

# PLOUGHSHARE

October/November 2007

Volume 15, No 6



## St Thomas' Brampton St Peter's, Holmoorside

### 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*

### Holiday Club In the Jungle



Find out more  
On page 13

60p per copy (£3.00 per year)

## Monthly Service Pattern at St Thomas'

**Sunday Services** are usually at 9am, 11am and 6.30pm.

**9am** is Communion, except 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday when it is Morning Worship.

**11am** is Morning Worship, except the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday when it is Communion.

There are children's groups (3 years old to school year 9) and a crèche.

**6.30pm** is Evening Worship, except on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday when it is Communion.

Pathfinders (school years 7-9) meet 6.30-8pm.

CYFA (school years 10-13) meet from 8.15pm.

### **Please note 11 November is Remembrance Sunday**

The 9am and 11am services will combine and the service will be held at 10.40am.

*The sermon themes and readings are available in Church or at*

[www.st-thomas-brampton.org/services.html](http://www.st-thomas-brampton.org/services.html)

*Podcasts of the sermons and readings are available at*

[www.st-thomas-brampton.org/podcasts.html](http://www.st-thomas-brampton.org/podcasts.html)

## Monthly Service Pattern at St Peter's

**Sunday Services** are usually at 9.30am and 6pm.

**9.30am service** is Communion.

There are children's groups (3 years old to school year 9) and a crèche.

**6pm service** is Evening Prayer except

No evening service at St Peter's on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday, instead a joint service is held at Holymoorside Methodist Church at 6pm.

*Keep up to date with the news sheet or the web site*

[www.st-thomas-brampton.org/index.html](http://www.st-thomas-brampton.org/index.html)

## From the Rector

The gospel is simple to understand. If it weren't, the message of salvation would be limited to the intelligent, the ones with brainpower, and those old enough to comprehend.

The gospel is in fact very simple. Would you be able to explain the gospel to someone? In less than 100 words? Not using any Christian jargon or theological words? Have a go. Write down what you would say to a person wanting to discover why you followed Jesus Christ?

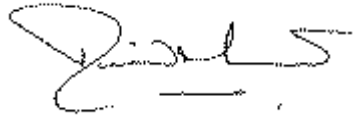


We can say great truths simply. We don't have to dumb down the message, we just need to make the truth accessible. If you want a hand with this exercise I would be happy to help. In the meantime, let me share with you someone's attempt (slightly tongue in cheek) to simplify the whole of salvation history.

God made  
Adam bit  
Noah arked  
Abraham split  
Jacob fooled  
Joseph ruled  
Bush talked  
Moses balked  
Pharaoh plagued  
People walked  
Sea divided  
Tablets guided  
Promise landed  
Saul freaked  
David peeked

/Contd

Prophets warned  
Jesus born  
God walked  
Love talked  
Anger crucified  
Hope died  
Body rose  
Spirit flamed  
Word spread  
Heavenly glory

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Small', with a horizontal line underneath.

## From the Editor

I would encourage you to consider John Small's suggestion in the article he has written in this edition entitled '*Musings during a Sermon!*' John wants to stimulate discussion about our sermons through *Ploughshare*. As Editor I endorse John's suggestion and look forward to contributions.

*Remember, all of St Thomas' sermons are recorded. So if you have missed one or want to listen again to a particular one go to [www.st-thomas-brampton.org/podcast\\_index.html](http://www.st-thomas-brampton.org/podcast_index.html) or contact the Editor.*

Closing date for the December/January edition is 9 November 2007.

## Angie Anthill Asks ‘Has it Really been Nineteen Years?’



*Angie Anthill has just retired after nineteen years as a Discoverers' teacher.*

Has it really been nineteen years? Actually yes, my daughter Jenny was two when I started helping at Discoverers (Sunday Club as it was then) because she was clingy and I thought it would help her settle in. Now she is twenty one! Little did I know that I would still be teaching in Discoverers nineteen years on!

It has been a wonderful nineteen years, seeing children learn more and explore their faith. There have been some difficult times, with limited space and challenging behaviour, but on the whole it's been an exciting adventure.

We have camped in the desert, walked to Nineveh, been inside a big fish, fed the 5,000, created the world, built an ark, built houses, grown various seeds, used clay to make bowls, followed the donkey (yes a real one!) on Palm Sunday, been to the stable in Bethlehem, found the lost sheep, had lots of parties, been in the garden when they found the stone had been rolled away and much, much more.

It has been a wonderful experience watching children grow in faith and now seeing that some of the children I taught are now parents themselves. I hope their faith continues to grow and they encourage their children to attend Discoverers.

If any of you are considering helping in Discoverers do so, it is a wonderful experience.

The one down side unfortunately has been the accommodation. Little has changed over the nineteen years. We used to use the Church Office (it was just the choir vestry then) for the 2-5 year olds, the Pathfinders used Pam and Christopher Frith's lounge or dining room in the old rectory. Then we got the two portacabins, **/Contd**

which are boiling hot in summer and freezing cold in winter. The crèche has also been moved to accommodate changing numbers of babies and children. I just hope it is not another nineteen years before Discoverers gets the accommodation it needs. I would also recommend that those unsure of the need for the building project go and help out for a few Sundays in Discoverers.

*“Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the Kingdom of God belongs to such as these. I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it”  
And he took the children in his arms, put his hands on them and blessed them.*

**Angie Antill**

## **Musings during a Sermon!**



*John Small raises questions from a sermon preached at St Thomas' to stimulate some discussion.*

During my life as a Christian I have sat through many sermons. This has been in a variety of different churches and preached by lay folk, ministers, evangelists and even bishops. Many sermons have inspired and lifted me in the understanding of the nature of faith. Some have covered familiar themes whilst others have resulted in a wandering mind and drifting off into my own world. I expect that many of us have had this whole range of, or should I say catholic, experiences. It is interesting how one individual will leave a service having felt close to God whereas another will have been struggling to make sense of the Word.

Sometimes during the course of a sermon differing thoughts come into the mind raising questions that may need an answer or issues that interest the imagination. Sometimes the questions only result in more questions that need study, reflection and the views of others to assist

with understanding. I recall many a Sunday family dinner where the content of the latest sermon was reconsidered and different avenues explored. Sometimes it was helpful, sometimes it was rather cutting but the range of views expressed often reflected the experience of the individual or the element of the sermon that was important to them.

I would suggest that we as a church can use this magazine, *Plough-share*, to extend this process. There is the opportunity to reflect on elements of the sermons at St Thomas' and St Peter's and to provide insight from a range of individuals on matters raised. The idea is not to be critical or undermine the preaching of the Word but to allow the seeds sown to grow and develop over a period of time.

Let me give you an example.

The other Sunday morning I attended a service where the subject was seeking God's protection and safety in our lives. This was based on 2 Kings Chapters 18 and 19 which records the arrogance and mocking of the Assyrians and the sending of Sennacherib to threaten the Holy city and undermine the position of King Hezekiah. As the poet puts it, "Sennararchrib came down like a wolf on the fold" and surrounded the city in an attempt to bring Israel back into the pagan empire of Babylon.

The images are powerful and there is a picture of anyone standing up for God being assailed on all sides by those that would undermine them and threaten their witness.

The sermon rightly pointed out that Hezekiah found safety in approaching the Holy Place, laying his troubles before the Lord and seeking the protection of the Almighty God. Isaiah the prophet gives God's reply that the Assyrians will not enter the city and the people of God will in this instance be protected.

Chapter 19 tells us that God achieved this protection by the death of 185,000 of the Assyrian army.

At this time my mind was set off musing and it ran something along these lines:

- I need God's protection in many differing situations.

- I believe and trust in the authority and work of God to protect me and no one will separate me from the love of Christ.
- I'm happy to seek protection from the Lord.

But

- The Assyrians were part of Gods creation.
- The foot soldiers were only following orders.
- Why was it necessary for God to protect his people in such a brutal way?
- I know that my protection was brought at such a cost in the death of the Son of God but how do I feel if my request for protection would result in harm to others?
- Would I continue to seek protection or I would I be more willing to protect others rather than myself? Jesus taught us to love our enemies!
- Why does God protect some and not others? I am sure that our brothers and sisters in other parts of the world who are experiencing persecution cry out to Him for protection but sometimes they face unimaginable torture and even death!
- Some of God's people experience famine and natural disasters, where is their protection?

I know or I fear that faced with similar circumstances in my life I would rage against God and certainly question "Why Me?"

I suppose that the issue needs more thought, so come on and put pen to paper and respond with your thoughts on these issues and send off your views in a letter or article to the editor of Ploughshare.

I for one would value your contribution of the raising of questions that have occurred to you whilst musing in a sermon!

**John Small**

*If you would like to listen to the sermon John referred go to [www.st-thomas-brampton.org/podcasts.html#15](http://www.st-thomas-brampton.org/podcasts.html#15) or contact the editor for a copy.*

## Robin Dawson -First Impressions on Coming Home



*I've just come back from two and a half years in Afghanistan and the Editor asked me to write a short piece about my stay there. That, at present, is impossible because until I have had time to process that very rich experience I wouldn't know where to start. So I told him I could do a piece on first impressions on my return to Britain.*

Back here in Britain I have again seen woman shaped women. In Kabul everybody was swathed from head to foot in fabric, even those who were bold enough to show their faces. Here women are not ashamed of being women, some even flaunt it.

I have felt safe looking a woman in the eye or shaking hands. I have been taken aback a little by the social kiss. In Kabul being kissed meant being rasped by somebody's bristly beard.

Here lots of people could do with losing a bit of weight.

There is no dust! My fingernails do not get filled with dirt ten minutes out of the shower. I had to put all my clothes through the wash as soon as I got home to get rid of the pervasive gritty feeling.

Here people's road manners are very good, but their day to day manners can sometimes be a bit perfunctory. Out in Kabul it was almost impossible to get an Afghan to go through the door before you and everybody gave a lot of time in greeting each other. But road manners were appalling, Kabul rush hour traffic approximating to a loose maul.

There is a lot of money around. My Saturday newspaper has an eight page supplement just telling us how to look after it.

Lots of people seem to be desperate to sell you things that you don't need and ring you up at inconvenient times to tell you so.

There are no sleepy looking men in Chesterfield sitting on plastic garden chairs with AK47 rifles dangling across their knees at the gates of the houses of people who think they are important. **/Contd**

There is even less worth watching on the TV than when I left. But the remote control casts its insidious spell. Back in Kabul, with no TV, I caught up on all those classics I should have read ages ago. Some really thrilling ones like Moby Dick and the Heart of Darkness. Here, if there is half an hour to spare before bed the time is wasted idly flicking from one uninteresting channel to another.

The broadcasting media's news values have deteriorated to those of the tabloid press. They just concentrate on one or two items, normally in this country. I find myself having to tune into BBC World Service to find out what is going on in the rest of the world.

In Kabul God does not have to apologise, he is still considered to know what he is up to. Here his perceived (by many) incompetence is seen as a reason for denying his existence, while there is a vocal branch of the intelligentsia that appear to feel that anybody with a belief in the supernatural is well on his or her way to becoming a rabid fundamentalist incapable of making rational decisions.

My most pleasant surprise on coming home was the quality of the worship at St Thomas' Church. Over the past two or so years I have worshipped most Fridays in Kabul with about 200 or so Christians from many different nationalities and backgrounds. I enjoyed most of the singing and nearly all of the preaching.

But when I attended my first service back at St Thomas' I heard the Bible being read well, clearly and with the background explained. Our public prayers covered very much more than just our own narrow concerns. The light liturgical frame work that we use ensured that all the bases were touched, confession of sins and belief were given their proper places. And it was all done in language that gave proper respect and importance to God.

It's good to be back.

**Robin Dawson**

It's good to have Robin safely home. We look forward to reading about his experiences in Afghanistan in later editions of *Ploughshare*. -Editor

## Nanette and David: Fifty Years with the Church Army

*David and Nanette were commissioned into the Church Army in 1957. This is a look back over their fifty years of ministry.*



On 25 July 1957 after a two year training at the Church Army College in London, Nanette Godfrey, as she was then, and David Sanderson were admitted to the Office of Evangelist by the Bishop of Willesden, acting for the Bishop of London. The next day they were commissioned as officers in the Church Army by the then Chief Secretary, E. Wilson Carlile, grandson of the founder. This was the beginning of new forms of ministry in the lives of David and Nanette.

It was great to have the opportunity to mark the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the event at St Thomas, at the Sunday morning service on 29 July this year

Nanette was commissioned initially to work in Nottingham at an Approved School run by the Church Army under the Home Office, where 15 to 18 year old girls were committed by the Court for three years training. The Nottingham school was held in high regard by the Home Office because of its good success rate.

David's first post was as a caravan evangelist and he worked for a year on the York Diocesan van mostly in the villages on the north bank of the river Humber. A year later he moved to Blackburn Diocese where he stayed for the next five years. Caravan evangelists usually lived in the van from September/October through to about June leading parish missions in towns and villages. David is still in touch with a few folk who came to Christ during these years. Continuing his mission work he then moved onto the Northern Evangelistic team based in Manchester and worked in the North of England.

**/Contd**

After four years at Nottingham, Nanette joined the 'Flying Column', so called because they conducted missions anywhere in the United Kingdom. The team, based in London, conducted a regular succession of ten day missions with a short break between each mission. Terry Waite, who was then a Church Army evangelist, was also a member of the team.

It was while Nanette was on the Flying Column and in the mission section of Church Army that she met up with David again and subsequently they married. David took up a post in Wakefield Diocese working in the West Riding. Church Army always had a keen involvement in training people in evangelism and enabling people to witness to their faith. This became a significant part of David's work. Nanette had resigned her commission on marriage, a compulsory requirement back in those days, though she was quite active in the local church and in children's work on the local estate. It was during this time that the first of their three children were born.

Something needs to be said about the summer mission activities in these first ten years with Church Army. July, August and September provided a number of open air opportunities. During July there were the walking treks from a Cathedral city to the seaside. David and Nanette between them managed seven of these including treks from Durham to Blackpool, Chester to Cleethorpes, Winchester to St Leonard's and Bradford to Blackpool. The teams stayed in places on the way for one to three days and led mission activities in each place. The walking treks came to an end about 1960 –David led one of the final walking treks this time from Lichfield to Blackpool. After that motor vehicles were used. On arriving at the seaside the teams would spend a month preaching on the beach and spreading the Good News in whatever ways were open to them.

Open air ministry opportunities in September were with hop pickers in Kent. During the day the evangelists helped people pick the hops and tried to talk to them about Jesus. In the evenings there would be meetings for children or film shows for adults.

The next piece of work was in Lowestoft, Suffolk the most easterly town in the British Isles. David was on the staff at Christ Church, the most easterly church, and had a variety of roles including organising twelve annual Holiday Clubs for children and at another time leading the youth

ministry team. Nanette also found her niche heading up some of the children's work and helping with holiday clubs and the summer outreach on Lowestoft's North Denes.

However David's main work was Chaplain to holidaymakers on the east coast of the Norwich Diocese. This included a forty mile stretch of coast with Great Yarmouth in the middle. There was a need to encourage churches to be tourist friendly and help local churches to see the holiday visitors as a field for outreach. At another level David was actively involved in trying to share the Good News directly with holiday people. Nanette and the children helped out with the work on the holiday caravan sites. One year David lost his voice for a whole week. Nanette stepped in and did all the talking!

After thirteen years they moved to Norwich where David was Officer for Mission and Training for the Diocese. This work led him into a number of opportunities to lead evangelistic projects across the denominations. He also set up a faith sharing team to witness in the villages of south Norfolk. Nanette also came back into formal ministry as a part time NSM Church Army sister at St Paul's Tuckswood, Norwich where, amongst other things, she organised a parents and tots group and was the link person between that group and the family services.

After five years in Norwich there was a move to Sheffield where Nanette was employed as a full time Church Army evangelist in the large ecumenical parish of Sheffield Manor. David was then a member of the Decade of Evangelism steering group which was endeavouring to stimulate authentic evangelism across the churches of the U.K. After seven years in Sheffield they retired, whatever that means in Christian ministry!

After retirement David continued with a number of projects that had been started previous to retirement, not least the summer outreach at Towyn, North Wales and his work with the Grove Evangelism booklets. Then came opportunity for a wider ministry. He was invited to teach mission, for a term, based on his research on Roland Allen, the missionary thinker, both at Church Army's East African and Canadian Colleges. Added to that was an opportunity to plan for and take a witness team to Latvia and a recent teaching visit to Tanzania.

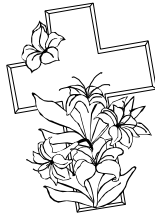
**/Contd**

As many of you will be very much aware Nanette has developed the work with seniors over the past few years at St Thomas'. Incidentally, ministry with seniors is one of Church Army's current priorities.

*On behalf of all Ploughshare readers my I congratulate David and Nanette on this milestone and thank them for all the work they have done and are still doing at St Thomas' and further afield. -Editor*

## From the Parish Registers

WE EXTEND SYMPATHY TO THE RELATIVES AND FRIENDS OF THOSE WHOSE FUNERALS HAVE TAKEN PLACE IN RECENT MONTHS



## 'Jungle Jamboree' -Holiday Club 2007

This years holiday club '*Jungle Jamboree*' saw around 130 children from in and around Brampton taking part in games, action songs, craft activities and experiencing bible stories through drama and puppets. The parables of the Good Samaritan, the Lost Sheep and the Talents provided a sound base for telling the children about Jesus and helping them learn.

As an infant group leader this was my second holiday club at St Thomas' since moving to Chesterfield. I feel blessed to have been part of what was such a smoothly run few days and an amazing experience for so many children. The hectic and busy moments were forgotten by seeing the children fully involved in the creative biblical experiences and really enjoying themselves.

The effort and energy so many people put into this year's holiday club made it an undeniably fruitful experience for all the children involved. Well done Julie Brown and her team of sixty helpers for all your hard work and organisation.

### **Beki Keenan**

*More pictures on the back cover.*

*Many more pictures can be seen at:*

[www.st-thomas-brampton.org/gallery.html](http://www.st-thomas-brampton.org/gallery.html)

## **Summer Rendezvous 2007**

Over three days in August some fifty seniors enjoyed participating in various activities ranging from a history walk in Brampton to a cookery demonstration, playing French boules to solving a jigsaw, working on a hand massage in aromatherapy to stepping out with enthusiasm in line dancing.

Our theme was on '*memories*' and our speakers at '*Thought for the Day*' each brought memories from their lives and their experience of a personal walk with God. For instance these included a King's Scout badge, a puppet, half a photograph, a Claud Butler bicycle, a wartime identity card and a baptism candle.

**/Contd**



Each day we enjoyed a delicious two course lunch and it was good to have the opportunity to chat to each other while eating.

Summer Rendezvous ended with a Sunday evening celebration service and buffet. A number of talented seniors were involved in

the service. Highlights included a sketch 'Eternal Youth' by the Two Dees, a song by 'Hazel's Songsters' and a dramatic reading of scripture. Our Rector drew lessons from much of this material in his talk.

Thanks go to the many people who worked hard to make Summer Rendezvous a such a success.

**Nanette Sanderson**

*More pictures can be seen at:*

[www.st-thomas-brampton.org/gallery.html](http://www.st-thomas-brampton.org/gallery.html)



## St. Peter's Annual Church Outing

For the past few years our church outings have always been to the coast. However, this year, following a questionnaire, York was chosen.

There were some worrying moments just prior to the outing -every time the phone rang it seemed to herald another cancellation! However, when the coach and participants turned up on time on 11 August, the worries were forgotten. Everything went smoothly and we had a comfortable, safe and incident free journey.



*A welcome ice cream!*

*York Minster*



We were blessed with perfect weather, so we were able to walk or even ride on the open top bus round 'Britain's favourite city', taking in the famous landmarks. Some of the spots visited included the magnificent Minster, the Treasurer's house, the Shambles, Fairfax House and the Jorvik experience to name a few. Many of us also enjoyed a leisurely boat trip down the River Ouse and two of our younger members were even spotted sightseeing in an open horse drawn carriage!

From comments I received it would seem that 'a lovely time was had by all!' So, any ideas for 2008?

Chris Smith

# Spring Harvest in the Vendee – “Le Pas Opton”

*Julie and Steve Lomas and their children Eleanor, Katie and Sam tell us about ‘Spring’ Harvest’ in France.*



As a family, we have never been to Spring Harvest in the UK, although we have heard much about the great times at Skegness and Minehead that folks have enjoyed. We decided three years ago to go to the site in the Vendee region of France and give it a try, and have been back every year since, and have already booked again for 2008!

## **Why is it such a popular holiday with our family?**

Well, we love camping, and take our own tent, although you can hire static tents, or mobile homes as well. The outdoor life suits us, and the climate in that region is super – this year we were blessed with 2 weeks of sunshine and blue skies. The site is well managed, with a good sized pool, shop, bar and restaurant, access to the river etc. Situated about 10 minutes out of St Giles Croix de Vie the roads are easy to drive on, and this year we discovered more of the network of cycle paths. The area boasts some fine beaches, market towns, lakes and chateaux, and is a popular tourist destination.

## **So why go to the Spring Harvest site?**

We have camped in this region before, but we keep returning to this particular site because of the lovely mix of activities which nurture the body, mind and soul in a gentle, relaxing way that encourages rest and recuperation from the normal pace of life. The children are offered group activities every morning for 2 hours, which are led and focused on Christian teaching, whilst adults are offered a coffee and teaching session in the bar for 45 minutes or so. This year the first week we looked at the Beatitudes, and during the second week the Lord’s Prayer.

There is also an evening worship event in the marquee every evening, and a family communion on a Sunday morning. Absolutely everything is optional (you can dip in and out of the bible studies just as you can dip in and out of the pool) and is low key, so nothing like the full programme of teaching and events that Spring Harvest UK is renowned for.

We also enjoy mixing it up with other families from all over the UK and from different Christian denominations and traditions, and for our children some really deep friendships have been formed, which get renewed year on year! There is also fishing, quiz night, wine tasting, archery, football – not to mention fresh baked croissants and baguettes.....only 49 weeks [as of the end of August] until we go back – that says it all!

## **The Lomas Family**

*For more information about Spring Harvest Holidays go to [www.springharvestholidays.com](http://www.springharvestholidays.com)*

## **News of Paul and Ruth Lapworth**



Paul and Ruth have left Tear Fund and returned to the UK from Africa. They are both starting to study at All Nations Christian College in Hertfordshire doing a course entitled 'Biblical and Intercultural Studies'.

They are planning to be there for two years. Paul's doing a BA degree and Ruth a one year certificate part-time over two years. Their children, Simeon and Emma will be going to a school in nearby Ware and Lucy will be going to the college nursery in the mornings.

They say they are looking forward to it, but realise there are a lot more changes up ahead for all of them in the next few months.

Please uphold the family in your prayers.

## Thank you Julie

Julie Brown has stood down as our Children's Work Co-ordinator. She took on the role for a year and is now going to begin training to be a primary school teacher through the Graduate Teaching Programme. May God bless you Julie on the next stage of your career.



## Welcome to Dawn



Dawn Edingborough has started work as our full time Children's and Families' Work Co-ordinator. Dawn has moved up to Chesterfield with her daughter Holly from Hertfordshire. We hope they will be very happy here and look forward to finding out more about Dawn and Holly in future editions of Ploughshare.

## **Dear Diary**

Forthcoming dates to remember

### **Thursday 4 October**

1.00pm First Thursday Rendezvous

### **Sunday 7 October**

Harvest Festival, St Thomas'

### **Friday 19-Sunday 21 October**

Youth Weekend Away, Ashbourne

### **Friday 26 October**

7.15pm Furnace, St Thomas'

### **Wednesday 31 October**

Alternative Halloween, St Thomas'

### **Thursday 1 November**

1.00pm First Thursday Rendezvous

### **Sunday 11 November**

Remembrance Sunday -Check news sheet or web site for details

### **Saturday 17-Sunday 18 November**

Operation Christmas Child weekend, St Thomas'

### **Friday 30 November**

7.15pm Furnace, St Thomas'

## More pictures from Holiday Club - Jungle Jamboree

