

Spearhead August/September 1992

From the Curate, Jonathan Jee

As I look back on the last four years here, I am full gratitude to God for leading me to this parish for my curacy. It has been an exciting time to be part of the churches here, with all three growing both in numbers and in spiritual depth.

I will long remember the variety in worship (old and new, quiet and exuberant, formal and informal), the joy of all ages being well represented Sunday by Sunday, the energy of CYFA and the searching questions raised in Christian Basics groups.

Particular highlights have been the Billy Graham Livelink at Queen's Park, the CYFA Ventures in the Lake District, the joy of the gift days, the Christians in Sport event at the Terminus, the annual confirmation services and the way we celebrate Christmas and Easter.

I praise God for the growing concern for mission, both in the parish and throughout the world, and for the very real love for each other that is evident in each congregation.

Although others may see our churches as "successful", I know that we are aware how much further there is to go. In particular I pray that all of us will grow in these three areas:

- **Prayer:** There is plenty of activity in all three churches as we work at building the Kingdom of God. However "unless the Lord builds the house, its builders labour in vain" (Ps 127:1). It is therefore of first importance that our churches are praying churches.

- **Thinking:** God calls us to love him with our minds as well as our hearts, soul and strength. It follows that we must think hard about how God's timeless truth applies to our modern world. This means that we must know the scriptures well, and understand the main concerns of our society.

- **Witness:** God has given us a glorious gospel to proclaim. Paul tells us that we are all Christ's ambassadors. We must therefore work hard at finding ways to speak about the gospel as well as living it out at home, work and leisure.

We will be praying that the churches here will continue to grow, and that God will be glorified as a result.

Please pray for us as we move to Hinckley. Do come and see us just invite yourselves over. Juliet and Thomas join me in thanking you for the love you have shown to us and for all that you have taught us about living the Christian life. We praise God for you all and thank him for these years here.

With much love

Jonathan

Agape

When Christopher and Jonathan first mentioned "Agape", I did not know what the word meant. After one confirmation meeting I looked it up: agape - meaning Love Feast - Christian Feast.

We formed a committee - a very merry band - full of life and joy. With the Lord's blessing, we could perform this great task of preparation. We gathered down at church the evening beforehand. It was decided to turn all the pews round and put tables between them. It really looked great. We left feeling elated.

Wednesday evening came, and we all met at church once more. Everything fell into place. As everyone arrived our group felt that the Holy Spirit was working amongst us all - it was wonderful. It is one evening I will never forget.

I know that it was only with God's help, and our church motto, "do not fear for I am with you" that I was there. I know he is always with me in everything I do. I'm "getting there" with his help and guidance - "to him be the glory, great things he hath done"

Jenny Smedley.

Marching in the strength of the Lord

Reporting on the March for Jesus that took place in the cities from London to Edinburgh, Manchester to Cardiff, in Belfast and in mainland Europe on Saturday 23rd May 1992.

More than half a million people assembled in Battersea Park. We listened to messages relayed from other countries - a great link up. We stood in groups and prayed for people in those countries suffering hardship and persecution.

As we marched through the London streets, banners held high, there was great joy and a sense of spiritual freedom. We sang, lifting Jesus high in songs of worship and praise. The procession was continuous to Hyde Park.

We have since had reports from elsewhere. In **Belfast security** gates were opened by police to allow five thousand believers to march past the Law Courts and through the city centre. At the City Hall, thousands of Protestants and Catholics fell to their knees, weeping and praying for their land.

Meanwhile, further afield in **Albania**, the President asked for the march to pass by his official residence. In **Moscow someone** said "I had to pinch myself to make sure this was actually happening" and fifteen brave people went forward publicly to give their lives to Christ. A participant in **Brussels** felt that "when I saw all the people marching, it was as if the love of God was flowing through the streets". Romania has suffered terrible sadness and despair, yet before the March moved off in Bucharest, the people sang for three hours. It was the first opportunity for fifty years that Christians could publicly declare their love and allegiance to the Lord Jesus. They were joined in the March by the Chief of Police for Bucharest, who insisted that they prayed for the government in front of the government building. He also said Bucharest needed more marches like this - there was an enormous sense of unity with the people.

Christians from six countries joined together for a prayer - walk from London to Berlin, staying in one thousand homes during the walk! They passed by a Russian army camp in Germany, and the commander came to accept Jesus as his Saviour.

Next year more countries will be reached to join in the March for Jesus.

A March for Jesus will take place all over the United Kingdom on September 19th 1992.

Connie Fogg.

St John's Church Centre, Foundation Stone Laying

After many months of planning, with frustration over delays, a start has now been made by Mr. Stockton on building The St. John's Church Centre.

On a beautiful sunny evening on 17th June the foundation stone was laid, the ceremony being performed by Joe Ward, one of the longest standing members of St. John's Church. The ceremony and service was a very happy occasion with many members from St. John's, St. Peter's and St. Thomas' attending, Christopher took the service, the Rural Dean gave the blessing and the music group played lustily. The outdoor service gave a very special atmosphere to the occasion, including "Shouts of Praise" for all to hear. It was particularly good to have Brian and Barbara Porter with us, after Brian's recent indisposition.

After the service the children from St. Johns Sunday Club planted a flowering cherry tree in the church rounds. Refreshments were served to all by members of St. John s congregation.

All in all this was a very memorable occasion.

Later on this year we all look forward to attending the opening of St. John's Church Centre.

Rosemary Reeve

Jonathan Jee

We have had an unusually gifted Curate for the last four years or so. Jonathan has played a major part in the development and growth of so many areas of Church life. It was mainly youth work to start with - and he built superbly on the foundation already laid. In the last year he has pioneered our outreach, inspired by the Decade of Evangelism. His "Christian Basics" groups for enquirers have blazed a trail for us to follow for many a year.

God has blessed and used these two areas of ministry, youth work and evangelism. Jonathan is not a specialist, however, but a bit of an Ian Botham, a genuine all rounder, as far as Christian Ministry is concerned. He leaves a mark on every aspect of Church life. Perhaps the outstanding memory among many is this year's Lent Course, that masterly overview of the Bible.

As a colleague and friend, I shall miss Jonathan greatly. His teaching. His sharp brain. (Peter Allan, our former Curate, once shrewdly observed, "John Cook reads a lot. I think a lot. Jonathan seems to do both!") His sense of fun. His support during times of stress when I felt hopelessly over stretched.

His greatest achievement, arguably, was the capture of Juliet. Just by being around, she has made such a lovely contribution to our church family, whether playing the oboe helping out in the office, teaching French, laughing at Thomas' antics, washing up (she is undoubtedly the best washer up I have ever known) or just begin alongside Jonathan.

Thomas, his son and heir, is unmistakably his. He has the same colouring, quick reactions, mischief, strong will and sheer lovability.

We must be positive. It has been great having them. Rather than mourning their departure too much, we thank God for Jonathan, Juliet and Thomas and look forward to news of great things in Hinckley.

Christopher Frith.

New Faces Sheila Pite and Judith Henderson

On Sunday 6 September, we shall welcome two new members of Staff.

Sheila introduced herself in our April/May issue. She will have the responsibility for overseeing all our children's and youth work.

Judith is joining us as a Non-Stipendiary Minister (NSM). She will be primarily involved with St. Peter's and work among the elderly.

Judith sends this introduction.

I was born approximately 55 years ago in Heswall on the Wirral, I was then brought up in Birkenhead. During my school years I was converted and was part of one of the first Scripture Union Schools Groups. I belonged to Lone Crusaders and did their very comprehensive study series - this was the basis for my love of the Bible. I went to University in Liverpool (BSc Maths and Physics) and then taught at Wirral Grammar School, St. Helena in Chesterfield (1962-1967), Abbeydale in Sheffield, Wyndham School Egremont Cumbria, and Retford Girl's High School where I was head teacher. I 'retired' from teaching on health grounds some 12 years ago.

Since that retirement I went to Romsey House Theological College in Cambridge, where I met Jane who had also retired early from the classroom. As we were both in 'reduced' circumstances and I had been quite ill it seemed logical for us to set up home together. We bought a large house in Cambridge and took in lodgers, mostly at language schools and the local Technical College. They came from all over the world and from every sort of background, so we spent a very happy and challenging few years teaching at home as well. We belonged to St. Barnabas' Church, Mill Road, and later to St. Phillips further down Mill Road Cambridge. We were very much involved in the life of these churches, Jane with music and I was a house group leader and ran the children's work.

After a season of lodgers from Norway who were preparing for missionary work in Japan and South Africa, we were challenged to make something more of our freedom. (By this time neither of us had parents or dependent relatives). We went back to Pickenham the Eastern counties base for SU, to work for the Bible Ministries Department on a special project to build a relief map of the Holy Land on a piece of land behind the conference centre. We not only physically built it - cement mixing and all(!) - but we wrote illustrated guides for journeys through the land. During this

time I returned to Cambridge, one day a week, to finish the diploma in Religious studies, I was not certain where it was going to lead, but my college principal was convinced that I ought to be ordained. I discovered that I was as old as you could be in the Norwich diocese, (to train!) - so it was a mad rush to get me through the system. Because of the diploma I was exempted from all but a few courses and I went back to Cambridge again for a one year residential training. I was ordained in 1989 and came to Sheringham as NSM curate.

I have had a wonderful time in my three years here in Sheringham and I very much look forward to returning to Chesterfield. I have been involved with both ends of the age spectrum here, Mums and toddlers and the elderly (mostly those in residential care and nursing homes). The thing I will miss most is the sea! Last summer, for a brief period, we managed to swim every day. This year we swam several times before the end of June but the weather has defeated us so far in July.

Judith Henderson.

Link Missionaries, Andy and Mandy Lines

Happy 3rd Birthday to Alexander on 10th August, by which time he may have a new brother or sister. Whilst our thoughts are with Alex and Mandy let us not forget Andrew who is working so hard both with C.A.L.E.B and the local church. Problems in the church seem to stem from a largely unemployed congregation, so please pray that they will be receptive to God's word and trust in His ability to meet all their needs.

Deputy Warden, Kevin Turville

Kevin Turville has been elected to serve in this role of assisting the Church Wardens of St. Thomas'.

The Apostles, Who were they?

Jesus chose twelve men to be his closest friends and companions. After Pentecost they travelled throughout the ancient world, preaching and establishing local churches. Who were they and what happened to them?

Andrew

Andrew was one of those people who are never in the limelight but work quietly behind the scenes. Apart from three incidents in which his role is crucial, his name only occurs in the lists of the twelve apostles, and with Peter, James and John when they asked Jesus about the last days (Mk. 13: 3-4). In each of these three incidents we find Andrew introducing someone to Jesus.

'Andrew' was a Greek name, meaning 'manly', but was in common use amongst the Jews. The son of John (Jn. 1:42), or Jonah (Mt. 16:17), Andrew came from Bethsaida, on the north-eastern side of the Sea of Galilee (Jn. 1:44). The inhabitants were largely Greeks or Jews. Andrew went to live with his brother Simon Peter at Capernaum, in Galilee, (Mk. 1: 29-31) where they had a thriving fishing business, in partnership with James and John (Mt. 4: 18-22; Lk. 5: 1-11).

Andrew became one of John the Baptist's disciples. One day John told him that Jesus was the Lamb of God. Andrew went to see Jesus, spending some time with him, and became convinced that Jesus was the Messiah (Jn. 1: 35-40). He immediately went and found his brother Simon, and introduced him to Jesus On. 1: 40-42).

Just think what followed from that simple introduction. Simon Peter was to become not only the chief spokesman among Jesus' apostles, but also the chief apostle of the infant church!

Later Peter, Andrew, James and John left their fishing business in order to travel with Jesus and learn from him (Mk. 1: 16-18).

The second person that Andrew introduced to Jesus was a little boy (Jn. 6: 8-9). A crowd of over five thousand had followed Jesus in order to hear him teach. It was late in the day, and the people had not eaten. How could such a vast crowd be fed? Philip thought it impossible.

Andrew hesitantly suggested a solution "Here is a boy with a few small bread cobs and a couple of sardines, but it isn't going to feed this crowd!" Andrew was not at all sure why he was introducing this boy to Jesus! But he was prepared to introduce anyone, and anything, which might be of use to his Master. This time the result was a miracle, and over five thousand were fed.

The third introduction consisted of a crowd of Greeks who had gone to Jerusalem for the Passover (Jn. 12: 20-36). They wanted to meet Jesus and asked Philip to introduce them. Not knowing whether to or not Philip spoke to Andrew. Andrew was in no doubt: there was no one whom Jesus would not want to meet. When they told Jesus he began to talk about his 'hour' having come, about death and trouble. Jesus had been sent to the Jews, but now the Greeks wanted to see him too. To Jesus it was a sign that the time of his crucifixion was drawing near.

The early historian Eusebius records that Andrew's main sphere of ministry was in Scythia and around the Black Sea. It was in Patras, Greece, that he met his death about AD 60, when the governor, Aepeas, became enraged after his wife and brother became Christians. A fourth century account reports that Andrew was crucified and a later medieval addition describes the cross as Xshaped. This has become known as St. Andrew's Cross.

Andrew lived, and died, introducing people to Jesus. He was no charismatic leader, like Peter or Paul, but how much would have been missing if there had been no Andrew.

Keith Chappell.

Annual Church Cricket Match 1992

The match this year was between the Under 35's and the Over 35's and the first thing that became clear was just how many of our Church family are aged 35! So many had difficulty in deciding which team to play for! However, after a reasonable period for reflection and decision two teams were assembled, the Under 35's aptly named the HARES and the Over 35's the TORTOISES.

Jonathan Jee sneaked into the HARES and tossed up with his opposite number in the TORTOISES, Christopher Frith.

The HARES batted first and a splendid opening partnership developed between Riches and Travis, assisted in places by the odd dropped catch. The crowd began to swell in numbers as the partnership approached the 50 mark and an expectant hum began to drift around the park. Meanwhile, for the TORTOISES, Messrs. Herrick and Calow were bowling with a good deal of gusto doing their level best to keep the scoring rate down. Calow was delivering a fine line and length although someone did ask Herrick if he had notified air traffic control before starting his stint!

Brassington (P) eventually removed Riches from the crease with a rising ball that was edged to Frith (C) at slip and Travis was finally bowled by Smith. Both had struck the ball handsomely and Riches amassed 26 runs and Travis 31. A succession of batting injustices followed as the next four wickets were to fall for very few runs . . . Potter suffering the indignity of being bowled by a rare ball from Brassington (P) that bounced only once! Brassington (J) scored his first run in Church cricket before being bowled by Smith and Lewis notched up a couple before being run out. Latimer fell for two and then up strode Jee muttering something about cometh the hour, cometh the man. Turner and Frith (C) bowled well for little reward and Jee began to get into his stride hitting the ball hard and to all the right places of the ground. He was eventually run out for 30 and Frith (J) took up the role scoring a very quick 21 before the overs ran out. Also batting with promise were Kelly, Collard and Ashcroft but Leteve's debut was defeated by the non availability of overs! In all, the HARES had scored 145 runs and at this stage of the evening with the prospect of failing light and rising dew, the total looked pretty safe.

For the TORTOISES Brassington (P) and Turner opened the batting but some excellent bowling by Potter had them both back in the pavilion with only 2 runs to share between them. Assisted by Frith (J), who also returned some fine figures, the opening overs permitted very few runs. Once these two quickies" were out of allocated overs it was the turn of the first change bowlers to do their bit. At this stage Simmonds began to open up and scored a fine 20 before the partnership of Riches and Travis again combined, to dismiss him caught Riches - bowled Travis. The arrival of Shemwell in the middle caused the direction of the game to change completely. He quickly set about the bowling, punishing anything that was short of length or off line. Leteve and Travis were the hapless bowlers before Collard and Jee joined the attack. Fookes supported Shemwell with a fine 32 before being stumped by Ashcroft off the bowling of

Jee who also had Stacey caught behind for 7. Collard provided a second stumping opportunity for Ashcroft by teasing Smith out from his crease and Lenthall then joined Shemwell who was still placing the ball to all quarters of the park! Brassington (J) was the final bowler for the HARES and both Shemwell and Lenthall remained to carry the total past the target and the TORTOISES finished up on 146 for 7. Messrs. Frith (C), Cukurs and Herrick were not called upon to bat.

A fine evening of fellowship, entertainment and a good game of cricket drew to a close with the first presentation of the CHARLIE BRASSINGTON TROPHY. This trophy, presented by Claire Brassington in memory of Charlie who enjoyed the game immensely, is to be awarded each year to the player providing the most significant contribution to the evening's entertainment. This year the winner was Matthew Travis who scored 31 runs and returned bowling figures of 1 for 29. His Australian bush hat, complete with corks; also played a significant part in the decision!

Peter Brassington

Doug Inger

Christian - husband, father, grandfather, librarian, editor, crowngreen bowler, gardener, friend. When I think of Doug Inger, all these and many other qualities spring to mind. Doug will be sadly missed in many areas of Brampton life. His sunny personality and sensitive nature endeared him to all he met.

Under his editorial expertise this magazine flourished to the point where last year it won Magazine of the Year' for the diocese of Derby. Typically, he attributed its success to the contributors, not to his own tireless efforts.

Grateful as we are for his work, it is for his love of people that he will be remembered most. All of us who knew Doug, in his regrettably short life, have been enriched by his friendship. The world is poorer for his passing, but for those of us fortunate enough to have known him, our lives are richer for the knowing.

John Lenthall.

Ken Waddington

Fifteen years ago the congregation at St. John's was so small that the then incumbent seriously considered closing the church. He reckoned without Ken Waddington. Ken, along with a few members of the congregation worked hard to establish a regular 9.00am. Holy Communion service and his commitment to St. John's continued over the years.

As Church Warden Ken carried out his duties with a quiet dignity that endeared him to everyone. Whatever has been done at St. John's, Ken has been involved. He steered the first building project of the Porch Extension through to completion and was a valued member of the Church Centre Building Committee. Ken mowed the grass, his ladders were always available and no failed light bulb went unnoticed. A few days before he died he chose the hymns for the Sunday Service, such was Ken's courage and faith. We miss him.

We read in St. John's Gospel those comforting words Jesus spoke to his Disciples "In my Fathers house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you." I am sure in Ken's room everything will be in good order and the lamps will be shining brightly. We thank God for Ken's life and for the privilege of knowing him.

Mavis Clough