

PLOUGHSHARE

October/November 2010

Volume 18, No 6



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*



**The weddings of
Steve and Gemma
and
Graham and Alison**

one thousand days of prayer
st thomas
brampton
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 www.st-thomas-brampton.org/diary.html

St Thomas'

Sermon themes and readings are available in church or at www.st-thomas-brampton.org/services.html

Recordings of the sermons and readings are available at www.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).

1st, 3rd, 4th (and 5th) Sunday Morning Worship

2nd Sunday Holy Communion

For those looking for something more:

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

1st Sunday Informal Communion

2nd, 3rd, 4th (and 5th) Sunday Evening Worship

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 4th Sunday of the month is held at Holymoorside Methodist Church.)

<p>14 November is Remembrance Sunday For service details and times see page 6</p>



From the Rector

Dear Friends,

Last time I wrote for *Ploughshare* I mentioned my impending trip to Africa. For the last two weeks in August I travelled to Uganda to help deliver a couple of training conferences in Kampala and Entebbe. This experience has left me with some wonderful memories and many deep things to ponder and reflect upon. Uganda is a beautiful country filled with rolling hills and fertile plains. Despite facing enormous challenges both economically and socially my experience of the

areas we visited were very peaceful. I know this has not always been true, but, for now at least, we rejoice with the people.

Uganda is a place of stark contrasts. One moment of contrast came when I visited the home of our translator, Moses, who lived in a single room of maybe 10 feet by 10 feet. Moses had no running water in his home or electricity just a simple single bed and a chair. His two shirts hung on a nail in the wall –next to his mobile phone and laptop computer! Real poverty hand in hand with the trappings of a modern world.

Despite these incongruities the thing that made the deepest impression on me was the warmth of the Christian greeting we received and the openness to the things of God that Ugandans shared. One thing that I have taken away with me is one of their personal greetings. You or I might greet one another with words of welcome, perhaps enquiring about one another's health. In Uganda the greeting would often go something like this: "God is good" (response) "All the time", "All the time"; "God is good" and to the final response "because that is his nature", "Amen".

In the face of hardship, difficulty and suffering the Ugandans could readily affirm the goodness of God in all their circumstances. We as a nation and as a people who have so much could really learn a valuable lesson about the power of a grateful heart from those who at one level have so much less than we do and yet at another level are infinitely richer.

Every Blessing,

Matthew Barnes,

Rector

From the Editor

One of the underlying themes in this month's magazine it is God loves as we are and wants to pour His grace into our lives. However, once in our lives He wants us to 'improve our lives' and lives of those around us. Another theme is changes that are occurring in people's lives. There are those who have got married, those who have got new jobs, those who are leaving Chesterfield and those coming to the town. For some people more than one applies.

I hope you enjoy the edition.

Mark Hoare

The Wedding of Steve and Gemma Willis

The wedding took place on Saturday 14 August of Gemma (nee Machin) and Steve Willis.

The best man was Chris Witham and there were four bridesmaids, Kat and Rachel Witham, Hannah Howe and Vikki Woods. The service was conducted by the Rector, Rev Matt Barnes. Philip Herrick was the organist. The majority of the worship was led by the St Thomas' worship group.

After the service there was a buffet in church for all the church family before the formal reception at the Old Hall Hotel, Buxton.

See more photographs and listen to the service at st-thomas-brampton.org/2010gemmastevewedding.html

God's Grace is the Answer

An abridged version of the address given at Gemma and Steve's wedding.

Marriage is a fusion of two individuals coming together as one. In the process the two people become more than the sum of their individual parts. It is the beginning of new possibilities, new hopes and new dreams. We get a glimpse of this in the first reading reading (Revelation 21:1-4), the fusing together of the New Jerusalem, the New Heaven and New Earth to create something more wonderful and special from what was already there.

/continued on page 4



God's Grace is the Answer (continued from page 2)

There is enormous pressure on marriage and relationships as we live in this modern society today. As well as being a celebration, this wedding today is also a statement of faith and hope for the future.

An appropriate gift to give a couple on their wedding day is a bottle of fine wine. Why? *Wine* is the biblical symbolism of *grace*. Wherever we read wine in the scriptures it is a picture of God's grace. Jesus started his ministry with wine at the wedding in Cana. He turned ordinary water into fine wine. Jesus said his ministry was about coming to bring gallons and gallons of grace into the lives of ordinary people. At the end of his life he ministered to his disciples at the Last Supper by breaking bread and sharing wine – a symbol of the grace to come.



God's grace is about infinite love. We have the image from the second reading (Isaiah 55:1-13). God invites to us to come to a celebration that we don't deserve to be at, that we haven't earned and that isn't ours by right. But God says come, come and enjoy my goodness because of my love for you.

God pours his grace into our lives and into our relationships. Relationships often fail when grace runs out. If the wine of grace stops flowing people become cold, bitter and angry towards one another. I pray that God will give all of us the grace to be quick to forgive each other. This is particularly important between married couples. We all need to be open, generous, honest and forgiving. However this can often be beyond our human ability and so we need God's grace to help us.

God's grace finds us and accepts us just as we are. God's grace takes hold of us whoever and wherever we are whether we deserve it or not. God accepts all our failings and wants to pour his grace into our lives if we will let Him. He wants to fill us with His grace and draw us to him.

Gemma and Steve are beginning a new chapter in their lives today. They are becoming more than the sum of their two parts. The pressures on them will be great in the days to come. We pray for them and encourage them and ask that they may remember that grace is the antidote which God gives to them and us as we seek to mould our lives into those that God wants us to. Amen

Rev Matt Barnes

God Loves (Cracked) Clay Pots

At Gemma and Steve's wedding Matt talked about God's grace helping us through our broken lives. The evening after, Sunday 15 August, our preacher, Rev Dr Martyn Atkins, spoke on the theme of God loving cracked clay pots, again speaking to our brokenness.

Who are these 'clay pots'?

Us, each one of us.

Why does God love clay pots?

Because he made us out of clay (Genesis chapter 2). Just as we have a special attachment to things we make so God has a special attachment to things He has made -us. Clay pots are ordinary, have no frills and have blemishes. The same can be said about us but God does not love us any the less.

What does God want to do with his pots?

Fill them with His love, grace and Holy Spirit.

What does he want his pots to do?

Go out and dispense his love and the knowledge of this grace and the Holy Spirit to others.

Why does he love 'cracked' pots?

It is easier for his love, grace and Holy Spirit to seep out onto others we meet through the cracks.

What if we become broken pieces of pots?

God still loves us. His 'fragrance' is still in us no matter what state we are in.

Martyn had filled some clay pots with orange jasmine and then broken them into pieces. We were invited to take a piece of pot and smell it. The fragrance of the jasmine still lingered, reminding us that God's fragrance stays with us, his cracked and broken clay pots. He told us to listen because when he had done this before some people have taken a piece of pot and have said "I am broken, Lord but I am yours". And when they had listened they heard Christ say "And I was broken and I am yours". And in that everything is possible.

Listen to the whole of Martyn's sermon at st-thomas-brampton.org/podcasts2010.html#50



Some Diary Dates

Thursday 7 October

1pm Rendezvous, St Thomas'

Friday 15-Sunday 17 October

Farewell weekend for Gemma and Steve Willis -see page 8

Saturday 16 October

Old Time Musical Evening, Holymoorside Village Hall

Sunday 17 October

3pm Ashgate Hospice Memorial Service, St Thomas'

Wednesday 27 October

2pm Communion and Cuppa, St Thomas'

Sunday 31 October

Mission Sunday for Samaritan's Purse, St Thomas'

4pm 'The Treat' -alternative Haloween Party, St Thomas'

6pm Memorial Service, St Peter's

Thursday 4 November

1pm Rendezvous, St Thomas'

Sunday 14 November, Remembrance Sunday

10am Service of Remembrance, St Thomas'

3pm Service of Remembrance, Holymoorside Village Hall

6pm Memorial Service, St Thomas'

Monday 15 November

7.30pm Congregational Meeting, St Thomas'

Saturday 20 November

PCC/DCCs Away Day

Wednesday 24 November

2pm Communion and Cuppa, St Thomas'

Saturday 27 November

10.30am Victorian Christmas Market, Holymoorside Village Hall

Sunday 28 November

Rev Audrey Smith's farewell Sunday, St Peter's -see page 13

Thursday 2 December

1pm Rendezvous, St Thomas'

Saturday 11 December

3.30pm Christingle 'Messy Church', St Thomas'

More information including that about regular events can be found on the weekly notice sheet and on the diary page of st-thomas-brampton.org

**A commentary on
'The Divine Image'
by William Blake**

To Mercy, Pity, Peace and Love
All pray in their distress;
And to these virtues of delight
Return their thankfulness.

For Mercy, Pity, Peace and Love
Is God, our father dear,
And Mercy, Pity, Peace and Love
Is Man, His child and care.

For Mercy has a human heart,
Pity a human face,
And love, the human form divine,
And Peace, the human dress.

Then every man, of every clime,
That prays in his distress,
Prays to the human form divine,
Love, Mercy, Pity, Peace.

And all must love the human form,
In heathen, Turk or Jew;
Where Mercy, Love and Pity dwell
There God is dwelling too.

The poem has the repeating line; 'Mercy, Pity, Peace and Love', referring to qualities of superior virtue. The poem suggests that if these are attributes of God, and man being made in God's image is where these qualities can be found.

To me this reminds me that it is not enough to pray "God solve that problem over there", but to be prepared to act out the solution, because God's answer to prayer comes through people, me included. It is poignant to consider that God made us all different, hence the reference to 'In heathen, Turk or Jew'.

The 18th century common Englishman might have had even less opportunity to exercise tolerance and racial equality than our 21st century multi-cultural society allows. 'Where Mercy, Love and Pity dwell, there God is dwelling too'. We are all made in God's image no matter who or where.

Paula Simons

Hard Questions



During August 2010 the sermon series at St Thomas' was entitled 'Hard Questions'. The congregation were invited to suggest the questions.

One of the questions was *'How Can We Live More Simply?'*

Robin Dawson preached on this at the morning service.

What he said followed on from what he had said at the

Men's Breakfast last year, (see page 9). Tim Wheeler then

preached on the complimentary subject *'Can the West Overcome Greed?'*

The other 'Hard Questions' included:

'Sin and Grace, can I Sin More?'

'Can God Help With My Addiction?'

'Can I Forgive The Unforgivable?'

'Leadership Standards, How High is the Bar'

'Should we Talk to Pagans?', and

'If God Knows Everything, Why Pray?'.

You can listen to the series at:

st-thomas-brampton.org/podcasts2010.html#47

And if you want to listen again to the 2009 series 'Ten of the Best Questions' they are at: st-thomas-brampton.org/podcasts2009.html#29

Gemma and Steve are Leaving Us

Gemma and Steve Willis, who have just got married (see page 2) are leaving us!

Gemma, who has been our Youth Worker at St Thomas' for several years, is leaving to take up a similar post at St Mark's Church, Leamington Spa. Their last Sunday with us will be 17 October. It is planned that the weekend will be a farewell weekend, including a special *Furnace* service on the Friday, Youth activities on the Saturday and a chance to say thank you and farewell on the Sunday.

I am sure all *Ploughshare* readers will wish God's blessing on Gemma and Steve as they start a new life together in Leamington Spa.

The Men Fail To Decide Practically Anything

At a Men's Breakfast at St Thomas' in 2009 Robin Dawson led a discussion on 'When does economic growth have to stop for good and what are we going to do when it does?' Robin now muses on the discussion.

Eighteen of us sat down to breakfast and a serious but good humoured discussion. I think we agreed that economic growth would have to stop. Some thought that there might be technical fixes that could keep us going. But when would it stop? Who knows?

We thought about the triple crunch of economic downturn, climate change and energy shortage. Perhaps we agreed that our economic troubles were the fault of all of us. Nobody seemed to be sure who was in charge of the world economy now. The climate is changing, but there was a range of views about who or what is causing it. There was support both for the pessimistic and the optimistic scenarios of what happens after oil has peaked.

As you can imagine, with that range of opinion it was difficult to build up precise scenarios of what might take place. All we could agree on was that it is going to be pretty hard for our grandchildren.

We asked whether there was a specific Christian view on this. If things really went pear shaped could we expect God to rescue the world from the consequences of its own greed? Probably not.

We looked at Genesis 1:28 *God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground"* and felt that we are given a responsibility as stewards of the earth. Some thought that it would be interesting to see if the principles of jubilee in Leviticus 25 could be applied to the global economy. Or was that just a dream?

Was all the discussion worth it? Could we have dwelt a little more on redistribution and community? One thing is certain, we can't expect the problems to go away if we don't talk about them.

There was one thing we agreed on. It was a cracking breakfast, especially the black pudding. Thanks a lot David Holden!

Want to know more? There are some interesting websites: www.arochoa.org
www.ipcc.ch www.neweconomics.com www.onehundredmonth.com

Robin Dawson

Welcome to our New Neighbours

Two of our neighbouring parishes have new vicars.

At the beginning of September the **Rev James Croft** took up his duties as the Priest-in-Charge of SS Augustines' and St Mark's, whose parish boundaries border St Thomas' parish. He was previously the vicar of Holy Rood Church, Holybourne near Alton in Hampshire.

James is married to Jenny, who is now working at Brookfield School. They have two daughters, Amy, who is at University and Rosie who is about to go.

James says that after twenty years in a semi rural parish he felt he was being called to a different kind of parish work.

(James came to a service at St Thomas' in August in mufti. However his identity was rumbled by our eagle eyed welcoming team! It turns out that he went to the same school in Southampton as the editor and was in the same year as the editor's brother!)



At the end of September the **Rev Christopher Van D'Arque** took up his duties as Vicar of St John's Walton. He was previously Vicar of West Bessacarr in Doncaster.

Chris is married to Jessica and also have two daughters Sophie and Emily. Before becoming a priest Chris was at one time a chef and owned a restaurant in Denmark. According to a certain person who has dined with them he makes (among other dishes) an awesome chocolate dessert!

On behalf of all *Ploughshare* readers we welcome both James and Chris and their families to Chesterfield and look forward to getting to know them all better.



Holymoorside Well Dressings 2010

The Main Well

Florence Nightingale

The Lady With The Lamp

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the death of Florence Nightingale (at the age of ninety), and the 150th anniversary of the founding of the Florence Nightingale School of Nursing. The Well Dressing this year showed her doing a round of a ward, at dusk, in the hospital at Scutari, during the Crimean war. The borders included an order of merit medal, as awarded to Florence and the badge of the Nightingale School of Nursing. The Nightingale family estate, where Florence spent some of her early years, was not far from Holymoorside, at Lea Hurst, near Matlock.



The Children's Wells

This year there were two smaller well dressings, one for the younger children, and the another for the older children.

The smaller well dressing depicted the *The Hungry Caterpillar*, the famous childrens' book by Eric Carle, which was first published 40 years ago.

The other well was on the theme of *Monopoly*, which is 75 this year. This year the older children were very dedicated, and completed the entire process themselves, including the choice of theme, the design for the picture and the application of clay to the frame, as well as the flowers (the fun bit!).



See pictures enlarged and in colour on the back page

See also holymoorsidewelldressing.net for more information

Summer Rendezvous 2010

This year's St Thomas' Summer Rendezvous was held from 1-3 September. David Oldale gives a report on what took place.



During the first three days in September, much fun and fellowship was experienced at St Thomas' as the seniors enjoyed their annual get together. This year the event had a 'holiday camp' theme and was led by the 'Redshirts'. The theme was illustrated by a display of historical information on the mid 20th century holiday camp boom years and the Hi-De-Hi stage contained all that was needed for an enjoyable beach holiday!

A total of 50 people came along with an average attendance of 41 for the three days. Some were church members but many were not. On Wednesday we played carpet bowls, dominoes with king sized pieces and large versions of snakes and ladders and noughts and crosses. Some of us started to do a jig saw. We had a visiting magician to entertain us in the afternoon and we are still trying to work out how he made the £10 note reappear in a sealed envelope!

Thursday was Derbyshire Day with a picture quiz in the morning and a visit from the Reverend Basil Denno in the afternoon. Basil, through pictures and his own musical compositions gave us new insights into God's creation on our doorstep. And we continued with the jig saw!

On Friday morning it was time for a hectic beetle drive, followed by a version of the TV favourite *Call my Bluff*. After lunch, the ladies competed against the men in a fun quiz. I have decided just to say that the result was close!

Summer Rendezvous ended with a short drama presented by the Redshirts, which started in humorous fashion illustrating several friends together and ended by revealing the perfect friend - Jesus Christ. This theme was then taken up by our Rector, who emphasised how Jesus was there to walk with us in good and bad times as the perfect forever friend.

In true Rendezvous fashion, a highlight of each day was the excellent two course lunch. In the morning and afternoon we drank gallons of tea and coffee. There were several stalls offering jams/cards, lovely painted glassware and bric-a-brac brought in by those attending. We raised over £200 for the Development Fund.

The comments made at the end were really encouraging to those of us who spent a number of months in planning:-

“This is our only holiday this year.”

“For 3 days we have not had to cook a meal.”

“The chairs are not very comfortable, but I forgot that when the magician was performing.”

“I enjoyed every day - great meals and well organised acvtivities.”

“I really appreciated the daily ‘time for reflection’ slot.”

“Thank you, team, for all your hard work and kindness.”

By the way, we didn't quite finish the jig saw!

David Oldale

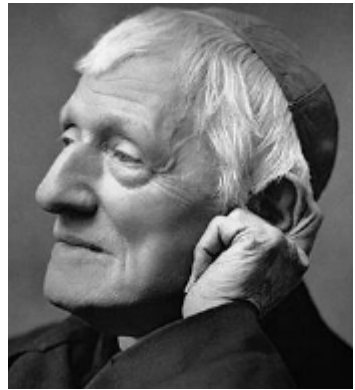
Audrey is Retiring

As this edition goes to print Audrey Smith, our minister at St Peter's has announced her retirement. Her last Sunday with us will be 28 November. On behalf of all *Ploughshare* readers may I thank Audrey for her great contribution to the life of St Peter's. A longer article about Audrey's time at St Peter's will appear in the next edition of the magazine. -Editor

Cardinal Newman

Last month, Cardinal John Henry Newman was set on the path to becoming the first English saint since the Reformation when he was beatified by the Pope Benedict XVI in Birmingham.

The honour conferred upon this Victorian cardinal and Oxford theologian may surprise us, but it is unlikely to have surprised his contemporaries, although it certainly would not have pleased all of them. Public debate today is light on theology, but in Newman's time it was dominant, and its ripples were felt well beyond academia and the upper reaches of the church.



It is easy to see why Newman has an special appeal to this Pope, who has publicly welcomed and smoothed the way for defecting Anglicans who have crossed to the Catholic Church in protest at the ordination of women. Newman crossed over to the Catholic Church but for him the consequences were extreme. In the 19th century, Catholics could not go to Oxford or Cambridge Universities, enter Parliament, or even become doctors or lawyers. The Pope was still widely held to be the Antichrist. When Newman, then vicar of St Mary's University Church at Oxford, finally converted after years of intense agonising, his family was so upset that one of his sisters never spoke to him again. He lost job, respect and family but he did what he believed to be utterly right.

Of course, such a principled stand, while admirable, is scarcely a qualification for sainthood. But there is vastly more to Newman's life. First, there is the prodigious output of theological works. Those who were charged with examining them to make sure they contained no error which would act as a bar to beatification were confronted with a task lasting decades. There are 32,000 letters alone, including the famous one to Gladstone on papal infallibility, before even considering the tomes, such as the *Apologia Pro Vita Sua*, the prayers and hymns and other writings.

One aspect of his vast collection of reasoning and teaching that must appeal to Pope Benedict will be Newman's attacks on liberalism, which the current pontiff has echoed. Newman foresaw the consequences of the growth of secularism, not only for the church but for society as a whole. Amid the moral disintegration of the 21st century his warning rings like a clarion call.

Another less well-recognised legacy of Newman is in the field of education. Not only did he found the Oratories, which have taught generations of children, but he was instrumental in the idea that universities should serve all of society, including those who were able but also poor. In effect, he was the founder of the modern university. His other great thesis on higher education, that it should be about reasoning rather than just a utilitarian preparation for a particular career, still has equal resonance today.

Yet no matter how holy a life, or how orthodox the teaching, there is a huge hurdle for any candidate for sainthood to overcome. There must be a miracle, which is to say a beneficial effect that is instant, inexplicable and verifiable, procured as a result of invoking the intercession of a saint. One miracle can result in beatification, but for full sainthood (*canonisation*), two are required.

The first miracle, the curing of a severe spinal disorder suffered by Jack Sullivan, a Catholic deacon from Massachusetts, has been accepted by the Church. A second miracle, of a child diagnosed as severely handicapped in the womb and then born perfect, has not yet been verified but is being examined.

Cardinal Newman is an obvious case for sainthood. His life was one of simplicity, sacrifice and conscientious study. He was fearless in the cause of his beliefs and tireless in promoting them. He foresaw, accurately, the impact of a society that decides, to borrow a phrase from Alastair Campbell, 'not to do God'.

Edited version of an article that appeared in the Daily Telegraph newspaper.

Concert by the Derbyshire Singers

The programme includes *Magnificat* by John Rutter and *The Armed Man* by Karl Jenkins. *The Armed Man* was commissioned for the millennium by the Royal Armouries and is dedicated to victims of the Kosovo crisis. It is set within the framework of the Christian mass and uses both sacred and secular texts.

The concert is at 7.30pm on Saturday 13 November at Hightfields School, Matlock. For more details and tickets please contact Tim and Margaret Taylor 569212.



God's Creation

When God created the world, he threw the shimmering stars into a midnight as dark as a swirling pot of ink.

When God created the world he split night into two parts, one was magnificent day that shone light over all living creatures and the other was old night that relaxed everyone to sleep.

When God created the world, he strongly rolled out the sapphire blue sea, as deep and dark as a coal mine.

When God created the world, mountains, deserts and all sorts of fantastic plants sprung up from the golden brown earth.

When God created the world, dazzling flowers bloomed into bright colours as glamorous as gems.

When God created he world, he scattered thousands of different creatures all over this fantastic new planet, as well as two new living people to look after and enjoy the earth.

When God created the world, he looked and saw everything was good so he rested and all the creatures rested with him until they woke up as bright as a bird.

Bella Copley (aged 8 years from St Peter's)

(What a great piece of writing from someone so young. Well done. –Editor)

A Golden Celebration

Congratulations to Peter and Maureen Rolfe who were married fifty years ago on 3 September this year. The church family and many of Peter and Maureen's friends and family celebrated with them at the 11am service the following Sunday. Listen to the service at st-thomas-brampton/podcasts2010.html#52



Traidcraft Autumn 2010 News

The UK fair trade market provides a valuable lifeline for the world's developing producers and this autumn's Traidcraft catalogue represents the skills, talents and harvests of producer groups from across the developing world.



Traidcraft's autumn 2010 catalogue boasts more than 400 products from craft workers and farmers across Africa, Latin America and Asia. Shiran Karunaratne, one of the workers says "Our relationship goes back to the start of Traidcraft. This year's order is the largest that we have received from Traidcraft. Thank you on behalf of all the producers. If we did not do this, what work could we do?"

Browse through the new catalogue to find festive food treats, new glass collectables and a wider range of beautiful scarves and winter warmth knitwear, as well as Christmas cards, wrap and other seasonal essentials. After they proved so popular last year, the recycled paper nativity sets from Vietnam return this season. Other Christmas decorations include a set of six vibrant fair trade jute baubles presented in a handmade paper box.

When buying your fair trade Christmas gifts from Traidcraft you can feel good knowing that the products you've bought have helped improve producers' lives in the developing world. Like Lo Thi Tien from Craft Link in Vietnam who carefully hand-makes ceramics: "Thanks to working here, I have a stable job with a stable income. I am happy with the work. I have money for my son's education."

The catalogue has all the old favourites, from beautiful handmade jewellery and striking homeware products to colourful children's gifts and stylish clothing. There's also the usual extensive selection of quality fair trade food products, beverages and wine and the re-launched Geobar, with increased fair trade content, meaning more producers benefit from each purchase.

For further information about Traidcraft visit www.traidcraft.co.uk or see our local representative Alison Wells (566257 alisonjanew@sky.com)

The Traidcraft stall will be in St Thomas' on 3 October, 7 November and 5 December.





Luke and
Abi Hall and
Cara Wiley



Ian
Hoare



Hannah
Howe



Philip
Herrick



Josh
Wheeler
introduces
Gaz
Simmonds



Nick
Riley



Josh and
Sue
Wheeler



Pete and
Lewis
Conney



Pete,
Esme
and
Chantal
Conney



Jonathan
Cooper

St Thomas' Musical Showcase

Over the evenings of Friday and Saturday 30 and 31 July Gaz Simmonds and Josh Wheeler put on a Musical Showcase featuring past and present members of St Thomas'.

Josh was the compere on the Friday evening which started with Luke and Abi Hall (Barry and Maureen Thompson's grand children) and Cara Wiley singing a collection of contemporary pop songs. They were followed by the first returnee, Ian Hoare of the *Aardvarks* fame, who gave us, in his own inimitable style, three of his own songs on guitar and one on piano. Next up was Hannah Howe, the second returnee and another *Aardvark member*, who sang and played a medley of some of her own songs and some covers. The penultimate turn was Philip Herrick who played 'music that my piano teacher wouldn't let me play' including music from the film '*The Firm*'. The pieces were very demanding –and that was only for the page turner! The final contribution for the evening was from Gaz who sang very powerfully several of his own compositions.

On Saturday evening Josh was the compere. First up was Nick Riley. Like Ian the night before he performed some of his own songs –mainly about love in his own unique style. Nick was followed by Josh Wheeler. For one song Josh invited his mother Sue to sing with him, which she did, but she did have to guess what they were singing. Josh gave us an amazing impromptu lesson of how to add backing tracks as he performed.

Following Josh was the Cooney family playing a mixture of Irish folk music and blue grass. It was ring the changes –first Pete and Lewis played together on guitar and violin respectively. Then they were joined by Esme –who sang and played guitar. Finally Lewis sat down and Chantal made up the trio as they sang their final songs. The closing act of the evening was the third returnee, Jonathan Cooper. Jonathan is of *Jonah* fame, a band that pre-dated the *Aardvarks*, and he rounded the evening off and left us on a high with a number of his own Christian songs.

The audience on both evenings really enjoyed the showcase and were quite amazed by the talent on display. Nearly £400 was raided for the Development Project. When the new Parish Centre is built it is anticipated that another showcase will be held as there is a lot more musical talent among the rest of St Thomas' and St Peter's and there is an audience just waiting to be Entertained.

Holymoorside Well Dressings 2010



The Main Well marking 100 years since the death of Florence Nightingale



The Children's Wells represent the 'Hungry Caterpillar' book which was published 40 years ago and Monopoly which was first produced 75 years ago.

Read more about this year's wells on page 11