

PLOUGHSHARE

December 2007/January 2008

Volume 16, No 1



St Thomas' Brampton St Peter's, Holymoorside Share the love of Jesus



To David
Thank you for helping us be part of your church. God
bless you as you take up a new challenge.
From Marie xxx

*Thank you David
From us all*



To David
Thank you for being our Rector
Enjoy your new job.
From Bethany xxx

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Sunday Services

During the interregnum the service pattern is planned to be as below. Communion will always be available in the Parish on a Sunday morning, either at St Thomas' or St Peter's. This is correct as the magazine goes to press. Please check the notice sheet or www.st-thomas-brampton for up to date information.

	St Thomas'			St Peter's	
	9am	11am	6.30pm	9.30am	6pm
Dec-02	HC	MW -AA	EP	HC	EP @M
Dec-09	MW	HC	YS	HC	EP
Dec-16	HC	Christingle	HC	HC	Carol S
Dec-23	HC	MW	Carol S	Nativity	EP
Dec-30	10.30am Joint HC		EP	HC	EP
Jan-06	HC	MW	EP	MW	EP @M
Jan-13	MW	HC	EP	HC	EP
Jan-20	HC	MW	HC	MW	EP
Jan-27	MW	MW	EP	HC	EP
Feb-03	HC	MW	EP	MW	EP

HC	Holy Communion	MW	Morning Worship
EP	Evening Prayer	EP @M	Evening Prayer at Holymoorside Methodist Church
AA	All Age Service	YS	Youth Service (for all ages)
Carol S	Carol Service	Nativity	10am Nativity Service at St Peter's

For Christmas Services see page 19

St Thomas'

9am is fairly traditional using 'Common Worship' with a choir and organ music

11am is a more informal service usually with a music group
Children's groups (from 3 years old to school year 9) plus Crèche

6.30pm fairly informal usually with a music group

6.30-8pm Pathfinders (school years 7-9) meet

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

St Peter's

9.30am is a fairly traditional with organ music and using 'Common Worship' and 'Mission Praise', Crèche for under 3s, Sunday Club for pre-school children up to school year 9

6pm is a service of Evening Prayer. Fairly traditional with organ music and using the '1662 Service' and 'Mission Praise'.

From the Church Warden

David Mouncer has had to stand down as Rector due to ill health.



As I write this article I am very conscious of the fact that David Mouncer's last service with us will take place in two days time on the 4th November. Thoughts of thanks to him and good wishes to the family are running through my mind.

After this Sunday we will be in the period known as an *interregnum* which will last until a suitable clergy person can be found to take up the position of Rector of the Parish.

The PCC has already been busy holding extra meetings to produce our 'Parish Profile', providing details of our churches and our requirements

of a new Rector.

We understand that Bishop Alastair is very keen for us to keep the interregnum to a short interval.

We are also in the process of looking to appoint a new Minister at St. Peter's.

We are very pleased that St John's Clergy, our Licensed Readers, Retired Church Army and Retired Clergy have made an added contribution to our service rotas up to the end of the year. In the New Year, however, there will be a slight change to our service patterns.

Karen and I, your Church Wardens are in good spirit and we do hope that you will continue to support the churches in this difficult period of interregnum.

I feel that God is in all of this. In the same way as he prunes the branches to improve the growth of fruit, he also shakes us about a bit to make us more focused on his work.

I close with a reading from 1 Timothy 4:8-10:

'Godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come.

This is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance (and for this we labour and strive), that we have put our hope in the living God, who is the Saviour of all people, and especially of those who believe.'

Bernard Blanksby
Churchwarden

The Mouncer Family 2007



Left to right: David, Lisa, Samuel, Joshua, Ben and Elizabeth

From the Editor

I am writing this just after David Mouncer's last service as our Rector. As most of you know, David has had to stand down as Rector for health reasons. David and his family, Lisa, Ben, Elizabeth, Joshua and Samuel will be greatly missed.

A selection of our church members have expressed their thanks to David in this edition of Ploughshare. I am sure their sentiments are echoed by everyone else.

I am pleased that two people have commented on John Small's article '*Musings During a Sermon*' that was in last month's edition of the magazine. If anyone else would like to comment or discuss anything that is preached on please submit it to me for consideration.

Last but by no means least I must apologise to Angela Antill (and anyone else) whose name I misspelt in the last edition (and in future editions!)

Mark Hoare –Editor

Please note that the closing date for the February/March 2008 edition is 11 January 2008

Thank You David – from Sue Ward

Sue writes a tribute to David Mouncer. I am sure all of us echo Sue's sentiments.

David displays tremendous faith, courage and passion. As a parish, we have benefited from his energy, leadership, teaching, prayer and love. He is also a great family man, and has many times told us of his love for Lisa and his four children, Ben, Elizabeth, Joshua and Samuel.

The whole family have made a big contribution to our church life. We will miss Lisa's care and compassion and her wonderful, lilting Welsh voice. We thank the children for their different contributions in services, church life, Sunday Club, Pathfinders and CYFA.

David has given us a sense of direction as a church. He has led us to grow closer to God, and has always been available to those who need his special care and guidance. I am sure that every church member will have a favourite sermon or word from David. I have never heard him preach a sermon that has not been thought provoking and challenging, even when I have not agreed with everything! He has shared of himself with us, and bared his soul, as well as imparting his wisdom and learning. He has never flinched from delivering difficult as well as comforting messages.

From the day he arrived, David has always emphasised the importance of prayer in his life and for us all, individually and corporately. We have not always been quick to take this on board. We cannot do better than strive to follow his prayerful example.

Many of us have been blessed by David's pastoral care and love in times of trouble, illness, joy and a whole variety of needs. He is, despite the large size of our congregations, very quick to spot who most needs his attention and friendship. Even when he has been weary, he has always pushed himself to serve us as a parish.

We have been very blessed by the four years of David's ministry as our Rector. We will miss him greatly. Thank you David.

Thank you David –from St Peter’s

“We asked a hundred people ...“ Well, not quite a hundred, just a selection of people at St Peter’s, what they would remember most about David’s ministry among us. Not surprisingly, the most-mentioned aspect was David’s preaching. “Excellent sermons”, “his wonderful preaching” was a well-worn theme, with individual sermons singled out for special mention including:

- “The first sermon we heard David preach was in response to the tsunami. We were enthralled with his wonderful preaching and have remained so.”
- “David’s last sermon was his most personal and, as such, was very moving.”

David’s letters in ‘Ploughshare’ were also much appreciated: “They were thoroughly uplifting, revealing, informing and amusing,” said one member, “and I always really looked forward to reading them.”

Then there were the special blessings he gave to children at communion, assuring them that God was “bananas” about them. Or the prayers that included the dolly or care bear which had accompanied the child to the communion rail.

“Children up the front!” is something else quoted by several people. One child told me that the thing she would most remember about David was his sitting at the front of the church, wearing a swimming hat and eating cheese and onion crisps. Perhaps more impressively, she remembered *why* he had been doing that and the application. And a teenager was heard to refer to David as “the cool vicar with the smart car”.

Other highlights included “a lively away-day”, “well-chaired and efficient meetings” and “getting a kiss from him at a christening”. In other words, if he wasn’t all things to all people, David was certainly many things to many different people. The comment, “He’s a nice bloke,” seems a pretty accurate summary.

At his last morning service at St Peter’s, during the sermon, he said that he prays for us and will carry on doing so. David can be assured that we at St Peter’s will be praying for him as he continues his ministry in Walton.
God Bless You, David.

Thank you David - from CYFA



Three members of CYFA write about the effect David Mouncer and his ministry has had on them.

Thank you David –from Laura Clayton

David's time here has been very special. I believe that God has used him as a light for us here at St Thomas' and he will be sadly missed. When I think about how I was as a Christian before David came and how I am now, I can see huge differences in my attitude and behaviour, which can only be God working through David to achieve this.

As a member of the music group, I have found David to be extremely encouraging and it has been a pleasure to be involved in his services. He has constantly encouraged me in what I do, both inside and out of church and has taken a keen interest which I value very much. David is everything that a Rector should be and more.

I have never failed to be amazed at the enthusiasm and energy which he has displayed constantly throughout his time with us. His sermons have always highlighted to me the areas of my life that need changing and pushed me to develop my faith further. David delivers his sermons with honesty, humour and an uncompromising attitude to following Jesus, which will stay with me forever.

I will remember David as a kind and humble man, one who I can always rely on and trust, but mostly as a friend. I count myself lucky that I have been a member of this church with David as our Rector. I think that with his life he has shown us what it truly means to follow God and to do His will, which is the best example for all of us to follow.

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Thank you David –from Nick Riley

I first met David the day the Mouncer family moved into their house, and from the off I've always thought he was a really nice guy. I remember he was putting together the computer chair at the time and within the first minute of meeting him he'd come out with a one liner which left me laughing.

But aside from being a funny man, he's also been a great Rector. He ran my confirmation classes and really helped me learn a lot about myself and God in those weeks through the summer. Plus, his sermons are priceless. Each one that I listen to makes me laugh, makes me think and makes my brain work a little bit, fitting in the things that I have learnt during his three point, twenty minute masterpieces.

Hopefully I'll see him every now and again to have a chat about whatever; but overall his leaving is going to affect me in numerous ways because I'm not only losing a great Rector but also a great friend.

Thank you David –from Miki Vyse

David; what can I say other than, this guy is an utter legend. He makes me laugh at the wrong time, he makes me laugh at the right time, well, he just makes me laugh all the time. The jokes he tells me when I'm sad are just immense and when I'm in a giggly mood and he jokes some more, I get uncontrollable.

I'll never forget the first time I went to a communion service at St. Thomas'. When I walked up for a blessing. David smiled, laughed and then blessed me. Every time I now go up for a blessing David and I always share a chuckle.

This guy is seriously one of the best guys to talk to. I really feel like I can talk and pray with him about anything. He's taught me so much in my journey of faith.

David, I wish you all the luck in the world with the future, and I'll pray for you.



Christmas in Kabul

Robin Dawson has just returned from Afghanistan where he was working as a volunteer. Robin writes about his experience of Christmas in Kabul, the capital.



We walk down the road in the velvet darkness. The hum of generators fills the air. This time of year we only get mains power one evening in two, so the generators power the security lights and the TVs.

A few Afghans on the ubiquitous heavy duty Chinese bikes ghost past in the darkness. No lights of course. It's cold, so that the men who are guarding the houses of the important people are sitting inside their little plywood guard houses on plastic garden chairs with their AK47s across their knees. Many of them are watching TV. There is sweet wood smoke and diesel soot in the air from hundreds of heating stoves. Those too poor to afford the fuel huddle closer together under their blankets and hope that there will be no cloud tomorrow so that they can stand against a wall in the sun.

We live in one of the better off suburbs of Kabul where there are big houses let out to expatriate workers. Afghan houses, for both the rich and poor, sit behind high walls to ensure privacy and safety. We ring at the bell by a gate and the night chowkidar (doorman) opens it for us. Standing in the garden we start up with *"In the Bleak Midwinter"*. We are out carol singing.

It is just as well the houses have big walls as carol singing in the street by a bunch of foreigners might not go down too well. Inside the house people are enjoying dinner, but one young lady not long out from England is taken aback and bursts into tears. We have been to the houses of people we know, German, Finnish, American, Phillipino and many other nationalities.

I spent two Christmases in Kabul in 2005 and 2006. The temperatures are down to -10°C at night and get up to maybe +5°C during the day if the sun shines. Our houses, designed for hot weather rather than cold are pretty chilly. I live in the kitchen in mine and dive into the bed with a hot water bottle, burying my head under the quilt, when it is bedtime.

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In 2005 there had been no rain at all in the autumn and Christmas was cold and dusty. 2006 was different. There was rain in November. Out in the country where my project was, the farmers ploughed land that they had not touched the year before, because there was enough moisture in the soil for winter wheat to germinate, and if there was some more rain in spring it might even come to ear. These farmers really work on the edge.

On the Friday (Afghanistan's Sunday) before Christmas we had a carol service at the Community Christian Church of Kabul (CCCK) with a number of Scripture readings, each person reading the passage in their mother tongue.

Christmas Day itself brought continuous heavy snow in big flakes dropping through the still air. Off we went to the meeting of the CCCK in a foot of snow. Only us westerners were having a holiday, the rest of Kabul was struggling to work. No snowploughs or gritting and even the taxi drivers were having to slow down. Some Afghans manage to look immensely dignified and also remain upright on their bicycles while holding an umbrella aloft to keep the snow off.

On Boxing Day the sky cleared and we were treated to the crystal clear light that Kabul has after a snowfall. Everything is blue and white with the Hindu Kush standing up behind the smoky city like a white curtain.

Our Afghan colleagues are quite interested in Christmas and the way we celebrate it. On the day we get greeted with "*Idetan mubarak!*" which means congratulations on your festival. It is the same greeting that Afghans use with each other for the Eid at the end of Ramadan. On our various projects we throw a party for the Afghan staff to celebrate Christmas and use the opportunity to explain a little about what it means to us. I remember one party where the children of some of my expatriate colleagues acted out a nativity play. This does not cause offence because both Mary and Jesus are figures accorded great respect in Islam. The difficult bit is to get across the meaning of the "*Word made flesh*", God taking on human form and living as one of us. The Islamic view of the perfection and otherness of God makes that very difficult to take on board.

But then we don't find it to easy in modern western society either, do we?

Robin Dawson

Eileen Balch: 'Passion for Progress'

At the St Thomas' Development open meeting on 14 October 2007 Eileen Balch talked about 'Passion for Progress'. The transcript of what she said is printed here.

The PCC asked if I would speak to this title and I do so aware of my own limitations.

The past year of 2007 has proved to be a difficult journey in the life of St Thomas as far as the Development Project is concerned. The vision, that has been before the church for many years, has involved a great deal of hard work, time, effort and prayer, especially by the Development Group. We, the wider church, owe them a debt of gratitude.

However, the year began facing the stark realities of how we would finance such a large project. At the open meetings held this year it became clear that the various options under consideration were not viable for one reason or another. For example, selling Rose Cottage was not an acceptable option for the ongoing ministry at Holymoorside. Furthermore, St Thomas' Brampton, does not fulfil the necessary criteria for large funders such as the Coal Board Regeneration Trust or the Lottery. And the option of a commercial loan was rejected by the majority of those present at the meeting held in July. This progress, or lack of it- for many has been surrounded by a variety of emotions, anger, confusion, dismay, and even disillusionment! Can this vision ever come to completion?

We are aware of the hard work done by David Mouncer, in particular, and also the PCC, over the summer months in the modification of the original scheme and the suggested way forward. And all this coming to the church in the midst of the breaking news of David's departure. It seems that nothing could have been more humbling. Rather like a rigorous pruning exercise, for any gardeners among us! All this has affected the whole church and it has been painful!

I would now like to refer to another matter that was brought to the leadership of the church in July. A mature member, both in years and spiritual standing received some verses of scripture, which was believed to be a specific word from God for St Thomas' at this time. The verse comes from the 2 Chronicles 7:v14-16.

This person immediately brought these verses to David's attention and they were then put before the PCC for consideration. They agreed that David should at once communicate the content

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to the leaders of the home groups for further consideration and feedback in due time. This was done.

Then the vast majority of the church went on holiday, home groups closed for the summer recess, the person who had originally brought the message was almost immediately taken ill, and the church now stands on the brink of an unexpected interregnum, with the extra burdens placed upon those in positions of responsibility together with a sense of uncertainty about the future!

What does that particular portion of Scripture have to say to us today? Does it in fact speak to the heart of the situation that confronts the whole church currently? I believe these verses from 2 Chronicles chapter 7 v14-16 to be very relevant in speaking to the heart of the complex situation that confronts St Thomas' at this time.

If I may I would like to look at these verses and make some brief comments.

1 “If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves...”

To have the scheme that you have spent many hours, weeks, months, even years modified is, I believe, a humbling experience. In addition, the church both individually and corporately has come to terms with the fact that no outside body, however we view them morally or spiritually, is going to come to our financial rescue. To acknowledge that the financial responsibility falls mainly on us is humbling and sobering.

2 “And pray and seek my face...”

From my stand point, I can testify that there has been prayer in St Thomas', both individually and corporately regarding this Project. Furthermore, St Thomas' has been set a real example and precedent by David in his ministry to us these past four years as to the high priority of prayer. We are grateful to him for that. So I am confident that we will continue to pray into our future, seeking God's guidance and “His face” now more than ever.

3 “And turn from their wicked ways...”

This verse must be open to our individual interpretation of it! I leave that to you!

My own private conjecture is whether the reservations regarding the original scheme prevented the real unity necessary for us to go forward. If that is so, then we all need to repent. But one firm indication of solid ground would be, if we could determine to unite, stand together, with an

agreed agenda, and embrace a common vision. Such a step of faith gathers up the whole church. It would enable us to move forward holding on to each other, including the young and the old, the sceptics and those full of faith, the strong and the weak, the timid and the bold.

4 Last, but not the least. These verses continue with a promise from God.

“Then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land. Now my eyes will be open and my ears attentive to the prayers offered in this place. I have chosen and consecrated this temple so that my Name may be there for ever. My eyes and my heart will always be there.” This is a promise from God to answer and provide for our needs. Such a promise can only be proven when we take that step of faith to go forward. Decisions have to be taken, and they are essentially corporate decisions when it comes to a project of this magnitude. The next few months are crucial ones for us. Do we give our assent to this scheme OR do we abort it and allow the local Council to come and demolish the portacabins? If the latter, then the church will have to go back to the drawing board under new leadership and a new Leader of leaders whenever that person arrives! That has serious implications.

But take heart, we are not the first church to stand in this place. There are precedents set in scripture. The early church in Acts had a big issue to resolve. Read it for yourselves. In chapter 15. Note v28 where Luke writes these words “**It seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us.**” This verse describes an attitude that was not triumphal nor arrogant but full of humility. They discerned their way forward.

That is where I believe we stand today. Big decisions lie ahead of us. On the one hand they seem daunting and fearful, (for it is still a great deal of money) but on the other hand it is tremendously exciting and full of promise as to what God may do in our midst.

Eileen Balch

The meeting then split into groups to discuss and pray about the project. Listen or read about the whole meeting at <http://www.st-thomas-brampton.org/sttdev.html>

Sharing our Musings' - replies

John Small's article in last month's magazine brought forth two interesting replies. You can read John's article in last month's magazine at: www.st-thomas-brampton.org/biblestudy2.html#13

David Smith writes:

Thank you, John, for your article "*Musings During a Sermon*" in the October/November edition of Ploughshare. John wants to share some serious questionings he has experienced.

He is not alone in this. We must all have been prompted to question what we are hearing at one time or another. It may arise over some particular point in a sermon, as with John himself, or as a result of our own musings on Bible passages. Such experiences can be very disturbing. They can so challenge our faith that we even feel rather guilty and isolated in our uncertainty – "Oh dear, should I be questioning or doubting in such a way; do other Christians feel the same?".



This is where "sharing" these challenges can be so helpful. St. Paul once wrote "Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ". In short, don't leave people to carry heavy concerns on their own. Questioning is not a sin unless it is a deliberate attempt to create unbelief in others.

Real sharing can be very demanding: costly in patience, courage and trustworthiness. Sharing therefore is never meant to be an occasion for mere argument or scoring points. It is an area of Christian ministry calling for every sign of the Holy Spirit to be working in us as we share.

Look for a list of such signs in Galatians, chapter 5, verse 22: "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control".

Please carry on sharing your musings, John. We all may be richer for hearing them and may be encouraged to join you.

'Yusuf Levison' writes

Jerusalem, November 700 BC

Dear John Small,

My name is Yusuf Levison and I was a scribe in the service of King Hezekiah during the Assyrian attack on the city of Jerusalem you mention in your



'Musings during a sermon' in the October/ November 2007 issue of St Thomas' Ploughshare. It got me thinking because I wrote that part of the king's record which found its way into what you call 2 Kings Chapters 18 and 19. I said to myself: 'this guy, like a lot of 21st century people, has got hold of the wrong end of the stick'. So I did some musings of my own to put the record straight.

I mused, why do people read my work as if 3,000 years of history has not passed between us? If I had been recording those events in the reign of Queen Elizabeth II of Great Britain, I probably would not have mentioned God at all. Also I would have said that the Assyrians died from malaria or smallpox or AIDS or some such thing and left it at that. We can only describe things with the thought forms and ideas that are available at our time. When reading the Old Testament, Christians do not always realise that they are dealing with literature of a different culture and time than their own and in this case written 3 millennia ago. A lot has happened since then and a lot of things have changed, even the way people think.

I mused why do people read my work as if they and I had exactly the same view of the world and life? My understanding of things is *entirely* different than yours. My contemporaries would have found nothing odd about what I wrote, because they shared my view of how things are. Our view of life was quite simple. We believed that God was the creator and controller of everything that exists. Birth, life, blessing, accidents, disasters, tragedies and death were understood as 'acts of God'. We understood God to be responsible for all things. If someone died in a mysterious way and were asked who did it our answer would always be 'God!' We could not express it in any other way. And given our mind set, when something particularly awful beyond our grasp happened like the death of the Assyrians, we said that it must have been God's destroying angel at work. This is our way of thinking. In answer to the question: 'Why did God do this?' we would say, 'Because he does everything! Who else could have done it?'

I know people in your world do not think like that, so when you are reading our writing you need to do a translation exercise and ask what is this man saying in his own time and what did it mean then? There is a further question about what it might mean in the 21st century, but that is not

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my problem. Incidentally, in your day a natural disaster like a tsunami is sometimes described as an 'act of God', even though you have a scientific explanation for it.

I mused why do people forget that the coming of Jesus into the world has happened since I wrote? Jesus came into the world and modelled how we should love God, love our neighbour and even our enemies. This is a major advantage you have over me. I could not judge by such high moral standards, because my generation had not read about him in action as you have. My understanding of God and his works are pre-Jesus and therefore limited. I just see darkly what your generation can, if it wants, see clearly. So there is a big gap between me and you.

There is one final musing I have. In spite of Jesus coming into the world and showing his love, you have to admit that in general the morality of people in your generation is no better than it was in mine. So please do not judge me by your lights.

I remain Hezekiah's faithful scribe and a voice from the past.

Yusuf Levison.

(The author, known to the editor, wishes to remain anonymous)

Thank You David –from Emily Dods



To David

Thank you for teaching us about Jesus and God in funny ways. And for helping us love each other

Congratulations to Bernard and Joyce Adams

***Diamond Wedding Anniversary - Boxing Day 1947 - Newbold Parish Church
- Joyce Winifred Herrett to Bernard Adams.***



Congratulations and fondest love dear Mum and Dad on sixty glorious years. Joyce and Bernard's daughter, Lynne, asked me to put this announcement in the magazine. Joyce and Bernard live on Walton Road and are regular subscribers to Ploughshare. Lynne, who was married in St Thomas' thirty years ago but now lives in Hampshire, reads Ploughshare via the website. One of Bernard's uncles (E Walker) was killed in the First World War and his name is on the War Memorial.

On behalf of all the Ploughshare readers may I add my congratulations to Joyce and Bernard.
-Mark Hoare, Editor

Recent Additions on the Church Website

David Mouncer's Leaving Service

www.st-thomas-brampton.org/DM_leaving_service.html

Podcasts of testimonies by Josh Wheeler, Alan Park, Dawn Edingborough, Jane Simmonds, Alistair Langton, Stephen Willis and David Mouncer.

www.st-thomas-brampton.org/testimonies.html

Podcasts of the September and October Sermons at St Thomas'

www.st-thomas-brampton.org/podcasts.html

Podcast and written report of the Open Development Meeting held 14 October 2007

www.st-thomas-brampton.org/sttdev.html

Pictures from Stephen Willis baptism by total immersion

www.st-thomas-brampton.org/gallery.html

Reports on the Open Development Meetings

www.st-thomas-brampton.org/sttdev.html

Steven Willis being baptised by full immersion



Diary Dates

Forthcoming dates to remember

Monday 10 December

Pram Service, St Thomas'

Wednesday 19 December

7.45pm People @ Prayer

Thursday 20 December

2pm Communion and Cuppa

Saturday 22 December

Christmas Ball, St Thomas'

Friday 28 December

7.30pm Furnace, St Thomas'

Thursday 3 January

1pm First Thursday Rendezvous

Wednesday 16 January

7.45pm World Mission Prayer, St Thomas' Church

Friday 25 January

7.30pm Furnace, 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



Christmas Services



Sunday 16 December

- 9.30am Communion, St Peter's followed by Blessing the Crib at 10.45am
11am Christingle Service, St Thomas'
6pm Carol Service, St Peter's

Sunday 23 December

- 10am Children's Nativity and Family Communion, St Peter's
10am-4pm Carol Singing at Morrisons (drop in to sing as you wish)
6.30pm Carol Service, St Thomas'

Monday 24 December, Christmas Eve

- 6pm Family Carol Service, St Thomas'
7pm Carols around the Christmas Tree, Holymoorside, with the Holymoorside Band
11.30pm Midnight Communion Service, St Thomas'
11.30pm Midnight Communion Service, St Peter's

Tuesday 25 December, Christmas Day

- 9.30am Combined Family Service, Holymoorside United Reformed Church
10.30am Family Communion Service, St Thomas'

Keep up to date with our regular activities and other events by reading the weekly news sheet or the church web site

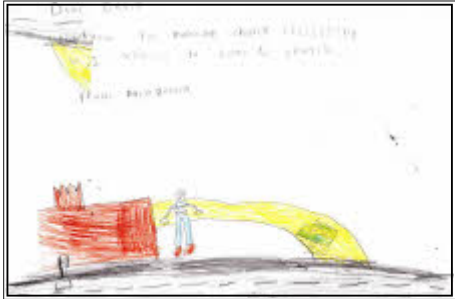
www.st-thomas-brampton.org

Joy to the
World

Thank you David -some more pictures from the children



To David
Thank you for helping my mum do Holiday Club
From Georgina Brown



Dear David
Thank you for making church interesting so I
want to come to church
From David Benson



Thank you for looking after the church



Dear David
Thank you for making me happy.
Love from Jacob



To David
Thank you for the clubs in summer!
From Samuel Mouncer



To David
Thank you for the children's talk and the funny
things you did. We will miss you.
From Dylan Frost