

The
Parish Magazine
of
St. Thomas, Brampton,
St. John's, Walton,
St. Peter's Holymoorside.



VOLUME 12: NO 5
AUGUST/SEPTEMBER '88
PRICE 20 PENCE

SPEARHEAD

From the Rector



My mind is full of Israel. My older son, Jonathan, joined me on a quick visit and we are just back. We went, of course, to see the old sites, to walk where Jesus walked. But the modern Israel is interesting too.

For one thing the situation is always potentially explosive. A lot of Palestinian Arabs live in Israel and they seem to have a raw deal. The PLO is orchestrating strike action : a general strike two days a week and work only between 9am and noon every other day. No solution is apparent. Shadow of Northern Ireland.

The other evident feature is the increasing number of Jews who have turned to Jesus. They meet in clusters of Messianic Fellowships (not churches) they call themselves Messianic Jews or Jewish believers (not Christians) and they meet on Saturdays (not Sundays). They are thoroughly Jewish - completed, fulfilled Jews really - although they gladly welcome non Jewish Christians into their fellowship. Of course, they are a minority, but a highly significant and growing minority.

Just two out of an array of impressions and memories - and we haven't been back many hours. The Arab question needs enormous wisdom. The Messianic fellowships are a source of great encouragement.

Funnily enough, the last PCC meeting, held shortly before we left for our trip, was notable for these same two features : the need for wisdom and great encouragement.

The encouragement comes from realising that all three churches are advancing and there are projects as evidence. See the report of the PCC meeting on the next page for further details.

The need for wisdom is obvious. All the projects will cost a lot of money, and we mustn't embark on them unless they are right. If they are God's will, we can trust Him to move us to give and to provide the necessary money in many different ways. If they aren't right, the projects will be a major burden.

So, "pray for the peace of Jerusalem" - Psalm 122:6 and pray for the health of Christ's Church in our parish.

Christopher Fitch

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT



A PRODUCTIVE P.C.C. MEETING

- a synopsis of what happened at the meeting
on Monday 4 July

1. Enthusiastic approval was given to the plans to **extend St. Peter's Church** with a toilet, washing up facilities and a safer entrance.
2. The Council were delighted to hear that Walton Back Lane would possibly be re-routed to join Matlock Road behind St. John's Church, and that the developers would then agree to build a church car park free. Approval was readily granted.
3. A major discussion took place about the future of St. Thomas' following the Day of Prayer and feedback from church members. Nearly unanimous reaction had occurred in three areas and therefore decisions were made.
 - a) to **support wholeheartedly any plans to develop St. John's**: an increasingly strategic church because of the building of so many houses in Walton. St. John's D.C.C. have been asked to consider the needs and to report back to the P.C.C.
 - b) to **investigate the possible employment of a Church Administrator** to release the Rector for more teaching, training and pastoral work. This is in the hands of David Oldale, a Warden, and the Rector.
 - c) to **request preliminary sketch plans for the redevelopment of St. Thomas'** involving an extension with new facilities.
4. It was decided to install a new **Amplification system** at St. Thomas'. Richard Neep, assisted by two other members, had designed an excellent system and they had offered to install it at a cost of under £600. In addition a legacy had just been received to cover the cost. The system will include an induction loop device allowing those with hearing aids to hear more clearly.
5. The Faith-in-the-City Committee are investigating the start of a drop-in centre in the Meeting Room to encourage many who live alone in our parish to come for friendship.

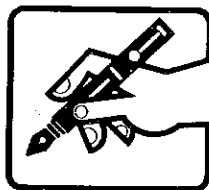
These are just some of the matters discussed! It was a full and exciting meeting.

4

WHEN ACTOR ALEX McCOWEN gave a performance of his dramatic reading of Mark's Gospel before a large gathering of bishops, he remarked, "This is the first time in history when an actor had 400 prompters!"

LET'S STOP loving things and using people and start using things and loving people.

Letter



TO THE EDITOR OF SPEARHEAD

Dear Sir,

Re the article "A Time for Change", in the June/July edition of Spearhead.

It would appear that the writer is encouraging us not to be frightened of change, and Our Lord's words about Him "coming as a sword" (Matt.10.34) come to mind.

This is all very well, but let us be careful in what we are doing

I refer to such things as the fact that the congregation at St. Thomas' still faces the beautiful, newly repaired, but still unprotected, east window during worship. Various proposals have been made to "change" this arrangement.

However, by facing the east window the congregation is continually reminded of the great beauty, and the extent, of Jesus' love and sacrifice, for each one of us. The window is a point on which to focus, during our time in the building. Indeed, our predecessors also arranged the building so that the congregation should face the point on the horizon, where the first light came into the world each day. Let us not physically turn away, or to either side, of these ideas.

The writer of the article also refers to the communion table being brought "back" into the centre of the building.

Maybe, we should reorganise ourselves for the celebration of Holy Communion on the lines of the Last Supper - as we did on Maunday Thursday evening. But, let us remember that Jesus and his disciples were hidden away in an upper room at the time, and not in the Temple.

The Temple had been designed one the one first built by Solomon, and blessed by the Lord God.... (1 Kings 6:11).

Indeed, Jesus was not frightened to turn the place, irreverent as it had become, inside out, but he still referred to it as "My Father's House".

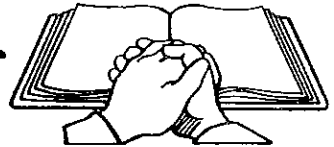
It was the way in which it was being used, and not the way in which it had been designed, to which he objected.

Peter Grayson
34 Glenthorne Close
Brampton



MARRIAGES AT ST THOMAS'

- BAND-PICKERING - on 2nd July Timothy John Band to Deborah Pickering
- BRAMLEY-SMITH - on 16th July Glenn David Bramley to Dawn Smith
- ELLIS-COLLINS - on 14th May Gregory George Ellis to Amber Jeanette Collins
- ELSE-PEARSON - on 4th June David John Else to Susan Pearson
- LAWTEY-PLUMB - on 28th May Ian Andrew Lawtey to Sally Jane Plumb
- LINTERN-GREEN - on 25th June Andrew Ian Lintern to Karen Lesley Green
- MUNDAY-BAKER - on 11th June Paul Edward Munday to Sally Ann Baker
- OLDFIELD-BUFRAI - on 4th June Ian Oldfield to Angela Bufrai
- REEVES-MOSLEY - on 11th June Richard Mark Franklin Reeves to Angela Jane Mosley
- SUTCLIFFE-GOODWIN - on 4th June Neil Sutcliffe to Sarah Jane Goodwin



THE BISHOP'S CERTIFICATE

Two years have really galloped by. Three of us from St. Thomas' have been attending fortnightly evening sessions at Wingerworth Parish Church, along with about sixteen other people of other denominations as well as Anglican. We have enjoyed two tutors in that time (the first one was appointed to a parish elsewhere - we didn't wear him out!)

A variety of tutorials, group discussions, personal searching, reading, writing essays - not many and not meant to be passed as in an exam - have deepened our understanding. They have also been thoroughly enjoyed; we've made friends, had a lot of laughs, and read more of the Bible than we would have done.

Our faith has been examined (by us) and we have in the process been enriched intellectually and spiritually.

Four day schools in Derby and Matlock introduced us to the whole county's certificate hunters, these too were stimulating and inspiring. A final part of year two includes a personal project that each candidate must complete. As the deadline draws near you realise that two years isn't really a long time.

Certificates will be presented on October 10th at Allestree in Derby. We are all wondering - what next? Why don't **you** have a go.

DOUG INGER.

NEWS ROUNDABOUT



ST. PETER'S HOLYMOORSIDE: A WORTHY EXTENSION

"Where's the toilet?"

"There isn't one."

"How can we wash up properly without a sink?"

"Isn't it dangerous having the church door opening on to the road?"

"Do you have a churchyard?"

These and many other questions have been asked frequently at St. Peter's. The need for toilet accommodation, a sink unit and a safer exit has long been recognised but major repairs to the church building have had to come first. Now at last we are able to do something.

A meeting of the District Church Council on June 30 decided overwhelmingly to accept a most sympathetic plan for an extension which would solve all our needs. An appeal committee was formed consisting of Eric Eardley, Alan Jones, Ken Kench, Mary McDonald and Peter Allan. At last we are on our way . . .

Further details in your next copy of Spearhead.



ST. PETER'S HOLYMOORSIDE
HARVEST SUNDAY SEPT. 25th
10.15 a.m. (not 9.30)

Family Communion. All ages welcome.
Please bring food for display and auction at Harvest Supper plus something you have made yourself.

TUESDAY 27th SEPTEMBER 7.30pm
Harvest Supper. Village Hall.

Christian Aid Week



May 16-21

THE KNOCK AT THE DOOR...

I felt that the Gospel reading on Sunday 26th June was inviting me to give special thanks to all who have given their time in collecting and to thank God that we have completed this year's campaign successfully.

Luke 10:3 particularly caught my eye since the words "Go! I am sending you out like lambs among wolves" seemed to have particular relevance.

There is no doubt that anyone who has been a collector will have had some experience of being the lamb, feeling rejected, ignored or possibly verbally abused. Typical of this are the instances where the guard dog's bite is worse than his bark, or the two ladies chatting over the fence watching you pass from door to door gradually getting closer, suddenly disappear into their houses and don't acknowledge the polite knock at their doors.

Then there's the foreign looking gentleman who opens the door, acknowledges you, backs away bowing gracefully, closes the door and never returns. And the house where children are playing happily in the hall after hearing the door chime say "Mummy there's a man at the door" and after two more chimes the children say "Mummy the man is still there" but Mummy is just not interested and doesn't appear.

I'm sure that we can see the funny side of these instances. Thankfully they don't happen too often. Most people put something in the red envelope and return it with a polite greeting.

The final amount collected this year after a few late donations was £1586.36p. May I thank all who have contributed in any way.

I also ask you to pray that the drought affecting American farmers will not be too severe.

America has been the major grain producer for some years, feeding the world including Russia and many third world countries. To most people the drought may cause a pinch in the pocket as flour, bread, corn flakes and other foods increase in price since supply may not equal demand, but to others who rely on grain as their staple diet the droughts could be disastrous.

You might have noticed that grain is always supplied through Aid organisations to the starving people in North Africa. It is the most wholesome food and is easily digested when made into a mush. Let us hope that some of this vital food can be reserved for those in greatest need.

BERNARD BLANKSBY.

**CHURCHES IN ACTION
WITH THE WORLD'S POOR**

SHACKED UP FOR CHRISTIAN AID

WAS CHRISTIAN AID Week such hard work? (Can you remember — back in May?) One group of teenagers found it so — and slept off the effects at their village pub.

Local farmers at Cleeve, in Avon, provided the youngsters, aged 13-18, with materials for building a basic shack in the forecourt of the Lord Nelson. After a sponsored night sleeping in their shack to raise money for Christian Aid, they joined a local procession to church.

Welcome

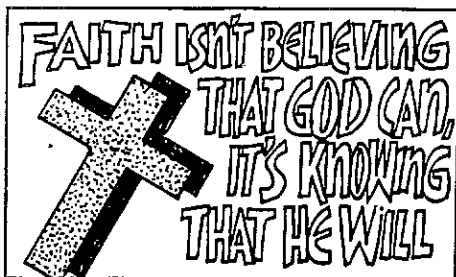
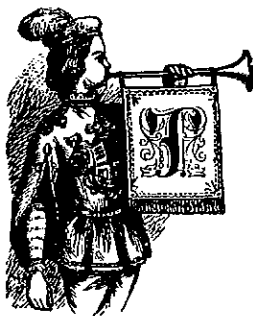
WELCOME JONATHAN

Our next Curate, Jonathan Jee, will be moving into 1 Rhodesia Road. He will then go "into retreat" at Morley for a few days to prepare himself for his ordination in Derby Cathedral on Sunday 2nd October at 10.45 a.m. He will be on duty at St. Thomas' for the first time at the evening service that day.

Members of CYFA who are attending the holiday in the Lake District will have an early chance to get to know him, as he will be there helping as a leader. If you would like to attend the ordination, please inform one of the Wardens. Please pray for Jonathan - and also . . .

PRAY FOR JOHN

John Cook, our Curate for the last three years, has not been fixed up with a new appointment yet. He is patiently awaiting the right opportunity. You never know: we might be lucky enough to have both John and Jonathan for a while! They are already good friends.



GRAFFITI IN a London riverside pub:
"The meek shall inherit the earth."
Next to it, in another hand: "If that's all right with the rest of you."

PUBLISHER'S WARNING

PLEASE DO NOT READ THIS if you have no wish to be different. It is about a book that changes people. We can accept no liability as to the consequences of reading further.

It's the only 2,000 year old book that most people have heard of. Historians learn from it. Scientists draw on its date. Ecologists are amazed by its relevance. Novelists, film directors and script writers use it frequently today. School children take exams about it. Preachers depend on it. Many people are puzzled by it. Some are bored by it. It's a controversial and revolutionary book. Some countries ban it, but it still gets smuggled in. It remains the world's best seller.

It's frank about sex, passionate about truth, honest about failure. It is realistic about life, war, murder, affairs, polygamy, hypocrisy, jealousy and death.

Yet it drives people to new depths of friendship, to share their money, visit hospitals, oppose slavery and set off alone to China

It teaches honesty, self control, discipline, giving and goodness. It lights up love and inspires kindness, gentleness, openness, and a total trust in God in all the experiences of everyday life.

It proclaims joy in the face of suffering, hope in the teeth of death and purpose amidst chaos and confusion.

It has changed the course of history and transformed the life of individuals. It challenges our thinking, humbles our pride, teaches us to

**FRANK,
HONEST,
PASSIONATE...**

pray. It has turned cobblers into missionaries, chefs into parsons, messenger boys into youth workers and thieves into honest citizens. Its secret is that it introduces us to God and His thinking.

Nobody is too thick to grasp its simple directions. Nobody is too sharp to master its depths. It contains mystery, raises mind-boggling questions, expresses its truths in poetry, riddles, puzzles and codes.

Maybe this is the book for you. It's called **THE BIBLE**.

*Excerpt from a pamphlet by
GRAHAM CLAYDON*



EAST AND WEST

As a Christian who has had the opportunity to live in two communities the other side of the equator from here I can say that my life has been immeasurably enriched by meeting brother and sister Christians from very different cultural and ethnic backgrounds. The unity of the body of Christ has been made real to me by the very open welcome and hospitality I have received in places where my family and I might well have been received with suspicion. Then the body of Christ becomes much more than a phrase in an epistle.

As part of a ten-year-old partnership programme between the Derbyshire churches and the Church of North India fifty fortunate Christians will have the chance to meet members of this church in their homes for three weeks in October/November 1989, and to share their experiences of the Christian life. Different dioceses will host parts of the delegation and arrange their travel and hospitality. Any active church member may apply and they must be recommended by their Church Council.

The Derbyshire visitors will be responsible for the cost of getting from this country to their host diocese, which will probably amount to £500-600.

Church members are asked to join in prayer for this partnership and the 1989 visit, to think of any person in their church who should be encouraged to apply, and to consider making a donation to the cost of the visit. There may be some with a real contribution to make who would find it impossible to raise the total amount.

Travel broadens the mind. If you meet other Christians in the process it will broaden your appreciation of the unifying work of God's Spirit. If you are interested please contact me, **Robin Dawson**.



OUR PAGE



ROMAN SOLDIERS



Are you going on holiday this month? We have already had ours, we went to visit Hadrian's Wall. There is a very interesting museum there, all about the Roman Army. They have got life-sized models of soldiers in their full armour and these reminded me of something St Paul wrote in his letter to the Ephesians (chapter 6, verses 10-20).

Roman soldiers were a familiar part of life to those who lived in Palestine at the time of Jesus. Palestine was part of the Roman Empire, occupied by Roman soldiers. Paul himself was a prisoner in later life, guarded by soldiers all the time. He had watched many Roman soldiers on duty and saw that their armour would help the Ephesians understand about Christian life. All the early Christians knew what Roman soldiers wore, but we aren't so used to their uniform today.

The strong belt the soldier wore held his tunic in place and fixed his breastplate, as well as holding the scabbard for his dagger and anchoring the sheath which held his two-edged sword. His belt held everything together, as does the truth. The breastplate protected the soldier's life because it covered his heart — as a Christian is protected by the armour of God.

All the answers to this Bible Quiz begin with the letter **D**, can you find them all? Sometimes there is a clue to where you'll find the answer.

1. Tribe of Israel
2. She made a strong man weak (Judges 16)
3. Spent a night with some lions
4. Famous king of Israel
5. Where Saul was going when Jesus appeared to him.

6. Symbol of the Holy Spirit
7. Followers of Jesus
8. Thomas had some of these
9. Jesus said He was this (John 10)
10. These made Joseph unpopular with his family.

Answers to D-QUIZ: 1. Dan 2. Delilah 3. Daniel 4. David 5. Damascus 6. Dove 7. Disciples 8. Doubt 9. Door 10. Dreams

*"... those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary."
(Isaiah 40:31)*

**LORD
RENEW
OUR
STRENGTH**



*When eagles rise with strong and supple wings
they leave below all earthbound things,
and there in air so crisp, so clean
they soar serene.*

*I'm weary of my worries, Lord, like weeds they choke my way.
I struggle, stumble in the path, frustrated by delay.
I yearn the peace your presence brings —
Lord make me rise with eagle's wings.*

*I'm sickened by my sin again, my weakness slows me down.
I limp, not run, this race for you — I'll gain no athlete's crown.
The sludge of sin so strongly clings —
Lord make me rise with eagle's wings.*

*Help me to gaze into your face
and there to find forgiving grace,
in your strong hands my worries place.
Lord make me rise with eagle's wings
until with joy my spirit sings
in worship to the King of Kings.*

Refresh me for the race.

**NIGEL FIRTH
African Inland Mission**

RECEIVE THE HOLY SPIRIT

THE GRAND HIGHWAY?



SOUND THEOLOGY



PRONE TO HERESY



ORGAN REQUIRES TUNING



BEWARE - LIVELY WORSHIP



ROOF REPAIRS IN PROGRESS



DISAGREEMENT AMONG MEMBERS



AVOID PCCs



AVERAGE AGE OF CONGREGATION



REAL CAMEL IN NATIVITY PLAYS



BEWARE OF LONG SERMONS



ADULT BAPTISM



WHOLE FAMILIES BAPTISED

St John's, Bitton, N. Yorks

IONA RISES TO THE 80s



THE IONA COMMUNITY, set on its own three square miles off the Scottish west coast, has provided 20th century Britain with a very special haven, since it was re-founded by George MacLeod, now Lord MacLeod, in the 1930s.

It's hardly such a johnny-come-lately, though: St Columba founded the first community when he landed with 12 disciples in 563. Then the Benedictines set up their monastery in the early 13th century, from where the Christian witness of Iona continued.

When MacLeod was minister of Govan parish in Glasgow during the Depression, he set out to recruit unemployed craftsmen, put young clergymen to work as their labourers, and restore the ruined abbey.

Lord MacLeod is now 92, and John Harvey - also minister of Govan Old Parish Church - this year becomes the fifth modern-day leader of the Iona community. As he takes over from Ron Ferguson, the community has set itself to clear £800,000 bill for 1980s rebuilding work, to be called the MacLeod Centre.

The links with the 1930s remain, with Govan experiencing its own version of the Unemployment crisis. With a male unemployment rate of more than 36 per cent, the church's Pearce Institute is at the heart of the parish and the base for more than 200 people on MSC work schemes.