

PLOUGHSHARE

October/November 2008

Volume 16, 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*



All aboard for the
cruise
-but who are the
shipmates?



60p per copy (£3.00per 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 to 10 plus years old) and a crèche.

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

6pm A fairly informal service usually with a music group.
1st, 2nd, 3rd (and 5th) Sunday Evening Worship
4th Sunday Holy Communion

Note: <i>New starting time of 6pm for this service</i>
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4.30pm 'Energize -1' for 10-14 year olds **8pm** 'Energize -2' for 14-18 year olds

Please note:

Sunday 12 October is the Commitment Service for the Development Project. There is a joint morning service starting at **10.30am**.

Sunday 2 November is the Memorial Service starting at **6.30pm**.

Sunday 9 November is Remembrance Sunday. There is a joint morning service starting at **10am**.

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

Please note: The work to rebuild St Peter's vestry starts at the beginning of October. Whilst the work is going on services will be held at an alternative venue -to be confirmed as the magazine goes to press.

From the Rector

Dear Friends,

In the last edition of Ploughshare you may remember reading about a number of members from our congregation who felt God was calling them away from Chesterfield to do other things in the wider church. It's always sad to say good bye to long standing friends. Whilst we as a church are thrilled to have played a part in their Christian journey it's heartbreaking to actually say good bye – this of course is the way of life!



The make up of our church is constantly changing, people go ... others come.

I hope that as a church we are always ready to greet with open arms new people who are looking for a spiritual home. If you've not yet tried us you're more than welcome to come and see for yourself!

Let me tell you about two new people who will be joining us over the next few months.

Kat Witham is not exactly new to St. Thomas' but is taking on a new role amongst us as from September she began working for St Thomas' as a **trainee youth worker**. Kat is working with Gemma (our full-time youth worker) and the rest of the staff team in helping to bring about an even greater impact amongst young people in our church and community. I'm thrilled that Kat has decided to take a year out to serve God in this way and to help St Thomas' youth work move forward.

I'm also thrilled to be able to announce that as of next year we will be joined by the then **Rev Ruth Turner**.

Ruth is currently training at Ridley Hall in Cambridge. She will be ordained as Deacon in the Derby Diocese next Pentecost (June 2009) and then begin work as our **new Curate**. Ruth will work as a close colleague of mine as she moves into the more practical aspect of her training for priesthood. Ruth will be with us for four years and will contribute to every aspect of our parish's life, both at St Thomas', St Peter's and in the wider community.

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Ruth comes to us with an enormous amount of skill in church work and ministry. Prior to her current theological training at Ridley Hall she was on the staff at St Alkmund's in Derby as their full-time worship leader. Prior to that she was Director of music and worship at St Aldates Church in Oxford – the church that Gareth Simmonds has just left us to work for! Ruth has worked for J. John, St Michael's Cathedral (Wollongong, Australia) and as a Youth with a Mission (Y.W.A.M.) team member.

I'm sure both Kat and Ruth will bring wonderful new things with them in their new roles amongst us - but they will be just two of many people who I'm sure will join us. Everyone is equally welcome. We all have things to bring to the life of the Church; you don't have to be on the full-time staff to have a vital role to play in making St Thomas' the great church it is – everyone is welcome, everyone has a part to play.

Yours in Christ, **Rev Matthew Barnes**

From the Editor

It is with sadness that in this edition of the magazine the Register announces the deaths of three well known, much loved and respected members of our church family -Arthur Redhead, Jack Hemmings and Dorothy Bonsall. On behalf of all Ploughshare readers may I express my sympathy to all their relatives and friends.

On a happier note four young people associated with St Thomas' have married in the last few months -Chris and Rachel Witham, Catherine Hill and Marie Old. This time may I extend my best wishes on behalf of all readers. Pictures from their weddings are on the back cover.

It will be a good few years before these young people catch Shirley and Roy Whitham up. Shirley and Roy have recently celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary -congratulations.

As I write this in the middle of September both our churches are building up to gift days for their respective building projects. By the time you read this St Peter's gift day (20 September) will have happened and the building work on the new vestry should be about to start or may even have started. (Work is due to start 6 October.)

St Thomas' gift day is 12 October -so depending on when you read this it may or may not have happened. I trust and pray that these gift days will produce the response we need and in the next edition of the magazine I can report on exciting progress with both projects.

Mark Hoare

Allan Kitchen Asks..... “Has My Life Been Influenced By God?”

When the Editor, Mark Hoare, asked me if I would write an article for the Parish Magazine I took a few days to think what I should say and eventually prepared the following article.

I asked myself “Has God influenced my life?” And the answer is “Yes”.

The happenings described have occurred over most of my life and it is only when I put them all together that I finally realize there is a pattern which has been influenced by God.



In the beginning

I was born in the Parish of St Thomas' Brampton and lived with my parents on Walton Back Lane until my marriage. I was christened at Holymoorside Congregational Church (now the United Reform) and was made to attend Sunday school there. I eventually left school at the age of 16 years and was sent to work at Bryan Donkin Co. Ltd.

Family responsibilities

In 1962 I married Jillian Furness at the United Reform Church on Rose Hill Chesterfield. We have two boys born in the early nineteen sixties.

God gets me back on track

I suppose that during my early teenage years I was like many others of my age group and rebelled against religion having been forced by my parents to attend Sunday school. The second half of my teenage years was spent studying and there was no time for religion.

In the mid seventies a strange thing happened. I dreamt on three separate nights that I was neglecting my duties as a parent to bring up my children in the Christian faith. It was very similar to the happenings to Eli recorded in 1 Samuel.

My children were aged around 10 and 12 years and after much thought we started as a family to attend evensong at Wingerworth Parish Church. Eventually my children were enrolled in confirmation classes. At the same time I was persuaded by the Rector, Geoffrey Marlow, that I should attend adult confirmation classes with a view to the confirmation of me and our children at the same ceremony. Jillian had been confirmed as a teenager here at St Thomas'.

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God sets the first tasks

Following my confirmation things started to happen. I was elected a sidesperson and then Church Warden, a role I undertook for four years. At this time Wingerworth Church had purchased an old organ from a church in Sheffield and I was soon co-opted to help with its removal and its re-installation at Wingerworth.

The period from the mid 1970's to the mid 1980's was a happy time for us all. We were regular attendees at Wingerworth and were involved in many church activities. As a Church Warden I had an active role in the appointment of a new rector to replace Geoffrey Marlow.

The dark years

The latter part of the 1980's and the 1990's was a difficult period for me but I always had faith that with God's help I would come through it. Both of my parents died and their loss affected me in many ways. I felt rather neglected and lost my appetite for religion. Around 1984 we decided to return to my birthplace and eventually bought a house in Walton. We began attending St John's on a spasmodic basis and later St Thomas'.

God finds some more tasks

Not long after our return to Walton I was asked by Christopher Frith if I would help out at St John's Walton. This I did and undertook the assistant Church Warden duties with Ken Waddington.

The big decision - freedom

In 1994 I was offered the chance to take early retirement from my employer and after careful consideration I accepted. The next five years started off on a high note; at last we could do what we wanted and live our lives as wished. During this time Jillian and I pursued our love of hill walking in Derbyshire and the Lake District. Our finest holiday was a visit to the Outer Hebrides.

My faith is tested

Suddenly in 1996 Jillian was diagnosed with breast cancer. We were both devastated at the news and our faith was again tested as we struggled with "why you?" and "why me?" Following surgery and medication she was declared clear but in September 1998 it was confirmed that the breast cancer had returned and in April 1999 Jillian lost her battle.

What now

Following Jillian's death I realized that I had to get on with the rest of my life and became a regular attendee at the 9 o'clock service at St Thomas'. I was now at an all time low and I am sure it is only my faith that kept me going.

A second blow but a successful outcome

In the midst of all of this I was diagnosed in 1998 as suffering with Parkinson's disease. I had to accept the fact and try to live a near normal life as possible. Fortunately the medication I take is very successful in controlling the illness. I am an active member of the Parkinson's group at Walton hospital and have visited Parkinson's disease sufferers in their homes to help them cope with it.

God sets another task

In June 1999 I was persuaded by Christopher Frith to assist him to prepare the rotas for the 9 o'clock services at St Thomas'. With the help and support of Angie McGovern, Pam Brimelow, Gill and Martin Bailey and Sue Ward I took on this task and the process has been rationalized. It is with deep regret it has now been necessary for me to reduce my involvement in the rota preparation.

And finally

I am a keen walker, a clock restorer and family history researcher. I thank God for the many skills that I have been given to pursue my activities.

At the time of these happenings I accepted them as one of those things.

However when I look back it is apparent that God has been at work and I can say "Yes, my life has been influenced by God".

Allan Kitchen

About People

Congratulations to **Gemma Machin**, our Youth Worker. Gemma has completed her degree in Youth Work and is now working full time in the parish.

As Matt has said in his Rector's Letter, **Kat Witham** has joined Gemma for a year as an 'apprentice' Youth Worker prior to her doing a degree in Youth Work in September 2009.

Julie Lomas has put her self forward to train as a Lay Reader. This has been approved by the PCC.

Barbara Goodacre is standing down at the end of October after seven years as a Deputy Church Warden. Many thanks to Barbara for all her hard work and faithfulness in this role.

One of our former curates has been appointed to Matt's previous church. The **Rev Petra Owen-Moore** was licensed as Vicar in the North Wingfield Team Ministry with responsibility for Clay Cross and Danesmoor on 3 September.

Jack Hemmings 1919-2008



Jack Hemmings, one of our long standing church family members, died recently. This tribute to Jack has been compiled with help from Rev Christopher Frith.

Jack was a familiar figure at St Thomas'; always the same, always very smart, never seeming to get any older. Jack had a friendly smile and cheerful affectionate greeting for everyone. He was an excellent sides-person, reader, funeral verger and wreath-layer on Remembrance Sunday -that service at St Thomas' will never be quite the same without him.

Jack had a long life which he thoroughly enjoyed and lived to the full. A life underpinned by his Christian faith. When interviewed for Ploughshare some years ago Jack was asked, "What has been the most striking thing for you about being a Christian?" He replied, "... God has always been there ... I've always felt his presence ... He has always looked after me."

Jack overcame tragedies early in his life and made the best of every opportunity that came his way. Both his parents died when Jack was very young; his elder sister, Edith, brought him up. He went to William Rhodes School where he became head boy. Jack had to leave school at 14 and seek employment. His early working life was spent at Markhams' Engineering and then with the Chesterfield Transport Department.

When World War II started in 1939 Jack joined the Army. He was taken prisoner at Dunkirk in 1940 and spent the next five years as a prisoner of war in Poland.

Jack managed to escape three times: his first two attempts resulted in re-capture and long spells in solitary confinement. Undaunted Jack made a third bid for freedom and this time he was successful. He eventually met up with the Americans who used him as an interpreter.

Jack has entertained many people with stories of his exploits as a POW -always amusing, always underplaying his bravery in difficult and dangerous situations.

After a short repatriation leave in 1945 Jack was sent to Dusseldorf to assist in de-Nazifying people before they could obtain employment.

On returning home Jack took advantage of the government sponsored Teacher Training Scheme. He trained in Sheffield, qualifying to teach first in junior and then in secondary schools. Jack began his teaching career here in Brampton at Old Hall School. He then went on to teach English and drama at his old school, William Rhodes. Some years later Jack became careers master at the Manor, another local secondary school.

Jack had a life-long interest and active involvement in sport; especially football and cricket. He achieved distinction as a soccer referee at three schoolboy internationals. Jack also refereed and was a linesman at top league level until 1960 and continued refereeing at local level into his sixties.

Jack was a long time player, chairman and later president of Chesterfield Barbarians' Cricket Club. Many St Thomas' members will remember Jack as umpire at our church cricket matches when the Rector's XI played the Curate's XI - all his decisions were absolutely spot-on and fair!

Jack was well known to many through teaching and sport and among his claims to fame was that of being a friend to sports stars, including Arsenal goal keeper (ex Chesterfield schoolboy) Bob Wilson, FIFA football supremo Geoff Thompson and former England cricketer Geoff Miller.

Jack's funeral on 6 August was conducted by The Rev Canon Christopher J C Frith and attended by many family members, friends and representatives of the various organisations that he was involved with. Among the tributes paid to him were those of "wonderful neighbour", "very dear friend", "always willing to help", "always willing to listen", "always interested", "he was just Jack". Everyone respected Jack, whoever they were, wherever they met him.

Along with his wife, Mary, Jack has been a long standing and faithful member of St Thomas'. Our church family is the poorer for his passing; we extend our love and sympathy to Mary and to Mark, Jack's son.

On behalf of all Ploughshare readers may I also extend my sympathy to Mary and Mark –Editor

The interview *Face to face with Jack Hemmings* appeared in the February 1998 edition of Ploughshare. You can read it at www.st-thomas-brampton.org/aboutpeople4.html#1

An Archbishop from Chesterfield

Did you know that Thomas Secker (1693-1768), who was the 86th Archbishop of Canterbury (1758-1768) grew up in Chesterfield? His childhood home can still be seen at the north-east corner of New Square marked by a blue Civic Society plaque. He attended Chesterfield Free School (which became Chesterfield Grammar School and is now Brookfield School).



Thomas Secker was born in the Vale of Belvoir, Nottinghamshire. He was born to his father's third wife and after his father's death was sent to Chesterfield at the age of nine. He lived with a Richard Milnes, the husband of the daughter from the marriage to his second wife. (Both his second wife and daughter had by that time died.)

He attended the Free School until 1708 when he was sent to an academy in Sheffield. From there he went on to study in London and Gloucester, occasionally coming back to Chesterfield for short periods.

Some of the sayings attributed to him include:

“He enjoys much who is thankful for little.”

“Some people do first, think afterward, and then repent forever.”

“He who is angry and but does not sin, must not be angry with anything but sin”.



The plaque reads:

SITE OF
BOYHOOD HOME OF
THOMAS' SECKER,
DOCTOR & PRIEST
ARCHBISHOP
OF CANTEBRURY
1758-1768

Community

The April and May 2008 All Age Services at St Thomas' were on the theme of 'Community'. Dawn Edingborough, our Children's and Families' Worker, prepared and led the services –with plenty of audience participation! Dawn has written a synopsis of the services to share with the church family.

In the services, we've looked at the theme of community. We heard the reading Acts Chapter 2:37-47, where we found out about the early Christian church and we looked at this to see if we could learn anything from them that would help us to continue to grow and develop our own healthy, living community at St Thomas' (and of course St Peter's).



In April's service we did a fun questionnaire as a way of getting to know each other and we learned that every community is made up of lots of **individuals**; all very different people, with **different backgrounds, likes, dislikes** and **characteristics**. We made a visual display to remind ourselves of this. Each person designed a paper patch to represent themselves and we put them together on a board to show that God can take all our differences and make something beautiful out of them. The finished result was a lovely display- if you haven't already seen it- go and have a look in the Meeting Room.



We also found out that **sharing** was really important to the first Christian Community. The disciples ate together, looked after each other, and shared possessions. We thought about ways that we could share together

more and some of the ideas we came up with included celebrating special events together, listening to each other and helping each other with gardening, shopping and other jobs. Just like the early church, we shared in our worship by praising God together. Then we started to think about sharing with other people.

In May's service we had the same reading and thought about the unity that was evident in the first Christian community. We had a simple visual reminder of this by using a yellow pages directory. On their own the pages are thin, flimsy and weak and really easily torn or destroyed but when all those pages are put together they are virtually indestructible- even the strongest person in our church couldn't make a tear in it! In the same way we thought that as a **church and a community we would be stronger if we were united and worked together**.



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Then we discovered how much **love** there was in the early church. 'Something' made those people happy to look after one another instead of fighting and arguing and happy to share everything they had, rather than just thinking about themselves all the time. That 'something' was knowing that **Jesus had touched and changed their lives** and because of that they changed the way they lived.

And that's a question we might need to ask ourselves from time to time -would the people that we meet in our workplaces and in our day to day lives -would they be able to guess from looking at the way we think and speak and behave that we know that Jesus is a part of our lives? If he is and we really know that, and know it in our hearts and not just in our heads, then it will be reflected in our behaviour.

After looking at loving and caring for one another in our church family, we moved on to thinking about **loving the wider community** and realised that actually getting to know our community is the first step towards learning to love it. We all took part in a lively quiz to see how much we really knew about our community.

While the adults thought a bit more about the importance of loving those outside the church and practical ways in which we can show our love, the children decorated paper hearts to take home to remind themselves about showing Jesus' love to others.

We finished our service by praying for our friendships and relationships. We made a long paper chain- linking all our prayers and people together and we added it to last months patchwork display.



The display in the St Thomas' Meeting Room

Quotes from the 'Community' Services

“Christ has no body on earth but yours
No hands but yours
No feet but yours
Yours are the eyes through which to look
At Christ's compassion to the world
Yours are the feet with which he is
To go about doing good
And yours are the hands with
Which he is to bless us now.”

A prayer of St Teresa of Avilla

“To love at all is to be vulnerable. Love anything and your heart will certainly be wrung and possibly broken.

If you want to make sure of keeping it intact, you must give your heart to no-one....wrap it carefully with hobbies and little luxuries, avoid all entanglements and lock it up safe in a casket of your own selfishness.

There it will not be broken, it will become unbreakable, impenetrable and irredeemable.”

C.S.Lewis

St Thomas' Community Evenings

Alison Shemwell writes:

Ten years ago a group of us was inspired by Acts chapter 2:42-47 to set up a Community Evening here at St Thomas'. We could not quite manage every day but we settled for once a week. We still meet from 7-10pm in someone's home every Friday. (See weekly notice sheet or church website for venue.)

People come for the whole time or just drop in during that time for as long or short a time as they like. It is an 'open' community; anyone is welcome whether they are a Christian or not or come to church or not. Spouses, friends, children are all welcome. We chat, play games (sometimes), have a bit to eat and drink and most importantly get to know each other. From these evenings have spawned deep friendships and practical and spiritual help for each other. As a single person I think as our 'community' as my 'family' where I can find true friendship and support.

Diary Dates

Sunday 5 October

Harvest Services at St Thomas'

Sunday 12 October

Day of Commitment for the Development Project, at St Thomas'

Thursday 30 October

2pm Communion and Cuppa, St Thomas' Church

Friday 31 October

7.30pm Furnace, St Thomas' Church

Sunday 2 November

6pm Memorial Services at St Peter's

6.30pm Memorial Services at St Thomas'

Thursday 6 November

1pm First Thursday Rendezvous

Sunday 9 November

Remembrance Service at St Thomas' starts at 10am

Saturday 15 November

John Pickering Concert at St Thomas'

Thursday 27 November

2pm Communion and Cuppa, St Thomas' Church

Friday 28 November

7.30pm Furnace, St Thomas' Church

Thursday 4 December

1pm First Thursday Rendezvous

Correct at time of going to press. More details on the Notice Sheet or www.st-thomas-brampton.org

Remembrance Sunday at St Thomas' **9 November**

As usual there will be only one service at St Thomas' on this Sunday. However this year **it will start at 10am** and finish with the Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial at 11am.

All Is Well

Death is nothing at all,
I have only slipped into the next room
I am I and you are you
Whatever we were to each other, that we are still.
Call me by my old familiar name,
Speak to me in the easy way which you always used
Put no difference in your tone,
Wear no forced air of solemnity or sorrow
Laugh as we always laughed at the little jokes we enjoyed together.
Play, smile, think of me, pray for me.
Let my name be ever the household word that it always was,
Let it be spoken without effect, without the trace of shadow on it.
Life means all that it ever meant.
It is the same as it ever was, there is unbroken continuity.
Why should I be out of mind because I am out of sight?
I am waiting for you, for an interval, somewhere very near,
Just around the corner, all is well.

By Henry Scott Holland (1847-1918) Canon of St Paul's Cathedral

Happenings at St Peter's

26 June St Peter's Day. Special morning and evening services were held to celebrate the life of St Peter to which everyone in Holymoorside was invited. Luke and Joe Kendell were baptised at the morning service.

5 July Afternoon Tea at the Chapel Corner House. Three o'clock saw the crowds making their way to the Chapel Corner House on Cotton Mill Hill, Holymoorside. Here they were greeted by the Head Nippies Diana and Joy. Inside it was warm and welcoming with background music from the 40's.

In no time at all, in true 'Nippy' fashion everyone was served afternoon tea as they enjoyed the music of Ivor Novello played on the piano by the maestro Shirley. The relaxing atmosphere reflected the true feeling of happy hours spent by many people in the 'Corner Houses' of the forties.

The purpose of the event was to raise funds for the St Peter's Vestry fund. As people enjoyed the food, the company and the general ambiance a total (after expenses) of £416 was raised.

Visitors had come from all over the area and left feeling happy, satisfied and asking "When is the next one?".



10 July Holymoorside Ladies Club Dinner at Hassop Hall. Some thirty members had a meal out and a tour of the Hall.

20 to 25 August Holymoorside Arts Festival and Well Dressing. More about this in the next edition.

St Peter's Vestry. Work is due to start on rebuilding St Peter's Vestry on 6 October. The work is expected to take several weeks. St Peter's services will be held at an alternative location -to be confirmed as the magazine goes to press.

Change



Robin Dawson has had some major changes in his life. He writes about the way he has coped -by trusting in God.

Do you like change? A lot of us long for a bit of stability, but if things stay the same for too long we get bored.

When I was in my twenties, I thought that once I passed 40 or so life would slow down gradually and all would become calm. Looking back now in the second half of my sixties, my fifties have been the most stable time. Now with retirement and old age starting to catch up with my physical and mental capabilities change is accelerating. And losing my wife, moving away from Chesterfield (twice, temporarily) and getting married again has given me a bit more change than most.

Our way of life nationally is changing too. We had become accustomed to our standard of living generally increasing gently, almost as of right, over the past decade. Now this is all changing. Some people say that it is all part of cycle. I fear that this time it may not be so as the shortage of energy and resources starts to pinch worldwide. We might have to get used to a steadily (or probably unsteadily) reducing standard of living.

At St Thomas' church we have, almost without realising it, been living with change. In the 20 years I have been with the church the way we worship has changed, the inside of the church has changed, quite a lot of the people have changed and half the parish has been hived off to make the first new parish of

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the millennium at Walton. For me there has always been stability in the way the congregations have taken their worship seriously, but not pedantically. And in the way the church has tried to be open to God and to the community.

I think having to deal with change is one of those things that keeps us awake and alive. It forces us to think about what the really important things are. But some stability is needed too. Where do we find our stability? Those of us who look for it in building up financial or material resources may be in for a shock.

We can look for stability in relationships. I have been gifted with a number of valuable long lasting friendships. But I know that these relationships can be broken by outside pressures, sickness or death.

One relationship that provides me with stability and which I trust will never be broken is my relationship with God. Can I speak about my relationship with God in the same way as I can with my mortal friends? I suppose not. In a way it has become something less immediate, but deeper and always there. There have been, and are, times when God has seemed very distant. But distant and absent are not the same.

There are times when prayers seem to be bouncing off a brick wall, but that is not the same as them not being heard. And as time passes I find for me more and more in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Whatever happens I know that God is there and I am in the mind of my creator. My new wife tells me that whatever happens to us is a gift from God. It is how we deal with what happens that is the important thing. And that includes change.

Robin Dawson

Summer Rendezvous 2008

Summer Rendezvous 2008 was called 'The Cruise'. Some fifty 'seniors' spent the first day in St Thomas' church doing activities that might be found on a cruise ship. On the second day they went on a 'cruise by coach'. Ray Hearn, one of the 'passengers' has written this report.

On August 8th the good ship St Thomas 'sailed' into the church and berthed centre stage. The passengers were members of the Rendezvous group and were entertained to a day of activities 'on board' as well as a splendid cooked lunch. Activities on the first day that people said they enjoyed included card making, sit-down aerobics, an experiment in prayer and paper sculpture/collage. The aerobics were much appreciated by both men and women. Most important was the companionship and the joy of doing things together.



Some of the
'Shipmates'

On the second day we went on a tour of Derbyshire. At least I think so but the rain, low cloud and even hill mist made it difficult to see beyond the edge of the road. We went to Tittesworth Reservoir in Staffordshire and the Roaches. Both were shrouded in mist and we couldn't see them. However we went to Buxton and enjoyed the shops, especially the coffee bars. Finally we finished at Willersley Castle for a cream tea, tour round the castle and a finishing act of worship in the lounge.

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This is looking serious!



Cream teas at Willersley Castle

Read what the passengers said:

"Willersley Castle was brilliant." "Who worried about the rain!?!?" "Enjoyed the visit to Willersley Castle. Nice tea, brief tour and potted history, and then the Service." "The little service at Willersley Castle was a good finale to an enjoyable day. Many of us must have felt that despite the bad weather we are very blessed to live in such a glorious countryside. I am sure many thanks were offered to God." "Regardless of the rain, I enjoyed the group."

They also said:

"I could recommend Rendezvous to a friend because it offers good company and interesting activities." "Good fellowship, good food, and a reminder of what is really important in life." "Encouraged enough to issue personal invitations with confidence." "I asked two friends and they enjoyed it." "Companionship and a friendly atmosphere."

More pictures can be found at www.st-thomas-brampton.org/gallery.html

Are You as Organised as Rendezvous?



.....asks Jane Simmonds, Regional Manager Midlands Samaritan's Purse International.

Have you been packing Christmas presents yet? I popped in to the September Rendezvous meeting and that is exactly what they were doing! But the presents they were packing were very special boxes, appealed for by the Christian charity **Samaritan's Purse International**.

This charity is best known for its safe water project 'Turn on The Tap' and its shoe box appeal 'Operation Christmas Child', but the boxes being so lovingly put together by the group were not for children this time. They were for the **Baboushkas** [grandmothers] of Belarus. Our partner and his wife in Belarus have an extensive ministry visiting lonely and often very poor Baboushkas and Nicolai and Nina had remarked how wonderful it would be to be able to visit them with a gift at Christmas time, just as they are able to with the children's gifts.

Receiving a gift has meant so much to these ladies who are often forgotten and housebound. The gifts bring such joy! But I have to add I sensed great joy during my Rendezvous visit as the boxes were being packed. Whilst some ladies wrapped shoe boxes others filled them and I had the job of sticking on the bright green **Baboushka** labels.

Whilst all this was happening, the gentleman members 'did their own thing', so who knows - we might just introduce some Dadoushka boxes next year for the granddads!

May I extend my thanks to Rendezvous for packing these gifts and for bringing a great deal of pleasure to many dear ladies in Belarus and also for the warm welcome I was given on that wet September afternoon.



Members of Rendezvous, (including some of the men!) with some of the boxes they had packed



Operation Christmas Child

If anyone would like to take part in this year's 'Operation Christmas Child' shoe box appeal, (aimed at young children), you will find leaflets at the back of St Thomas' and St Peter's churches from October onwards, outlining the appeal, giving suggested items for inclusion, various necessary restrictions, age and gender labels and an envelope for the £2.50 donation required.

The main appeal will run from 1st to 18th November and boxes can be left at the back of both churches. For more information on the appeal or ways in which you can volunteer locally, please contact me on 234193, or the local warehouse on 231580. Thank you

Jane Simmonds

Weddings

Over the summer some of our church family or former church family members were married.



Chris and Rachel Witham (nee Barnsley), 26 July, St John's Newbold



Jonathan and Catherine Hill (nee Cowley), 26 July, St Thomas'



Richard and Marie Old (nee Blanksby), 9 August, St John's Walton