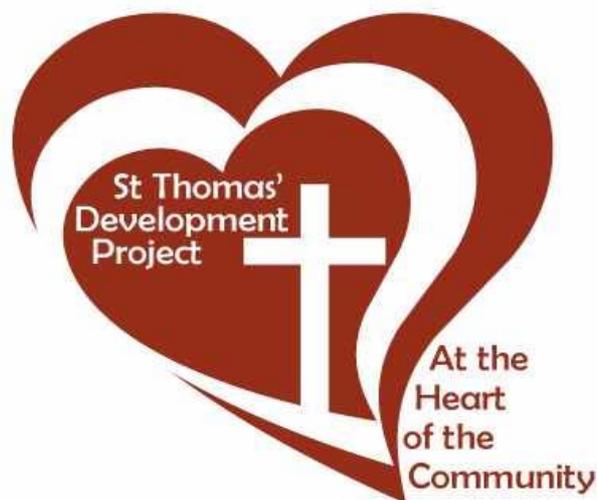


# A YEAR IN THE LIFE OF THE PARISH

An Update on Church Activity for the Annual Parochial Church Meeting  
22<sup>nd</sup> April 2007



## 2006/2007

St Thomas' Brampton  
St Peter's Holymoorside

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# Forward

## From the Churchwardens



Karen Riley  
Church Warden

Bernard Blanksby  
Church Warden

**Many thanks** for supporting St. Thomas' and St. Peters' during the year. We hope you have taken advantage of a variety of sermons and styles of Service to improve your spiritual and personal well-being.

Unfortunately we missed Robin Balch's sermons for most of the year. Please continue to pray for him that he will be relieved of his pain and illness to return fully restored, providing us with wonderful sermons, comments and ministerial service.

In view of the reduced availability of ordained clergy we decided to hold joint morning services throughout August. We had an interesting variety of services and preachers and were pleased to see so many of you supporting us.

**The Year of Mission** officially closed in September leaving us with happy memories of events that were cordial, informative, influential and even life changing. Some of the activities were so popular that they have continued in this year. We have also made a commitment to introduce two new events each year as part of our five-year plan.

**M & M Leadership:** We have tried to ease the M & M Leaders' load by reducing their meetings to six times per year. Also Finance & Fabric was removed from M & M since budgetary controls were clarified, Finance being the Treasurer's responsibility. Graham Brown led the PCC Sub-Committee and Development Project but retired due to personal commitments. We thank Graham for his contributions to Finance & Fabric and many hours of dedication to the Development Project.

**Building to Grow:** Progress with the Development Project has been fairly slow. Graham Brown guided us to take on a Project Manager who will make an assessment of the funding and operational requirements.

We are hoping to establish fund applications and a clearer indication of costs by the end of 2007.

David Holden contributed to the fund by organising an Auction and we are most grateful to him.

**Five-Year Plan:** In this second year we looked at early progress we could make. The welcome initiative developed a welcome strategy, including a skills training day encouraging volunteers to take up roles in Sunday Services, and a review of Sidespersons' duties.

Furnace, a Friday evening Youth Service is under trial.

**Children & Youth Leaders:** After Karen Herrick retired from children's leadership we were unsuccessful in finding a suitable replacement. However, July Brown stepped

in on a temporary basis to offer the children leadership with warmth and affection. Meanwhile, we have reviewed the Children Leader's role and intend to develop it by adding family outreach. We are hoping to fill the position before September. Gemma Machin has continued to develop her skills and capability through her University Course to become a fine leader of youth and young adult groups.

**World Mission:** A sub-committee of the PCC reviewed the World Mission policy for years 2007 to 2009 and a survey of the congregation's feelings towards our missionary giving led us to support the following nine main agencies for this period.

Tear Fund, OMF (Overseas Mission Fellowship), CSW (Christian Solidarity Worldwide), Novi Most International, SAMS (South American Mission Society), Scripture Union, Andy and Liz Goodacre, Samaritan's Purse (Operation Christmas Child) and Church on the Bus.

**Statistics** including St. Peters' reported to the Diocese for 2006.

15 baptisms, 9 marriages and 20 funerals were held in the Churches.

Attendance at services of worship on Sundays and midweek:

	<u>Adults (16+)</u>	<u>Children</u>
Week commencing October 1st:	235	56
Week commencing October 8th:	225	39
Week commencing October 15th:	263	71
Week commencing October 22nd:	187	33

Average attendance at normal Sunday services:

Adults (16+) 214                  Children 40

Number of communicants on Easter Day      262

Number attending worship on Easter Day      359

Number of communicants on Christmas Eve & Christmas Day                  370

Number attending worship on Christmas Eve & Christmas Day                  766

**Sincere thanks** are offered to all who contributed in any way to Church Life.

# Update report from St. Peter's, Holymoorside by Alex Simpson



I am often surprised at the number of people taking communion, numbers are being maintained at both 9.30am and 6.00pm . Worship in the church is often inspiring, our thanks to Shirley who chooses such great hymns and songs. The spirit in the church has been very good.

An important thing from the Treasurer's report is that again this year, direct giving has increased. A very good sign, with so many pensioners in the congregation.

Funerals are an important part of the ministry of this church and we have had very many village people who do not come to church normally, through the doors of this church. one, or two are coming more regularly.

Funerals in this village are very different from funerals in a larger urban parish for some of the same people come to every one. I have got to know Tom Brocklehurst quite well because he seems to know everyone and comes to every funeral of people from the village, even at the crematorium.

Ecumenical B Study has been very good this year and has been organised and run by lay people with Peter Grayson as the prime mover. One remarkable thing is that 2 or 3 children from the Village, unconnected with any family in the church, have attended this adult Bible Study recently. I am not sure what it means but we were all encouraged and there is potential for something in the area of children here.

One young woman wanted to be confirmed and actually asked if she could go on an ALPHA course. She went then to St Johns for the course which she completed and is now waiting for confirmation which I believe is in September.

We have this year started on the road of making this church a place of prayer. Seven or eight people volunteered to come to the church to pray, at times convenient to them. They pray in any way they want, sometime silence, sometimes going through a service like Evening Prayer or Compline. The idea behind this is that prayer is the basis of everything the church does. This will be expanded to include more people this year.

Despite our limited facilities children keep coming and are a great blessing to the church. Thanks to the commitment of those who take on the Sunday Club and the Crèche. Which I think has been a success as a facility offered by this church.

We would like to thank our Church Wardens for their dedication, thanks to Betty Key who retires this year who with all the family duties she has acquired, has also been a blessing to us. Ian is a rock and his commitment to his duty has been a continual blessing to me and to us all. Thank you to Jean Holmes, her taking on being the Ministers Assistant, has been very encouraging.

We would also like to thank Philippa for her efficiency and her wisdom and for prompting and reminding me and us all so gently.

Churches Together is functioning well and the Well Dressing Service in August organised by the URC was good and well attended.

Unfortunately the problem of Rose Cottage has tended to overshadow all our thinking this year and the future is uncertain. But then the Christian Faith can thrive on uncertainty for it is in this area that faith really works best and there is an obvious need for more Lay involvement in ministry.

This is sadly, the last report I will make for St Peter's and I would like to thank you all for your support and prayers and work and ask for your forgiveness for anything I may have forgotten.

# St Thomas' Mission & Ministry Teams

## Update report for Worship & Teaching Team

by David Mouncer



**In 2006 the PCC adopted the following Five Year plan**

### **A growing and developing children's and youth ministry**

- The growth of a youth based church, including worship and evangelism
- The development of a mentoring system for the youth within the whole congregation
- The cultivation of a detached youth work within the parish  
Resourced through a full-time youth worker
- Continue to resource and develop our existing children's work
- An integrated follow up programme to all children and families after major events

### **A vibrant centre of prayer and worship:**

- Alternative worship opportunities within the week
- A diversity of worship openings e.g. healing services

### **A church energised in outreach:**

- To cultivate a seeker style service
- A welcoming infrastructure for St Thomas'
- A "year of mission" every five years
- Within every year, at least two fresh outreach events in the church's year

### **A new parish centre fully used in the life of St Thomas':**

- The new building professionally managed
- A building used by the community of Brampton

### **A congregation mightily alive as the body of Christ:**

- To develop the active volunteer base within the congregation
- To encourage the congregation to give both time and money

### **Missionary activities**

- To regularly present to the congregation opportunities to engage in missionary activities

### **Community interaction:**

- To provide a community focus within the area
- To make St Thomas' a resource for the local community

Worship is at the heart of our Christian lives. We were made to worship the Lord God Almighty. We were called into being so that we could worship God. Worship, therefore, is at the heart of all that we do in this parish. All that we do, if offered up to His glory, is worship. In fact, the whole of the 'Year in the Life' report should be entitled, the 'Worship Report'. Having said that, my responsibility within the Ministry and Mission leadership structure is the worship and teaching that takes place within the church. I have asked a number of people to report on specific areas of responsibility.

### **Bell Ringing – Tim Wheeler**

Here are some facts and figures about St Thomas's bells and bell ringers. We have 8 bells. The oldest bell ringer has been ringing our bells for 40 years. The average age of most of the bell ringers is about 15.5 years. The bells are played on a Carillon system, which means one person can play all the bells and we can play tunes not just peels. None of the ringers are called Quasimodo! We made an extra special effort to make sure all the Christmas services were preceded by the Bells and the feedback from both local residents and church members was full of praise & very heart warming.

For me the ringing of the Church bells has several positive factors in the life of our parish. It keeps alive a tradition as well as enhancing the cultural life of Brampton. Bell ringing gives teenagers another respected role within St Thomas's. The sound of the bells I hope both bring people to and prepare people for prayer and worship. By ringing out familiar hymns and songs I pray that those parishioners searching for God will be reminded of his love and turn to our church for an introduction to Jesus. So many thanks to Amy Forde, Liz Mouncer, Alex Stevens, Nick Riley, Gareth Simmonds, Sam & Josh Wheeler. An extra special thanks to Clive Slack (not aged 15.5 years) for playing almost every week before the 9 am service.

### **Choir - Keith Bates**

The choir has continued to fulfil its usual role of leading the musical worship at the 9.00am service on Sundays. In addition it played its part in the Annual Memorial service and the annual Christmas Carol Service. Unfortunately, numerically speaking, the regular choir has diminished over the year, and this, combined with the increasing age of its members, has put a greater responsibility and strain on them. We are still fortunate, however, that we can gratefully welcome and receive the help of other singers on special occasions or when we wish to present an anthem. It would delight us to do more, but our present strength makes it extremely difficult, so we are currently seeking to enlarge the choir by appealing for any interested volunteers.

During the year we have changed to a new hymn book. A panel of four inspected and examined several possibilities and then recommended two for consideration by the congregation. A very definite majority commented favourably on 'Hymns Old and New' and this new hymn book was officially commissioned on February 4<sup>th</sup>.

We must thank the dedication and conscientiousness of our choir members, and of our organist Myra Johnson. Their loyalty cannot be faulted, but we do need help if we are going to maintain the tradition of our church choir.

### **Open House Groups – David Mouncer**

Our Open House Groups have changed quite a lot in the last twelve months. After a re-launch last year, the numbers of those attending a house group has grown quite significantly. Some of our groups have chosen to meet weekly, while some have remained in the traditional pattern of fortnightly. They all continue to be the focus of

teaching, fellowship and support for their members. The teaching in the groups is based upon the morning sermon. It is a great opportunity to dive deeper into the biblical teaching that has been opened up during the sermon. During Lent all the house groups met weekly and we used the course material called 'Life Source', written by Robert Warren and Kate Bruce. It was a course that helped us explore the practice of prayer.

If you are not a member of a house group, I think you are missing out! Why not join one. Personally, I need my house group, (and that's the Rector speaking!!!). Come and speak to me, I'm sure I'll find a group for you.

### **Sunday Services – David Mouncer**

Do you realise how fortunate we are in St.Thomas'. Week after week we receive good and sound teaching from the front. Our services are led with clarity, confidence and authority. I am grateful to all our Readers, Retired Clergy and retired Church Army Workers. Thank you to all those people who take our readings, lead intercessions and welcome people at the door. But also, I am grateful for all those who work so hard 'behind the scenes'. Those in charge of our amplification and PowerPoint presentations. Those who put the rotas together, the flower team, our Sacrisants, the list is endless! Without these people, our Sunday worship would grind to a halt. Please find time to encourage and thank these people in the coming year.

### **Music Group – Philip Herrick**

Music at 11 and 6:30 has taken steps forward and backwards through the year. In essence there are no fixed teams but amorphous groupings according to who might be around for the next service, with a small core of willing regulars. Essentially the whole ensemble, if it could ever get together, comprises a mixture of extremely busy people and I am grateful for what they all do whenever they can. It just makes consistent rehearsing and learning new material so much more difficult.

There were many highlights - Christmas Eve carol service with a slightly different jazz feel; new songs learned by each congregation; a thriving and eager youth team able to plan and lead worship, particularly in the hands of Josh Wheeler, Gareth Simmonds and Laura Clayton. Pleasing too to have someone willing to experiment with ethnic percussion, a new dimension in the splendid hands of Mark Vaughan. The joy of such provision and the consequent variety. We are grateful too for the several PA and Media technicians who wrestle the technology to follow what we are up to up front. All in all, endless planning and opportunity, but so little time to do it all effectively and be inclusive of everyone.

### **Conclusion -**

Sadly, I have to repeat myself! Let me finish with the comments I finished with last year in this report.

“Within all these positive comments, there is one negative. One strategic fact that weakens our church. Some might even call it 'a hole below the waterline'. Our commitment to corporate prayer remains weak. The People@prayer evenings seem to have slipped off the diaries of most people. Maybe I should rename them “A few people@prayer”. As we enter an exciting and challenging phase in the life of St.Thomas' we need to meet to pray. Please make it a priority in the year to come.”

Let us pray that I don't have to repeat myself for a third year!

# Update report for Children & Young People Team

## by Phil Michell



### A BIG Thank You!

I want to start this report by saying a very big 'thank you' to all the leaders and helpers who have worked so hard in 2006/2007. Every week we have many many people who are committed to giving their time and energy to the various groups and activities we run for our children & young people. Some have had to leave in the past year and others have recently started. God is continuing to use each of you to bless all those who attend. Our work with the children & young people couldn't happen without you. I don't want to mention you all by name – just in case I miss someone out – but you know who you are, and once again I want to say 'thank you' and may God bless you as you continue to work for Him.

### Children's Worker

I would like to say a special thank you to Karen Herrick who left the post of Children's Worker last summer. Her commitment, enthusiasm, planning and ideas have been outstanding – particularly the holiday clubs which have been enjoyed by hundreds of children over the years. We pray that God will continue to bless your ministry with children as He leads you onwards.

### New Children's Worker

After Karen left, we advertised for a new Children's Worker but, after conducting interviews with 2 candidates, we were unable to appoint anyone. However, afterwards, Julie Brown came forward to offer her services for 9 months on a part time basis to give us some 'breathing space' to re-think the role and re-advertise. This we have done and we are now advertising for a Children's and Families Worker to start in September. Julie is doing a great job and we are grateful for all she has done so far.

**Discoverers** on a Sunday morning seems to be going well with a steady number of children, approx. 30-35 most weeks. The trailblazers groups (junior age) are very short of leaders willing to teach. Two groups sharing the meeting room is sometimes an issue because of space and noise.

After a delayed start in the autumn, **Kidzone 627** was re-launched in November. It currently has a core of 18 children that turn up regularly - most are not church children. During the last year they had a very successful trip to Chesterfield Bowl and they are hoping to have another trip out and occasionally go over to Somersall field in the better weather.

Last years **Holiday Club** was entitled 'Clues from the Deep'. It attracted well over 100 children again. We had a huge team of leaders and helpers who all gave up a lot of their time to make this event possible. Through looking at the story of Jonah, the children learned what it means to listen to God and to trust him. There were puppets, songs, games, activities and the 'clues from the goo' where the leaders had to fish for clues in the 'blue goo' at the end of each session.

As usual we have put on other special events throughout the year. In October we held **The Treat** (the alternative Halloween) to which 99 children attended. We also held **Easter Cracked** at the end of March. 90 children played games, made craft etc. and heard the Easter story. Many positive comments have been received about the events which were both organized and led by Julie Brown.

Contact with the **two schools** has been maintained with Old Hall's Christmas carol service, assemblies at both schools (Old Hall and Westfield) and lessons at Old Hall by David Mouncer.

Being interviewed last summer by the members of **CYFA** was one of the most nerve wracking things I've had to do this year! They held a series of interviews with various members of St. Thomas' church. Other subjects they've looked at were 'The Character of God', 'Psalms and handling anger' and 'Ignatian Spirituality'. We regularly get approximately 20 young people each week, some of whom do not attend our regular services – but it's a testament to Gemma's leadership skills, her meticulous planning of the sessions and the courage of our young people in inviting their friends along that they come and, more often than not, stay.

**Pathfinders** regularly attracts 12 – 15 members each week. Over the past year they have looked at subjects like 'holistic living' 'positives and negatives of church' and they turned the tables of the CYFA members by interviewing them in a series called 'what's the point'. Throughout the year their sessions are interspersed with socials which have included Laser Quest, bowling and computer games.

**Lasers** on a Sunday morning continues to go well. We have had a steady increase in numbers this year. The young people have responded well to the subjects we've been looking at – the same ones as the rest of the discoverers groups.

Our young people have been on **2 weekends away** in the last year. One with other youth groups from Chesterfield churches and the other a combined CYFA and Pathfinders holiday. These are always times when the young people have lots of fun, get very tired, but most important of all, they grow spiritually as well as they are given the opportunity to learn about, reflect and respond to what God is doing in their lives. 14 of our young people also went to **Soul Survivor** last summer.

**Rapture**, the mid-week bible study group continues to meet. It's a time when the young people share fellowship, food and study the bible together. It currently meets at 10 Quarry Lane, but when Robin Dawson returns from his work in Afghanistan we will need to find alternative accommodation. If anyone has a large living room and a kitchen that they don't mind losing the use of every Tuesday evening – please get in touch!

The **18 – 25's** group has grown in number this year. There are now 8 people attending regularly, with the numbers going up to 15 or so in the holidays when the Uni students come home. The growth has been through members inviting colleagues along.

There have been **2 new initiatives** in the past year. Firstly there is the **Youth Website** which can be accessed via a link from the main church website. It gives info on all our current children's and youth groups. There are also 'blogs' where people can keep up to date with the latest goings on and can contribute their own thoughts on the subjects raised. Secondly, some of our young people had a vision to start up an alternative worship event. This has come about in the form of '**Furnace**' which is a

monthly event organized by the young people, but it is for anyone to attend. It consists of sung worship, readings, testimony and time and space for prayer. We have held 2 so far and most people who have attended have given positive feedback. We will review it after the 3<sup>rd</sup> one and hopefully it will then continue throughout the year.

Both Gemma and Julie are doing fantastic work with our children & young people. It's very easy for us to take them for granted. If you feel prompted to thank them or encourage them – please do! – a word of encouragement is always welcome. Please also pray that God will continue to bless their ministry among us. If YOU feel called to work with our children & young people, then please talk to either Gemma, Julie or myself.

## **Update report for Evangelism & Nurture Team** by David Sanderson



We began the year about half way through the Year of Mission. One of our expectations of the year of mission was that we might break some new ground. So it is particularly encouraging that the Easter Children's event and Rendezvous have taken on a life of their own and are reported elsewhere. Although we have reported back to congregation during the Thanksgiving Service in September and later to the PCC, we note the following for your encouragement.

We can take some encouragement from what have been described as 'Open Church Days'. Open Day and Flower Festival (1 & 2<sup>nd</sup> July) was significant for the people who turned up and with whom we had conversations. We made an effort to find out why people came in from the community: the following were some of the answers given: To see the flowers; They were 'fished in' from Chatsworth Road or the Garden of Remembrance; A leaflet was pushed through their door; Notice at the front of the church; They came to see the ceiling – two people took a lot of photographs of the ceiling; To enjoy the 'hands on' activities for children and some saw the advert in the Derbyshire Times

The Big Draw (14 October) went well though the wider participation in the programme may have been more significant than the numbers who turned up on the Saturday Morning. But again it was a good event with lots going on. The Crafts for Christmas (25<sup>th</sup> Nov), initially planned as a different kind of event earlier in the year, but postponed due to pressure on the church diary. The event, another Open House initiative, was well supported. We had a number of folk present from the community. One encouraging feature was the number of men who turned up with their families. If these events are anything to go by the 'Open Church' idea with activities has a lot to offer in terms of engaging the community.

Also there was the more direct approach to encourage people to come to a gospel music event with the singer and songwriter Brian Houston. This was an initiative taken by one of the Open House Groups and was well supported by friends and family members.

Three events took place which focussed on locality, and were initiated by Open House Groups.

- i) 1<sup>st</sup> April Ladies open house day. About 40 people came, some non-church family.
- ii) There was an Easter visitation to houses at the top of Rhodesia Road. A hardy bunch of people braved the cold and rain, in Biblical costume, to deliver Easter eggs and the Easter edition of Spotlight.
- iii) A Coffee and cake garden party was held in July to which friends in the neighbourhood were invited and some people came!

One thing is clear above all else, the events brought fringe or new people into the fellowship of the church. About this we must rejoice. However, further issues come to the fore as a consequence of the YOM activities:

- i) The need to develop things further where we have moved forward e.g. use of house groups, open church days and work with seniors and families.
- ii) The need to continue to work at developing adequate follow up strategies for all events where we are reaching new people.

Nanette Sanderson reports on the seniors Rendezvous events: The year of 2006 has been an encouraging year for Rendezvous. At the end of 2005 a request was made for monthly meetings in addition to the three day summer 'Holiday at Home' event.

Meetings were arranged from March 2006 onwards for the first Thursday of each month from 1pm – 4pm under the leadership of David Oldale. We always start with a light lunch and include a Christian 'thought for the day'. We have had a variety of speakers on interesting subjects such as the work of a local councillor, puppet demonstration and a 'passion for collecting'. The talks are interspersed with games afternoons when we have fun with carpet bowls, scrabble, tri-ominoes, giant floor games, and lots more. At the end of 2006 we had a party with a turkey dinner!

Rendezvous caters for seniors aged 55 upwards and welcomes seniors in the local community and also members of our church. We average between 40 and 50 seniors on First Thursdays, We aim at having a good deal of fun together, enjoy nourishing food, make new friends and hear more of the Christian faith. In other words fun – food – friends – faith.

At the end of August 2006 we decorated the church ready for our annual big three day event. With the help of many people we were able to provide an interesting programme to suit many tastes from making melody with song to wood turning; from family history to cooking; from local history to flower arranging just to mention a few. We also raised money for the building fund with a 'bring and buy' stall and fun auction. After our big summer event we held a special service of celebration on the Sunday evening – the theme being 'The Journey of Life'. Senior members took part in a hilarious play, sang in a choir, led intercessions and preached on the Christian journey of life.

We praise the Lord that we are attracting new people, and we endeavour to keep in touch with those who come. We are attracting new members and 60 people were present at the February meeting. We thank God also for the dedication and enthusiasm of the planning committee and for all their hard work to make it all possible. As we continue to plan for our work amongst seniors and the future of

Rendezvous, we would be grateful of your continued commitment to prayer for this outreach event.

John Goodacre writes about the work of the World Mission Committee. The World Mission Review Group, set up by the PCC and chaired by the Rector, met at intervals during 2006 'To review the present PCC missionary giving policy, its aim and objectives and impact upon the life of St Thomas. To bring to the PCC any suggested changes and alterations for their consideration.' As a result, from the beginning of 2007, the PCC decided that the church will be giving equal financial support to nine organisations over the next three years (from the 10% of our giving that is tithed to world mission work). One representative for each of these mission agencies or people within St Thomas' comprise the World Mission Committee, which has met three times in the last year.

The World Mission prayer events have continued on Wednesday evenings every three months, although with reduced attendances as they conflict with those Open House groups that have decided to meet every week. These meetings provide us with a window on the world and a further way of participating in world mission. A leaflet containing subjects for prayer has been produced for each of these quarterly meetings and distributed to church members in the notice sheet the following Sunday. Open House groups have now been invited to include prayer for World Mission in their regular meetings.

The regular World Mission Sundays have been most interesting and very informative, with our visitors speaking at each service. Four were held in 2006 and it is now intended that only three be held in future years. Attendances at the lunches have varied between 60 and over 100. Last March we have a visit from Rev Stuart Windsor for Christian Solidarity Worldwide. In May we held a family tea-party as well as the normal Sunday services, when Johnny and Ann McClean of OMF came with their three young children and told us about their work with students in Thailand. In October, Rob Lunt, a local SAMS rep, visited us to speak about the society's work in South America. We had a Christmas lunch on the Sunday in December when Rev Gill Rowell brought us up to date with the developing work of Novi Most International in Bosnia. This March we heard from Stan Jenkins about the work of Tear Fund, with a record number for lunch and a focus at the evening service on Tear Fund's current work to deal with slavery.

In between these, we had other visits from our mission partners when they happened to be in the country. Ruth Lapworth came to two morning services in April last year and told us about their move to Nairobi for Paul's work with Tear Fund in South Sudan. In June, Andy Goodacre preached twice and was interviewed about his work with students and in the church in Marburg (Germany). It was good to have Robin Dawson with us in October and to have him preaching for us, during a short break from Afghanistan. In February we met Paul and Sarah Tester, who are currently undertaking training and will soon be off to Peru, working with SAMS

Prayers reflecting our world mission interests are included in most of our Sunday services on a rota basis. In March seventy members of the church each prayed for half an hour to complete 24 hours of prayer for Bosnia.

We are looking forward to visits from representatives of two organisations not previously on our official support list. "Church on the Bus" and "Operation Christmas Child" are both being invited for later this year. Up to date news of all nine

organisations and mission partners that the church supports with finance and prayer is always available at the back of the church.

We have an enthusiastic team of people who lead Baptism preparation in the homes of people. Recently one new person joined the team. During 2006 14 families asked for Baptism or Thanksgiving Services for children. The team has been developing some new resources for our work, especially with people who come to us with a second child. These resources include a new leaflet on what 'Turning to Christ' means and a DVD containing personal testimonies.

One Start Course was held during the year, but in future we are planning to use the material as part of a welcome course for all new members and others who wish to attend.

#### Town Mission:

It is proposed to involve as many churches as possible in a Chesterfield Town Mission under the banner of 'Hope 2008'. The initiative for this came from the Chesterfield Methodist circuit. The 'continuing evangelism group' will be exploring the possible ways in which St Thomas' might be involved. One proposal is that a Cliff College Team visits Chesterfield in the Spring of 2008 to work with the churches. While at the time of writing more specific information is not available, it is highly likely that some events will take place in the Brampton area.

## MISSION ACCOUNTS 2006

2005	Income	2006
1,575.79	Balance from previous year	1,249.62
14,500.00	PCC Allocation	17,200.00
588.83	PCC Development Fund	702.61
3,000.00	PCC Youth Fund	
	Bank Interest C of E	137.63
	PCC Organ Fund	311.78
4,710.18	Donations including Gift Aid	2,003.45
<b>24,374.80</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>21,605.09</b>

2005	Expenditure				2006
<i>Total</i>	<i>Agency</i>		<i>PCC Allocatio n</i>	<i>Other Donation s</i>	<i>Total</i>
1,133.00	Christian Aid week*				
1964.62	Christian Solidarity Worldwide		1360.00		1360.00
1,360.00	Church Pastoral Aid Society		1360.00		1360.00
1,360.00	Crosslinks		1360.00		1360.00
2,550.00	Hope for Life Ministries		2,550.00		2,550.00
1,360.00	NOVI MOST International		1371.00		1371.00
1,360.00	Overseas Missionary Fellowship		1,360.00		1,360.00
2550.00	Scripture Union		2550.00		2550.00
2550.00	South American Missionary Society		2550.00		2550.00
1,635.00	TEAR Fund			1,957.45	1,957.45
900.00	Robin Dawson		900.00		900.00
2,550.00	A. Goodacre		2,550.00		2,550.00
1,852.56	Projects not supported in 2006				
1249.62	Balance carried forward		1,736.64		1,736.64
24,374.80	<b>Total</b>		<b>19,647.64</b>	<b>1,957.45</b>	<b>21,605.09</b>

\*Christian Aid money was not paid through the Mission Account in 2006. The amount raised was £585.00

**Robert Batten**

# **Update Report for Caring and Sharing Team by Janet Turville**



Well another year has passed and we as a church have sought to care and support all members of our community.

Our mission statement says:

**We aim to become more like Jesus as we respond to his love for us and as we share his love with others"**

And this is the aim of the caring and sharing ministry.

The following are areas of the church in which this is happening.

## **Residential Homes**

During the last year a small team from St Thomas and St Peter's has continued to visit three residential homes in the parish Chatsworth Lodge, Rydal House and Brookholme. We hold a short informal service once a month and are welcomed into the Homes as representatives of the church. We also have the joy of chatting to the residents who are unable to get to church. Please continue to hold up us up in prayer and if you are able to join us in this Christian ministry you will be very welcome. We meet for prayer before going out to the Homes at 1.10pm in the church vestry on the third Wednesday of every month.

**Nanette Sanderson**

## **Home Communion**

As in previous years the church has continued to offer the ministry of Home Communion to church members unable to get to church for services. It generally happens on the last Sunday of the month following the 9.00 Communion Service. The elements that have been placed on the Lord's Table are taken into the home of the recipient where a short but meaningful service takes place. Often that mornings readings and sermon may be referred to and hopefully this 'service' forms a continuation of the one in church, where the recipient can feel part of the fellowship and not excluded or forgotten. Valerie Durkin and Alan Sheldon currently perform this duty and find it a great privilege and joy to do so.

**Alan Sheldon**

## **Communion and Cuppa**

Communion and cuppa continues to meet on the last Thursday afternoon of every month. It provides a service of Holy Communion, followed by fellowship for a number of our more senior church members who find this most helpful. New members are always welcome to our friendly group as are volunteers to act as drivers.

**John and Brenda Trickett**

## **Totzone**

Did you know that on the books at Totzone this last year we have had 24 mums/grandparents and 28 children attending regularly? Fortunately due to holidays sickness etc we rarely have more than 18 on one Monday! Along with the normal weekly activities we hold a Pram Service once a term to which we get even more children and carers. Such large numbers create a lot of fun, noise, and need for helpers! But more than anything it gives us a wonderful opportunity to share the good news of Jesus with the parents. Whilst the afternoon is devoted to the children's welfare, and involves toys, crafts, story time, and snack time, the great joy for those of us who volunteer with Totzone is the interesting chats we have with the mums and grandparents. So if you thought you had to be good with little ones to help with Totzone of clever with crafts, think again! We need more people to simply come along and get alongside the mums, to chat to them and to be there as friends. Why not drop in one Monday at 12.45pm and see for yourself? I can assure you of a warm welcome from us all.

**Janet Turville**

## **Social group**

During the past year there has been quite a full programme of social events within the Church Calendar involving all age groups. The Social Group were concerned that there being only five team members, things would become too much for such a small number, and so decided to involve the House Groups in the running of some of the bigger events. They rose to the challenge, and a huge "thank you" goes to those who organised the Church Picnic and the Barn Dance. Everybody who attended those events had a thoroughly enjoyable time. However, it was very stressful and this year we have revised things slightly, in as much that the Social Group will be organising events, with the help of various House Groups. Our first event in this format was the recent Pie, Peas and Quiz Night, which was a lot of fun, and enjoyed by all those who managed to come.

Other occasions where we have been involved have included the Alternative Hallowe'en Night, and numerous Faith Lunches. The Christmas one was particularly well received, and we hope to make this an annual event. We have the "Easter Cracked" coming up shortly, and then we will be able to concentrate on future events. The biggest event on our agenda this year is the Summer Fete on 23<sup>rd</sup> June. We will be putting flyers out with various requests and we ask you all to take them, read them and hopefully come and help us! The profit we make on this day will be going towards the Development Fund, so we look forward to having a wonderful time!

When we have recovered from all that, we will be putting together an Autumn Programme – so look out for good things to come! Should you have any suggestions, queries or any other worries, please see Janet, Maureen, Gaynor, or Heather.

**Janet Hamilton**

## **Home Group for those with Learning Difficulties**

A small group have met on several occasions to consider a monthly home group for adults with learning difficulties. We have identified that there 10 people with learning difficulties who either attend or are associated with St Thomas's. We need to ask if St Peter's congregation would enjoy such a group.

Our aim is to have an environment where people with and without learning difficulties can share and grow in faith together. We will be linking up with a national organisation called Causeway Prospects ([prospects.org.uk](http://prospects.org.uk)) who have expertise in this

area and will possibly host a local training event. (We certainly will be on a steep learning curve !) We have had a chat with a group in Derby but more significantly met up with the Cotton Millers Club at Holymoorside URC, Who kindly hosted us one evening and have given us a great deal of advice, for which we are grateful.

The most significant advice is to meet up with relatives and carers, before starting the group, to give us pointers on individual's strengths and needs. This we plan to do. We are aware of another Christian group that meet in Ashgreen. Our plan is to neither clash with nor duplicate these two groups but compliment them and hopefully work in a broad alliance with them, as many of our proposed home group members will attend both these other activities. This group will come under the auspices of the 'Caring & Sharing' Mission & Ministry group. Please pray for us as we plan and go through a steep learning curve.

**Tim Wheeler**

### **Marriage celebration/Enrichment**

A new area this year has been the marriage Celebration that was held at Chesterfield Hotel in June. Twenty-eight couples gathered to celebrate their marriages- couples that had been married for anything from a year to over 50 years. Everybody there enjoyed the celebration. The planned Marriage Enrichment weekend unfortunately had to be postponed but will take place this coming year- April 27<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup>.

**Janet Turville**

### **Prayer Email**

The prayer email goes out every week to 52 email addresses, which equates to about 70 church members. It is also published on the church website (omitting personal details). Each week, there are a number of areas for prayer/contemplation, including 'David's Prayer Thought', 'People', 'Give Thanks', 'Church Life' and 'World Mission'. People have commented that it helps them to feel part of the church community, especially as it involves members of all three congregations, and that they value being able to pray specifically for people/areas of need. We have been encouraged by many answers to prayer and praise God for his grace and mercy. We are thankful that Julie Lomas has stepped in so that this ministry can continue.

**Emma Atkinson**

# Update report for Communication & Co-ordination Team, by Barbara Goodacre



At the beginning of this report, let us pause a moment. Let us never lose sight of what God is doing and wants to do in and through us here at St.Thomas'.

*“Pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances.” 1  
Thessalonians 5 v 17*

My report this year is split into two parts.

- ◆ the different areas covered under “Communication and Co-ordination”
- ◆ improving co-ordination

## The Different Areas

The **Church Office** remains the focal point for all our communication and co-ordination. Although the Church Office is listed under the M&M area of Communication and Co-ordination, the Office Staff come under the direct responsibility of the Church Rector who is their Line Manger. During 2006 Anne Hewitt and Heather Hollington exchanged roles. Anne became our Parish Administrator, working three and a half days each week. Heather now works as our Church Secretary two days each week. Thank you Anne and Heather for all your hard work.

The **Notice Sheet** is produced in the Church Office, but each week, as I proof read both St.Thomas' and St Peter's copies, I am repeatedly reminded of the wide variety of activities that go on in our parish. Our notice sheet is a vital tool both in communicating what is happening each week and also in providing us with a weekly diary for prayer, not only for our own church and neighbourhood but also for the wider world. Thank you so much to everyone who has made a real effort during the past year to get notices into the notice sheet well in advance of their event taking place, and for those people involved in writing Prayer Focus. Please can I remind anyone wishing to put an insert in the notice sheet that this must be agreed with the office staff before copies are photocopied. Wherever possible our aim is to save paper and card.

All the areas that come under Communication and Co-ordination continue to have very reliable leadership and have remained strong throughout the year. Once again the hard work of these volunteers and the teams who support them is greatly appreciated. Myra Johnson continues to update the **electoral roll** and she will be giving her report at the APCM. The **Sunday service rotas** continue to be masterminded by Allan Kitchen and Pam Brimelow who are ably assisted by Gill and Martin Bailey (11.00am service), Sue Ward (6.30pm service) and a large team of “rota people”. With their usual care and attention to detail, Pam Brimelow and Ray Batterson have continued to undertake the very exacting task of completing the **marriage registers** for both St. Thomas' and St. Peter's.

The Christmas and Easter editions of **Spotlight**, our outreach paper, have been published and delivered to every house in the parish. Once again, my thanks go to all who have contributed articles, to John and Brenda Trickett who prepare the bundles of Spotlight for distribution and to all who distribute them around the parish. The

Spotlight team of Phil Michell, Janet Turville, David Mouncer and myself are always on the look out for new ideas and contributions so if you have any comments and suggestions or are hiding a special gift that could be included in a future issue please let us know!

A special word of thanks must go to Mark Hoare who has not only continued to update the church website every week during the past year but, in Autumn 2006, also took on the role of editor of Ploughshare. If you don't know what is going on at St. Thomas' look on the website. All the information you need is there.

Mark writes:

### **The Website**

[www.st-thomas-brampton.org](http://www.st-thomas-brampton.org)

"The website continues to be regularly updated. It is used by regular church attendees, those on the fringes, and those living and working away from Chesterfield, both in this country and abroad.

A couple of new features in the past year have been added.

- ◆ The young people are developing their own pages.
- ◆ 'Podcasts' of the sermons at St Thomas' are being made available for downloading. These are particularly welcomed by those who cannot get to church on a particular Sunday. (However the Rector has complained that his mother can now listen and comment on his sermons!)

Additionally every back number of the church magazine since it was re-started in 1976 is now available on the website.

The regular recording on audio tape of the services at St Thomas' has been discontinued. This was mainly because of lack of demand. However sermons are available as podcasts on the website. If you cannot download them, alternative arrangements can be made."

Our thanks go to Martin Bailey who, for several years, has co-ordinated the tape recording of our Sunday services.

---- and again, Mark writes:

### **Ploughshare**

"By the time you read this I should have edited the last three editions of the magazine 'Ploughshare'. I took over from Sue Ward in November 2006. Sue had been editor for fourteen years so deserves a big thank you for all the work she has put in. If anyone has any articles they would like to submit please let me know. After all it is your magazine. Any constructive comments will also be most welcome."

Do you want to have a regular order for Ploughshare? Bernard Blanksby is the person to see. Thank you Bernard and your team, for continuing to distribute Ploughshare around the parish.

### **Improving Co-ordination**

I have attempted during this past year to look at different aspects of co-ordination many of which have been brought to my attention by different members of St. Thomas'. Last September, one comment that challenged me deeply was, "**What we need in St. Thomas' is greater cohesion**".

Inevitably the very subject of co-ordination has meant that I have raised issues which have overlapped into other M&M and PCC areas. However, everything I have attempted to do has been with the sincere and honest intention of seeking to support, encourage and strengthen God's work here in St. Thomas', all the while remembering the good things that are already happening.

At the PCC and M&M Away Day last September, and at subsequent M&M and PCC meetings, we have touched on a very wide variety of co-ordination-related issues. Questions have been asked, different views have been shared and decisions still need to be made.

Do we need to rekindle a real sense of everyone working together? Do we need to make changes? Who makes the decisions? Are we as a church trying to do too much? Do we need to de-clutter the church diary? Do some things need to be closed down and a new start made? How can different areas of church life be better supported by the rest of the church? Are some people doing too much? Are we making the best use of the volunteers that we have? How can we be better informed about specific needs for prayer? Is sufficient information being communicated to other leaders and church members? Do we spend enough time actually listening to other people or are we too busy?

In asking for prayer for all those in positions of leadership and responsibility in St. Thomas', the words of an old hymn come to my mind:

"May the mind of Christ my Saviour  
Live in me from day to day,  
By His love and power controlling  
All I do and say."

**and finally!**

Throughout this past year I have so very much appreciated the warm, loving fellowship of the Thursday morning Ladies' Bible Study Group, whose members have been unaware of how much God has used our discussions centred around His word, to strengthen and encourage me to press on. Thank you, ladies!

Also, in the space of one week in March, when I was writing this report, God used different people at St Thomas' to re-assure me that it has been right to spend time considering the whole issue of co-ordination. On the following Sunday evening, further confirmation came through a member of the Prayer Ministry team who said to me, **"We need more cohesion in our church."** My mind immediately went back to the day last September when I had first been so challenged by those very same words! We both agreed that there is something so very special about praying aloud with others and just knowing that God is using the words of someone else to speak to you!

It is therefore fitting that I finish this report in the same way as I finished last year's – with these words spoken by Bob Jackson, the archdeacon of Walsall, at a Derby diocesan conference on church growth in 2006,

**"Remember, God has a unique way forward for your church.  
I trust that you are all praying together to seek God's guidance as to what is  
right for you."**

**Barbara Goodacre**

## **“A Year in the life of the Church Office”** **by Anne Hewitt**



Many members of the parish pop into the Church Office on a regular basis, however, some of you have never stepped over the threshold. I thought this was a good opportunity to let you know what goes on.

I have worked in the office for just over 7 years. Most of this time as the Church Secretary and have worked my way through 3 Parish Administrators (something I said?) In May 2006 it was my turn. Heather and I swapped jobs.

A new Job Description was created. My role: To be responsible for the efficient administration of the Parish. Straight forward enough, I thought. Looking at the long list of duties (2 sides of A4 in small print) I was intrigued by the first one:

**To be the hub of Parish Communication – knowing what is going on and putting people in touch with each other – a “living network”.**

My initial reaction was what on earth does it mean to be a living network? As the months went on I began to understand.

Sometimes the network breaks down. Information is not passed to the right person, information is lost and time is spent dealing with queries and sorting out problems unrelated to the office. With this in mind we have spent time over the year trying to improve communication within this network. Putting people in contact with the right people has resulted in the photo board at the back of Church, the “who’s who” leaflet and a tri monthly programme of events. Pulling people together and creating a “living network” hopefully is also aided by the weekly Notice Sheet, the PCC Digest, the Missionary Prayer leaflet and the Address Book which is updated every year (no mean feat)

Over the last year we have organised 40 funerals, 15 baptisms and 9 weddings. This has involved organising preparation courses, providing administrative back up, and even having to master the PA system (not my favourite thing). The most important thing in my mind is organising these events to a high standard, ensuring that people entering the church are made to feel welcome and satisfied with the service they have experienced. I am passionate about attracting others into this “living network”. It is important to follow up new contact. 90 invitations were sent out for the Memorial service. Baptism couples are contacted after about six months and marriage couples after about a year with welcome packs and information about St Thomas’. A number of baptism families and newly married couple have indeed become members of St Thomas’

Heather has done a sterling job with the Church bookings and has attracted new groups such as the Social group who meet on a Wednesday morning, the walkers who meet on a Friday morning and Slimming world who meet on Thursday evening. Concerts held over the year have increased attracting more and more people into Church.

Ensuring the services are run smoothly encourages people to return to Church and to increase this “living network”. The office provides help with the rotas, maintains the standard of the service sheets, and produces the Sharing and Learning Together leaflet. This year we organised a Training Day in most aspects of Sunday worship. This resulted in a number of new people volunteering to have a go at intercessions, being a Sidesperson and operating the PA system.

The office pulls this “living network” together with its links with the PCC, the Leadership Team and the Rector. It provides efficient communication between all members. The office supports the Rector in a number of ways, however, trying to persuade him to slow down a bit is an up- hill battle. Listening to concerns, expressing views of others is all in a days work. (The kettle is always on.) These are a few of the things that have happened in the last year.

Unfortunately this “living network” also involves dealing with non - humans! Over the year we have dealt with slugs and mice in the portacabin, ants and wasps in the nursery and foxes in the graveyard digging for bones!!! Taking the idea of a “ Living network” too far, I think.

Finally, thanks must be given to 4 people who have helped on a voluntary basis over the last year. Thanks to Margie Foster, Sue Wheeler, Barbara Goodacre and a huge thanks to our computer wiz kid David Holden who has spent an enormous amount of his own time fixing / improving the computer.

**Anne Hewitt**