

## Ploughshare June/July 1997 (scanned version from the original)

### From the Curate Andy Broom

Are you busier now than you were 5 years ago? I guess for most of us the answer is a resounding "yes". Whilst some of us do know the frustration of having time on our hands, for most being busy is a way of life.

The tragedy is that leading busier and busier lives doesn't actually lead to any greater sense of fulfilment or happiness. We try to make the most of every opportunity, to cram as much in as possible, but find little joy in our much-doing.

Yet busyness seems unstoppable. It's self-perpetuating - how do we stop it? I moan about being busy a lot, but still find myself becoming busier. Clearly it takes more than just complaining to change things! What are we to do?

Is better 'time management' the answer? Do we need to change our working practices and lifestyles to become more efficient? It might help, or it might just enable us to do more ...and so become busier! I suspect the only real answer lies with more radical action:

- ◆ ensuring above all else our relationship with God is healthy so we're not alone in our battle with busyness and have his perspective on our lives.
- ◆ deciding to have quality time for ourselves and our families, and not feel guilty when we do!
- ◆ if it's not possible to make time for these by being more efficient, then quite simply, do less. Looking deep within at that part which drives us on to be busy.

Jesus said, "I have come that they might have life, and have it to the full." That's his desire for us - if busyness is a problem, let's find ways to be less busy so we can enjoy the life we have.

### Christ in the Peak IN THE WHITE PEAK

Ray Hearn writes about the third and last of his series of paintings.

The capstone is the wedge-shaped stone at the centre of an arch. It is the final stone to be put in place and is a fearsome image:

*The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone. The Lord has done this and it is marvellous in His eyes... He who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces but he on whom it falls will be crushed. (Matthew 22:42 and 44)*

In the Authorised Version the word "Capstone" is not used. "Cornerstone" is used, but the original word is literally "head of the corner" or "keystone" of the arch (Zecariah 4:7, 10:4) of God's new creation in Christ Jesus (2 Corinthians 5:17).

Each stone depends on the capstone, leans on the capstone, has its identity and function determined by the capstone. The arch collapses without a capstone and crushes those beneath.

I looked for a clear example in good light but could not find one that would give a good photo. Then I discovered an undeveloped roll of film containing photos taken by Simon, my son, on his holiday in Turkey a year previously. These pictures were a "Godsend". Two were of an arch at Laodicea (Revelation 3:14-22) which had been held together by a capstone for at least two thousand years. Young men and girls were standing on top! These arches were common in the time of Jesus in the Eastern Mediterranean.

The arch had stood for thousands of years but there was no cement holding the stones.

The love of God in Christ Jesus holds us and all creation together!

People would know exactly what was meant by the image of "capstone"

After I had painted the picture I discovered the clearest example of arches with capstone I have seen in Britain: surrounding the courtyard in the stables at Chatsworth House, the home of the Duke and Duchess of Devonshire. They were held together by cement but the relationship of the stones to each other was the same as in the arch at Laodicea.

### **Christ and His Church**

The arch is a graphic picture of Christ and His Church of "living stories" and a vivid illustration of the meaning of the words:

*"God was in Christ reconciling the world unto Himself" (holding everything together in a right relationship) (2 Corinthians 5:19)*

The painting portrays Christ enduring the Cross for the world He loves, providing significance and purpose for each "stone" by becoming at one with the world, at the same time as **aton**ing or paying, for the sins of the world by becoming God's own offering for sin:

*"not counting men's sin's against them" (2 Corinthians 5:19)*

Jesus is in the Peak District and in His Church in the Peak. If not, He has nothing to say to us. We would not be able to trust Him to hold our lives together for he would not be worthy of our trust. God is still in Christ in the world (Matthew 2:23) because:

*"Jesus is the same, yesterday, today, forever, the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last, the Author and Perfecter of our faith" (Hebrews 13:8, Revelation 22:13, Hebrews 13:2)*

*"And He has committed to us the ministry of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making His appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf. Be reconciled to God." (2 Corinthians 5:19-20)*

The arch is the symbol of Christ's church with Christ as her capstone in the world, in the Peak; the gate through which we all must enter to enjoy (**enter into the joy of**) the Peak and God's world as God intended.

## **Touchstone -where are we now?**

In my last report on Touchstone I mentioned our move to the YMCA premises in the centre of Chesterfield and the importance of acquiring charitable status. These are but stepping stones along the road to achieving our potential in providing support, training and jobs for the unemployed.

We are now in receipt of a major grant from the Tudor Trust of £75,000, for the appointment of a Coordinator for three years. To obtain this award we have been closely scrutinised. It is therefore encouraging to all concerned that it has been awarded in recognition of our potential to deliver there aims and objectives. We are particularly grateful to the Venerable David Garnett, Archdeacon of Chesterfield, for his support.

This grant provides sustainable funding, but also opens doors to further opportunities through matched funding and partnerships with other agencies involved with the unemployed. Have you heard of the "Intermediate Labour Market" in Glasgow or the "Routes to Work" in Derby? These are two initiatives set. up to develop contact work acrd training for the unemployed, providing a reasonable living wage. The money has come from a combination of benefits, revenue and European funding. These pilot schemes are gaining recognition throughout the country and require a close partnership between the relevant agencies and the local authorities.

Consultation with those involved in ILM indicate that Touchstone is progressing well in this direction. The appointment of our Coordinator and his support staff are therefore crucial. Some of the work is quite demanding but there are opportunities for a wide range of skills within the project. Your prayers and practical support are always encouraging to staff, volunteers and users alike.

**Adrian Marsden-Jones**

## **Jonty Frith's Ordination**

Jonty **Frith** is to be ordained on June 29th in Carlisle Cathedral. He will serve as a Curate in the parish of Houghton in Carlisle, having completed his training at Wycliffe Hall, Oxford.

A remarkable fact: Jonty will be the seventh consecutive generation of Anglican clergymen in the Frith family! Is this a record?

He is considering reverting to his proper name of Jonathan once he moves house!

Do pray for him and Becky as they face new opportunities.

**Jonty and Becky were married in Bristol last December.**

## **Face to Face with David Holden**

*David Holden is the new Church Warden, taking over from Philip Abbott. He lives on Moorland View Road, Walton.*

### **Where do you come from David?**

Chorley in Red Rose country, until 10 years ago. After we were married, we lived in a little village nearby called Heskin, where Laura had been brought up.

### **What brought you to Derbyshire?**

We bought a pub in Foolow -a major change for us in every way. By qualification, I am a production engineer, specialising in industrial engineering -concerned with time and how it is used, its effects on efficiency and productivity. I took voluntary redundancy. I had always been interested in cooking and my son Michael trained as a chef. We had talked of working together one day, although with my Methodist background I had never thought of having a pub! Anyway it happened and it was full of interesting experiences, but rather a hectic life. We saw it as a place to eat well, with drinks as a sideline and I think it was quite successful. At the most, we served over 1000 meals a week in a place that could barely seat 60! That was during Eyam Carnival and Foolow Well-dressing.

### **Why did you give up the pub?**

Family problems, principally. When you work really closely together, you get under one another's feet and that can bring difficulties. Mind you, now we have space we have become much closer as a family.

### **What brought you to St Thomas'?**

Personal recommendation! In Foolow, we became Anglicans. We were very near the church which had afternoon services which really suited us. When we moved we were told St Thomas' was the place to go!

### **What have you been doing since coming to Chesterfield?**

Initially, I completed loads of job applications with no success whatever -just one interview. But after a bit I was employed by Nat West Bank as a consultant, which meant travelling all over the place. With a colleague I wrote monitoring programmes which are used countrywide in the banking network. Since then there have been various shorter term projects but, for the last 12 months, I have been without employment. Mind you, for the first five of these I have been out of action, having a knee replacement, you know, one of those metal things which make alarms go off in airport check-ins!

### **How do you feel about being Church Warden?**

Privileged that people have put their confidence in me. I'm fairly new to St Thomas' and it's good to feel accepted. I can only do it with the Lord's help and that of others I'll have to lean on. So far, both Philip and Alan have been a great help.

### **What are your hopes for St Thomas'?**

I hope to see the realisation of all three of the PCC aims \*. Then we'll know we're on the way to being a missionary congregation. Until we have encouraged and built one another up, we won't be able to make an impact -but I really think it's starting.

## **\*The PCC aim is To Become Missionary Congregations**

Led by the Holy Spirit, we will ....

- ◆ pursue "whole-life "Christianity
- ◆ encourage and support each other to live distinctive Christ-centred lives
- ◆ aim to become an accessible focal point for the community

## **Hope for Eastern Europe**

In the wonderful name of our Lord Jesus the team for Hope for Eastern Europe would like to extend a very warm thank you to everyone who helped support Dr Nicholae's visit in March this year.

Dr Nicholae, an English speaking Christian surgeon came to seek help for his impoverished orthopaedic hospital on the border of the Black Sea in the Constanta region. He was very encouraged and over-whelmed by the wonderful welcome he received and the generosity shown by so many loving people.

This is a very positive start if you feel led to help towards the next medical consignment we would love to hear from you. The staff are working in extremely difficult conditions and the hospital is in desperate need, getting very little state help. Patients have to pay for all their treatment, medication and food. This often prolongs their stay in hospital due to shortage of basic items such as bandages, cotton wool, pain-relief, antibiotics, antiseptics, white sheets, pillow cases, soap, powdered milk, dried vegetables. They also need specialised equipment for Xray, physiotherapy, tools for surgery, white tops and trousers. Paint is also needed to brighten and clean the wards.

### **Other items required to help poor families.**

Good quality adults and children's shoes, toiletries, small toys, writing materials, jewellery hair accessories, new knitted items, and kitchen utensils.

Is God calling you to help by collecting a few basic items and bringing them to our new mission centre based at the rear of St. Thomas' church.

Remember the words of our Lord Jesus. *"It is more blessed to give than to receive."*

God Bless you all.

**Pamala Gratton**

## **Garden of Remembrance**

Work on the new Garden of Remembrance at St Thomas, and a safe play-area outside the Meeting Room for small children will be carried out during June.

When it is more or less complete, those waiting to have cremated remains of loved one buried in the Garden can do so, before the grass is sown. All those known to be waiting will be contacted when the time comes.

## Church Wardens

We welcome **David Holden** as a warden at St Thomas' and **David Holmes** at St John's. In addition, **Kevin Turville** has joined the team of Deputy wardens at St Thomas'.

We are truly grateful to our wardens who have a demanding task combining the roles of shop steward, personnel officer and manager! Please support them and pray for them.