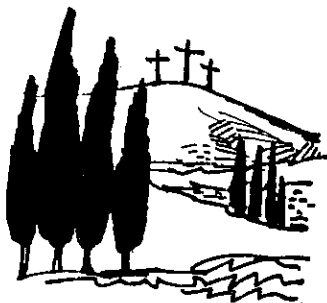


From The Curate....



How do people face each new day and the future without the reality of the risen Christ in their lives?

With prices rising, unemployment, child abuse, sickness, detente diminishing and increasing pollution, the daily news is enough to depress the most stout-hearted. With fifty million people dying this year because they are too hungry to live (approximately the total number of casualties in the last war), we may well ask, "What is the value of the individual?" And when we consider that the only thing we know with complete certainty about ourselves from the day we are born is that we are going to die, why bother about anything? These are the questions which secretly haunt many people and there is no human answer to them.

It is with such thoughts in mind that I sometimes wish that we could sing "Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia!" not only in our churches at the Easter services, but up and down the streets of the parish and all over Chesterfield. With such good news how can we be silent?

Through the forgiveness which comes from the death of Christ, we can begin to experience a new relationship with God, and through his resurrection we can enjoy a new quality of life which will last forever. The New Testament puts it this way: Christ by his death and resurrection has destroyed sin and death - our two greatest enemies. Even if (as I suspect some will hastily agree) it is not always appropriate to sing in such a way, yet I hope that, whatever our circumstances, there will be a light in our eyes this Easter, that none of our family or friends can miss!

Yours very sincerely

JOHN R.M. COOK



GOD'S WORD
is TRUTH.



St. Peter's News

Last October it was decided to form a group from St. Peter's called "Fundamentals". Several people became interested in discussing this important aspect of their faith, and perhaps some might be confirmed.

The group consists of Ken and Joy Kench, Peter Allan (leader), Edna Noble, Ian and Betty Wright, Doris Ransom, Jean Millard, Debbie Botham, Keith and Chris Sharratt. We decided to meet on Tuesday evenings on a very homely, informal basis, wishing to re-examine the basis of our faith. Several of us felt that over the years we had lapsed, and did not feel totally comfortable with the new wordings of the Bible/A.S.B., and did not want to misinterpret them. Several people had been thinking of confirmation over the years and hoped this would help them finally decide.

Several joined, hoping for friendship, and through friendship, learning. We thought that Tuesday evenings could be more informal and intimate than the larger more formal Sunday morning services. Perhaps we would all be able to find our true identity again. Two members came as onlookers and have gained immense knowledge through the group.

What have we gained from the group? Number one - friendship and fellowship. Several of us feel that we have gained through just sitting and listening to others' points of views. We all felt a 'bond' had been formed between members. We felt that we were all nearer to our spiritual goal, and several of us realised we were trying too hard to reach God and that we were nearer to Him than we thought. "Be still and know God". Several members have made a commitment to become confirmed and the rest of us are renewing our Baptism vows. We intend to continue as a group after confirmation, and we welcome any new members. As a final thought, we would all like to thank God for the wisdom He has given us as a group, and we all thank Peter for leading it so well.

CHRIS SHARRATT.

The Advent project achieved a splendid total of £147.50 this year (Dec. 1987).

Kitty Walker reports "We are helping to support children at schools in Madagascar. These young people are from rock-bottom backgrounds and broken homes. They have reached the last year at high school and are ready for the baccalaureat examination" (our 'A' levels). The money raised by St. Peter's will go to help these children.



BAPTISMS

- ELLIS - on 6 March, Mark Andrew, son of Stephen and Heather Ellis, 484. Chatsworth Road
- FROST - on 28 February, Madeleine Emma, daughter of Steven and Rhona Frost, 64 Hucklow Avenue, Boythorpe
- FROST - on 28 February, Genevieve Amy Ridgeway, daughter of Steven and Rhona Frost (as above)
- GASCOIGNE - on 7 February, Heidi Laura, daughter of William and Cheryl Gascoigne, 23 Hillside Drive, Walton
- GRATTON - on 13 March, Lucy Charlotte, daughter of Mark and Rebecca Gratton
- HANDBY - on 7 February, Nicole Emma, daughter of Christopher and Lorraine Handby, 35 Avondale Road, Chesterfield
- HARRISON - on 28 February, Steven, son of Paul and Dianne Harrison, 90 Manor Road, Ashgate
- McNEILL - on 28 February, Joshua Snarr, son of Andrew and Tracy McNeill 10 Birkdale Drive, Walton
- MARPLES - on 6 March, James Joseph, son of Stephen and Concetta Marples, 550 Chatsworth Road
- PIKE - on 28 February, Robert David, son of Neil and Jane Pike, 11 Berwick Close, Walton
- STAPLETON - on 28 February, Nichola, daughter of Trevor and Della Stapleton, 35 Creswick Close, Walton
- THOMPSON - on 14 February, Zita Katrin, daughter of Richard and Teresa Thompson.

PRIEST, PASTOR, VICAR MINISTER AND FRIEND

Whatever we call him (or maybe her!) It's still a tough job

IF HE VISITS his flock, he's nosey.
If he doesn't he's a snob.

If he preaches longer than 10
minutes it's too long.

If he preaches less than 10 minutes
he can't have prepared his sermon.

If he runs a car he's worldly.

If he doesn't he is always late for
appointments.

If he tells a joke he's flippant.

If he doesn't he's far too serious.

If he starts the service on time his
watch must be fast.

If he's a minute late he's keeping
the congregation waiting.

If he takes a holiday he's never in
the parish.

If he doesn't he's a stick-in-the-mud.

If he runs a gala or bazaar he's
money mad.

If he doesn't there's no social life
in the parish.

If he has the Church painted and
redecorated he's extravagant.
If he doesn't the Church is shabby.

If he's young he's inexperienced.
If he's getting old he ought to
retire.

But . . .
When he dies there's never been
anyone like him.

SOUNDS FANTASTIC!



CONCERT BY THE RICHARD RODDIS SINGERS

On Friday, 8th April, St. Thomas' Church is to be the venue for a Concert at 7.30pm by a young mixed voice choir, the Richard Roddis Singers. The choir meets annually at Easter for an intensive workshop culminating in several concerts. This year the choir will be staying in Great Hucklow, and at the end of their week will be auditioning for the Sainsbury's Choir of the Year Competition.

The choir was formed in 1980 by its director, Richard Roddis, from students and graduates of Exeter University. The Singers have performed in Exeter Cathedral, Buckfast Abbey, Southwell Minster, and in many other venues in the South-West and the Midlands. In 1987 they recorded for BBC Radio 3, and since Richard and his wife, Gillian, set up a music school in Nottingham, the choir has moved up country, and hopes to work in Derbyshire in the future.

An important aspect of their musical diet is that it should reflect both the serious and the popular sides of music, and this year's programme ranges from Bach to Jazz. Bach's large output of Sacred Cantatas is too often labelled 'tedious and boring', and the choir will set out to disprove this charge in Cantata No. 21. The work contains some of the most hauntingly expressive and exuberantly joyful of all Bach's music.

The second half of the programme will contain secular music by English composers, including the first performance of Jonathan Palmer's Roundelay 'Man is for the woman made'. And to conclude, some lively folk-song arrangements, some jazz, and Lennon/McCartney's 'Yesterday'.

The choir looks forward to enjoying a wide range of music with you, and hopes for your support in this Concert.

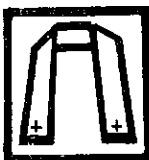
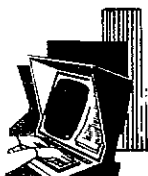
Admission £2; concession rate £1.



STAFF CHANGES

The sad news, announced recently, is that our Curate, John Cook, will be leaving us later this year. His three year stint in our Parish has passed quickly and John will be sorely missed. Many - especially the teenagers in the CYFA group, but by no means exclusively them - will want to pay tribute to his ministry and friendship when his farewell takes place.

The happy news is that we will be welcoming a replacement Curate at the beginning of October. His name is Jonathan Jee and he has kindly sent us this contribution to introduce himself to us:



My medical friends tell me that brain cells die off significantly quicker after the age of 25. If there is any truth in that at all, this year is a good year for me to leave theological college and finish exams as I will be twenty five in the summer!

Most of those twenty five years have been spent near Oxford, although I was born in London where my father was a curate at the time. People often ask me whether I've always wanted to be ordained, since dad is a vicar, and the answer is no! Quite the opposite in fact! After I left school I worked with IBM for a year before going to Oxford University to do a Maths degree, and fully intended to go back to IBM after leaving Oxford. However while I was leading my college christian union, I began to realise that I wanted to be ordained as I was enjoying my first taste of christian leadership. By the time I left Oxford I had been accepted by the Church of England, and went abroad to work in Israel for a year before going to theological college.

During my three years back in Oxford I have continued to play a lot of sport with the university, particularly squash, tennis and cricket, and that has been my main recreation. Now I'm finishing the academic part of my training and I'm very much looking forward to coming to Chesterfield, and to getting to know a different part of the country. More particularly, I'm looking forward to discovering more of God's riches available to us in Christ as I work among the three churches in the parish; and to learning from everybody in the different congregations. Meanwhile, I've still got one or two exams to pass before I become twenty five!!

JONATHAN JEE.

TEAR FUND

The Evangelical Alliance Relief Fund



May 1st at St. Thomas' will be Tearfund Sunday, during which our theme will be 'Water'. We are hoping that everyone will want to be involved in giving money towards paying for providing water in Ethiopia. Originally we had wanted to raise £500, but since then have discovered that it costs £400 to cap a spring but to drill a tube well would cost £1,600!

On the Sunday before May 1st, every adult at St. Thomas' will be given an envelope in which to contribute towards the project. The children will also be involved through Sunday Club, Quest, Pathfinders and CYFA. Please give generously. Pray about your response. We have so much to thank God for. In this country we have fresh clean water at the turn of a tap and we so often forget the needs of those in the Third World, where only half the people have access to safe drinking water. In rural areas it is much worse - only 36% are served by a water supply. At least 1240 million people (over 20 times the population of Britain!) have to carry water long distances, often taken from unreliable and polluted sources. The results of this are two-fold. Firstly, diseases related to poor water supply contribute greatly to high infant mortality, adult sickness and early death. Secondly the long distances that women and children often have to walk to fetch water, uses up much of their energy. It is not unusual especially in Africa, for several hours a day to be spent collecting water, carrying loads of 20kg and more from a river 6 miles away. (Think about that when you next take a shower, boil the kettle or watch the water that is wasted as you clean your teeth!) When water has to be carried this far, it is not easy to persuade people to wash regularly. Often the water may be contaminated anyway - and so the problems compound.....

All that is left for me to do now, is urge you to pray about your response to the challenge of drilling a well in Ethiopia and think over what God wants you to give on our 'Tear Fund Sunday'.

'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison and did not help you?' He will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me'.



Help
the hungry,
landless and
powerless
get fair
shares.



CHILDREN

Draw or paint a picture for Tear Fund Sunday. The title we'd like the older ones to use (7 upwards) is "Water, water everywhere and not a drop to drink". Younger ones can just enter a picture with "Water" as the title.

Entries in by the **24th April**. You can hand them in at any time between now and then to Julie Lomas or Karen Herrick.

ST. JOHN'S NOTES - by Walt.

There has been a lot to encourage us at Walton recently. The Sunday Club started in November. Thirty under elevens and an enthusiastic team of leaders have enjoyed informal worship and activities including acting out Bible stories and making posters to cover the blank wall of the Church.

NEWSLETTER

The experiment of monthly Family Communion is now a permanent part of Church life. We have gained greatly in fellowship by enabling families and others, communicants or not, to share in a relaxed atmosphere, a sacrament which is meant for sharing.

On the Social front some thirty five people joined the Safari Supper in November, eating and meeting in one anothers' houses. Future plans include a car rally and a family ramble.

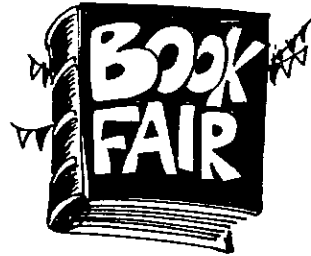
The Wednesday evening Fellowship meets alternate weeks. We look forward to growth in our mid-week activities and encourage anyone who wants to study the "Makers Handbook" to come along - your contribution is important.

After Easter the Sunday Club and Family Services move to 10.30pm. Make sure you pick up a leaflet.

STEPS TO STEPPING OUT

STEPPING OUT is the one thing you really can't do if you suffer from agoraphobia. So the sort of meeting place that you can appreciate in your own home is especially welcome. A monthly news-sheet is produced especially for Christians who suffer the miseries of agoraphobia.

There are plenty of letters, book reviews and the chance to get to know other Christians in the same boat. There's no set subscription, but any donations go towards the costs. 'Stepping Out' is available from: 19 Prince Charles Road, Oswestry, Shropshire SY11 2LU.



EASTER BOOKS

THIS EASTER sees Britain's biggest book retailer increasing its emphasis on Christian books. W.H. Smith's ran a pilot scheme last year, and on the basis of that are putting on a 'significant promotion' of religious books in all their 370 shops. This has been planned in agreement with the Religious Books Group of the Publishers' Association.

FOR THE FAMILY



LOOKING IN FROM OUTSIDE

Far too many churches have put all their eggs in one basket: The Family. The institution of The Family is worshipped and glorified. All things come from The Family and unto The Family shall all praise be given. The Family Service is the centre of all the liturgy and unto a Family Service should all people go.

In many ways the family is a useful analogy for the church. The family has a head (vicar) and children (parishioners) and a housewife (to make the tea). Each member of the family has functions and responsibilities and each member is interdependent. Families eat together (Communion), learn together (Sunday school) work together (committees), and play together (midweek activities). Families experience disagreement, fun, companionship and hope.

The Family is also a cosy notion: all sitting round, all accepted. All have a home (the Church building) which is kept heated and repaired. Families have to pay their way in the world (collections) and forgive errant members (welcome).

Additionally, many occasions in the year are deemed to be family occasions: Mothering Sunday, Easter, Father's Day, Harvest Festival and Christmas Day. Some days with religious significance lost it and became secular - only to become religious again in recent years. Again The Family is all there when it comes to celebrating.

My main objection to the Church subordinating the family, or rather the family hi-jacking the church - is that The Family is a very painful and incomplete concept to a vast number of citizens. These potential worshippers become excluded from the church, or feel out of place. They cannot possibly conform to the norm. They have no family.

Those left at the lychgate are single parents, widows, widowers, childless partners, unmarried parents, cohabiters, deserted fathers, bachelors, spinsters, and people with disabilities or with a different sexual orientation.

Then there are the hapless parents of children who have been still-born, killed, taken into care, adopted, or who have died from a serious illness.

Admittedly the Church makes gestures towards befriending all these outsiders, but the Church does not abandon The Family as the perfect model, and the couple with children as the perfect family. So family services underline and intensify grief; they rub salt into old wounds; they stress the superiority of the lucky over the luckless.

Jesus, a single man, would never have fallen for that. Nor would the Pope, or the thousands of clergymen who choose celibacy. Other adults, married, choose childlessness. Some have it thrust upon them.

Surely it is time now to resurrect the far more Christian image of the individual grappling in prayer, fearless before the Maker, endowed with choice and responsibility for self - to become equipped for better service to others.

GODFREY HOLMES.

From the Rector

I welcome Godfrey Holmes' stimulating article and, with the Editor's encouragement, I am happy to comment.

1. The danger of talking about the Church as a Family

This seems to be the main point and it's a valuable one: those who have no family can feel uncomfortable or even excluded. So I want to stress that **all** are welcome at our services, especially those mentioned in the article above. Just because we are a family, it does not mean that all members have to be conventional, happy, family people. There is a place for everyone.

2. The meaning of talking about the Church as a Family

I must point out that the head of the family is our Heavenly Father (not the Vicar). This is what makes us a family. All who come to Him through faith in Jesus Christ are His children, brothers and sisters in the family. The minister may be like an older brother, but he is just a brother. The idea of family activities outlined above is excellent: eating, learning, working, playing, etc.

3. The rightness of talking about the Church as a Family

Despite the problems, I believe we have to retain the image and shout it loud, there is a place in the Church for folk of all ages, whatever their domestic situation. Many of those who value it most, are those who live on their own - widows, widowers and divorcees especially. A man appeared at Family Service some months ago, his wife and children having recently left him. It was a brave thing to do, in some ways it must have added to his pain to see children and families all around him, but it was the start of his coming to terms with his predicament. The Church Family has come to mean a great deal to him. since then.

I cannot accept the idea that we should 'resurrect the far more Christian image of the individual..' The Bible always represents Christianity as corporate. Other images are used more frequently than the family - the body, the army, the vine, the temple - but they all involve being together.

This leads me to a concluding comment about our Family service. It certainly isn't the 'centre of all the liturgy'! But it performs two vital functions: it is a bridge into the Church for many who are not used to coming and it gives visible expression to the fact that God's family consists of all sorts and all ages.

Christopher Frith.