

PLOUGHSHARE

August/September 2008

Volume 16, No 5



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*



**Its
welcome to our new
Rector, Matt and his
family**

**but its
farewell to some of our
church family members**

Find out more inside



60p per copy (£3.00per 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

St Thomas'

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

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

9am A fairly traditional service of Holy Communion every Sunday using 'Common Worship' and with a choir and organ.

11am A more informal service than 9am usually with a music group. There are children's groups (3 years old to school year 9) and a crèche.

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

6.30pm A fairly informal service usually with a music group.

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

6.30pm Pathfinders (school years 7-9) meet.

8pm CYFA (school years 10-13) meet.

St Thomas' please note

In August at St Thomas' there will only be one Sunday service in the morning at 10.30am.

August 3 rd and 17 th	Holy Communion
August 10 th , 24 th and 31 st	Morning Worship

The 6.30pm service will be as normal.

St Peter's

9.30am A fairly traditional service of Holy Communion every Sunday using 'Common Worship' and 'Mission Praise' and with an organ.

There is Sunday Club (3 years old to school year 9) and a crèche.

6pm A fairly traditional service of Evening Prayer using the '1662 Service' and 'Mission Praise' and with an organ

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

From the Rector -*Matt's first letter in Ploughshare*

Dear Friends,

Here's something I read recently, "You don't have to change. Survival isn't mandatory".

Change is all around us and if we choose not to change and adapt then eventually we will end up like the dinosaurs! My family and I have experienced a great deal of change recently as we've moved from our very settled life in Clay Cross to a brand new community here in Brampton. I'm really grateful to everyone who has made that transition easier for us but nonetheless we've experienced an enormous upheaval. Why do we all find change so difficult? Maybe it's because of what change means to us. Change means leaving behind old and comfortable ways of being and doing. Change means learning new skills and engaging with new people. Whatever the reason we sometimes struggle with new things. We must recognise that the only constant in life is indeed change itself.

Churches sometimes have the unfortunate reputation for being the institutions that are least open to change. The newspapers enjoy reporting the fierce reactions of angry Christians opposing new things –this is especially true as I write this article in the build-up to the Lambeth Conference –much of this reporting is sensational and inaccurate (–don't believe everything you read in the paper or see reported on the TV!) but it still aptly illustrates that the church is not always comfortable with new ideas. *[See article on page 17]*

For as much as change is a constant there are other constants in our lives that should have a great and more profound influence over us. Here's a couple to ponder. Through all the changes of life God is the same, yesterday, today and forever. Here's another, God's love for us never fails.

As Christian people Jesus is always calling us forward into new things –that's the nature of life and faith –but God has promised to walk with us along the path he calls us to tread. However uncertain we are about where this path might take us, God is there to be our guide. This is the single fact that gave me confidence to leave a settled life and move to Brampton.

I'm sure that we'll experience many changes in my time as Rector, some will be good, others more challenging –but together we can face those times confident in the knowledge that God holds all things in his hands and he will never abandon us –indeed, he will lead us all into his promise of good things.

Be at peace, **MJB**.

From the Editor Matt has written about change. Several members of our Church Family (and extended family) are about to have big changes in their lives -read about them in this edition and pray for them and their families.

Matt Becomes Our New Rector



Matt is led into St Thomas' Church by the Wardens and the front of the service order.

This is a report explaining the service and picking out some of the key moments.

As St Thomas' Church clock chimed seven on a warm sunny evening the choir and Church Wardens led Bishop Alastair and other invited clergy down the aisle from the West Door. Matt was left outside the church, no doubt pondering on what the future held for him at St Thomas' and St Peter's. Likewise we in the congregation were wondering what the future held for us under Matt's ministry. However any fears we or Matt might have had should have been banished by the first hymn we sang: *In Christ Alone my Hope is Found*. This hymn reminds us that Jesus is in control of our future if we entrust it to Him.

After the hymn, welcome and the opening prayers the Church Wardens returned to the back of church to collect Matt and present him to the Bishop and the congregation.

The Oaths

The formal part of the service began with 'The Oaths'. Matt held the Bible and pledged himself to the service of God in the parish, promising to be faithful to the Queen and to obey the Bishop. He affirmed his belief in the Christian faith and promised that he would only use the authorised forms of service. We then affirmed our faith by singing: *All My Hope on God is Founded*.



**THE PARISH CHURCH OF
BRAMPTON, ST. THOMAS**

**THE COLLATION OF
THE REVD
MATTHEW JOHN BARNES
AS RECTOR OF
BRAMPTON, ST THOMAS
BY**

**THE BISHOP OF DERBY
THE RIGHT REVD
DR ALASTAIR L J REDFERN**

**AND INDUCTION BY
THE ARCHDEACON OF CHESTERFIELD
THE VENERABLE DAVID C GARNETT**

Thursday 5 June 2008 at 7pm

The Liturgy of the Word

The first Bible reading was 2 Timothy 2:8-15. Paul tells Timothy (and us): 'Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead....This is my gospel....'

The second was Mark 12:28-34. Jesus gives us the Great Commandment: 'Love your God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength and love your neighbour as yourself.'

The sermon was given by the Bishop based on the readings. He told us that our mission was to share God's love and spread the message that Jesus Christ was crucified and is now risen from the dead.

The Life and Ministry of the People of God

We came to the part of the service entitled 'The Life and Ministry of the People of God'. We started by singing: *Beautiful Lord, Wonderful Saviour*, -also known as the '*Potter Song*'. In the song we declare that we will give our lives to God for Him to do with us as He wills. It includes the lines:

Take me, mould me, use me fill me, I give my life to the Potter's hands.

Matt poured water into the font to symbolise our Christian vision of experiencing and celebrating our new life in Christ. He was then presented with a Bible. This directs our lives, gives us encouragements and through it we grow in our Christian faith. Bread and wine were then brought forward to Matt at the Holy Table. Jesus broke bread with his disciples and Christians have been doing it ever since. This makes us all one with Him –however bad we have been.

This section was ended by singing two songs. The first: *Let the Weak Say I am Strong* is about Jesus dying, our sins being washed away and us coming to Salvation. In the second: *May the Words of my Mouth and the Thoughts of My Heart* we sing that we will surrender everything and follow Jesus. /continued



The assembled congregation



Matt taking 'The Oaths'

The Collation

Matt now moved to face the Bishop for the Collation. As Matt knelt, the Bishop read out the 'Deed of Collation'. The Bishop read "Matt, receive this cure of souls, which is both mine and yours." He then asked God to give Matt grace to fulfil his ministry, reverence in celebrating the sacraments, faithfulness in proclaiming the Word, diligence in pastoral care, tenderness in comforting, power in healing the wounds of God's people and humility, self-sacrifice and courage in all things. He required Matt to follow Jesus' example and lead others in the way of 'eternal joy'. (I hope all this applies to us too.) The Collation finished with the Bishop praying for Matt's family and home.

The Induction

Following the Collation came the Induction. The Bishop asked the Archdeacon, David Garnett to induct Matt into the parish. The Church Wardens and Archdeacon led Matt down the aisle to the West door where Matt was inducted into 'the real, actual and corporeal possession of the church and benefice of Brampton, St Thomas'. **Matt then rang the church bell to indicate the beginning of his ministry in the Parish.**

They returned up the aisle to the Rector's seat where Matt was presented with a map of the parish, a copy of the Electoral Roll of church members and the keys of the church. The Archdeacon finished the Induction by asking all of us in the congregation if we would uphold Matt and serve with him. To which we replied "By the grace of God we will".

The Greetings

The service became a little less formal as we came to the Greetings. The Rural Dean, Andy Broom, introduced a number of local representatives who welcomed Matt. These included the Deputy Mayor, representatives of the local churches, the local schools and the police. Mel, Matt's wife, was presented with a bouquet of flowers.

The Dismissal

The service ended with Matt reading out the details of the following Sunday's services and leading the intercessions. The Church Wardens then escorted Matt down the aisle and out of church as we sang St Thomas' version of: *Be Thou My Vision*.

Meet and Greet

Following the service there was time to meet and greet our visitors including the family and friends of Matt, members of his former parish and members of the local community over refreshments so ably prepared by the Social Committee.

*Listen to the service and see more pictures at
www.st-thomas-brampton.org/mb.html*

About the Service

The service had rather a grand title as can be seen on the front of the service sheet. Fortunately there was an explanation inside as to what it meant! In a nutshell the Collation is where the Bishop gives the new Priest the responsibility for the spiritual care for the people in the parish. The Induction is where the Archdeacon gives the new Priest his parish house and stipend.



Matt shares a joke with
Bishop Alastair



With the Bishop's Chaplain (left) and the
Archdeacon



Meeting and greeting after the service



Matt and Mel

Matt's First Sunday

Matt's first Sunday was 8 June. Again we were blessed with fine weather for the welcome party held after the morning services at St Thomas'.

Ellie helps Matt cut the
'Welcome Cake' watched
by Mel, Jack and Amy



“For I Was a Stranger and You Welcomed Me” -Matthew 25:35

Audrey Smith, our new minister at St Peter’s, introduces herself.

This is how I now think of you. I was a stranger, and you have indeed welcomed me. Your welcome has been neither distant nor overpowering, it is the sort of welcome that has allowed me time and space to settle in and get to know you. Welcoming people in a way that makes them feel comfortable is a gift of the Spirit. Thank you for extending it to me.



My brothers and sisters were all born in Scotland but I was born in South East London after my Dad moved the family south. He came to London to take up a job in the Government Offices in Whitehall where he worked until his early death in 1968.

I flew the nest at the tender age of twenty and went to live in Upper Norwood where I was confirmed, at All Saints Church. At the time I was working for The United Society for the Propagation of the Gospel (USPG) in the Schools’ and Children’s department. After five years of exciting and rewarding service with USPG I joined the Royal National Institute for the Blind (RNIB) as an Employment Consultant working alongside six colleagues covering South East London. This involved visiting newly visually impaired clients in their homes and working environment to assess them for new technology which would enable them to ‘see without sight’.

During this time I started my training for the Ministry –one of twenty six hopeful candidates! We spent four years training together on a part-time basis at the South London Christian Centre. We also met every month for a weekend of study and teaching time together and two weeks summer school each year. I am delighted to say we all still keep in touch and what a strength it is.

I served my curacy in South Croydon and worked as a Deputy Chaplain in St Helier Hospital in Sutton, before taking up my post at St Mary’s Church, Newent in Gloucestershire.

I have been richly blessed in my journeys throughout my life and I am delighted to be among you all here in Derbyshire. I very much look forward to spending some time with you. Every blessing,

Rev Audrey

People @ Prayer

About twenty of us gathered at St Thomas' on June 18th for People @ Prayer. Matt led and the theme was praying for our church here in Brampton.



We started by gathering around the **Holy Table**. This signified to us the reason we were there and why we come to church –because Jesus should be at the centre of our lives. We had the opportunity either to thank Him that he is in our lives or confess that we were not giving him the priority in our lives that we should.

From there we moved to the **choir stalls** and the '**musicians corner**'. Here we thanked God for our singers and musicians and the way they enhance our praise and worship. We also prayed for those behind the scenes, the PA and powerpoint operators.

We then gathered around the **lectern** to pray for those who preach and teach and lead our services. This included those involved with Sunday Club, Pathfinders, CYFA and other groups which our young people attend and groups that others attend including Rendezvous and Communion and Cuppa.

Our prayers next were for those who attend our services. We walked in and out and along the **rows of chairs** praying for those who would be using them in the coming Sundays.

The next prayer station was at the **main door**. Here we prayed for those coming into church through the doors, particularly new-comers and people seeking God. We also prayed for those who went out of the church through the doors into the mission field, be it locally or further afield.

This led us on to the **World Mission notice board** where we prayed for our mission partners who were out in the world putting their faith into action.

Our penultimate stop was in **Portacabin Two** –the one with the sloping floor! We prayed in here for the Living Stones Development Project. Matt prayed with such enthusiasm and conviction that I almost expected our new building to rise before our eyes!

Finally we returned to stand around the **Holy Table** again in church. Here we 'grounded' our prayers in Jesus, committing ourselves to go out to 'love and serve the Lord'.

Living Stones Development Project Update

The plans for the re-development of St Thomas' have been revised. There will be a pledge day on 12th October. More information available in the church or at www.st-thomas-brampton.org

Living Stones Fun'd Raising

John Small is Walking the Cumbria Way

Each year I set out on an expedition to either walk a long distance footpath or explore an area of this lovely country. This year my plan is to walk the seventy five mile long Cumbria Way in September.

If you would like to sponsor me then please:

- See me at church
- Send me an e-mail on john.small2@tesco.net
- Phone me on 01246 277456 (don't be afraid of the answer-phone)



Thanks, John

Recent Fun'd Raising

The Strawberry Tea raised £700, the Rendezvous Coffee Morning raised nearly £300 and Jenny Dods and Alison Shemwell have raised £1400 so far from making and selling jewelry and Steve Lomas, David Frost and Graham Brown raised £1000 cycling from Southport to Mablethorpe.



End of the ride at Mablethorpe



Toasting their arrival

Friday 8 and Saturday 9 August

Summer Rendezvous 'Cruise',
St Thomas' Church

Thursday 21 to Monday 25 August

Holymoorside and Walton
Arts and Crafts Exhibition

Thursday 21 August

7.30pm Blessing the Well,
Holymoorside

Saturday 23 August

2pm Family Fun Day,
Holymoorside

Sunday 24 August

10am Well Dressing Service,
Holymoorside Village Hall

Thursday 28 August

2pm Communion and Cuppa,
St Thomas' Church

Friday 29 August

7.30pm Furnace,
St Thomas' Church

Friday 12 September

Acoustic Evening,
St Thomas' Church

Diary Dates

Saturday 13 September

Derbyshire Churches Preservation
Trust sponsored 'Ride and Stride'

Sunday 14 September

8pm Alpha Course,
details to be published later

Sunday 21 September

Harvest Services,
St Peter's Church

Saturday 27 September

Harvest Supper,
St Peter's Church

Saturday 4 October

Line Dancing,
St Thomas' Church

Sunday 5 October

Harvest Services,
St Thomas' Church

Sunday 19 October

Memorial Service,
St Thomas' Church

Information correct when going to press. Please check the weekly notice sheet or www.st-thomas-brampton.org for up to date information -including other events.

Andy, Liz and Olivia Goodacre –are bound for South (East) Australia on 5th August

John and Barbara Goodacre bring us up to date.

As we write this article Andy, Liz and their ten month old daughter, Olivia, are living out of suitcases between continents!

Andy was part of the youth group here at St Thomas' in the 1990's before going to university in Guildford. After graduating he continued in Guildford as a part time member of the staff at St Saviour's Church, with responsibility for reaching out to the students at the university and working with young adults in the church. It was at the beginning of this time at St Saviour's that he became one of our St Thomas' Mission Partners. Andy and Liz had met at university where they both studied languages and European studies. They married in 2002.



It was during his time at St. Saviour's that Andy was accepted to go forward for training for ordained ministry within the Anglican Church, with the intention of pursuing a course which involved two blocks of training a year at St John's College, Nottingham and receiving all his practical training at St. Saviour's. Therefore it came as a complete surprise when he was invited to become a part time member of the staff at Christus Treff, a part Lutheran, part free evangelical church in Marburg, Germany. It was a fantastic opportunity for both Andy and Liz to further their experience of working in Europe. Andy had first met Roland Werner, the leader of Christus Treff, when he was working in Germany during the summer after his 'A' levels and later he went on to do a six month university placement at Christus Treff. It was during this time as Roland's personal assistant, that Andy received much encouragement and support and also met Christian leaders from around the world.

During the last three years in Germany, Andy has not only worked with the students and young adults in Marburg but has also taken leadership of the Lausanne European Younger Leaders network encouraging and supporting younger Christian leaders across Europe. He is really encouraged to be able to hand over this work to a new team of people who are very eager to take it forward. Andy's involvement in the worldwide Lausanne Movement will continue in Australia.

Alongside his work in Germany, Andy has now completed two years ordination training through St. John's College, Nottingham. He was ordained by the bishop at a service in Guildford Cathedral on 29th June this year. This was a very special day for us all.

Initially he and Liz had hoped to be able to continue their ministry in Europe, with Andy serving a curacy within the diocese of Europe. However this proved not to be, and just as they were expecting to return to the UK, Andy received an invitation to become curate of St. Matthew's Church, East Geelong in the diocese of Melbourne in Australia. What a surprise! Andy had first met the vicar at a Lausanne conference in Thailand in 2004!



Having said their farewells to all their friends in Germany and a temporary goodbye to all their belongings which are now in transit to Australia, Andy, Liz and Olivia will fly out to Australia on 5th August. Andy's curacy will be for four years and he will effectively be the assistant leader of the church, working closely with the vicar on the overall leadership of the church which is becoming ever more missional and community focused. Initially, Andy will have particular responsibility for developing and overseeing ministry and mission among youth and young adults. As time goes on he hopes to develop work with the local schools, colleges and the university.

They will be living right next to the church which means that all three of them will have opportunity to be part of the local community and Liz and Olivia will be able to be involved in church as well.

Please do pray for them as they begin this next stage of their journey with God. As parents we often smile when we remember how they chose to have the tiers of their wedding cake in the shape of suitcases!

Andy has now updated his website so you can always keep in touch via www.lifeincolour.com

If you would like to receive their newsletters please contact John on john.goodacre@lineone.net or phone 566294.

If you would like to find out more about their new church then go to www.stmatthews.org.au

John and Barbara Goodacre

Farewell from Phil and Rachel



Phil and Rachel with
Ellie (left) and Rosie

Phil Michell has been the Mission and Ministry Team member with responsibility for our children's and youth work. Phil looks back on his and Rachel's time at St Thomas'.

September 2000. Fuel strikes had just begun as petrol had just risen above 70p per litre! It was also the time when Rachel and I moved from North London to Chesterfield. Thankfully we had enough fuel to get here and so did the removal firm.

Not long after moving in we set about finding a church to join.

St Thomas' was the third one we visited. We were given a friendly welcome and by the end of the service I think we both knew that this was the place for us to worship on a regular basis.

Christopher Frith, who was the Rector at the time, was keen to get us involved in church life, but we'd been very active in our church in London and we both needed a bit of a break. Christopher was very gracious and allowed us a six month sabbatical before encouraging us to get stuck in.

We've been involved in various aspects of church life but the thing that has meant the most to us has been our home group. It started off by a group of us deciding to meet together 'unofficially'. As we were all in our twenties and thirties we nick-named the group '*Twerties*' and that name has remained ever since – even though most of us are now in our thirties and forties. The membership has changed quite a lot over the years as people have come and gone, but we have benefited so much from the relationships that have formed. We have shared good times and bad times, we have worshiped together, sweated over studies together, ministered to each other and had lots of socials as well. It has been the main part of our life at St Thomas' that has sustained us and helped us to grow.

In some ways we will be really sad to leave St Thomas'—particularly now that we have a new Rector—but we're also very excited to see what the future will hold as I go to college and then onto a curacy afterwards.

One of the best things we can do for each other is to encourage one another. As St Thomas' moves forward with a new Rector and a new building(!) my prayer is that everyone will move forwards in their relationship with God as they continue to build each other up and encourage each another.

From the Editor:

Phil is going to Trinity Theological College in Bristol to train as an 'Ordinand'. At the end of the course he will be ordained a 'Deacon' in the Church of England and after one year as a Curate he will then be ordained a 'Priest' (Vicar) in the Church of England.

On behalf of all Ploughshare readers may I thank you and Rachel for all you have done over the last six years –including the patience and perseverance you have shown in getting certain members of St Thomas' through their driving test!



Gareth Simmonds

–Worship Intern in Oxford

On 14th September I will be moving down to Oxford, where I will serve at St Aldates Church for just under a year as a Worship Intern. I will be one of about fourteen interns. We will all be part of a programme, which is called the 'School of Ministry'.

All of us will have four sessions of in depth teaching each week, along with mentoring. We will spend one day a week of service within the community and two days of apprenticeship with a ministry leader. We will all be assigned to a specific area of the Church's ministry, mine being the worship.

The year will also include two weeks overseas mission, which will happen around Easter time.

I will be living in a house just round the corner from the church, along with the other interns. The house is already owned by the church which is good because I don't have to go looking for somewhere to live.

Your prayers would be greatly appreciated as this is a big step in my life. I am very much excited about the year but it is still very daunting to think I will be moving out in just a couple of months!

Gareth Simmonds

Janet Turville's Christian Journey

Janet tells us about her Christian journey before she and Kevin leave St Thomas' and move to Devon.

**Thou camest, O Lord, with the living Word,
That should set Thy people free;
But with mocking scorn and with crown of thorn,
They bore Thee to Calvary.**

***O come to my heart, Lord Jesus,
There is room in my heart for Thee.***

As I knelt and sang these words as a fifteen year old in my local Anglican church I felt a stirring in my heart. I sang them prayerfully while not fully understanding their true meaning. It would be two years later and after a great deal of heartache that I would fully understand the meaning of them.



I had been raised in the Church of England choosing from the age of eight to go along to the main communion service with my grandmother as well as attending Sunday school in the nearby Church Army Hall after the service. There I had been taught the basics of the

Christian faith and had real head

knowledge but it hadn't impacted on my daily life. Confirmed at the age of ten when the vicar had said that he could see I was old enough to understand the faith, I was totally unaware that a personal relationship with Jesus was possible.

I was quite happy with my life, thank you. I was enjoying my school studies, had a number of friends, worked each weekend in a local supermarket earning my pocket money, went fell walking some Sundays and on others sang in the church choir. As a chorister I was stirred by the music and loved the solemnity of the Eucharist service.

To me my life seemed fine. Then at the age of seventeen my family life began to fall apart. My mother was ill in hospital for six weeks and I had to take hold and look after my younger sisters and my father. I still worked and did my sixth form studies. Then after my mother had recovered

and was back home my father dropped a bombshell. He had been seeing another woman and was leaving us all to move in with her. I was devastated but no more so than my mother who sat weeping all night. As I went to bed that evening I flung myself on my knees beside my bed and cried out- **“God only you can help us!”** I didn’t really know what I was praying for but knew that I needed the help that only God could provide.

God took me at my word and began to move in my life. Friends from school who I vaguely knew and had a deeper faith than me began to invite me to their homes and one in particular shared what Jesus meant to her. I’d never heard some one speak of Jesus as their best friend before but Hilary sat up all night telling me what Jesus had done for her. Other friends also began to share their experiences. It seemed as if everywhere I turned someone was telling me about becoming a Christian.

At first I questioned “was I not already a Christian, what was different about their experiences and mine”? Then as I realised there was a difference. I began to doubt I could ever become a Christian because I was never going to be good enough. I could see the chasm in my own life from what God wanted and what I was but I didn’t know how to bridge it.

Then on the 29th May 1977, at a friend’s baptism service in the local Baptist church, I heard the Gospel message for the first time and understood how it applied to me. The minister preached about the love of God and His faithfulness to all who have sinned and fallen short of God’s glory. As he explained how none of us can be good enough to become Christians and that only through what Jesus has done could we come to God. It was as if he spoke directly to me. As he concluded his message with an appeal for any who wanted to accept Jesus as their Saviour to come forward you couldn’t have kept me in my seat if you’d tried. As the rest sang: *“And can it be that I should gain an interest in the saviours blood,”* I almost ran forward to make my peace with God and to receive the life He offered through his Son, Jesus.

As the congregation sang: *“My chains fell off my heart was free, I rose went forth and followed thee,”* I knew the truth of the words. My own chains of selfishness had fallen off and I was free. I made the decision that day to follow Jesus and over thirty years later He is still drawing me after Himself.

That experience on the 29th May was the start of a journey which has taken me through many different expressions of Christian worship and service and through many trials.

I attended Matlock College of Higher Education training to be an RE teacher, joined the Christian Union and went from the Church of England via the Brethren Chapel to a House Fellowship. While in the House /continued

Fellowship I met my first husband and we married and settled down to raise our family, still part of that church. Our involvement took us to Scotland where we spent seven years serving God.

Then in 2000 I learnt of my husband's adultery and despite my attempts to heal our marriage in September 2003 I was divorced. During those years I stayed close to God and knew He had held me close to Him. I knew that this was the start of my new life and the first thing I needed to do was to find a new home church.

Walking into St Thomas' that first Sunday I knew I had come home. I loved the worship, felt surrounded by family and found a place I could serve my Saviour. In 2005 I met Kevin and was blessed to realise that God had brought us together. We married in St Thomas' in September 2006.

Now the time has come to move on. For the last few years I have felt called to serve God with my whole life and this spring it became clear that it was right to look for work as a Children's and Families' Worker. I applied for a number of jobs and was offered the post in two churches in the Torbay area. I begin this new chapter in my life on 1st September.

Finally, a big thank you to all at St Thomas' who have been such good friends over the last 5 years: you are welcome to come and holiday with us on the coast!

And remember: *God, who has called you into fellowship with his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, is faithful. (1 Corinthians. 1:9)*

Janet Turville

From the Editor:

Janet and Kevin have been involved in many things at St Thomas' including Janet being the Mission and Ministry Team member with responsibility for caring and sharing and Kevin being a Deputy Church Warden. On behalf of all Ploughshare readers may I thank Janet and Kevin for all they have done for us at St Thomas'.

Latest additions to the Church Website

st-thomas-brampton.org/podcast/index.html for testimonies from Matt Barnes, Tony Witham, Mark Hoare, John Thurston and John Baker and recent sermons, Matt explaining his ideas for the Development Project and Matt's Induction Service.

st-thomas-brampton.org/gallery.html for the latest pictures.

st-thomas-brampton.org/sttdev.html for the latest on the Development Project.

The Lambeth Conference

The Conference has just finished. Robin Dawson gives us an insight into its history and some of the issues it is facing.



Around the middle of July large numbers of men and a few women all wearing purple shirts were welcomed at Heathrow and other ports of entry to the UK. Who were these people? They were bishops of the Anglican Church who with their spouses were coming to the **Lambeth Conference**. This Lambeth Conference, which takes place in Canterbury, is the fourteenth of a series which started in 1867 and takes place every ten years.

What is the Lambeth Conference for? It is a consultative assembly of bishops and is one of the four "*instruments of communion*" of the Anglican Church. All the provinces of the Anglican Communion are autonomous with the Archbishop of Canterbury being the first among equals. The conference is not a legislative body, although up until this conference it has passed resolutions.

At the time of the first conference in 1867 the Anglican Church was growing in the African colonies and was no longer confined purely to the British Isles and North America. Disputes had arisen in the colonies over jurisdictional matters and the Archbishop of Canterbury called the conference to consider these matters. The Archbishop of York did not approve of the conference and was absent with a number of other bishops. As time went on the Lambeth Conference became an accepted part of the scene and the steadily increasing number of resolutions passed became an indication (but not a binding one) of the mind of the Anglican Church. Now the conference is so large that it is held on the campus of the University of Kent at Canterbury while still being called the Lambeth Conference.

So for eighteen days from 16 July to 3 August over 850 bishops gathered together at Canterbury. The Archbishop of Canterbury said that the conference was to be a spiritual encounter by the bishops with God and one another. On all the conference days the day started with groups of eight bishops studying the "I am" sayings of Jesus in the gospel of John. Later they gathered in larger "indaba" groups of 40 to discuss the theme for the day. For example on 23 July they considered the bishop and social injustice, on 30 July the bishop and the bible in mission, and so on. (*Indaba* is a Zulu word to indicate a meeting where things are chewed over without time pressures.)

At the same time as the bishops met their spouses were also meeting to consider what the role of a spouse is, family issues and leadership challenges.

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A new feature of this conference was the hospitality programme. Many bishops and their spouses who arrived early were given hospitality by the home dioceses in England, Scotland and Wales. Derby diocese gave hospitality to about 20 bishops and their spouses from the Church of North India.

I said above that the steadily increasing number of resolutions became an indication of the mind of the Anglican Church. Problems arise when there is no agreement on what the mind is. Since the 1998 conference controversy has smouldered over the resolution that was passed affirming what is seen as the “orthodox” position on homosexuality. In America actions have been taken that have been seen by others as running counter to the mind expressed in the resolution. As a consequence some bishops from South America, Africa and Australia have stated that they would not attend the Lambeth Conference. They consider themselves to be in a state of “impaired communion” with some of their American brothers and sisters, who they feel are not acting in the spirit of the resolution, or in accordance with scripture. As the Lambeth Conference is not, in any case, a rule making body the decision was taken to have no resolutions this time. The conference report that summarises the work of the conference will still be published.

What of these bishops who did not attend the Lambeth Conference? Many of them attended GAFCON (Global Anglican Futures Conference) in Jerusalem. The organisers state that it was not an alternative to Lambeth and that was is open to clergy and lay people as well as bishops. The purpose is stated to be to uphold orthodoxy, and to prepare for an Anglican future in which the Gospel is uncompromised and Christ centred mission is a top priority. Some 280 bishops attended. Some also attended Lambeth. It is doubtful whether the world’s news media will accept the statement that GAFCON is not a rival to Lambeth. But media representatives will find it more difficult to write about Lambeth without the focus provided by resolution texts. Maybe that is a good thing.

The news media talk about a schism in the church. Two bishops have not been invited to the conference, one from each “side” in the present controversy about homosexuality. Certainly some of the things going on in the North American church (about which the average English Anglican-in-the-pew seems blissfully unaware) would look like schism. So this conference was probably one of the more important Lambeths.

As for me, Robin Dawson, I had a small part in this great event. I had access to a web based database of all the travel bookings made by the bishops and my job was to prepare tables of information for hosts dioceses and welcoming teams led by the airport chaplains at Heathrow, Gatwick and Manchester. The Heathrow chaplain had a particularly heavy job as his team had to chase around five terminals. At one stage on 10 July some 40 bishops turned up

within the hour. Just looking down the lists of names I had prepared helped me appreciate the enormous reach and variety of our Anglican Church.

For more information about the Lambeth Conference see
www.lambethconference.org

For details of instruments of communion see the draft text of the Anglican Covenant see www.anglicancommunion.org/commission/covenant/index.cfm

For an interesting summary of the history of the Lambeth Conference see en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lambeth_Conferences

For a mind boggling archive of the text of every Lambeth Conference resolution see www.lambethconference.org/lc2008/resolutions/index.cfm

For more information about GAFCON see www.gafcon.org

Josh Wheeler

-working for Youth For Christ in Northern Ireland

I'll be going to Northern Ireland for a year to work with the Christian organisation *Youth For Christ*, whose main focus is upon influencing, enhancing and encouraging young Christians' faith and reaching out to young non-believers.

In this year, after three weeks of training, I could be assigned to anything between one and four churches or even solely to one specific project. My job will be to provide spiritually enhancing opportunities for the young people to meet with God. I will be involved in assisting with already existing youth groups, entering schools to run classes, assemblies and school Christian Unions, conducting retreats and weekends away and outreach and missionary work to both believers and none believers whilst playing a pivotal role within the church's infrastructure. I will be working with both small and intimate groups, such as bible studies and groups of thousands at a national monthly worship event in Belfast.

Not only is this year an opportunity to help out within the spiritual lives of the young people but it will also prove to be a huge learning curve both spiritually and mentally for me as well.

If you wish to receive regular updates and prayer requests get in touch with me as I would really appreciate as much spiritual support as possible.

Josh Wheeler





Whit Walk -St Thomas' on Samaritan's Purse' 'Turn on the Tap' float



Whit Walk -Sue Baker



Whit Walk -the Grand Finale



July's Men's Breakfast Walk



July -Church Picnic at Graves Park



Football at the picnic



St Thomas' latest Youth Band!



Youth Service 'Welcome Back to God' cake