

## Ploughshare June/July 1996 (scanned version from the original)

### From the Rector

A synopsis of my report. to the Annual Parochial Church meeting.

A summary to start with: the last year has been a bit of a struggle, although there have been many good things, and a year of wonderful opportunity beckons.

I have a **kaleidoscope of memories**. Gift Day was truly encouraging. July 1995 was an amazing month with an ordination, very special weddings, Jonty's return from Uganda, Summer Club -and incredible weather. There have been special times of corporate prayer. Many people give tirelessly of themselves, especially those who make their homes available, and those who give generously. We've had our share of problems: it's been hard to find the way forward at St John's; the revision of the electoral roll indicates that some "pruning" has been happening and numbers are lower. Roger Freestone's heart attack in November had a profound effect on life at St Thomas'.

Church life seems rather like being on an **escalator** but we're trying to go up, when it is coming down! It can be done, for those who are energetic and crazy enough to try -but it's not good for our prayers, our thinking, indeed our health. We are doing too much, there are too many "situations vacant", often there is an absence of fun. But it's not easy to rectify. We must pray for God to show us how.

Travelling down a down escalator would be too easy -and too tedious. Church life should be like **the London marathon** which happened yesterday. That means fun, with a great sense of atmosphere, but the competitors must have real commitment and there is bound to be struggle. The re-ordering of St Thomas' certainly won't solve all our problems, but it will symbolise moving on and be a catalyst in the renewal of our worship, maintaining our unity and offering service gladly and willingly.

I pray for the orientation of our churches to be shifted outwards and upwards. As that happens, my new Mr Man tie will be more and more appropriate. I believe we will be happier and stronger.

**Christopher Frith**

### Wilkinson News

Pete is to be **ordained Priest**, on Sunday 30 June in Derby Cathedral. It doesn't seem possible that a whole year has passed since he was ordained Deacon. If you would like to attend the ordination, you will be very welcome. Please either sign the notice in St Thomas' or ring the Church Office.

**Congratulations to Julia and Pete** on the birth of Eleanor on 19 March. Life at 1 Rhodesia Road is now very different and Eleanor is making her presence felt"

### A View from St Peter's

It has become a regular practice in the village to spruce up our sixteen treasured nativity figures after Christmas. This proved even more necessary this year after the local youngsters decided to re-arrange costumes and headdresses throughout the tableau and dunk the donkey in the river! In consequence Harry arranged for the figures to be restored to full health by willing helpers. The result has been quite spectacular; limbs repaired, bald patches restored miraculously to new growth, beards trimmed and a whole range of new outfits for our Kings and Shepherds.

This illustrates a key feature of our churches, the need for people to be involved and valued. This has the added advantage in a village community of bringing us in touch with people outside our church family. When we installed our new heating in February three of the team were from outside the church. Similarly, our Art and Craft exhibition in Gala week involves many talents from a wide range of people.

But there is an even greater challenge for our churches to reach out. Through "Churches Together in Holymoorside", the three churches recently joined by members of the Zion seek to combine their efforts and step out onto the community. This is achieved in a wide variety of ways, such as the Pancake Party and Christingles for the youngsters and the Maundy Thursday Supper, all deliberately held in the Village Hall to encourage community participation. A twice yearly newsletter, one in the form of a Christmas Card is sent to every home in the village.

Thanks to the initiative of Judith and Jane the Ecumenical Service in the Gala Marquee on August Bank Holiday Sunday has become an established and popular village event. This year with Bishop Jonathan leading our worship we must pray for fine weather, so that we can create more space by opening the side awing. It is often said "that they do things differently at St Peter's". Well, come and see, or better still let's have your entries for the Art and Craft Exhibition for Gala week starting on August 20<sup>th</sup>. Application forms will be available in the churches soon.

## **Face to Face with Angie McGovern**

*Angie is the newly appointed Personal Assistant to the Rector. She works in the Church office on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays.*

### **Angie, how long have you been in Chesterfield?**

Since September 1992. Before that I lived in Inverness for nearly fifteen years. I was brought up in Poole.

### **Why did you go to Inverness?**

A spirit of adventure! I was footloose and fancy free then. I got a job in a bank, but not like the one I'd had in Poole, and I soon had to stop that -it was so boring! I got a job in a department store, doing clerical work and selling carpets and furniture. I enjoyed that, especially dealing with the public. I met Tom in Inverness, through a mutual friend. He comes from Glasgow. It was love at first sight (yes, really!) and within five weeks he proposed. We were married nine months later.

### **Do you come from a churchgoing family?**

Not at all. As a teenager I started going to Pathfinders at the local Church and when I was fifteen. During a CPAS holiday, I decided I wanted to become a Christian. For some years I enjoyed fellowship with other young Christians in my church, but then like so many others, my enthusiasm lapsed and I only went to church occasionally. I think it was after my son Neil was born that I found my way back to church. However, although I attended pretty regularly, the Church of Scotland I went to was rather formal in its outlook and reluctant to initiate change. My involvement there was limited -delivering the monthly magazine, that kind of thing.

### **Was St Thomas' rather a shock to your system?**

It was a terrific contrast. Neil and I were bowled over by the welcome we received and by the flurry of activity. We got involved before we knew what had happened! We really loved the atmosphere and the most important thing was that Neil was comfortable at Sunday Club -and now in Pathfinders.

### **What main difference does being a Christian make to your life?**

I seem to have a more balanced perspective on life. Certainly I don't argue the way I used to!

### **As you set out on your new job, what are your hopes?**

I want to put my organisational skills to good use. Christopher has said that he wants someone, in effect, to manage him, and provide the necessary back-up for his ministry. I hope I'll be able to do this -without bossing him to death! It's really good to be working in harness with Pam Brimelow, the secretary, too.

### **What are your impressions so far, after just over a month?**

It is so challenging. Sometimes frustrating, sometimes rewarding. The enormous variety is great. No two days are ever the same and I like that. One good thing is that Tom is very pleased about my getting this job and, being a computer whizz he's a great support to me at work as well as at home -I really value that.

## **Gift Day -A Wonderful Response**

It was held back on March 17, just missing our last issue. The amount given for the new Garden of Remembrance and the re-ordering of St Thomas' was £43,479 (including tax refunds). A further £24,339 has been pledged (again including tax refunds), making a total of £67,818. Praise God!

## **Hope For Eastern Europe**

**Journey in faith to Romania (Continued from the April edition)**

**Wednesday 13th December 1995**

It was 7.15pm, when we finally set off to drive to our destination on the border of the Black Sea. With official documents sealed and approved our route planned to take us through Aradea arid on to Bucharest.

A contact address in Bucharest: had been given to us by our friends at Zion Church, we made contact with a Christian from Emmanuel Christian Center Mission who gave us accommodation for the night. It was a real luxury to experience a warm shower anti comfortable bed after such a long arduous journey.

Next morning the minister shared his concern to help feed the homeless -especially the elderly and the street children. The money from England would be used to help this project. He also shared how God had laid it on their hearts to reach out in mission sending evangelists into Albania and Bulgaria to help Romanians there, to come to know and experience the love of Jesus.

We volunteered our vehicle to help collect and transport supplies from England. The minister gave us addresses in Aradea and Arad for future stops, before we left for our final destination -Constanta

On arrival contact was immediately made with Dr Nicholas, to ensure that the medical supplies arid equipment were delivered as promised. Dr Nicholae sends his grateful thanks and prays we will be able to continue to support him (he especially needs Orthopaedic books -new surgical techniques -tools for surgery and prosthesis).

Arrangements were made next day to visit Tansa's home. It is progressing well arid we were extremely encouraged by the quality of workmanship. This home will eventually be used as a safe house to help other poor victims in distress. Tansa and her family send their love and warmly thank everyone for their positive response to thus appeal. Please could you continue to pray for this project and for the Chiriac family who were homeless with seven children. Our funds are! helping to pay the rent and tax for their new flat which God has provided. Their prayers are being truly answered.

Jill, Tony and Matthew arrived in the Ford Transit kindly sponsored by G.K. Group, conveying parcels for the forty four residents of the leper community at Tichilesti, as well as toys arid shoe boxes for under-privileged children in the Constanta region.

There was great excitement about the toys and plans were made for receiving and sorting them at Mangalia that evening. Our Romanian team are always eager to respond to God's call and they worked through the night to select arid wrap each present for a particular child. We pray that God will enable us to continue to bring his love at Christmastime in this very poor remote region.

The 'Gift of Love' parcels, for our dear friends at the leper community were transported along with the dental chair for the new medical centre at Tulcea the following day (Sunday). The medical centre is nearing completion arid there was a lot of joy when the chair was finally unloaded and special prayers were said to thank God for our safe arrival arid the wonderful gift he had provided.

The residents of the leper community always get excited when parcels arrive and the two carers were very efficient and friendly. Through drawing pictures and Jill speaking a few words in Romanian we finally managed to convince them that there was a special parcel prepared for each person. Permission was given for us to deliver the parcels with their help and we were also allowed to take lots of photographs and slides.

This was a great blessing as we hope to establish firm friendships here to help meet and pray for their needs in this very poor, but lovely community. My heart particularly goes out to the lepers, they really do appreciate and need our love and care. It is extremely moving visiting them. Our mission was now complete and plans were discussed for future visits.

The team wish to thank everyone for their love, support and prayers. May we continue to work together in God's love and use our lives to help God's kingdom to truly be established here on earth. every blessing in Christ.

**Pamela Gratton**

## **Link Mission Partners –Andy and Mandy Lines**

We have recently received news of the work load which is now in place since the Lines' family returned from their holiday in Chile. Andrew is Bible teaching to different groups which he loves, Mandy is co-ordinating a weekly wives Bible study, and helping out with marriage work. Alex and Zoe are at school and with Elizabeth in need of attention every member of the family is fully occupied.

Let us continue our much valued support by sending them letters or by including them in our daily prayers.