a tremendous amount, from sharing with others on the

course from different backgrounds and churches. I remain grateful for that opportunity, and how it has enriched my life and deepened my faith. It has been for me, as it will be for Pat, a great privilege ministering to God's Church and serving Him in many other ways as well.



St. Thomas' Church should feel very proud of her, and grateful that they have such an excellent addition to their group of able readers. To me, she appears a youthful, competent and gifted person.

Her training and skill as a teacher shines through, as we already know from the lovely way she conducts worship and preaches her well ordered, inspiring sermons. As a reader, Pat has many years to give, and God willing, we will have her ministry for a long time to come.

So on behalf of the Church, I would like, as a fellow reader, to welcome Pat into this licensed office of Reader. We look forward to her wearing her "blue scarf of office" (where appropriate) and continuing her unique contribution to life of St. Thomas' Church.

God bless you, Pat, and use your ministry richly among us.

**Eileen Balch
(Reader)**

St. Peter's Holymoorside – Altar Frontals



IN 1996 we designed and made our first altar frontal. It was red for martyrdom. Jane Caley, Pat Lowe and I made up the team. Since then, we have designed and made a green one, a purple one and recently finished a white one.

Jane, however, departed for the south after the completion of the first two. Into our group came Sheila Russell to help us, steered carefully by Jane. Sheila is

a resident of Holymoorside and helped in the making of the village map.

Pat machined frantically whilst Sheila embroidered. On the purple frontal she made the crown of thorns, five silver tears (or drops of blood) and some lines of silver, making a truly sacrificial theme.

The white frontal is decorated with blue velvet and gold. The centre panel was embroidered by Sheila in gold thread with gold beads and white organza. Sheila spent many hours on this intricate work, and we are very grateful for the use of her skills. Pat also machined away quite merrily, making not only the frontal but the stole, the burse and the veil. The panel is the flying angel taken from Revelations 14 and the stole has thoughts of Jacob's dream (Genesis 28), angels and William Blake.

Jean Millard
Embroidery Team

People and Jesus - Claire Simmons (Student).



I've been a part of St. Thomas' Church for the past 12 years following our move from the Channel Islands. All the young peoples' work has benefited my growth as a Christian from Quest Club to CYFA with Petra.

I guess the thing that has most impacted my Christian life was going off to university. I am studying Theology at Durham and will go into my final year in October.

One of the first things I realised on becoming a student was that I did not have to be a Christian, no one was making me. Although at home I'd never really objected to going to church etc. it had always been easy to go along with Mum and Dad. It was in Durham that I realised being a Christian wasn't the easy straightforward option.

I went along to our college Christian Union and discovered it wasn't particularly big (although the whole university CU is massive). But over the first few weeks I noticed that the people who went were really serious about being Christians and attempted to live transparent Christ-like lives in a world where everyone is watching. It was in those first few weeks of my time at Durham that I made a conscious decision to live as a Christian and not be half hearted about it.

Our college CU has grown enormously over the past three years and sharing fellowship, being part of bible study groups and encouraging each other to share our

faith with friends has been a privilege. In my college the Christian Union is seen as part of college in the same way as any other society and we are very fortunate to be in that position.

Throughout my time in Durham I've done lots of stuff with the main CU and now I'm working as the Evangelism secretary on the exec. The CU has a very large membership so coordinating it is no small task. The things I've been involved in most recently were organising an Explore course, (a little like Alpha), following our mission and a new project called Hot Potato's which are fortnightly evangelistic lunch bars.

Currently we're working on a programme for Freshers' Week including a jazz cafe in the student Union and a rather ambitious evangelistic CD project. We aim to be able to produce 3500 CD's, enough to give one away to each of the Freshers' arriving in Durham in October. The CD is already recorded all we need to go ahead is £2200. We hope giving away CD's will be a culturally relevant means of spreading the gospel in Durham.

For now though, I'm back at home in Matlock for the summer, working at Nat. West, doing holiday club and most excitingly I'm going back packing in Europe for a month with my best mate!

If you want to know more about the Christian Union in Durham please get in touch...

Claire.simmons@durham.ac.uk

Pathfinders weekend

This years Pathfinders weekend was a great time of fun, laughter and adventure. We spent the weekend at the Peak Centre in Edale, surrounded by countryside and chickens and led by Neil and Amanda Roper and Paula Simons, while Janet Bradbury prepared the lovely food.



We spent the weekend doing 'Who wants to be a Millionaire?' and other games as well as using the craft room. We played volleyball and even had an outdoor talent show round the campfire. There was a strong spiritual side to the weekend, where we looked at 'How do you become a Christian?' and 'How do you live as a Christian?' We had some really good discussions, and a chance to get closer to God.

The highlight of the weekend was a trip to Doncaster, which was on the Saturday. We travelled on the train to Sheffield, then Doncaster and finally by taxi to The Dome.

We went swimming and ice-skating, separated by a trip to McDonalds, before returning to the Peak centre to watch the Truman Show.

One of the Pathfinders commented, 'It was great fun to be with friends for the weekend, the trip to Doncaster was great.'

Having deposited everybody home and returned the minibus, thoughts turn to next year. The weekend is already booked and will be the 11th - 13th June 2004. See you there!

Neil Roper

Pathfinders B.B.Q. - July 2003



TRAILBLAZERS AND Lasers



The Trailblazers and Lasers came together for an end of term summer BBQ. We had a great afternoon having fun together. Everyone enjoyed playing games, especially the

chocolate (photo 1), and balloon ones (photo 2).

The younger Discoverers, Sparklers and All Stars are looking forward to their own end of term party. With games, food and a clown to entertain them, it promises to be a date they'll remember.



Julie

Kid's Korner

Here are the answers to the puzzle we set you in the last issue of Ploughshare – Did you find 16 books of the Bible hidden in the following passage?

I once made a remark about hidden books of the Bible (merely by a fluke) it kept people looking so hard for the facts and for others it was a revelation so were in a jam, especially since the names of the books were not capitalised. But now the truth finally struck home to the numbers of readers. To others it was a real job. Yes, there will be some really difficult ones to spot. Others may require judges to help them. I will admit it usually takes a minister to find one of them. There will be loud lamentations when it is found. A little lady says she brews a cop of tea so she can concentrate better. See how well you can compete. Relax now, for there really are sixteen names of the Bible hidden in the paragraph. We want it to be a most fascinating few moments for you. One preacher found fifteen books in twenty minutes – but it took him three weeks to find the sixteenth one.

How well did you do?

What is more valuable is knowing where to find them in your Bibles!



Keep it open and well read

Alison's at home in Arequipa!



Alison returned to Peru on March 30th and knew immediately that she had, 'Come home!' and that she was in the right place.

Within two weeks she had found 'the perfect apartment' with an amazing view of the whole of the city of Arequipa from the living room window. She feels safe and happy there, and sometimes, at night, she just sits in the dark and looks at the view.

She also says that God sent her angels to help her settle in, and she lists the names of eight people who turned up at various times to help her with moving in, buying furniture and generally getting organised.

She thanks God, too, for Katty who is helping to prepare her meals and is teaching her to cook, and for Abby who is helping with her cleaning – not because Alison is lazy, she is paying them so that they can pay their tuition fees for University.

There are now 172 children in eight classes at San Lucas School. Almost all the children have returned there, along with 60 new ones. Ivan, Waldir and Leslie have not returned because of family problems. She asks for our prayers for them. Ricky, a volunteer from Surrey is teaching in the school and is a huge help to Alison. She asks that we pray for a replacement when he leaves in August.

Some families are still struggling to pay the monthly fee. She asks for prayer for them and for wisdom as to how best they can be helped. The diocese of Peru has recently acquired a new building, which was previously an office block. This could potentially be the new San Lucas Secondary School. There is

also land with it, part of which could become a playground for the children.

As for the Casa Hogar San Jose – the six older children are now living in a house with two American Missionaries, who have agreed to house children of 13 years upwards from the children’s home. The six are very happy and there are also five new children at the home. Alison asks for prayer for them and also thanks you for your amazing prayers.

I know you will faithfully support Alison with prayer as she goes about her wonderful work with the children of Arequipa.

Yvetta Jacques
July 2003



Alpha-bites!

No recipe this time - just a plain and straight forward invitation to join the next Alpha course (and enjoy the REAL food) which will start on Wednesday 24th September, 7.00pm at St John's Church Centre, Walton.



Our apologies to those of you who expressed an interest to start the April course - unfortunately, not enough people came forward to make that course viable. This time, we are joining up with friends from St John's, so the September course will definitely go ahead.

What is Alpha?

Alpha provides an opportunity to find out more about the Christian faith. There are ten sessions which make up the course, each beginning with a light meal followed by a talk on a subject central to the Christian faith. Small groups of about twelve people, including some leaders, then discuss issues raised by the talks in a relaxed and open atmosphere. Alpha is for everyone - even you!

The next Alpha course starts on Wednesday 24th September. Please book your place by contacting Bill Galloway (Tel: 569296) or the Church Office (Tel: 558461) or pick up a leaflet in Church.

Holymoorside - St. Peter's Church. Arts and Crafts Exhibition

The tenth anniversary Arts and Crafts exhibition will be held in St. Peter's Church from Wednesday 20th - Monday 25th August. There will be a varied selection of work, including a children's section, from Walton and Holymoorside. On Saturday 16th August there will be a Landscape Painting Competition in the village, (entry forms from Rosie Gilligan 568321, or Adrian Marsden-Jones 566367). These paintings will be displayed and awards presented on Tuesday August 19th in the church at 7.30pm, during a Cheese and Wine preview evening, for which there will be a charge of £1.

The theme for the Well Dressing this year will be "water". Don't miss the blessing of the well with the Holymoorside Band on Thursday 21st August at 7.00pm. The well dressing service will be in the village hall on Sunday 24th August at 10.00am. This will centre round the theme of water, there will be a guest speaker and we will be thinking about the Third World where many do not have a clean water supply.

This is a family service and we are encouraging children to reflect this theme by dressing imaginatively as taps, buckets, raindrops, umbrellas etc! This is also a very special service for our three churches in the village, when we shall be celebrating the signing of a covenant together, committing us to continue to work in the community to promote and share God's love for each one of us.

There will be a collection for "Water Aid" during these events, the well dressing will be collecting for the Ashgate Hospice extension.

Adrian Marsden-Jones

Opening Times:

Wednesday	20th August	2.00pm - 5.00pm
Thursday	21st August	11.00am - 7.30pm
Friday	22nd August	11.00am - 6.00pm
Saturday	23rd August	11.00am - 6.00pm
Sunday	24th August	2.00pm - 5.00pm
Monday	25th August	11.00am - 4.00pm

My Favourite Bible Verse

"And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ..."

Ephesians 3:17,18

Love is a much mis-used word in our society today. We say that we 'love' ice-cream, or that we 'love' playing football, when actually we mean that we simply like or enjoy these things very much. Even in our relationships, when we say we love someone, there may be strings attached to this love, conditions or limits beyond which we might not be able to love them in quite the same way.

God's definition of love is different. He loves us unconditionally, without any strings or limits, whether we love him or not, whatever we have done in our lives, or indeed whether we believe in him or not. In fact, God loves us so much that he sent his Son, Jesus Christ, to die for us.

When someone is prepared to give up their life for another person, this is a very powerful demonstration of their love. Jesus died, not just for his friends, but for every single one of us. Paul's words in Ephesians tell us how vast God's love is, as if he is trying to describe its dimensions. He reminds us also that, not only is God's love infinite, it is also eternal. Like Paul, it is my prayer also that we may all grasp how wide and long and high and deep is Christ's love for each one of us.

**Pat Clayton
(Reader)**