

# PLOUGHSHARE

December 2010/January 2011

Volume 19, No 1



## 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 good news of Him with others*



The Mayor and Mayoress with some of our children -see page 14

st **+** thomas  
brampton  
onethousanddaysofprayer  
11.10.09-07.07.12

St Thomas' Church is open during the week from 9.30am to 12.30pm  
for prayer and reflection and quiet.

60p per copy (£3 per year)

# Monthly Pattern of Sunday Services

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

## St Thomas'

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

Recordings of the sermons and readings are available at [st-thomas-brampton.org/podcast\\_index.html](http://st-thomas-brampton.org/podcast_index.html)

### **For those who enjoy tradition:**

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

### **For those with families:**

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

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

### **For those looking for something more:**

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

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

**6pm** Pathfinders for 11-14 year olds  
**8pm** CYFA for 14-18 year olds

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## St Peter's

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

**6pm** A traditional service of Evening Prayer using the '1662 Service' and 'Mission Praise' accompanied by the organ.  
*(Note: the evening service on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month is held at Holymoorside Methodist Church.)*

<b>Christmas Service details and times see page 17</b>
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## From the Rector

Great excitement in the rectory, we are expecting!!!!

Yes, it's true. A little one is on the way. Preparations are now well advanced, new toys are being purchased, new beds and sleeping arrangements are being considered and all the other necessary equipment (*and finance*) needed to manage a new arrival are slowly being assembled. Above all, we as a family are bracing ourselves with great excitement for the huge change this new arrival will have in our home. When a young one comes along everything changes. We will no longer

be able to do the things we do now in the same way, our lives will be turned upside down. Yes, on the 13<sup>th</sup> December we're expecting to collect our new labrador puppy called 'Maddie'!

OK, it's not so exciting as a baby, but the excitement and preparations that we are now involved with are reminiscent of the birth of a child. When a child comes along everything changes. I can remember talking to a father who commented that within a few moments of the birth of his son there was no doubt who was in control!

This Christmastide we think of Our Lord coming to us as a tiny little baby. Some of the appeal of the Christmas story is about how God gave himself to the vulnerability and smallness of a tiny child. Yet we should not be fooled, there should be no doubt in our minds who is ultimately in control. When Jesus comes into our lives everything changes; the focus moves away from our own life's agenda and becomes focused upon the values and purpose of the Kingdom of God. Christmas can be a time when we self-indulge and become wrapped up in personal enjoyment, yet let us not forget this Christmas that when we invite the baby Jesus into our homes self-centred behaviour is put aside and the needs of the (Christ) child take precedence.

Have a wonderful Christmas and peaceful New Year.

**Matthew Barnes, Rector**

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## From the Editor

This edition features some of the events that have taken place over the last couple of months including Confirmation, Harvest, the Treat and a couple of social events. However it is with sadness that we have to report /continued

/from the Editor continued

on those we know who have died, retired or moved to work elsewhere. We thank them for all they have meant to us, both corporately and in our individual lives. We will miss them. Finally we have an up date on the Parish Centre building work and a feature on the Chilean miners who were rescued recently. I hope you enjoy your read. **Mark Hoare**

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## St Thomas' Mission Sunday for Samaritan's Purse

*St Thomas' supports six mission agencies, including Samaritan's Purse. On Sunday 31 October Andy Ransburry, Key Relationship Manager for Samaritan's Purse, came to see us and spoke at both our morning services.*

At the 11am service Andy based what he had to say on Luke 10:30-37, the parable of the Good Samaritan. Andy said he always got frustrated when he read the story. He wanted to know what happened afterwards. What did the man who had been shown this unprecedented act of kindness do when he recovered? What did the Samaritan who had carried out the act of kindness do afterwards? Indeed, what did the innkeeper do who after he had witnessed this act of kindness? We are not told. Were their lives changed for ever or did they just go back to how they were before?



Jane Simmonds, Samaritan's Purse's Regional Organiser with Andrew Ransburry and his son Fletcher

Perhaps God doesn't want to tell us, he wants us to trust that the Samaritan's kindness changed people's lives.

Today, if we know we can see a tangible result, most of us will carry out acts of kindness. We are less likely to do this if we cannot see the result of our kindness. A good example of this is giving to overseas aid, both personally and nationally. Apart from the occasional exposure on the television and in newspapers we do not really know what difference our kindness has made. Indeed it may not make any difference for many years (for example if the aid is for long term sustainability rather than acute aid).

Andy sited the story of a twenty three year old girl from Belarus whom he had met recently. She had received a shoe box seventeen years ago when she was six years old. Although the person who gave the girl the shoe box will never know the effect of their kindness, the girl never forgot and today she is studying to be a minister in the church.

It is not always easy being passionate for God and doing His will, be it acts of kindness or in other ways. But God tells us not to give up. The Old Testament reading at the service was Leviticus 6:8-13. In it God repeatedly tells Abraham to 'keep the fire burning'. We need to keep our passion for God burning and do what God wants us to do, in the church, locally in our community, nationally and globally.

Listen to Andy speaking at [st-thomas-brampton.org/podcasts2010.html#66](http://st-thomas-brampton.org/podcasts2010.html#66)

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## **Keith Bates**

It is with great sadness that we have to announce that our choir master at St Thomas', Keith Bates, died peacefully in Ashgate Hospice on Friday 5 November 2010. A full appreciation of his life and work will appear in the next edition of the magazine.

If you were unable to attend his funeral, a recording of it is available. Please contact the Editor.

## A Tribute to Gemma and Steve

*In the last edition of the magazine it was announced that Gemma Willis, our Youth Worker, was leaving us to take up a similar position at St Mark's Church, Leamington Spa. Gemma's last Sunday at St Thomas' was 17 October. Several tributes were paid to Gemma, and husband Steve. This one here from Josh Wheeler was typical and shows the high regard in which Gemma and Steve were held.*



I joined CYFA (Christian Youth Fellowship Organisation) in 2004, two weeks before Gemma became the Youth Worker at St Thomas'. I was 14 years old and at that crucial stage where most teenagers start searching through various different avenues for their identity. I was very insecure and tried searching for acceptance and respect wherever I could find it. I slipped into the wrong crowd of people, was underachieving in school, getting in trouble with the teachers and was on report. I was even threatened with exclusion. I was becoming a bit of wild child, but was hating who I was turning into.

Then, as a result of certain circumstances, I ended up coming to CYFA and meeting Gemma. This literally changed my life. What I loved about Gemma's ministry was that it did not focus on ensuring I was converted. She didn't try ramming her beliefs down my throat and didn't try brain washing me. She was more concerned with helping me understand what my personal beliefs were helping me find my own identity.

This ultimately led me to Christ; to love and acceptance as I found my identity in Him. Gemma helped me to work it out for myself so that I became a stronger individual confident in my purpose and identity. She didn't make me a wishy washy Christian but a full-blooded passionate disciple longing for Christ's glory on this earth. Phil Michel had a saying "*other driving instructors teach you to pass your test, I'll teach you to drive!*" It was like that with Gemma and her ministry. My life changed. I found purpose in myself, found much better friends, bucked my ideas up, got good grades in my GCSEs and was able to go to sixth form and then university where I am now studying law. I even had a gap year working for Youth for Christ In Northern Ireland doing basically the same job Gemma did here because I wanted to be able

to give the same chances to others that she gave me.

It isn't just me. Gemma's influence is evident in others too. Gaz Simmonds spent a year in worship leader training at St Aldates and now leads worship at St Thomas'. Kat Witham did an internship here with Gemma for a year and is now training to become a Christian youth worker. Becky Riley is studying theology at university. My brother Sam went to Canada for eight weeks on a mission this summer and Eleanor Lomas is going off to Australia in January for six months with Ywam (Youth with a Mission). And there are more people who are shining for Christ, all of whom would admit that they wouldn't be where they are now if it wasn't for Gemma. Gemma, you are the best youth worker we could have had. You have changed so many lives and I pray you will continue to do so at St Mark's.

Steve you're so cool! I'm proud of you, and the journey you have been on. I remember one evening when I must have been fourteen we met in your parents' front room because Hannah [Steve's younger sister] was leading our weekday prayer meeting. At the time you weren't a Christian and at the end of each night we would share prayer requests and Hannah asked if we could all pray for you as she felt God was trying to break into your heart. I had no idea who you were. You were just a grunt from the top of the stairs! Never the less we prayed a lot!!! And to see the transformation as God broke your heart and built you whole again was incredible. To see you now as such a strong solid man of Christ is most inspiring. You have become one of the biggest role models in my life. In Chesterfield we don't have an abundance of young male adults for the teenagers to look up to, but you, along with Scott [Atkinson] became some of the most important influences in my life. I also know you played the same role for Sam and Gaz as well. I hope I turn out to be half the man you are.

Steve and Gemma you are both incredible individuals, but together you're unstoppable. Your ministries can reach far and wide and you will no doubt change many lives in the future. I'd just like to say to you both do not be afraid. Remember through Christ all things are possible.

**Josh Wheeler**

Listen to and see pictures of Gemma and Steve's last Sunday at [st-thomas-brampton.org/2010gsleaving.html](http://st-thomas-brampton.org/2010gsleaving.html)

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## 1000 Days of Prayer

Monday 15 November was Day 400 in our 1000 Days of Prayer. Remember St Thomas' is open every weekday morning for prayer starting and ending with short times of corporate worship at 9.30am and 12.15pm respectively.

## Church on the Bus Day of Prayer

On Saturday 3 October (the same day as the barn dance), Church on the Bus had a Day of Prayer. On the Saturday morning the bus was in Matlock. In the afternoon and evening it was parked outside St Thomas'.



Prayer and play!



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## Confirmation September 2010

On 22 September The Bishop of Derby, The Rt Rev Dr Alastair Redfern confirmed a number of people from across Chesterfield at St Thomas'.

Those from St Thomas' and St Peter's were David Barton, Katy Brookes, Donna Bradley, Pippa Shemwell, Bethany Herrick, Dylan Frost and Lukas Frost and from St Peter's, Paul Truscott.

Listen to the service and see more pictures at [st-thomas-brampton.org/2010confirmation.html](http://st-thomas-brampton.org/2010confirmation.html)



Bishop Alastair with our candidates:  
(L-R)  
Pippa, Paul, Lukas, Donna, David, Dylan, Katy and Bethany

## Traidcraft for Christmas

Christmas is almost here again. To help you with your shopping and at the same time help the developing world to support itself through fair trading with us here in this country, *Traidcraft* stalls will be held on Saturday 4 December at the St Thomas' Christmas Market and at all three services on Sunday 5 December.

Alternatively, please contact us for a catalogue so that you can place an order (which will be postage free) from the extensive range of lovely gifts, cards, etc. Deadline date for orders is Sunday 5 December, so please get your orders to us as soon as possible.

Also, please note that *Traidcraft* will be in church again in the New Year on 9 January 2011.

Please contact Alison and Graham Wells [alisonjanew@sky.com](mailto:alisonjanew@sky.com)  
01246 566257 or see one of us at St Thomas' for details of catalogues and orders.



**TRAIDCRAFT**  
Fighting poverty through trade

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## The Quiet American

*Robin Dawson, one of our church members, spent two years in Afghanistan working as a volunteer for the International Assistance Mission. Here he writes a tribute to one of the people whom he got to know.*

I arrived in snowy, muddy, dusty Kabul in March 2005. I went to do some post-retirement volunteering with the International Assistance Mission. (IAM is a Christian organisation that has worked in Afghanistan since the 1960s and does so with full Afghan government approval.) I was well looked after and was invited to dinner by many people. One evening I dined with Tom and Libby Little. It was a good, friendly meal in a room full of books and examples of Afghan craftsmanship.

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Tom was a quiet American. He was a Yankee for whom the word laconic could have been invented. He didn't say much, but what he did say was always interesting and useful. And he liked long wheelbase Land Rovers!



Later I found out that Tom and Libby had worked in Afghanistan for over thirty years, before the communist coup, through the Russian occupation, the civil war, Taliban rule and now in the present situation. They had brought up three children in the country. There were all sorts of stories about the family including Tom rescuing medical equipment from a hospital that was under fire and his little girls making cookies for the secret police watching their house. In the seventies Tom and Libby had run a sort of rescue operation for indigent hippies as well as Tom doing his day job. I met one such hippy who had become an aid worker himself.

Tom was a fluent Dari speaker and was the sort of person that foreign correspondents and travel writers sought out to get the real story. When he talked about being a Christian it was obvious that he had a very deep and intellectually coherent faith. I suppose he became my Christian aid worker hero. He worked for NOOR, the eye care part of IAM's work. Since the sixties NOOR has treated the eye complaints of over 5 million Afghans and are responsible for running training hospitals and a large part of the eye care work in Afghanistan.

Every couple of years or so Tom would organise a party that would hike off with donkeys to far beyond the end of the road network to treat the eye complaints of people who never ever saw a doctor or even a nurse. Lots of people loved to go on these eye camps.



In August 2010 Tom organised one such camp in Nuristan in North-East Afghanistan. As is usual the government was informed as were, by various means, the armed groups in the area. As Tom and his party were travelling back, having finished their work, they were held up, robbed and all killed. The Taliban Head Office in Kandahar issued a statement saying that they had

been executed because they were trying to convert people to Christianity. A week or so later the local Taliban contradicted this message, stating that those charges were untrue and that the people concerned had been bona fide aid workers working for the good of the Afghan population.

So now Tom Little's body lies in the Christian cemetery in Kabul along with another larger than life character, Dan Terry and a number of their colleagues. The World Council of Optometry has posthumously awarded Tom the title of International Optometrist of the Year. But NOOR struggles to find someone to replace him and there won't be any more eye camps.

We live in a world where evil things happen. Tom had seen plenty and he knew what could happen to him. But he knew he had a job to do and he did it.

One of our Australian colleagues in IAM wrote this poem on learning of his death.

**Tom,**  
You told the newcomers:  
"Take due care,  
but once you accept the fact  
that you could die out here,  
it makes it a whole lot easier."

In the reality of that advice you washed so many feet,  
You co-healed so many eyes.  
For you to live was Christ,  
and despite the pain of those you love,  
who now remain to mourn,  
and ask, "Why Lord? Why?"  
the Potter speaks to us, his clay,  
"Tom is with me in paradise today.

To die is gain,  
and when my time for you is right,  
you will also hear my, 'Well done daughter. Well done son,'  
and together we will drink green tea,  
and enjoy the cardamom,"  
you and Tom and Me."

Read more about Robin's time in Afghanistan: *Christmas in Kabul*, Dec 2007 edition of the magazine [st-thomas-brampton.org/mission2.html#4](http://st-thomas-brampton.org/mission2.html#4)

**NOOR** means 'light' in Persian and it reflects their goal of bringing light to those who live in the darkness of preventable blindness.

## Harvest Supper and Barn Dance

On Saturday 3 October over one hundred of us, young and not so young, enjoyed a ploughman's supper followed by dancing to the band. *Perccco*.



More pictures at [st-thomas-brampton.org/2010\\_barn\\_dance.html](http://st-thomas-brampton.org/2010_barn_dance.html)

## The Treat 2010

The Treat 2010 was held in St Thomas' Church on Sunday 31 October as an alternative to Halloween. There was lots of fun including worship, competitions, a bouncing castle, crafts, the parachute game and of course party food!

In the morning Andy Ransburry, from Samaritan's Purse, and his son Fletcher were with us. Fletcher, although only eleven, is already an accomplished magician and he rounded off the Treat by performing a magic show.

Here are some pictures from the Treat. The cross on the front cover of this edition was the focal point for the event. You can see more at [st-thomas-brampton.org/treat2010.html](http://st-thomas-brampton.org/treat2010.html)



## Christine Cowley 1945-2010

*Christine (Chris) Cowley, one of the longest serving members of St Thomas', died on 29 September 2010, aged sixty five. The church for her funeral -a Service of Love and Thanksgiving, was full, showing just how much she was loved and respected. As well as Chris' family there were those who knew her from all aspects of her life, including friends and neighbours, those from church, St Mary's School where she taught and Staveley Hockey Club where she was the coach.*



### **Catherine Hill, Chris' daughter has written this tribute to her mother.**

When Mark [the Editor] asked me to write something about my mum I said "yes" immediately. However when I actually sat down to do it I really didn't know where to start. Mum would have done; she would have composed some poem or prose that was touching yet humorous, summing up what we were all thinking and saying exactly the right thing. I haven't been blessed with that kind of a way with words but I hope I can do her justice.

The most important things in her life were her family, her church, her friends and St Mary's, the school where she worked for so many years, long past her official retirement. The many letters and cards we received and the fact that over three hundred and fifty people attended her funeral are testament to what an incredible friend and teacher she was. But to my brother Chris and I she was just mum.

As a parent to my brother and I she was exactly what I aspire to be as a mother to my son. She was incredibly loving, unconditionally generous, infinitely patient and kind but always firm and consistent. I read somewhere that: 'There are two lasting bequests we can give our children. One is roots and the other is wings'. (*Hodding Carter, Jr*) Mum gave us both.

Mum's Christian faith was at the centre of everything she did and of all her relationships. St Thomas' was such a big part of her life. She first started attending during the mid 1970s. A couple of years later, soon after Chris and I were born, she began to feel very strongly that children should really enjoy church and have the opportunity to learn about Jesus in a way they could understand and relate to. Her natural instinct to teach soon meant she was taking a leading role in the Sunday school. She did this for many years and in the early 1990s she was on the organising committees for the 'Rainbow

Parties' and the first 'Summer Clubs' held by the church. She felt these were an extremely important part of the church's ministry to children and outreach to the wider community.

As Chris and I grew up and moved away from home she took on a new role within the church as part of the Welcome Team; the perfect place for such a friendly, chatty and warm person. I'm certain many who nervously walked up the slope to those heavy wooden doors were immediately put at ease when they saw her smiling face and heard her cheery welcome.

She attended St Thomas' for over thirty years and God always seemed to guide her to where she could be most effective within His church. She will be much missed by many.

### **Catherine Hill**

On behalf of all *Ploughshare* readers I offer our thoughts and prayers to Jim, Christopher, Catherine, Nathaniel and all their other relatives and friends at this time.

### **Mark Hoare, Editor**

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## **What is a Mum?**

*Taken from the Service of Love and Thanksgiving to Celebrate Chris' Life.*

A mum is one of life's best gifts,  
Someone to treasure all life through,  
She's caring and loving,  
Thoughtful and true,  
Someone who is always a special part of your life,  
Someone who holds a prime place in your heart,  
She's a mentor, a confidant and also a friend,  
Someone on whose love you can depend.  
A mum always has your best interests at heart,  
She's someone so dear and so good,  
She's a blessing, she's a gift,  
She's a treasure like no other,  
She's someone that is truly wonderful.  
Wherever you go, and whatever you do,  
A mum's love will always see you through,  
A mum is truly invaluable,  
Indispensable and unforgettable.  
I wouldn't want anyone but you,  
And that's why I'm so grateful,  
that life picked you for me.

At St Thomas' we have a special relationship with this year's Mayor, Councillor Keith Morgan: Keith, and Pat, his wife as they are members of our church.

Our Harvest offering this year was donated to the Mayor's Appeal. Keith and Pat came to our 9am and 11am Harvest services St Thomas' in their official capacities and told us about the appeal and what *Fairplay* and the *Samaritans* are doing.

## 2010 Mayor of Chesterfield's Appeal

Ninety per cent of the money raised by the Mayor's Appeal this year will go to *Fairplay*, with the remaining ten per cent going to *Chesterfield Samaritans*.

*Fairplay* is a registered charity providing specialist services across North Derbyshire. It supports children and young people with sensory, physical, learning and behavioural disabilities and additional needs. Services include play schemes, youth clubs, befriending, residential breaks, parent support groups and home based care.



*Fairplay* needs to raise £600,000 to turn a one and a half acre derelict allotment site into an innovative garden for children and young people with disabilities. The garden will form part of the new Fairplay Centre in Chesterfield and is being designed in conjunction with the University of Sheffield. The garden will be the first of its kind in the UK and will set new standards in inclusive design. It will provide a unique space for play, learning and development.

This year the appeal will focus particularly on raising funds to purchase specialist outdoor play equipment for the new *Fairplay* garden. The specialist play equipment will open up the world of play to children who are often unable to access mainstream play facilities.

Listen to Keith and Pat speaking at:  
[st-thomas-brampton.org/podcast2010.html#60](http://st-thomas-brampton.org/podcast2010.html#60)

## Chains of Office

When Keith came at Harvest he wore his Chain of Office but not his robes. This is because the robes are only worn for civic and special functions connected with the Council, e.g. the Annual Council Meeting, Civic Services, Remembrance Service, Crich Pilgrimage or when meeting royalty. On all other occasions only the Chain of Office is worn.

### The Mayor's Chain

The chain dates back to 1874 when it was given by Alderman Thomas Philpott Wood, who was Mayor at the time.

At the front is a Rose Pendant donated by Violet Rose Markham in 1928 at the end of her year as the first female Mayor of Chesterfield.

The double sided guinea piece was added by Councillor Charles Paxton Markham to commemorate both his Mayoralty and Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee in 1897. It is a double sided coin which shows Queen Victoria as a young girl and as she was in later life.

The larger pendant (on the left in the picture below) depicts the Chesterfield Coat of Arms. It was gifted and presented to the Borough by Alderman Thomas Philpot Wood.

The smaller pendant on the right shows the Devonshire Coat of Arms which was donated in 1913 by the Duke of Devonshire to commemorate being Mayor of Chesterfield in 1911/12.

### The Consort's Chain

This Chain was donated in 1927 also by Violet Rose Markham whilst she was Mayor of Chesterfield. The Chain is made of silver gilt. The Chain is worn by either the Mayoress (female) or Consort (male).

You can find out more about the Chains of Office if you visit the Mayor's Parlour.



## Parish Centre

Have you walked behind St Thomas' and had a look at how the construction of the Parish Centre is coming on? Perhaps you have been following its progress on the church website. If you haven't this is what it looked like on 14 November. We are hoping to have the centre open by Easter 2011.

*Julie Lomas has adapted this poem based on 1 Peter 2:5 to focus our thoughts and prayers as the building work continues.*

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### Living Stones

As the builders move onto site  
*Lord I want to get into the fray*  
As the builders unload their equipment  
*Lord I want to play a role in the  
biggest adventure of all time*  
As the builders start to work  
*Use me to make a difference*  
As the builders dig out the foundations  
*Use me to impact a young person for you*  
As the concrete is poured into the footings  
*Use me to solve someone's problem*  
As the steel is embedded to bring strength and integrity  
*Use me to soothe someone's pain*  
As the drains and services are laid out  
*Use me to answer someone's prayer*  
As the architect checks the progress  
*Use me to feed someone who's hungry*  
As the frame to the building takes shape  
*Use me to rescue a child*  
As the first bricks are laid  
*Use me to bring someone to You*  
As each brick is set into a wall  
*Use me to ease someone's loneliness*  
As the windows are set in place  
*Use me to raise a godly family*  
As the building reaches the roof line  
*Use me to deepen someone's faith*  
As the roof beams are constructed  
*Use me to cheer someone on*  
As each element means this building is taking shape  
*Help me take my place as one of your Living Stones*



***You also, like living stones,  
are being built into a spiritual  
house to be a holy priest-  
hood, offering spiritual  
sacrifices acceptable to God  
through Jesus Christ.***

Adapted from words by Lee Strobel,  
*Inside the mind of unchurched Harry and  
Mary* (ISBN: 978-0310375616)  
Published by Zondervan (July 22, 1993)

**Thursday 2 December**

1pm Rendezvous, St Thomas'

**Tuesday 7 and Wednesday 8 December**

2pm Old Hall School's Nativity, St Thomas'

**Friday 10 December**

9am St Thomas' Nursery's Nativity

**Saturday 11 December**

3.30pm 'Messy Christingle Church', St Thomas'

**Sunday 12 December**

10am Nativity Service, St Peter's

4pm Christingle Service, St Thomas'

6pm Carol Service, St Peter's

**Tuesday 14 and Wednesday 15 December**

'Experience Christmas' for Old Hall Juniors, St Thomas'

**Wednesday 15 December**

2pm Communion and Cuppa, St Thomas'

**Sunday 19 December**

11am Nativity Service, St Thomas'

4pm Christingle Service, St Peter's

6pm Carol Service, St Thomas'

**Friday 24 December, Christmas Eve**

4 and 6pm All Age Carol Services, St Thomas'

7pm Carols Round the Christmas Tree, Holymoorside

11.30pm 'Midnight Communion', St Thomas'

11.30pm 'Midnight Communion', St Peter's

**Saturday 25 December, Christmas Day**

10am Joint Service, Holymoorside URC

10am Family Communion, St Thomas'

**Sunday 26 December, Christmas Day**

10am Family Communion, St Thomas'

(No service at St Peter's, come to St Thomas')

**Thursday 6 January**

1pm Rendezvous, St Thomas'

**Wednesday 19 January**

2pm Communion and Cuppa, St Thomas'

**Saturday 22 January**

8am Prayer Breakfast, St Thomas'

**Thursday 3 February**

1pm Rendezvous, St Thomas'

**Some Diary Dates  
Including  
Christmas Services**



**Saturday 19 December**

7.30pm Youth Ball

**More information including  
that about regular events can  
be found on the weekly notice  
sheet and at  
[st-thomas-brampton.org/diary](http://st-thomas-brampton.org/diary)**

## A Miner Miracle

*Following the successful rescue of the Chilean miners in October, a number of 'interesting faith facts' have emerged.*

One of the miners said "There weren't 33 people down there, but 34; Jesus was with us".

Many scientists and engineers were amazed at the miraculous nature of the rescue mission, seeing the hand of God at work.

One of the trapped miners, Jose Henriquez, is an evangelical preacher.

Thirty three Bibles were sent down to the miners.

The miners prayed at twelve noon and six o' clock in the evening every day.

Many of the miners emerged from the rescue pod wearing *Campus Crusade for Christ* T-shirts. On the front of the shirt was the Chilean Flag with the words *Gracias Senor!* (Thank you Lord!) and on the back was the words of Psalm 95:4: *Porque en su mano están las profundidades de la tierra, y las alturas de los montes son suyas.* (In his hand are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are his also.)

The chaplain to the Chilean president, the Rev Alfredo Cooper, was once a postman in Cornwall! He led the prayers for the trapped men in the presidential palace and the thanksgiving service, seen by millions on television, after their rescue. Rev Cooper was born in Chile but became a postman and also a window cleaner in St Austell after his parents moved to Cornwall, where they still live. He was appointed chaplain to President Sebastian Pinera in January this year.



One of the miners prays following his rescue

## Saint Barbara, Patron Saint of Miners

*After watching the drama of the miners in Chile being rescued and thinking of the dangers that miners have faced in the past, it is not surprising that they have adopted a patron saint.*

Barbara lived in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Century AD in Asia Minor. To protect her from foreign influences, her father provided sumptuous living quarters for her in a tower. But loneliness caused Barbara to think seriously; and, as a result, she became more and more convinced that the Roman-Greek gods were but a hollow imitation. Without her father's knowledge, she became familiar with the teachings of Christ, and had herself baptized. At that time, Christians were being persecuted nearly everywhere and were considered as enemies of the state. Adherence to Christianity was subject to the severest punishment.

When Barbara explained to her father that she was a Christian he was overcome with rage. He handed her over to the Roman Supreme Court judge for trial and punishment. The judge attempted at first, by kind persuasion, to make her break with her faith but, when this failed, he had her thrashed and cast into jail. Due to the strength of her faith, her wounds healed immediately.

On the following day, she was ordered to make a sacrifice to the pagan gods. When she refused, she was mutilated in a dreadful way. When she continued to proclaim her Christian faith, she was sentenced to die by the sword. Barbara went to her place of execution cheerfully and with great enthusiasm for her true faith. Immediately following her death, a terrible thunderstorm arose and, as punishment for his monstrous crime, her father was killed by lightning.

Later when Christianity had become firmly established, St Barbara was invoked as a protector against the perils of lightning. The belief became widespread that Barbara could control lightning and other manifestations of flame and fire. As gunpowder began to be used for breaking rocks, it produced manifestations similar to thunder claps and lightning flashes. The miners thought they needed special protection against accidents and so they adopted Saint Barbara as their patron saint. Many mines were named after St Barbara, for example 'St Barbara Bonanza' and 'St Barbara Good Hope Vein'.



# An 'Educational' Visit to Brampton Brewery



On 6 November some forty church members and friends visited the Brampton Brewery for an 'educational evening'. Chris Radford, Managing Director and Head Brewer, told us about the history of the brewery and explained how the beer was made.

We were able to sample four of their beers, Impy Dark, Wasp Nest, Brampton Best and Golden Bud. These were served by John Hurst, another member of the brewery team.

Pizzas were also served and we received a Brampton Brewery beer glass to remember our visit by. All in all it was a really enjoyable (and educational evening). You can read more about the brewery and its beers at [www.bramptonbrewery.co.uk](http://www.bramptonbrewery.co.uk).



Brampton Brewery's range of beers



Chris Radford, Head Brewer



Pints all round!



Cheers!

You can see more pictures at [st-thomas-brampton.org/2010/bb.html](http://st-thomas-brampton.org/2010/bb.html)