

PLOUGHSHARE

June/July 2008

Volume 16, No 4



St Thomas' Brampton St Peter's, Holymoorside

Share the love of Jesus

*We aim to become more like Jesus every day
as we respond to His love for us and
as we share the good news of Him with others*



**Phil Foster about to
play snooker against
Shaun Murphy**

**Litter Picking at
Walton Dam**

**Do you know what
the connection is?**

**Find out on pages
6-11**

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 www.st-thomas-brampton.org.

St Thomas'

Sermon themes and readings are available in Church or at

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

Podcasts of the sermons and readings are available at

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Note:

1st Sunday in June (1st) the 11am is an All Age Morning Worship Service.

1st Sunday in July (6th) will be a joint service at 10.30am and will include an update on the Development Project.

3rd Sunday in July (20th) the 11am is an All Age Morning Worship Service.

Advanced notice:

In August there will only be one Sunday service in the morning at 10.30am. It will alternate between Holy Communion and Morning Worship.

The 6.30pm service will be as normal.

St Peter's

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

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

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

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

From the Church Warden

I'm writing this letter a few days after Pentecost. You're probably very familiar with the account in Acts chapter 2 of how the disciples were filled with the Holy Spirit and began speaking in different languages so that the Jewish visitors to Jerusalem from many countries could understand what they were saying, and how Peter spoke to the crowd and how many thousands became believers that day. It is the beginning of the Christian church.



If you're not familiar with the account, and even if you are, I recommend you to listen to Eileen Balch's sermon from the 9am service on Pentecost (11th May) then read again the account in Acts 2.

Listening to Eileen, it was brought home to me that these were ordinary men, not highly educated scholars. They had given up their normal lives to follow Jesus and all the hopes they had had been shattered with his death. But they had seen him again and they continued to believe and to pray together. They were filled with the Holy Spirit which enabled them to spread the message of Jesus Christ to thousands of others who became believers and the Christian church began.

Maybe you're a bit like me. I know I couldn't stand up and preach about God's word. I find it hard to talk to non Christians about my faith and why it is so important to me. I'm lucky, most of my friends are Christians but sometimes I wonder what my colleagues think of my beliefs.

What I was reminded of on Sunday was that we are all called to serve God and to share our faith with others in different ways and that God equips each of us with the skills and strengths to do just that. Each way is just as valuable to God as the next, there is no right or wrong way to show His love to others.

This led me to think about something that happened to me last month which, quite frankly, has been bothering me. Late one Saturday night in Chesterfield last year I went to help a young lady who had an accident. I was surprised a few weeks later to receive a letter from the Derbyshire Police thanking me for what I had done.

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I was amazed a couple of months ago to learn that I was being given a Police award for what I had done. So last month Phil and I went to the awards ceremony, which was nerve wracking, and I was astounded to learn that the majority of people, nine out of ten, would not have stopped as I had done.

What has been bothering me ever since is why what I did was regarded as so amazing. On Sunday I realised that I helped because God has given me the gifts to be able to do so, just as he has given others the gift of making music, organising things, preaching etc. The gift he has given me is to give practical help to others, be they friends, colleagues or complete strangers.

We all need to ask God to show us the gifts he has given to each of us and the courage to use those gifts to spread the amazing news of Jesus Christ.

And that brings me to the arrival of our new clergy to the parish. This is the last Church Warden's letter in the parish magazine. On 4th May Audrey Smith was licensed as Associate Priest to serve in the parish with responsibility for St Peter's, Holymoorside and on 5th June Matt Barnes will be inducted as Rector of St Thomas'.

I thank God that He has given Matt and Audrey the gifts to be leaders in His church and that He has led them both to us here in Brampton and Holymoorside. We look forward to their ministry and to new people being drawn to our churches as a result. Thank you to everyone who has helped Bernard and me with the running of St Thomas' during the vacancy and to Mark Marsden for keeping St Peter's afloat during their twelve month vacancy.

God bless
Karen Riley

Eileen's sermon is at:
st-thomas-brampton.org/podcasts2008.html#11

From the Editor

As you read this, our new Rector, Matt Barnes, will either be about to start work in our parish or will have started. (Matt's induction is on June 5th.)

Our new Minister at St Peter's, Audrey Smith, has started work in Holymoorside. Audrey was licensed on May 4th by the Archdeacon of Chesterfield. (Pictures on page 18.)

On behalf of all Ploughshare readers may I extend a warm welcome to both Matt (and his family) and Audrey.

Also on behalf of our readers can I also say a big thank you to a few people.

Pat Lowe who has stepped down after delivering Ploughshare for ten years in Holymoorside.

Alan Kitchen who has stepped down after many years from compiling the rotas at St Thomas'.

Phil Johnson who has retired from being Estates Manager at St Thomas' after many years service. The Estate will be in good hands still as **Philip Riley** has taken on the role -thank you Philip.

The closing date for articles for the August/September edition is July 11th.



Karen Riley (Church Warden) presents Phil Johnson with a photograph of St Thomas' to mark his retirement from the position of Estates Manager.

My Faith - Chantal Cooney

Chantal has been a member of St Thomas' for a number of years. She works as a nurse at Chesterfield Royal Hospital. Chantal tells us a bit about herself, how she came to faith and what her faith means to her.



I was born on the tropical island of Mauritius in the Indian Ocean. I am proud to be a “Creole”, descended from African slaves brought to the island many years ago to work in the sugar cane fields by French plantation owners. Thankfully slavery has gone, though sugar cane still covers much of Mauritius and my mother still works part-time in the sugar cane fields. In Mauritius, even though English is the official language, everyone speaks Patois, a form of broken French developed by the early slaves.

I had a very happy childhood even though my family was poor. I grew up in a small village in the hills surrounded by a large extended family who, still to this day, live in or near the village. Even though I had a happy upbringing and was surrounded by the love of my family, I still felt there was something missing in my life. It was like there was a hole in my life that nothing could fill.

At the age of nineteen I started work at the telephone exchange in a large town called Curepipe. I would sometimes stay at a colleague's home overnight since Curepipe is quite a long way from my village.

During these stays I met Rene, my colleague's brother who told me about Jesus. Although I had been brought up in the Catholic Church I had never really understood Christianity or what Jesus had done. Going to church had just been a tradition.

Rene's wife had left him some time ago and Rene had started to drink heavily and became an alcoholic. (Rum is very cheap in Mauritius!) Rene reached a low point in his life and became a real burden to his family.

However, it was in this dark period that Rene turned to Jesus for help. Rene's life was transformed. Instead of being a burden he became a help to his family. I was really attracted by the love that Rene had for God and for others. He also had an inner peace and joy that was evident in his behaviour. His family were able to confirm to me how becoming a Christian had completely changed Rene's life and he was no longer drinking.

I started to attend an Assemblies of God Church with Rene and I heard the Gospel, the “Good News”. I surrendered my life to Jesus -although it took a while to understand all the steps of salvation; seeing myself as a sinner, believing that Jesus suffered on the cross to take away my sin and repenting and receiving forgiveness. Even though my understanding of the Gospel was a process, I knew in my heart that the step I had taken meant that I belonged to God. I was His child and he loved me. The feeling of emptiness in my life disappeared; I had found what was missing.



Not long afterwards, I was visiting an old school friend who lived in Port Louis, the capital city of Mauritius. We were just strolling around the streets as friends do when we happened to pass a Government building. She said: “Look, the British are looking for young people to train as nurses in the England. You have ‘O’ level English, why don’t you put your name down?” I have to say I was quite excited by the idea. I went in, signed some papers, and three months later a letter arrived in my village offering me a post to train as an enrolled nurse at a hospital near Hastings on the south coast of England.

I arrived in England in 1976. It was the first time I had left Mauritius and it was a very hard time for me. England was so different from home and so far from home. My ‘O’ level in English was not much use and I found speaking the language very difficult. I felt lonely, isolated and extremely homesick. I think in those first few months, if I had had the money for my return fare I would have gone back to my village. But I had very little money, so I had to stick it out.

I am really thankful to God that He put people in place to help me through this difficult time and to help me grow in my faith. I have had my ups and downs during my life in England. I have been blessed with a happy marriage to Peter and three beautiful children, Esme, Camille and Lewis. The death of my father on Boxing Day 2003 was a great sadness.

I can truly say that God is faithful and He helps me in all aspects of my life. He is helping me to receive more of His love and helping me to love Him more. He is helping me to grow in loving my neighbours as myself and to trust him through the trials and hardships of life. Giving my life to Jesus was the best and most important decision of my life.

Chantal Cooney

HOPE 2008 with Cliff College 7-16 March 2008



As the last edition of Ploughshare went to press in March we were looking forward to students from Cliff College coming to Chesterfield for a week to be part of **HOPE for Chesterfield**. They duly arrived and a number were 'allocated' to Brampton and a number to Walton and Holymoorside.

Events in Brampton included

Friday The week started with an informal welcome to the team at Storrs Road Methodist Church.

Saturday The team were hard at work litter picking at Walton Dam together with members of the local churches and the 3rd Brampton Scouts. An amazing amount of litter was cleared. In the afternoon all the members from Cliff were commissioned at Central Methodist Church.

Sunday Team member Clive Osborne preached at St Thomas' and Rev Gabriel Boakye from Ghana was interviewed about his ministry.

Wednesday An evening entitled 'Fun, Food and a Window on the World' was held. This was a time of fellowship, worship and an opportunity to find out about evangelism in Africa. We were particularly fortunate to have the Rev Hilary Adeba, Bishop of South Sudan, with us for the evening.

Thursday The more senior members of the community enjoyed some nostalgia at the 'The Way They Were' afternoon.

Saturday This was a family day, 'Join in the Cheering'. There were games, crafts and fun. Also preparations for the Palm Sunday service were made.

Palm Sunday The Cliff team were involved in the 11am service at St Thomas'. Neil Draper preached and Laura Poxon gave her testimony. The week was concluded with a Celebration Service at St Mary's school.

Also during the week there were **lunchtime 'drop in' sessions** for members of Brookfield school at Storrs Road Methodist Church.

See some more pictures and listen to recordings from some of the events at www.st-thomas-brampton.org/hope2008.html

Litter Picking Walton Dam



Fun, Food and a Window on the World



David Sanderson interviews Rev Hilary Adeba, Bishop of South Sudan
and Aneka Godfrey talks to his wife

Some of the Cliff Team '



Including Neil Draper, Gabriel Boakye
Laura Poxon (3rd, 4th and 5th from left)

Final Celebration at St Mary's



Hope 2008 at St Peter's



“Hope” descended on us rather unexpectedly, probably because we are not in the metropolis of Chesterfield. By the time we were teamed up with St John’s Walton, much had already been organised and put in place. However, we were thrown onto our own initiative and the results were quite surprising thanks to a team of committed and adaptable students ably led by their tutor Steve Wild.

We started our venture on **Saturday morning** with an open meeting in the village hall to discuss the results of our Village Survey and draw tentative conclusions. Three students assisted in the discussions which followed and obtained a useful insight into the structure and needs of the community.

On the **Saturday Evening** a prayer walk round the village had been arranged. Unfortunately, this coincided with our Barn Dance in the village hall, held to raise funds for the rebuilding of our vestry. Seven students joined in fun and pie and pea supper, later confessing that they didn’t really feel comfortable knocking on doors. I think we can all relate to that!

Monday, this provided the opportunity for two students and their tutor to enjoy the social aspect of a traditional Lent Lunch, held in a home. These are always well attended in the village and this year raised £653 for Christian Aid.

On **Tuesday** and **Wednesday** evenings, the students organised ‘fun’ sessions in the URC for children aged from 10-15 years. This proved very successful and enabled us to obtain uninhibited feedback of the children’s problems and aspirations, (something missing from our survey).

Thursday evening at St. Peter’s there was an evening discussion on ‘new approach to outreach’, led by Steve Wild which proved lively and profitable.

On the final **Friday** seven students had a real ‘hands on’ experience helping us erect the Easter Garden out in the village. They finished their week with us by leading the blessing of the Easter Garden following our **Palm Sunday** service.

I think you will gather from this report that everyone involved in the week benefited greatly from the Christian interaction and involvement.

Adrian Marsden-Jones

HOPE 2008 An Evening with Shaun Murphy



As part of HOPE 2008 the Acorn Fellowship arranged in April for Shaun to come to Queens Park Leisure Centre to talk about his career as a professional snooker player and his Christian Faith. Shaun was Snooker World Champion in 2005 at the age of twenty two. He was ranked number one in the world in April.

*During the evening three members of the four hundred strong audience were selected to play against Shaun. **Phil Foster**, one of our St Thomas' church family members was one of the lucky ones chosen!*

Shaun was interviewed in a 'chat programme' setting and below is an abridged version of what he said.

What is your current number one ranking based on?

It's based on the number of points I have gained from competitions this season. However whether I will still be number one after the World Championships in May is another matter. [Following the World Championships Shaun is now ranked 3rd -Ed]

When did you start playing snooker?

It was at Christmas when I was eight. I had asked for a Commodore 64 electronic game but was given a small snooker table from *Toys R Us*. I fell in love with the game from then. I progressed up the ranks and was playing for Northamptonshire under 19's when I was twelve. I could hardly reach the table so I had a box to stand on.

How old were you when you turned pro?

I was fifteen, the youngest ever pro. They had to bend the rules because the official age is sixteen. I hated being a pro at first. Not just because I lost my first match 5-3 but because it was so tough. My goal had always been to become a professional but now I was one what was there to focus on? People see the best players on the television but below them are many journeyman players, as I was, playing lots of qualifying matches in front of a handful of spectators.

/continued

Your cue has quite a history.

My first cue was from *Toys R Us* and my second cue came from a jumble sale. My current cue I discovered in the workshop of the person who was adjusting my second cue. It belonged to a billiards player called Tom Newman who was World Billiards Champion six times in the 1920's. Ray Reardon the six times World Snooker Champion in the 1970's, then owned it – so it's got a good pedigree!



Things weren't easy at home when you were growing up.

My parents divorced when I was fourteen. We were made bankrupt and sometimes it was only the money I made from snooker kept us from being turned out of our rented house. Things did get a bit easier when I got my first sponsorship deal from *Doc Martins*.

How did you become a Christian?

Well my parents weren't Christians but I did go to a Catholic school. However we met a family on holiday one year and the following year I went and stayed with them. On the first Sunday they asked if I wanted to go to church with them. The first thing I asked was "Do I have to genuflect?" The people who I was staying with looked bemused –they did not know what genuflect meant! Anyway I went to church with them. It was completely different from what I knew of church –it was fun and the people seemed to show a love for God. I learned that I didn't have to earn God's love, I did not have to carry round unforgiveness and that God could help me. I wish I had found this out earlier –I am sure I would not have made so many mistakes. A one week stay turned out to be a three month stay!

How does your faith affect your life, especially being a World Champion?

I believe God gave me the talent to play snooker. I always pray before a match. I used to pray that I would win but it did not always happen! So I now pray that I will do my best. I have to admit that before the World Final I prayed Matthew Stevens would fall over and break his leg I was so nervous!

On the snooker circuit most people are apathetic to my faith but a few are interested and a few are hostile. We tend to travel as a family and go to church if we can wherever we are. We invite people to come with us and sometimes they do accept and come along.

Now I am well known I have an opportunity to be an influence on people. So I have to make sure that I am a good role model.

How do you handle being a World Champion.

I don't think I have really changed as a person, its peoples' perceptions of me that have changed. The other day I was shopping in *Asda* and a lady recognised me and came up to me and said "What are you doing shopping in here?" I am still a normal person wearing normal clothes, eating normal food and doing normal things.

You met Clare your wife in an interesting way!

Yes it was on a Christian chat website! Clare was in Rotherham and I was in Northampton and we had both put ourselves on the site for fun. Clare caught my eye and two months later we met and a few months later I moved up to Rotherham and we got married. Up to then I didn't believe in 'love at first sight' –but I do now!

Have you any plans for the future?

At the moment it's to try to stay number one in the World and try to win the World Championship. It's physically and mentally demanding. I've no plans beyond snooker yet but Clare and I have missionary friends in Zimbabwe and we do believe we should do as much as we can to help as many people as we can –so who knows what the future holds.



Phil Foster gets some advice from Shaun



What did he say?



This is harder than it looks!



Well done Phil -with just a bit more practice...

The 'Good Stuff' Review by Peter Cooney

Paul wrote to the Phillipians: ***“whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable – if anything is excellent or praiseworthy – think about such things”***.

In our media saturated world this is not easy advice to follow (and perhaps was just as difficult for the Phillipians?). Every day we are bombarded with images, words and sounds that are just the opposite of the ideals set out by Paul. The media's output can be explicit and in your face, or subtle and insinuating. We can knowingly seek it out, or it can catch us by surprise. However, it gets into our brains and it can do damage to our spiritual health.

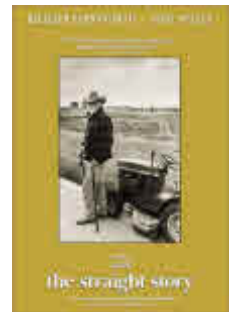
That's the bad news. The good news is – I believe there is a lot of good stuff out there that perhaps even an ex-Pharisee like Paul would enjoy.

So... I thought... why not draw attention to those things that I think are true, noble, pure, admirable, excellent etc. Books, films or any media that I have found that encourages my faith in the way Paul intended. The intention then is to do occasional reviews of films or books or anything else that builds us up, rather than drags us down. Hopefully, some of my choices will be surprising, even controversial. I intend to avoid the explicitly Christian since the intention is to share the good stuff out there that is less obvious. So let's make a start with one of my favourite films:

The Straight Story

U certificate directed by David Lynch

The mention of David Lynch may raise a few eyebrows – the director of surreal and nightmarish movies such as *Eraserhead*, *Blue Velvet* and *Mulholland Drive*, as well as the controversial TV series *Twin Peaks*. Just the sort of output that Paul would probably say was best avoided. However, *The Straight Story* is not the usual David Lynch film.



The story is based on real events: Alvin Straight is an ailing old man who has not spoken to his brother, Lyle, for many years. He receives news that Lyle has had a stroke and decides it is time he patched things up. Problem: brother lives 300 miles away, Alvin is not fit to drive a car and stubbornly refuses to use alternative transport. Solution: he decides to drive there on his motorised lawnmower! So the film becomes a very slow paced road movie as Alvin travels on the highways of the American Midwest encountering a host of great characters. I will say little more about the plot – get the DVD.

So, what is “noble, pure, admirable etc.” about *The Straight Story*? Well, apart from just being a moving and entertaining film, I believe it communicates in a beautiful way some great truths:

1. Saying sorry, patching things up with those family or friends we have fallen out with isn't easy. It takes effort, imagination and perseverance, but it is a good thing to do. As well as Alvin's quest, there is a touching scene when Alvin meets a pregnant teenager, homeless and estranged from her family.
2. There are a lot of good people in the world who will offer help to the vulnerable given the opportunity. This is a message that has become quite alien to our culture. So many modern films (David Lynch's included) portray a world dominated by characters who seem irredeemably evil, violent, and ruthless. But is that a balanced view of reality? There is evil in the world, yes, but there is also a lot of good and it is nice to see it getting some serious attention for a change.
3. Old age, disease and infirmity are no fun, but they don't mean we should wallow in self pity. In researching this piece I discovered that Richard Farnsworth, the actor who played Alvin Straight, was actually suffering from terminal bone cancer during filming (and sadly died of a self inflicted gun shot wound a year later). The physical pain you see as Alvin struggles with the demands of the journey and everyday life is real and his reaction to his failing health is brutally honest. He tells a fit young football player who asks about old age: “The worst part of being old? It's remembering when you were young”. But Alvin's disabilities don't detract from his humanity, they enhance it. He isn't less of a man just because there are things he can no longer do. When the time has come to do the right thing, he gets on and does it.
4. It is good to slow down! Alvin has no real choice in the matter, the lawnmower plods along at walking pace and his journey takes weeks. Our culture says if we slow down the pace of our life we are going to miss out on something – we have got to pack in as much as we can and be constantly rushing on to the next event. Alvin's shows us slowing down can actually enrich our lives and create space and opportunity for relationships to develop.

It's a great film, catch it on Video or DVD if you can.

Thank you Pete for suggesting this series and starting it off. If anyone else would like to contribute please feel free to do so. -Editor

Living Stones Project

Over the last couple of months a number of events have been held and initiatives taken as our fund raising for the St Thomas' Development Project continues. These include:

Coffee morning and flower sale by St Thomas' Flower Arranging Team.

Car wash by the 3rd Brampton Scouts.

Concert by John Prentice.

Making and selling jewellery and cards.

Car boot sale (see page 16).

Foreign coins collection.

Coast to coast cycle ride (see page 17).

A big thank you to everyone who contributed.

Look out for more events in the notice sheet or at www.st-thomas-brampton.org/sttdev.html



Flower Team Coffee Morning



'Gem Stones to Living Stones'
Alison Shemwell (left) and Jenny Dods
making jewellery



John Prentice in concert with Jill, Peter and Andrew



Diary Dates

Thursday 5 June

Rendezvous outing to the Dukeries

7pm Induction or Rev Matt Barnes, St Thomas' Church

Saturday 14 June

8am Men's Breakfast, St Thomas' Meeting Room

Coffee Morning, Holymoorside Village Hall

Wednesday 18 June

7.45pm People @ Prayer, St Thomas' Meeting Room

Saturday 21 June

7.30pm Co-operative Choral Concert, St Thomas' Church

Thursday 26 June

2-4pm Strawberry Tea, 204 Ashgate Road (-for St Thomas' Development)

Friday 27 June

Furnace, St Thomas' Church

Saturday 28 June

10am-1pm Coffee Morning, 48 Netherleigh Road (-for St Thomas' Development)

Thursday 3 July

1pm Rendezvous, St Thomas' Church

Saturday 5 July

7.30pm Chesterfield Bach Choir Concert, St Thomas' Church

Sunday 13 July

St Thomas' Church Picnic, Graves Park, Sheffield

Friday 18 July

Furnace, St Thomas' Church

Friday 8 and Saturday 9 August

Rendezvous 'Cruise', St Thomas' Church

Saturday 9 August

St Peter's outing to Southport

Thursday 26 June 2008: You are invited to a

“STRAWBERRY FAYRE”

204, Ashgate Road

Strawberry Cream Teas and Cakes

Preserves Plants Jewellery Cards Craft

All proceeds to the St Thomas' Church Development Project



Living Stones Project- Giving God the Boot??

Julie Lomas tells us about the car boot sale she did with Rosie Welch for the Living Stones Project and why these “fun”d raising events are important.

May Day Bank Holiday Monday – 5.30am – rise and shine?? Not usually known as a “morning” person, I do admit to having two large and strong cups of tea before setting out with Rosie Welch for the showground at Bakewell and our very first car boot sale. It was pouring with rain in Loxley Close and if someone had given me an option to go back to bed I would have taken it – but they didn’t.



So we set off in convoy with Tim and Sue Wheeler who were also doing their first sale (raising funds for Joshua’s year with Youth for Christ). Once in Bakewell, our sat nav system (which is on the blink) announced “You have crossed the border” and sure enough we had gone over the river and were now on the south side of Bakewell where it stopped raining and warmed up considerably!!

We had been warned to take care on arrival as we were likely to be overwhelmed with swarms of car booters pouncing on our goods – in fact they are all far too polite in Bakewell for that sort of carry on, and we were able to set up stall with just one or two sales before 7.15am! And so we were ready....

And what fun we had doing this bit of “fun”d raising for the Living Stones Project. All the items were left over from the Nearly New Sale back in February, with one or two late additions. Rosie and I soon got into the swing of selling – an early purchase by one lady – a pair of wellies for £1 so she could get round the rest of the muddy site! Another little lad was distraught when his mum told him he couldn’t have the video he had found even though it was only 10p because he already had it on DVD and they didn’t have a video player any more – ah shame! Rosie’s “used only once” shortbread mould went for 50p to a lady who had no intention of using it – rather it was the missing link in her collection and she was delighted to have found it. All sorts of stuff was on display and we sold almost all of it raising £122.70 in the process. What was left fitted into a few boxes and has been donated to Ashgate Hospice for their shops.

So, why “giving God the boot”? For me, the best part of the last six months has been the variety of ways in which we have all been able to give something to God for the Living Stones Project. I have seen more people, and had time to talk to them at events such as the Nearly New Sale; the Just Desserts Evening, and the Flower Team’s Coffee Morning. I have been in awe at the creativity that has come out in card, jewellery and cake making, flower arranging and so on. I have been encouraged by the collections of loose change in rubber gloves and margarine pots.

And if I have had these reactions, how much more has God taken delight in our efforts? Ok – so we are not at our target figure yet even with our magnificent car boot contribution – but:

- It has given us £122.70 more than we had the previous week;
- goods that might otherwise have ended up in the bin have a new lease of life and brought pleasure to a new set of people;
- Rosie and I got to spend time together and know each other that bit better now.

I firmly believe that having “**given God the boot**” of our car, He can transform what little we bring Him into something so much bigger than I can even imagine – read the story of the feeding of the 5,000 to see what I mean.

Julie Lomas

Living Stones Project- Sponsored Cycle Ride Across Britain, 24-31 May

Steve Lomas, Graham Brown and David Frost are cycling from Southport on the west coast to Mablethorpe on the east coast, a total distance of 220 miles, to raise funds for the Living Stones Project.

The plan is:

Southport to Warrington, 24th May -40 miles

Warrington to Chesterfield, 25th May -90 miles

Then have a few days off to recover (apparently they aren’t that young!)

Chesterfield to Mablethorpe, 31st May -90 miles

If you would like to sponsor them there is a form at the back of St Thomas’ Church -or speak to the intrepid cyclists themselves!



Steve Lomas - just back from a 25 mile training ride

The Licensing of Rev Audrey Smith

Audrey was licensed to serve at St Peter's by the Reverend David Garnett, the Archdeacon of Chesterfield on Sunday May 4th at St Peter's Church.

The church was full with members of St Peter's being joined by people from St Thomas', members of the other churches in Holymoorside and a large contingent from Audrey's church in Gloucestershire.

There was a buffet tea after the service.

Before the service with the Archdeacon and Mark Marsden (Church Warden)



Audrey makes her vows

...and leads the prayers



Men's Breakfast April 2008

Mr Cliff Burden spoke at the April Men's Breakfast at St Thomas' on 'Living with a DIY Expert'. He defined DIY as standing for 'Destroy it Yourself'.

He related various stories of DIY incidents from his time in the army. Those at the breakfast found his talk very humorous -as the picture testify.

Cliff spent his career in the army and is now a Families' Case Work for the Royal British Legion.

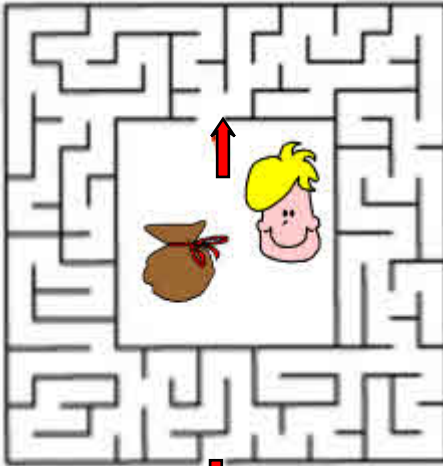


Cliff demonstrating the havoc that can be caused by an electric drill (left) much to the amusement of Richard Robinson, David Holden and David Oldale.



Summer Time is here- long sunny days, holidays and eating outside....

Jesus feeds the Five Thousand maze



Help the boy with the lunch find Jesus

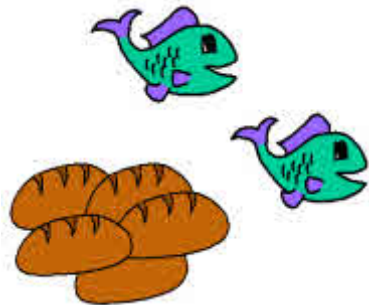
Unscramble the letters to find the words related to 'The Feeding the Five Thousand'

- aceilmr
- cdorw
- ghnruy
- eprsu
- fhis
- abder
- abeksst
- eeltw
- aceghint
- adhnostu

Jesus Feeds the Five Thousand Word Search

boy crowd fish
lunch supper two

L U N C H J F O
J U M Y O B I W
S U P P E R S T
D W O R C Y H T



Try these puzzles to find out about the worlds biggest picnic....