

## **Spearhead June/July 1992**

### **From the Rector, Christopher Frith**

June 21st is Gift Day. It's a chance to show God that we really appreciate all that He has given to us. A chance to thank Him and to show that we love Him - in a practical way.

Please read and ponder on the constitutions in this issue by Alan Wilson (St. John's Church Centre Project Co-ordinator) and Carol Woodward (Treasurer).

This is a major venture of faith. It will open up immense opportunities for the growing Church of St. John's. It costs a lot - but every pound will be worth it, if it extends the Kingdom of God.  
(Note: the Gift Day raised £97,000)

It is hard to over-emphasise the extent of Phil Johnson's service to St. Thomas' as Church Warden. It has always been humble, thorough, efficient, laced with humour, wonderfully supported by Myra and often unnoticed by most of us. We say a big thank you, knowing Phil Myra will continue to give their all in serving their Lord and His Church.

Phil has two key posts: still: Chair of the Finance Committee and - a new post - Estates Manager.

At St. John's, David Jarvis finished his 3 year term of office as warden. David has shown many of Phil's qualities - not least in having Joan as his Myra - and he too will continue to serve in other ways.

We are well served - thank God.

**Christopher Frith**

### **The Church Family Weekend at Scargill House**

We had been looking forward to going to Scargill for quite some time. In the end, it was a rush to get ready because we always seem so busy.

We made good progress, and arrived at about 7.30pm. Members of the community were on hand to welcome us, direct us to our rooms, and even lend a hand with luggage.

The rooms were very comfortable and we soon felt at home. Later that evening we gathered together for the welcome and introduction followed by a brief worship.

After a good breakfast on Saturday we all met for family worship and then the children split into their groups for separate activities.

The theme of the weekend being "Encouraging Personal Spiritual Growth" we started with a session on Christian Growth which encouraged us to think about the kind of people we are, and share some of this with another person. The next session was on making space for God in our lives. We discussed the busy-ness most of us had in our lives and looked for ways of making space to be with our Father.

The afternoon was free and many of us took the opportunity of a walk to see something of the magnificent scenery. This was followed by a Celebration Praise in the Chapel. After the evening meal we had a fun evening which was a barn dance interspersed with entertainment provided by both adults and children alike.

Sunday also started with family worship. Once again the children had separate activities, whilst our third session was on developing a relationship with God in crowded places. We looked at various passages which showed how Jesus was always in intimate communion with his Father, whether busy or not.

After lunch we gathered together in the Chapel for Family Communion including a drama performed by one of the resident chaplains and three of our own Pathfinders.

For us personally, the weekend confirmed what we had been feeling for sometime; that we needed to slow down and spend more time with God.

We found a peace there that had been missing, we felt the Chapel to be a place where God's presence was very strong, and one of us was made very aware of the reality of Christ's suffering on the Cross and that He died for us.

Scargill House was a special place and we left feeling physically and spiritually 'Fed and Watered'.

**Chris and Pat Calow**

## **Holy Week: A Personal View Easter 1992**

If you wear clothes you will have seen symbols sewn in them. They are the manufacturer's washing guide. If you follow them, your clothes will remain serviceable for a long time, if you don't they will only be good as dusters.

Joyce Huggett ('In God's Springtime') asked us to draw a picture of what we are like before God now, and another of what we would like to be like before Him. In my first picture I was standing before Him in my spiritual clothes; they were a bit crumpled and creased, grey looking, generally grubby. But in my second picture my clothes were clean, pressed, neat and I was kneeling in prayer with upturned hands and face.

Now, how would I move from the first picture to the second?

In Holy Week I went each night for the half hour service, and during that time we looked at the Love our Lord Jesus has for each one of us. Its many facets. Its depth. Without words being spoken we know when we're loved, but how good it is to be told so sometimes. Through the week we were told that Jesus loves us in many different ways. His journey to the cross (and mine with Him) culminating with 'An Hour at the Cross' on Good Friday underlined this-for me. By Saturday morning I began to feel different, cleaner - yes that was it refreshed, renewed. I'd moved on to that second picture and when I stood on Saturday night at the service of light saying again my baptism vows with my little candle shining brightly in the darkness I wasn't standing at all but kneeling with upturned hands and face and then it was Easter Sunday.

Well there's no more I can say except that when I looked at the manufacturers washing guide in my spiritual clothes this is what I saw:, The Love of Christ, The Cross of Christ, The Beckoning Hands of Christ.

**Enid Sheldon**

## **Christian Election Forum 29 March 1992**

As the General Election fades into history and life goes on as before, many of us in Chesterfield will remember, amid the heat of the campaign ("Labour Eat Babies"), a meeting in St. Thomas' to hear our local candidates giving a serious explanation of their own policies.

Questioners probed the policies on social issues such as health, education, pensions, Sunday trading, abortion and credit. Looking at the lower-profile issues gave an insight into the attitudes of the three men, who treated each other with respect.

The emergence of a caricatured Tory attitude provoked vehement interruption from the floor, but things were brought back into control with a skilled piece of chairmanship by the Rector, who directed the evening well and fairly.

**Tony Benn**, clearly the most experienced and able speaker, inspired confidence, though he apparently disagreed with Jesus the greatest commandment is 'feed the poor'" cf. Matthew 22:37, 38.

**Tony Rogers** seemed a committed local man who genuinely cared about Chesterfield people.

**Peter Lewis** amused us by admitting the unlikelihood of his winning the seat, but he saw the evening through admirably.

If only the national campaign could have resembled this event!

**J.P. Frith.**

## **U.S.P.G. MISSIONS**

During the last four years Lent giving at St Peter's Church has been in support of the Revd. David and Mrs. Millicent Edwards, the House of the Epiphany Theological College, Kuching, Sarawak.

This year a further £200 has been raised in support of training local people for the Ministry, recently another six priests and five deacons have been ordained at the college.

Millicent and David are retiring this year and have greatly appreciated the prayers, concern and financial support from back home.

## **Link Missionaries, Andy and Mandy Lines**

Best wishes from St. Thomas' to Andrew and Mandy who are awaiting the birth of their second baby in August. I feel sure we will all want to give them our support as they await the happy event in surroundings very different to the ones Mandy was used to in her midwife's role in the U.K.

Let us keep them in our thoughts and prayers wishing Mandy good health until the birth of baby Lines.

## **St John's Church Centre**

### **Vision**

Vision is a word you can't ignore because it crops up whenever we discuss the New Church Centre. Don't say "proposed" any more because building has started!

Vision, firstly, because the Church of St. John's is more visible to resident and visitor, alike. The developers have diverted Walton Back Lane to the North of the Church and an area is prepared for the Centre and Car Park.

Vision, secondly, because of Ken Waddington, whose recent death we still mourn. He was Chairman of the St. John's "Committee" as it was fifteen years ago, when services were infrequent and poorly attended. He was convinced that there was a role for a faithful, visible and growing Church in Walton. He steered us through the reawakening of Church life, the building in 1985 of the porch, vestry and toilet (how did we manage before?) and early plans for the Car Park. We will always remember him with affection and profound thanks.

Vision, thirdly, because of the Day of Prayer in May 1988 when the whole Parish was invited to seek God's will for us in this area. The outcome was a conviction that unless the premises at St. John's were extended and made more flexible, they would hold back the worship and service of the Church.

Vision, fourthly, in the introduction of Family Services, Sunday Club, Focus, Little Fishes and the growth of Fellowship Groups, in recent years. These have seen new members join and the faith and quality of "life" of existing members develop in a way we couldn't have guessed.

Vision, finally, in what comes next. God won't bring us this far to let us fail. He may let our faith be tested but that is like a child learning to ride by falling off his bike!

When the new Centre is built the challenge to each of us will be to put it to good (God's) use. Leaders of the existing St. John's Church activities already have ideas about how it will help. Activities at St. Thomas' will benefit. Baptism and marriage preparation groups will find the Lounge ideal. The Main Hall is just what is needed for all together fellowship, drama or study days. But what about service to the community? - Youth groups, Day centres for the retired or disabled, Mums and Tots groups and many more.

We have trusted God this far and he is faithful. Now we need the Vision to see what his plans are for the future and how he wants to use each and every one of us in different areas of Church life.

### **We have a Contract!**

It took nearly two years to get planning permission. The new Centre will be built of coursed stone under a very low pitched natural slate roof. Overall it is about eighteen metres (60') square and nestles down into a "bowl" excavated in the rising ground about seven metres (23') west of the Church. The intention is that being low it will not dominate the Church or other surrounding buildings. Our "artists impression" of the view from the New Walton Back Lane shows how it will look.

Tenders for the building work were returned in March 1992. The DCC spent many hours discussing the merits of each tender. Eventually we were of one mind in awarding a contract to T.H. Stockton Ltd. of Holymoorside. Mr. Stockton will be known by members of St. Peter's and was responsible for the extensions there and at St. John's. Building starts on Monday 18th May 1992 and should take about six months.

The decision to award a contract and start building without having all the money is an act of faith by the DCC, PCC and Mr. Stockton alike. It was taken in the belief that it is God's will and that he can be trusted to provide.

### **Outside**

The Car Park is already partially built. It will be surfaced when the building work is finished. The cost of the car park has been borne by the developers as compensation for the disruption to our plans caused by the road diversion. It will take 59 cars, or a few more if we park tidily!

The landscaping to be carried out as part of the planning requirements includes hedges all around the site, a six metre wide band of trees to mask the car park from Matlock Road and individual trees and shrubs.

At the same time it is planned to develop a Memorial Garden for the burial of ashes, around the existing plots. This is still the subject of discussion and views of members would be welcomed by the DCC.

### **Inside the Centre**

The Centre has rooms and facilities to meet many needs. The Main Hall is twelve metres (40') square. It can comfortably seat 160 with room, for worship, drama or other activities.

The adjacent Lounge has a separate entrance but can be opened onto the main hall by moving a soundproof screen. This room will seat forty for meetings or as an overspill to the main hall. It will be carpeted to make it cosy and ideal for a crèche, fellowship or teaching activities.

Toilets are provided with special facilities for the disabled and a baby changing area. The Kitchen will be fully equipped and serve the main hall through a hatch. Other rooms are reached through corridors which have provision for hanging coats.

The Office will be equipped with a telephone to provide a working base where the clergy can be available in the area of Walton. The heating and locking arrangements for the building will be flexible so that different users can have the facilities they require. There is a separate chair store opening onto the main hall and an outside store for gardening equipment.

The main hall will have a deaf loop and sound system, with spare ducts for future sound or lighting requirements. The whole building complies with fire regulations with emergency exits, lights and fire extinguishers stored in recessed cupboards.

The church is only a few paces away and the existing facilities will complement the Centre to provide a thoroughly versatile resource for the district of Walton and indeed the whole Parish.

Architect: D Scatterwood, Whittington Moor  
Builder TH Stockton Ltd, Holymoorside

### **Let's have a Heatwave**

When I was invited to be treasurer of the Church Centre Building Fund, I readily accepted. At last, I thought, a job I was probably equipped to do - not much need for creative thinking or profound, poetic prayers! I was quite unprepared for the emotional and humbling experience Gift Day 1989 turned out to be. As Phil Johnson and I opened up the envelopes I began to experience some of God's joy at the response of His people to His generosity to them; "Everything we have has come from You, and we only give You what is Yours already".

I felt each gift was precious to Him; from the contents of a child's money box to the largest cheque, and each one vital to the final amount announced to the church family that night. I have continued to feel the warmth of God's smile since that day, as the pledges have been honoured and more gifts given.

I have always considered myself to be a down to earth, logical. person - not at all the sort to hear voices or dream dreams! Yet, as I have opened my mind to see God at work gathering the funds for the new building, I have found He is able to speak even to me.

Recently I spent a sleepless night wondering how we should approach the coming of Gift Day; it seemed a tremendous undertaking to be asking for so much. As dawn came I suddenly saw a very clear picture before me. It was a large thermometer and as I looked the mercury in the bulb became the money we need. Then I saw rays gently warming the thermometer, rays of faith and prayer and love for God. As the mercury warmed it rose up the shaft until it reached the top. At last I felt at peace, knowing that God was telling me that if we trust Him enough, and if our spiritual 'temperature' is high enough, He will provide all we need.

So, Please, do pray about Gift Day and your response to it. God knows how much or how little you can give so talk to Him about it before you decide!

A final thought for anyone who feels their gift would be too small - our God is the God of the impossible. He fed five thousand people with a simple gift from one small boy. I expect the boy never forgot that day, and I promise you, you'll never forget Gift Day either.

### **Gift Day**

On the last Gift Day on 15th October 1989 over £100,000 was given or pledged in one day. To complete the project a further £125,000 is required. The Church continues to honour its' commitment to make 10% of all giving available for mission outside the Parish. So far, nearly £12,000 from the Fund has done to work in Lima, Holmewood and Derby. In each case it was received with a great deal of thanksgiving.

This Gift Day will be 21st June, 1992. It will not succeed without prayer. Many people who gave sacrificially last time will be unable to do so again. Others will for the first time be able to express in this way their thanks for God's many gifts to them. Big or small, your gift will be your personal response to a challenge and opportunity, which we believe God is presenting to each one of those who acknowledge Him.

Gift Day brochures will be distributed to all our members and further copies will be available in the Churches or from the office. Please read the details about recovering tax. The Church Centre Fund will receive an extra third of your gift from the taxman for the sake of filling in one form.

All gifts will be confidential, only the Project Treasurer or Covenant Secretary will know who gave or how much.

(Note: The Gift Day raised £97,000)

### **Carol Woodward.**

"I know the plans I have for you" declares the Lord," plans to prosper you and not harm you, plans to give you hope and a future". Jeremiah 29:11

## The Archbishop of Canterbury in Chesterfield

Those passing through the churchyard of the Crooked Spire the other Friday evening would have seen a long queue of people. At the head of this queue and

shaking hands with its members under the benign gaze of the doormen at the Avenue and representatives of the Derbyshire Constabulary was the Archbishop of Canterbury.

He had just come out of a packed church after addressing clergy and laity from all over North Derbyshire. The Archbishop had talked to us for an hour about the nature of our church and its mission.

He gave us a Charter for the Church, using Charter in the sense of the United Nations Charter, a foundation document incorporating a mission statement.

The Charter had five points. We are to be:

- ◆ A church rooted in historic Christianity
- ◆ A church open to the world and society in which we live
- ◆ A worshipping church
- ◆ A witnessing, growing body
- ◆ A people committed to unity.

It didn't seem like an hour. The Archbishop spoke in a very straightforward way, there were some good jokes and there were illustrations from his own experience. There had been the minimum of ceremonial and although he spoke from the pulpit I felt talked to rather than preached at. I felt talked to by someone who could express himself logically, was clear where he stood, and who had a great regard for the Anglican church in all its many guises.

It is impossible to summarise an hour's talk here so I will just list a few points that particularly struck me.

- ◆ We should remain a church which allows people to ask questions.
- ◆ Our worship must be accessible. Christian worship can sometimes be a terrifying experience for people who only occasionally encounter it.
- ◆ We must set ourselves targets for growth.
- ◆ We must be capable of staying together even when we disagree sharply, as we are likely to do over the decision on the ordination of women this coming year.

The public doesn't really yet know what to think of George Carey. TV sound bites and articles by newspaper reporters with closed minds do not give you the real picture. Having actually seen and heard him in action I have no doubt that our Archbishop is the right man in the right place.

**Robin Dawson**

## **Spring Harvest, Pwllheli April 1992**

Before we set off for Spring Harvest I had mixed feelings about going. I had not been very well, and our 9 year old daughter, Gemma didn't want to go and "was definitely not going to go to any of the organised meetings". Gemma was sick the night before we went and we were stuck in a traffic jam for nearly an hour on our way there. Things weren't looking too good.

Once we arrived everything changed. The sun was shining, and as we entered the site there was a buzz of excitement as we mingled with others arriving from as far afield as Scotland and the South of England. One couple had even come all the way from Australia!

We checked into our chalet and then met other friends from St. Thomas'. As we had booked as one party our chalets were all very close which meant that the children could play together. It was also useful for borrowing things we had forgotten to pack!

After settling in we looked through the programme. There was such a lot to do and nothing was compulsory which meant that you could go to as many or as few meetings as you wanted. The theme for the week was 'meanwhile back at the Cross' and the daily Bible studies and main seminars centred on this theme. There were also over 100 optional seminars to choose from on a wide variety of subjects ranging from Guidance and Personal Discipline to New Age, Modern Cults, God and Science and Signs and Wonders. The highlight of each day was the evening celebration when Christians from a wide variety of backgrounds and denominations came together 'as one' to worship and to learn more about Jesus. The worship was led splendidly by Chris Bowater and there were some really excellent talks from speakers including John Wimber, Steve Gaukroger and Rob White.

While the meetings were taking place, the children and teenagers had their own meetings, divided by age groups. They were very well organised and Gemma and Ian really loved going despite Gemma's earlier reservations. In fact at the end of the week it was Gemma who kept asking if we could stay another week!

Another attraction was the wonderful swimming pool complex complete with flumes, wave pool, rapids and Jacuzzis. There was a fairground too and all rides were free!

Family rambles, popmobility, trampolining and even archery were on offer too and it was difficult to fit in everything we wanted to do. We all learnt a lot during the week and made lots of new friends. We shall definitely be going again next year - why not come too?

**Ann Hoare.**

## **A New Reader, Keith Chappell**

On Saturday 13 June, Keith Chappell will be admitted to the office of Reader at a Service in Derby Cathedral. It will be good to welcome him to the team. (Incidentally, Keith's latest article in the series

## **A Sad Farewell, The Jees are Leaving**

Jonathan Jee has been appointed a Team Vicar in Hinckley, Leicestershire. We shall say farewell to Jonathan, Juliet and Thomas on Sunday 19th July and there will be an informal reception at St. Thomas' after the evening service. We are pleased for them, as they have new opportunities. We thank God most sincerely for them. But we shall miss them terribly.

## Our New Church Wardens, Mark Hoare and Rosemary Reeve

Mark Hoare takes over from Phil Johnson - a hard act to follow and is to serve alongside John Lenthall. Pray for them both in their responsibilities. The PCC will be electing two deputy wardens for St. Thomas' soon.

At St. John's, we welcome Rosemary Reeve as Warden, taking over from David Jarvis. She will serve with Mavis Clough. At St. Peter's, Ian Wright and Adrian Marsden-Jones continue in the harness.

### Confirmation

As I try to compose this article, it seems incredible that it is less than a year since we began to attend St. Thomas'. Our 'baptism' as it were, as regular readers of 'Spearhead' will know, was the family service last July.

In this article I want to try and concentrate on the recent confirmation classes and the wonderful confirmation service on 28th April with Bishop Henry.

Until last September I didn't even know that confirmation classes for adults existed. I was under the misapprehension that you were confirmed at the age of 12/13 or 'missed the boat' as it were. How truly glad I am that I was wrong!

It was a visit to an old friend (to give my condolences after the loss of her mother) that made me aware of the existence of adult confirmation. Wendy, like myself, had also only recently become a church attender following the baptism of her baby son, Adam, at St. Mark's Church.

As Wendy and I were chatting she told me she was to begin going to confirmation classes and it was this that planted the 'seed in my mind. Consequently the following Sunday I approached Christopher after morning service to ask about classes. Incredibly Christopher had been intending to seek Geoff and myself out that same morning on the same topic - to see if we would be interested in joining the classes due to start in January.

Early in January a large group of us met in the meeting room. I think both Christopher and Jonathan were taken by surprise with the response - there were over 30 in the group with some of these seeking to reaffirm their vows.

On the Confirmation evening I was in Church, nervously waiting for the service to begin and thinking back to that first evening. Then, how far away the end of April seemed, but looking back the weeks had just flown by. Where did the time go?

Also at that 1st meeting I only knew a few faces - I knew Jose and Peter Rodgers as Jose and I are in the same baby-sitting circle, and Pauline Latimer I had met for the first time that very morning at 'Coffee Plus'. What basically started off as a room full of strangers I now see as a group of friends.

The actual confirmation service I found an incredible, amazing, wonderful occasion. Also very emotional - I wanted to cry throughout the whole evening. I found Arthur's baptism intensely moving - I don't think I was alone in that, I think all the congregation felt the same.

The next day I was still on a 'high' and couldn't wait to get to 'Coffee Plus' so I could talk about the evening to Pauline. I think I talked about little else all day - at Coffee Plus' in the morning, Toy Library in the afternoon, at home and then again in the evening at our class at Church.

Before the service I was worrying about standing at the front in Church and facing a full congregation - during the rehearsal the night before it hadn't dawned on me that while I stood at the front I would be facing all the Church. However, when that moment came and I did look up I realised that I wasn't merely looking at a sea of faces, but a sea of friendly faces and more importantly many of them were familiar faces.

After the service I said to several people that in a way I was sorry that it was all over. Tim Leteve said in reply to this that "it isn't. It 's just beginning". I think those words sum it up beautifully.

**Jane Smith.**

# **Diocesan Youth Celebration, with the Archbishop of Canterbury**

## **"Journey into Life"**

We were ushered into Derby Assembly Rooms main auditorium. It was packed full of young Christians and youth leaders. On the stage a Christian band called 'Transport of Delight' were playing some of their music which ended with, 'Be still for the presence of the Lord, the Holy One is here'. After we had worshipped together we watched a sketch which highlighted the difficulties of following Jesus into the unknown. After singing the hymns 'Come on and celebrate' and 'I want to serve the purpose of God', the Archbishop gave his sermon.

He started by saying how he had made the ultimate sacrifice to get to Derby, by giving up his FA Cup Final ticket. However, he confessed, if Arsenal had been playing...

His sermon rested on the fact that we are all special and individual; indeed, he said, 'God never leaves the same set of fingerprints twice'. He went on to tell us about the difficulties of following Jesus, and how it wasn't as easy as people would have us believe.

After the sermon, we were taught to 'sign' (using sign language for the deaf) to the last hymn. The Archbishop was delighted by this and asked to do it again after the blessing.

We went outside and the whole group was introduced to the Archbishop. He was very approachable and friendly and enjoyed having his photo taken with lots of people.

When we had finished hob-nobbing with the Archbishop we went to Darley Park for lunch and a game of cricket, in which Jonathan Jee was bowled out second ball.

All in all the day was great. The Archbishop's sermon was clear and interesting and he delivered his message to the teenagers of Derbyshire perfectly. The music was joyous and the hymns totally uplifting.

**Jonathan Brassington**