

# A Year in the Life of the Parish 2018/9

An update of church activity for the APCM on 14 April 2019

St Thomas' Brampton with St Peter's Holymoorside



**st thomas**  
**BRAMPTON**

LOCAL CHURCH LOVING JESUS CHANGING LIVES

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## **Acting Rector's Report**

It's been quite a year in the life of St Thomas' Church - if you want a single word to sum it all up it's 'change'. 2018 has seen some big changes. Change can make us fearful, but it is also something that brings life. As you read through the pages of this annual report what I hope you'll see is that amidst the change that is going on at St Ts we have seen that God is unchanging - he is faithful in all things, he is good and wants good things for us, and that we can trust him. And we have also seen that he continually wants to do a new work in us so that we grow to be more like Jesus each day. That's been the story of our church over the last 12 months and will continue to be into the year ahead.

Here's a flavour of that change:

### **Vision**

In 2018 we began to present our new church vision: we want to be a church of 'disciples making disciples'. Of course this isn't really a new vision, it's 2000 years old. It's the commission Jesus gave to his disciples. Let me encourage you to stop reading this now and read, digest, meditate upon and come back to again and again Matthew 28.16-20. In these verses are contained the vision for St Ts. So what does this look like in practice?

### **0-18s Director**

It was a delight to recently announce the appointment of Joel Botham as our 0-18s Director. This is a crucial leadership role for our church, not least because we have such a good number of children and young people who are part of St Ts, but also because there's such a need to reach out to 0-18s with the love of Jesus. 80-85% of Christians in the UK came to faith before the age of 25, and most of those before the age of 16. And these figures hold true at St Ts! But across the UK we see fewer young adults identifying as Christian and 70% of 16-29 year olds saying they are 'non-religious'. Investing in a 0-18s Director - a new leadership role for our church - is a key part of making disciples. Joel comes with excellent experience in discipling and reaching out to children and young people. Let's really get behind him and this ministry and also give him, Becky and their son Jack a warm welcome when they arrive in August.

### **Life Groups**

At the end of 2018 I presented to the church a vision for 'Life Groups'. These are discipleship groups that have three core values:

- Relationship - to invite and nurture people into community.
- Reach - to reach out to people outside of St Ts with the gospel.
- Rhythm - to keep a rhythm of UP (Worship), IN (Discipleship), and OUT (Mission).

Our current Small Groups aren't stopping, but we're encouraging new people to St Ts (and anyone else who's interested) to get involved in a Life Group. These are slowly being rolled out, please do be patient as these get started but do look out for them as they will become a key aspect of our vision.

### **The Centre**

The PCC and STB have been working really hard together over the last year to explore a new vision for the St Thomas' Centre. We want it to increasingly be a place that offers a warm welcome, points people to Jesus, and draws people into relationship. Watch this space for what that means into 2019 and beyond. A big thank you to everyone on PCC

and STB for all your hard work on this.

## **Leadership**

It was both a joy and a privilege for me to accept the post of Acting Rector as Matt went on secondment to the diocese as Director of Mission and Ministry. It all came about very suddenly - within the space of a few weeks - and I want to thank you all for being so supportive of this change and of my leadership. There is currently no change in these circumstances. But as you'll see from this report I don't see myself as leading an 'interregnum' but moving us forward as a church.

There have been other key personnel changes too. Sadly Sally-Anne is stepping down as our Parish Operations Manager of some 8 years, but we're really excited for her as she gets ordained in the summer. We're delighted Julie Barton - a long standing member of St Ts - is taking over this role. Bill Bazely, who has been our wonderful House for Duty priest at St Peter's is retiring this Easter Sunday. He has been such an important part of our parish team over the last few years and we wish him and his wife Moggs well in retirement. Also, our Church Warden Mark Hoare is standing down after 10 years of excellent service. We can't say thank you enough to each of these amazing people who had served us and the Lord so well.

But it's of course not all change. So many of you have continued serving faithfully in mission and ministry at St Ts in so many different ways. We've seen wonderful community events like our big church BBQ which followed a wonderful baptism service, the Christmas party, WW1 100th Anniversary commemorations, the Christmas Tree Festival, kid's church on Sundays, Knit and Natter, Messy Church, Alpha courses with people coming to faith, Rendezvous, Women's and Men's ministry to name but a few. These and others are detailed throughout this report. Be assured that these are having an impact on people - lifting up Christ for our community to see. And God is on the move!

So I want to close with a big thank you. Thank you to all of you for what you bring to our church life. You are the 'body of Christ' that the Apostle Paul talked about. You are the 'Royal Priesthood' that the Apostle Peter shouted from the rooftops. Over the last year each of you has played your part. You make St Ts what it is. It's a privilege to minister with such wonderful folks as yourselves. So a big thank you from the bottom of my heart.



**Revd. David Owens, Acting Rector, April 2019**

## **Parish Wardens' Report**

First the official stuff. Phil Bird, Diana Hinchliffe and I as Wardens have carried out an annual inspection of the fabric and articles belonging to our churches and everything is accounted for and in good condition. The quinquennial inspection of both churches was carried out during the past year and no major issues were reported. The minor points raised are being systematically addressed. The Tower Project has been signed off finally after the snagging issues were resolved.

Over the past year we have held over two hundred acts of worship in our churches. These don't just happen. We rely on a small army of volunteers to manage services, welcome, lead worship, work the PA and visuals, act as sacristans, read the Bible, lead our prayers, change the altar fronts, make refreshments, set the heating, open the buildings up and more. Then there are the clergy, readers and others who lead and preach at the services. Of course, we need organising to be in the right place at the right time - so there are also the rota compilers.

I would like to say a big thank you to everyone who plays a part in the running, maintaining, organising and supporting of our churches, services and the activities we do.

This will be my last report as Parish Warden (although I have said this twice before)! After this term of ten years I am standing down at the APCM. Phil Bird is continuing for another year and then he will be standing down. I am looking forward to handing over my keys to my successor.

When I started my second term as Warden in 2001, I was interviewed by the then editor of our parish magazine. One of the questions was: *'Using your imagination, what would you like to see happen at St Thomas' over the next few years?'*

*My reply was: 'I hope we can continue to grow as a united church, both spiritually and numerically. There is the next stage of our development project to get under way [the Church Centre -tick]. There is outreach to the community to continue. It would be nice not to have to worry about are we going to have enough money but to whom are we going to give our surplus! However, all that we do must be underpinned by prayer. How exciting it would be if the meeting room was too small for our Saturday mornings of prayer!'*

If I were to be asked the same question today, eighteen years later, I would give a very similar reply. Although we are four congregations, we are one church. If we don't grow (numerically and spiritually) we will decline. Standing still is not an option.

We have various projects on the go (Hope House and Memorial Wall at St Peter's) and plans for projects at St Thomas' (including improved access and a new heating system).

Outreach is close to David, our Rector's heart, and is being championed in several ways including through Alpha, the Life Groups that are being set up, the night shelters, Street Pastors, Church on the Bus and our other mission partners.

Financially our expenditure is in line with our giving due to the good financial controls that we have in place. However, this won't always be the case unless giving begins to increase.

There is a lot of prayer going on in our churches, in homes, individually, in pairs, in groups, through prayer ministry, but there always can be more!

Looking to the future. It is sad but also exciting. Sad that we are saying goodbye to Bill Bazely as minister at Holymoorside and Sally-Anne Beecham as our Parish Operations Manager. We wish them God's blessing on their futures. Excited as we say welcome to Julie Barton who is taking over as Operations Manager and Joel Botham, and his wife Becky and son Jack. Joel has been appointed as our 0-18s Director.

Finally, I would like to thank Ann, my wife, for her patience and forbearance being married to a Church Warden!

**Mark Hoare, Parish Warden, April 2019**

## **St Peter's District Church Council Report**

### DCC Meetings

The DCC met nine times during the year. Attendance was invariably good and the meetings took place in their traditional friendly and constructive atmosphere.

### Deanery Reorganisation

In May, the Area Dean, Karen Hamblin, brought proposals to the DCC for reorganisation. For St Peter's this involved the redrawing of parish boundaries between St Thomas' and St John's, Walton. Later in the year, revised proposals focused on an agreement about new ways of working between the churches that did not involve any boundary changes. The proposals have yet to be finalised but steps are in hand to develop a new working relationship between St Peter's and St John's.

### Memorial Garden

Work continues on preparations for a new memorial garden in the churchyard. It has a community focus and we are all grateful for the joint efforts that have been devoted to raising funds and publicising this new addition to Holymoorside for the benefit of all residents. We hope to have it open before Summer 2019.

### Quinquennial Inspection

The five yearly review was carried out in Autumn 2018. The report was very positive and only very minor works were recommended. It is gratifying that our church building and churchyard are in such fine condition.

### Meditation

The meditation group has continued to meet throughout the year. During the summer months, meetings took place in a yurt located in Simon and Mary Nieder's garden. During the winter months it has been held in the meeting room at St Peter's.

### Churches Together in Holymoorside (CTH)

CTH, which has been in existence for some 15 years or more, suffered a period of some uncertainty after Christmas. However, a joint meeting in February agreed a way ahead based on the active cooperation that has existed in the past. We are fortunate that

Donald Walker, a leading member of the Methodist Church in Chesterfield agreed to chair future committee meetings of CTH.

### Children's work

We are really very grateful for all the people who help with children's work at St Peter's. Though we have very few children their enthusiasm is sparked every Sunday by the quality of the teaching and craftwork offered to them. We pay grateful thanks to Ann Haggard who has played a key role in children's work for the past fifteen years and who will be retiring at Easter.

### Christmas Lunch

A Christmas lunch was attended in church by almost two dozen people from the village and the local area. It proved to be an enjoyable and satisfying event with lots of social interaction to embellish the good food on offer.

### Electoral Roll

St Peter's faces the challenge of increasing outgoings and falling numbers. It has been an issue of concern for the DCC for some considerable time. We hope the reorganisation mentioned earlier might help in meeting this challenge.

### Stewardship

In September, we welcomed David Meredith who spoke to us about stewardship as part of our Sunday morning service.

### Social Activities

We enjoyed a range of social activities throughout the year including a very successful garden party, organised by CTH at Ann Haggard's house in July. The harvest supper was held at the end of September and in November we were introduced to the joys of diminishing whist at an event in the Village Hall.

### Losses

During the year we lost some long-standing and very valued members of the congregation. Mary Belfield in May, Ivy Patman in June at the age of 98 and Jean Wilson in September at the age of 90. Jean had what might be a unique claim: she was born within 100m of the church, where she was baptised and worshipped throughout her life. Karri Killingley died in December 2018.

### DCC

We thank all members of the DCC and particularly those who are standing down this year.

### Bill and Mogs' Departure

On Easter Day, we shall bid farewell to Bill and Mogs Bazely who have ministered to us with devotion and commitment for the past four years. We shall wish them a fond farewell with sadness in our hearts but also with joy at having shared our worship and pastoral care together since their arrival in 2015.



Rev Bill Bazely

**Ken Franklin, DCC Secretary, April 2019**

## **St Thomas' District Church Council Report**

The DCC met four occasions since the last APCM. During the year planning and review of festival services took place, including services and activities to commemorate one hundred years of the end of the First World War.

During the year the DCC have also been involved in discussions with the Area Dean about the possibility of a covenant between our parish and St John's Walton, St Mark's Brampton and St Augustine's Churches. The aim of this is to more effectively share resources. These discussions continue.

The DCC also discussed the vision for a 0-18s Director of Mission and Ministry and this culminated in a giving campaign, recruitment drive, and finally the recruitment of Joel Botham who will join us in August 2019.

In December 2018, John Small, representing the Mission Committee, presented a report that reviewed the church's relationship to giving to charities. As a result it was agreed for the Mission Committee to invite the congregation to take part in a questionnaire that would decide on the charities that St Thomas' will support. More information is provided in the Mission Committee report.

With regard to estates, the DCC agreed plans for car park lighting so Sally-Anne Beecham wrote a faculty application to the Diocese and a planning application to Chesterfield Borough Council. Permission for the lights was given in March and works will start shortly. Additionally, the DCC were approached by the War Graves Commission regarding the positioning of a sign to indicate War Graves on site. The DCC agreed this installation, as did the Diocese, and, the sign has now been put up on our front gate.

In January 2019 a review of DCC took place in relation to the new congregational teams that have been set up. It was agreed that all DCC business could now be covered by the congregational teams, and so the committee agreed to discontinue the DCC from this point. It was agreed that if the need arose in the future it could be reinstated once more.

The DCC would like to take this opportunity to thank Julie Sparks, who has acted as DCC secretary for the past two years, and to past and present DCC members. Your hard work

and dedication has been vital to the smooth running of the church.

**Sally-Anne Beecham, Operations Manager, April 2019**

## **Parochial Church Council Report**

The PCC held five regular meetings plus a PCC Away Day (held in February 2019 at St Bartholomew's Church, Clay Cross).

Attendance at the meetings has been high and members have engaged in lively and informed debate over a number of issues. All the meetings have started with a short act of worship and prayer.

Although the PCC has to be involved in a number of administrative issues, their main role is to be strategic, looking at the direction our churches should be going and putting in place structures and resources for this to happen. The PCC has built on one of the major strategies launched last year - to develop and encourage mission.

### **The administrative issues the PCC dealt with include:**

- Agreeing the wording for a faculty to install additional lighting in the car park.
- Agreeing the wording for a faculty to mount a plaque in the West Porch for the recent tower repairs.
- Agreeing the wording for a faculty for the memorial wall in St Peter's Churchyard.
- Receiving and approving the annual accounts.
- Reviewing and approving the risk register.
- Reviewing and approving the safeguarding policy and implementation arrangements.
- Receiving regular reports from the Deanery and Diocese.
- Receiving and noting the points raised at the Quinquennial Inspections carried out at St Thomas' and St Peter's in 2018.

### **The strategic issues the PCC has considered include:**

Discussing the Area Dean's paper 'Enabling Growth in Mission through Practical and Geographical Reorganisation' now renamed 'The Deanery Missional Covenant'. This looks at different ways of working between the churches of St Thomas', St Peter's, St Mark's, St John's and SS Augustine's. Although this is still work in progress it has already shaped worship arrangements at SS Augustine's and interim arrangements for when Bill Bazley leaves St Peter's at Easter.

Looking at the relationship between St Thomas' Church and the Church Centre. Although the Centre is part of the church it is operating in a very different way to when it was opened initially eight years ago. The PCC thought it was time to review the relationship to ensure it is still meeting our missional aims and, on the practical side, to review the operating management arrangements and costs. This was discussed at the PCC Away Day based on the 'Great Commission' (Matthew 28:16-20) and our vision of 'disciples making disciples'.

As reported at last year's APCM the PCC has already decided the works to be carried out at St Thomas' in the future and there is some £50,000 available to start the works.

However, as there has been no progress on appointing a new Estates Manager/Coordinator these works have not been progressed to any extent.

### **Other matters**

The minutes of the PCC meeting are available for anyone to view. They are held in the Church Office and can be accessed when the Office is open. In addition to this the PCC has agreed to prepare a digest of each PCC meeting and make this available as soon after a PCC meeting has been held.

As Lay Chair of the PCC I would like to pass on thanks to all who serve on the PCC and encourage others to join those involved in this rewarding and vital aspect of church life.

**Mark Hoare (Churchwarden and Lay Chair of PCC), April 2019**

### **9.30am Congregational Leader's Report**

Let me break this report into three sections ("typical, David, three points!" do I hear you exclaim!) First, let me review the last year. Secondly, give thanks to all those who have served faithfully and sacrificially over the last 12 months. Finally, let's consider some hopes and dreams for the coming year.

In last year's report I outlined three developments for the coming twelve months. Let me remind you of what I wrote.

- Support and training for those who undertake to lead intercessions.
- Development of new liturgy for our monthly service of Morning Prayer.
- The establishment of a new Congregational Leadership Team to oversee the vision and development of this 9.30 service.

I am pleased to report that all three initiatives have been established and are now flourishing. Special thanks to Alison Cox for providing some excellent training sessions for those who lead our public intercessions. Also, my thanks to Alison Wells for heading up the development of our new monthly Morning Prayer liturgy.

I wrote last year that it's 'steady as she goes' at the 9.30 service. I am so thankful to our loving Lord that he obviously wasn't listening to my words! The gentle breeze of the Spirit has been felt over the last year. Numbers continue to rise, we have welcomed new people, our fellowship has deepened and our singing has improved! Long may the Lord's gentle spiritual renewal of his people continue!

I am constantly amazed at the numbers of people who, through their faithful service, keep the 9.30 service running like a well-oiled machine. My thanks to our musicians: Andrew Travis, Phillip Herrick and Paul Willis. My thanks to those who lead and preach at our services: Alison Wells, Alison and Martin Cox, Bill Galloway, Robin and Val Dawson, David and Nannette Sanderson. I don't have space to thank, by name, all those who serve so faithfully on our Welcome Team, those who lead our intercessions, those who lead us in our public reading from God's word and those who 'man the sound desk' at the back. Thank you all.

What of the coming year? The coming twelve months promises to include ventures to enhance and deepen our fellowship both within our 9.30 congregation and across the breadth of the St Thomas' family. These will include such things as: welcome lunches for those joining us, badge days for the congregation and a 'Getting to Know You' event for the whole church. We hope to also implement an audio and access audit across all services.

I conclude with the same words I used last year! It has been a joy and a privilege to serve as Congregational Leader at this service. Thank you for all your love and fellowship both to me and my family.



**Revd David Muncer, 9.30am Congregational Leader**

## **11am Congregational Leader's Report**

The highlight from the 11am service this year has got to be the baptism service we had in September. It was great to see six baptisms and two reaffirmations of baptism vows. One other real joy has been to see some of our children and young people getting involved in the service through the band and the sound desk. It's so good to see them leading all of us in worship on a regular basis. Our preaching series have continued to cycle through themes based on UP (worship) IN (discipleship) and OUT (mission). With preaching we've also welcome two new preachers from our congregation (Sally-Anne and Jon Wood) and it was also really refreshing to invite three outside speakers to give us a different flavor and find out what God is doing in other churches. I hope there will be more of this in the future.



**Revd David Owens, 11am Congregational Leader**

## 6pm Congregational Leader's Report

There have been a few changes at the 6pm service this year. With Matt on secondment to the Diocese, I took on the role of congregational leader. We've also put together a steering group to discuss and embark upon a specific identity for the service. One of the unique aspects of the service is - because of its size - the sense of community. So we'd like to capitalise on this and grow an even deeper sense of community as we go forward. We've been talking about becoming less of a service and more of a community. So in addition to a time of fellowship at the beginning of our gathering (we start with coffee at 6pm) we've introduced a longer and creative time of intercession including praying as a community for the world around us.

**Revd David Owens, 6pm Congregational Leader**

## Parish Operation Manager's Report

On behalf of all of us in the Parish Office, we would like to thank the congregation for their support over the past year, it's been as busy as ever, so thank you for your patience with us. We were sad to see Matt Barnes leave us in April 2018, but have been in safe hands with David Owens at the helm and are grateful for the smooth transition in leadership.

In January our Parish Statistics were submitted to the Diocese. They included our electoral roll figures from our April 2018 APCM, our Christmas and Easter attendance figures and attendance figures for the whole year. We were blessed to see an upward trend in all these areas. We also administered 8 weddings, 28 funerals and 20 baptisms in 2018. The baptism numbers particularly show a very healthy year.

In my role as Safeguarding Link I reviewed the safeguarding protocols in the Autumn. We currently have 77 people covered by a Disclosure and Barring check, with a further 4 in the process of application. These checks are for anyone working with children, young people and vulnerable adults. All of these are required to receive training every 5 years, and currently 65 have received this training. Risk assessments for all activities taking place on site have been completed, and relevant paperwork has been checked for those who hire our Centre with groups including children and vulnerable adults. Thank you to all of you who have supported us with our safeguarding protocols by completing paperwork and attending training, it really is appreciated.

In April 2019 we updated our **electoral roll**. Not only was this a year that required starting from scratch, but we had the additional issue of new Data Protection laws to contend with. This has meant we have been unable to contact those who come to church less regularly, as they have not completed a consent form. These factors have meant we have a considerably lower roll than last year. The new roll includes 232 people at St Thomas' and 41 at St Peter's, making our parish roll **273** (this is a decrease from 292 at St Thomas' and 54 at St Peter's in 2018).

In terms of **staffing**, Julie Sparks has continued to work Mondays, Fridays, and Tuesday mornings in the Parish Office, which has been an incredible support to me. Shell Depledge continues her 16 hours a week managing our communications. Her post was reviewed in November and her working pattern has altered to include working mainly from home and coming in to the office once a week. Letty Underdown continues as

Youth Coordinator for 6 hours a week, but we said goodbye to Abbie Hall in December who stepped down as Youth Worker. We are thankful to Abbie for the eighteen months she worked supporting Letty and the members of our youth group. Jane Simmonds continues to work 12 hours a week as our Community Coordinator and Mark Depledge continues to work 21 hours a week coordinating our musical worship and various outreach projects. Carla Jackson joined the staff team in August; she has worked six hours a week coordinating the Sunday children's work and has done a great job. She has agreed to continue with this until Joel Botham, our new 0-18 Director, starts in post. I have continued in my management role for 23 hours a week and have been blessed to work with this team.

As well as my part time role here at St Thomas', I have additionally been training for ordination. Three years has gone by very quickly and I now leave the Operations post in order to prepare for my curacy in June 2019 at Bakewell Benefice and SS Augustine's Chesterfield. I am delighted that Julie Barton is taking over from me, I can't think of anyone more suitable. I have loved working at St Thomas' these past eight years, and worshipping here for twelve, and it will be difficult to leave. However, I know it's the right thing and you have all helped me to prepare for this next stage; I can't thank you enough for all your support, love and friendship.



**Sally-Anne Beecham, Parish Operations Manager and Parish Safeguarding Link, April 2019**

## **St Thomas' Ministry Team Area Reports:**

### **Children and Families**

Children's work continues to be offered each Sunday morning at the 11am service. Numbers of children in attendance fluctuates, but our average number is thirty-five per week. We are currently running a crèche group for pre-school aged children in the Suite, an Infants and Juniors aged group in one of the Centre meeting rooms and school years 6-8 group in the hall. All the leaders and helpers do an amazing job and parents/carers are incredibly grateful for the time and expertise they give. We have also had a small group of volunteers who have stepped in at the last minute when we've needed cover and this has also been crucial and enabled the activities to run.

One area of development is a family area that has been set up at the back of church. The sofas, cushions, mats and toys are designed for parents/carers with children who cannot be left in the crèche. It has been ideal for those with babies and those with special needs.

Tots' Cafe is thriving, with between thirty and forty families from the community each week. We have a great team of volunteers and relationships are forming. Please pray for this ministry as it develops.

Messy Church met five times during the year and sessions were based on the themes of Jesus' I Am – the Way, the Resurrection, the Vine, the Bread, and Advent. A variety of crafts and activities have been done to highlight stories about our themes, followed by a short talk/worship time. We are blessed with Mark Depledge, Jonathan Wood and David Owens being able to lead the worship time. In April we had sixty-three children, followed by our lowest numbers ever in June - only seven children! However, it was in the middle of the heat-wave and there had been a school fair in the morning, but lower numbers make conversations with families much easier. Numbers have averaged at thirty-three children and twenty-two adults plus a very faithful and loyal team.

A huge thank you to all those who are involved in Children's and Families Ministry, it is hugely important to the lives of all those who attend.



**Tots' Café team**

**Carla Jackson, temporary Children's Work Coordinator, April 2019**

## **Communications**

Michelle Depledge continues to manage our communications and these include a weekly notice sheet, St Thomas' website, Facebook and Twitter pages and our emailed communications, as well as the posters and flyers she designs and produces to advertise our activities. In addition, Mark Depledge produces video notices, which are shown on a Sunday and online. The aim of all this is to keep every member of the congregation informed about what has happened and what will be taking place, as well as any members of our community who take an interest. You can aid this process massively by engaging with these communication tools.

After a review of communications, the decision was taken to reduce the number of emails being sent out from the office. One weekly email is now sent out to everyone who has completed a data protection consent form and requested to be on that list. The email includes all the information received by the office, including that week's notice sheet. This email also focuses on our parish vision of *Disciples Making Disciples*.

We are always trying to improve communication so do let us know if you have any ideas how we can do so. As always, timely information from you about what is taking place can really help us to inform the whole church.

## Words from our Ploughshare editor – Marie Witham

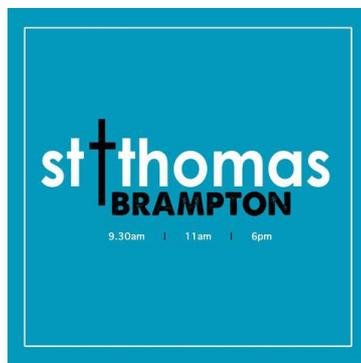
Our Parish Magazine, *Ploughshare*, is still being produced. The magazine started in 1870, so next year will be 150 years old! From 1976 to 1992 it was called *Spearhead* and the 1976 editorial team stated that:

'the Church has something important and exciting to proclaim and the magazine is not just for those who attend on Sundays – but is especially for those who do not. Jesus was concerned with people and their needs. The magazine will reflect church matters, but hopefully its chief concern will be that of Jesus – the ordinary life of people'.

The name changed to *Ploughshare* in 1992. Doug Inger edited the magazine for 15 years up to 1991 (his wife still reads the magazine), Sue Ward took on the role from 1991 to 2006 and Mark Hoare was editor from 2006 to 2014. A team of people then took over from February 2014, of which I was one, but for various reasons I am now the sole editor (aided by Tony as proof-reader and photocopier magician!). We print and collate the magazine in the church office and put it into the bundles for the team of distributors to deliver. Although the number printed has dropped by about 50 since 2014, people can now also read the magazine on the website (unfortunately we do not know how many people access it in this way).

I see the magazine as the 1976 editor did and in reflecting David Owens' 'Up, In and Out' model of church. For the 'Up', I hope the magazine glorifies God and demonstrates the worship that takes place both at St Thomas' and St Peter's. For the 'In' we include information, letters and articles about courses and conferences which aim to feed the flock, and for the 'Out' we include articles on our Mission Partners and other community outreach projects and activities.

HOW CAN YOU HELP? - Please send me articles / poems etc that you think may be of interest by email to [editor@st-thomas-brampton.org](mailto:editor@st-thomas-brampton.org). Also, do let me have your comments about what you would like to see included and what you like and don't like. We are a community of individuals, spanning two church sites, with different talents and skills; I hope the magazine reflects our diversity and that this demonstrates our love for God and his people.



**Michelle Depledge, Communications Coordinator, April 2019**

## Community Outreach

A special thank you goes to all volunteers who run or help run the following established groups, activities and projects, listed simply in order of regularity .....

**Knit and Natter +** continues to have over 80 members, with in the region of 50 attending each week. Members love to get involved with various church events and festivals, as well as more widespread projects. **A small team held craft sessions at an adult with learning difficulties workshop at Brookfield school last summer.**

**'Lunch with Ashgate Croff'** continues to be such a blessing to the students of Ashgate Croff, 'lunchers' and volunteers. Our weekly highlight is when the students teach us the sign for our 'thought for the day' word, followed by their school creed.

**Community Evening** is held most Friday evenings in various homes, and is an excellent way to encourage new church members to meet others, more informally.

**Baby Basics**, providing Moses Baskets and 'New Born' essentials, to vulnerable mums and families via healthcare professionals and related organisations, celebrates three years in April. Throughout 2018, 75 Moses Basket starter packs were provided, in addition to 29 other items/clothing/pushchairs. We are especially pleased to have started supporting midwives in Derby, and their work with mums at a trafficking refuge. Our next stage is to find and encourage a church in Derby to register as a Baby Basics centre more locally.

**ASD/ADHD Parent/Carer Support Group** led by Clare Griffiths, is an invaluable monthly support group for those looking after children with Autistic Spectrum Disorders, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorders and other hidden disabilities.

**Food Market** coordinated by Graham Wells, continues to be a popular event on the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of the month [excluding January, July and August], particularly when coinciding with....

**Craft Markets** [April, November and December] which are an opportunity to help a small number of local people promote their small enterprises. A few charities are also able to promote their work.

**Community Notice Board** A big thank you to Alette Purdham who manages the content of our community notice board near Morrisons; this is a good opportunity to advertise local activities.

**Festival Market** The October market, previously linked with the Chatsworth Road Festival, seems to be continuing the trend, encouraging pop-up stalls, charities, music and outside activity.

**Val's Free Advice Sessions** evolved to being offered 'by appointment' as opposed to weekly. A number of people have benefitted from and appreciate this confidential service – thank you Valerie for sharing your expertise.

**Christmas Tree Festival** - provides a wonderful opportunity for us as a church to engage with over 1,500 visitors, including our local schools and businesses. It provides an opportunity to invite visitors along to a variety of Christmas activities and services, in addition to it simply being an event where everyone feels comfortable and welcome.

**The Food Bank** collection at the back of church supports a growing need within Chesterfield communities, and thankfully continues to be well supported.

**Walking Group** - Liz Travis coordinates a number of walks during the course of the year – another brilliant activity to direct new church and community members who

share a love of the outdoors. A new programme for 2019 can be found at the back of church.

**Running Community**, coordinated by Anna Wild is an encouraging group for new and existing runners. Although not able to run *together* terribly often, new members are welcome to join the Facebook page where people share their runs - ups and downs! [being a closed group, leave your email address at the church office for Anna to invite you].

The **Community Fund** fund is currently healthy due to proceeds from Phil Johnson's book sales, although a great proportion of the money is being treated as a 'restricted fund' for 9 months.

UNFORTUNATELY, our

**Community Action** team is close to folding due to a lack of volunteers. This is unfortunate as there is considerable need for 'practical help' within our community. We are currently having to turn requests away, so if you have a few hours to spare, or you think your life group could engage in this community focus, do please get in touch.

In addition to the above, we continued our Heritage Awareness Programme [HAP], set up to engage our wider community with the heritage of our church and surrounding area following a successful application for funding to repair the church tower. Following on from 2017, we hosted two further organ recitals; enjoyed a number of traditional craft demonstrations at our October Festival Market, offered more Tower Tours; our 'Kidz Guide' to St Thomas' Church, suitable for key stage 1 and 2 was finished, complementing the adult guide. Tony Witham worked tirelessly to record burial records online, launching the website: <http://www.burialrecords.org.uk> at the end of 2018. Such a lot of work – do have a look. Throughout May we ran a project in conjunction with Karen Herrick and Harlequin Arts called Scrapbook and Soup. It was, as the title suggests 6 interestingly themed mornings, based on church heritage themes - which led into personal heritage recollections, recorded and decorated within a very personal scrapbook. It proved to be very popular, interesting and fun, for volunteers and participants alike! We are discussing the possibility of a more sustainable programme for later in 2019. One of our biggest HAP commitments had been to compile a booklet on the heritage of the church and/or the community. After months of deliberating, the tribute to Phil Johnson 'More than an Ironmonger' evolved. Working closely with Phil's family, friends and members of the community we were able to record and preserve a talk that Phil had given himself some years earlier, along with other inclusions, relevant to the brief. It has sold over 550 copies to date; proceeds going to the St Thomas' Community Fund. Throughout November we held a WW1 exhibition – the culmination of four year's work researching, recording and displaying such an enormous amount of information - some local families read about family members they were not even aware of! Sincere thanks goes to Pam Brimelow for devoting *hours* of her time researching, and also to Maureen Watts for her help and support throughout. St Thomas' took part in the initiative 'Ringing out for Peace' on Armistice Day 2018 at 7.05pm, peeling our bells along with thousands of other churches up and down the country. The remaining few HAP projects and activities are being



planned for 2019 before embarking on the necessary evaluations, assessing the value and effectiveness of the two year activity programme.

*If you have helped or supported our Community ministry, whether practically, prayerfully, financially or otherwise - as a group leader, team member or volunteer welcomer, please accept a most sincere THANK YOU. The welcome our community receives, connections made, and relationships formed, are a crucial part of our ministry here at St Thomas', so thank you for being such a valuable part of that. Whilst I hate singling people out, thank you especially to Marie Witham who works alongside me, and to Mike Alton, for his unquestioning support. [If you would like to help in this particular area of church life do please get in touch.]*

**Jane Simmonds, Community Worker, April 2019**

## **Discipleship Ministry Team**

### **Small Groups**

Please see David's comments in the Acting Rector's report.

### **Alpha Course**

We ran an Alpha course this year from January to April with 15 participants. For the first time we used the new Alpha film series, alongside our usual smaller discussion groups, and have been really pleased with how it has gone. The course also included a quiet day at St Peter's Church where we focused on the Holy Spirit. We plan to offer another Alpha course in the Autumn. Please keep praying about who you can invite.

**Sally-Anne Beecham, Discipleship, April 2019**

## **Estates**

It's been a busy year for the Estates team and we continue to be extremely grateful for all the hard work the volunteers do behind the scenes – you know who you are. Although we have not had an official Estates Team Leader, Tim Leteve has stepped up to coordinate works where needed and we are particularly grateful to him for this.

If you'd like to know what the workload has been like this year for the Estates team, this will give you an idea, they have: replaced 48 light bulbs, repaired 4 fire door handles, mended and maintained patio chairs, replaced a fly zapper, mended a fridge seal and door hinge, touched up paintwork, re-fixed an accessible toilet seat, adjusted taps, adjusted toilet flushes, changed a fan, cleaned out fat traps (yuk!), unblocked gents toilet (double yuk!), tightened window latches, replaced door seals, mended a lock, replaced a lock, replaced a spotlight, regularly checked emergency lighting, fire alarm and hot water, cleared 7 gullies in the car park, laid stone to the path, filled holes in tarmac, cleaned out bin stall, liaised with a neighbour over parking, wound the clock every week as well as taking the bins down the lane to be emptied. To name a few!

In addition, contractors have been in to paint walls, clear gutters, sort leaking radiators and pipes, mended Centre main doors and service and repair boilers.

The church office has also been involved in applying for a Diocesan faculty and Council planning for new lights in the car park, and this work should start soon.

In August 2018, we had our Quinquennial Inspection and were pleased that no major works were requested as a result. There are a number of smaller works to do as a result and an action plan has been devised to tackle these through the year.

**Sally-Anne Beecham April 2018**

## **Finance**

The Finance Team has provided the usual monthly summaries of receipts and payments, comparing performance with budget. A detailed comparison of expenses against budget has also been provided quarterly to the budget holders.

At both churches it has been a struggle to balance income with expenditure. This underlines the continuing need for more giving to keep pace with increased costs, but particularly to provide the resources for fulfilling the plans to extend the Church's mission into the community.

About one third of regular committed donors now channel their giving through the Parish Giving Scheme which takes over the task of collecting Gift Aid Tax and remits the proceeds to the Church on a timely basis, thereby relieving the treasurer of some of his work. The scheme works well and perhaps those donors who still give direct to the Church by standing order could be encouraged to route their giving through the scheme.

A welcome gift pack has recently become available to encourage newcomers, in particular, to make a regular commitment to help resource the work of the Church, which, in the case of St Thomas', costs around £4,000 per week.

The financial report for 2018 will be included in an accounts booklet to be presented to the annual parochial church meeting and this report will cover the whole of the parish including St Peter's. The report will also include a statement from the Independent Examiner as required by charity law.

The team prepared the budget for 2019 from submissions received and the PCC agreed the budget at their meeting in December. The figures call for another substantial increase in giving and during 2019 this will again be a major task for the Finance Team and the whole Church.

**David Oldale, Treasurer, April 2019**

## **Men's Ministry**

### **General men's ministry**

While there has not been much growth we've continued with sporadic sporting events and occasional pub quiz nights and we plan to expand our cricket fixtures this season and have a group of blokes attending The Gathering. Whilst I continue to lead the men's

ministry I'm also on the look out for anyone who has a real passion for men's ministry and a calling from God to drive things forward with his vision and direction.

**Mark Depledge, Lay Ministry Development Officer, April 2019**

### **Thom's Blokes**

We met eleven times during the year with an average attendance of twenty-four. The lowest attendance was fourteen and the highest thirty-four. We had a trip on the Ecclesfield Railway, one to the Armouries at Leeds and the National Coal mining museum at Caphouse. Talks included The Civil War in Derbyshire, The Building of the Railway across British Columbia, in Canada, and a talk on Caving in the Peak District. The Christmas event was the final meeting of the year, which included a surprise visit from Libby Lane, the new Bishop of Derby, who served the meal!

**David Sanderson, April 2019**

### **Tools with a Mission**

We have had a good year with a number of opportunities to do promotional work with church, community groups and with outdoor festivals and fun days. The big thing, for which we praise the Lord, is the provision of storage space at Wigley in a portacabin and a container. During the year we have sent off three van loads of tools to the depots at Coventry and Ipswich, which will then find their way to Africa. We have a great team of volunteers working well together from around Chesterfield and Dronfield. We look forward to another good year in 2019.

**David Sanderson, April 2019**

## **Mission Committee**

Throughout this year the World Mission Committee has continued to provide a link between the church and the six designated mission partnerships. We also have provided support for a number of associate mission partners and individuals serving God in many different ways both locally and abroad.

Each designated mission partnership has a church rep that maintains a link with the 'charity/partnership' and provides feedback and information for the church on developments as well as requests for support in prayer and practical ways. Information is shared by way of the mission notice board, *Mission Matters* prayer letters, mission Sundays, as well as regular 'slots' in the Sunday services highlighting the work of the partnership, outlining developing situations and by our responding with practical and financial help. We have also had the opportunity of workers from different partnerships preaching at our services bringing their first-hand experience and a real challenge for all to get involved.

Over the past year the Mission Committee has sought to promote the work of mission on behalf of the church and to be a witness to the Love of God in many different ways. Sometimes it is easy to talk about mission and to arrange transfer of funds to the supported causes. What we continue to seek to achieve is to act out mission both within the church and outside in our community, nationally and on an international stage. There are many competing demands for our time and resources, so it is important to ensure that we set our minds and abilities to making a difference and ensuring that Jesus is at the centre of what we do. The past year has seen an emphasis on laying a foundation of prayer to underpin the work of following Jesus' expectation of us being his witnesses. We have sought to achieve this by the provision of information through sharing within services.

*Mission Matters* has focused on different works with a view to prompting prayer. In these and other differing ways, the objective is to include the whole church in being a light in a dark place and salt in a tasteless world.

In 2018 the Mission Committee, on behalf of the whole church, made grants and provided support of £16,500. The majority of this (80%) was shared with our 6 main Mission Partners.

- Church on the Bus and Walbrook in Derby meet local needs in our town and diocese.
- Christian Vision For Men witnessed on a national basis.
- Church Mission Society, Tearfund and Christian Solidarity Worldwide worked internationally to spread the gospel, responding to human suffering and care for the persecuted church.

Other works supported ranged from programmes in Chesterfield working with the vulnerable elements in our society, to projects striving to care for the orphaned and those needing medical care in Africa.

Clearly, what we do at St Thomas' does make a difference and it is important to so many who have little of the privileges found in our comfortable lifestyle. However, the Mission Committee in conjunction with the church leadership are not prepared to sit back and be satisfied with what we do. In view of that, the next few years will see a shift in emphasis to ensure that we have a greater depth of involvement and support for some of our partnerships. The objective will be to provide a greater awareness and support for those works. This will be led by the Mission Committee but if it is to work, it is necessary for it to be put into practice by all the members of the church.

As chair and treasurer of the Mission Committee I have witnessed the hard work and dedication by the committee members in promoting and caring about their partnerships. I have also been involved in and seen the achievements by the associate partnerships, often lead by members of the congregation. I would like to recognise the efforts and achievements of all directly involved in Mission and give thanks to God for their vision, application and care shown in serving Jesus in this day and age.

**John Small, Mission Committee Chair, April 2019**

## **Seniors' Ministry**

### **Rendezvous**

Rendezvous caters for the older people both in the church and local community. At our monthly meetings we hear a variety of interesting talks and have enthusiastically taken part in quizzes, table and floor games. We have fun together, appreciate the friendship of others, enjoy our 2-course lunch and learn more about faith in God at our 'Time for Reflection'. It is, to put in a nutshell, friendship, faith, food and fun. We have new people join us and have also sadly said 'goodbye' to those who have gone from us.

Our two outings this year have taken us to places of interest and enjoyed by all. We have celebrated special birthdays throughout the year. Our Publicity Officer keeps us up to date on special events happening at St Thomas' with an invitation to attend. We finished

2018 with a special Christmas party and even had Father Christmas come to visit us with a present for us all!

We have a team of keen volunteers who work hard to make Rendezvous a success. We meet at the Church Centre on the first Thursday of every month from 10.30am – 1.30pm. If you would like more information about Rendezvous please contact either Nanette Sanderson (Tel: 231115) or David Oldale (Tel: 272333). You are very welcome to come and join us.



### **Residential Homes**

Our small dedicated team, often supported by clergy, have visited the two care homes in the parish, Brookholme and Chatsworth Lodge, on a monthly basis. We are rewarded by the smiles on the faces of many of the residents as they join in the worship, being reminded of their own Church life or simply realising that Jesus is amongst them. If anyone reading this feels drawn to join in this ministry please give it a try. More details from David Oldale.

**Nanette Sanderson and David Oldale, Seniors' Coordinators, April 2019**

### **Women's Ministry**

The Women's Ministry has had a largely quiet year with just The Blessing Course (Fllad-y-Brenin/Grace Outpouring/The Way of Blessing people) taking place in the Autumn term. It was a good course and has subsequently been run by two other existing house groups, including the Thursday Morning Ladies' Group which continues to offer invaluable support, friendship and discipleship.

The Women's Ministry team have spent some of the last term praying and asking for God's direction for the future of the ministry to line up with the church's current focus on 'Disciples Making Disciples'. It very much seemed that the ministry had come to a natural end – at least in its existing format. We thank God for and celebrate that which has gone before, but now look forward with excitement to a new season and a new way of doing things.

Our new vision is to run a Friday morning Centre-based group that provides a welcoming, relaxed space for those who want to explore spirituality and faith in a creative environment.

We hope to establish a rhythm through the month that will incorporate times of prayer, get togethers in the Coffee Bar and a monthly creative session to invite friends and family

along to and where we can gently point people to Jesus and share experiences. Our prayer is that it will be a place of nurturing, support, gentleness, welcome, openness and safety.

We are just at the start of the journey and will not even have properly launched before this update is printed... so we wait with great anticipation and expectation of what God is going to do in and through this group.

For anyone with questions or who would like to see the vision document, please contact Emma Atkinson ([ec\\_atkinson@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:ec_atkinson@yahoo.co.uk)). And as ever, your prayers are always greatly appreciated.

**Emma Atkinson, Women's Ministry Coordinator, April 2019**

## **Worship**

**Welcome** – Our welcome team continues to do a great job during services, especially at welcoming newcomers to church. Thank you to all those who are involved in this way.

**Prayer** – Prayer is a regular part of St Thomas' both on a Sunday and during the week. A new initiative this year has been prayer partners, where people have been partnered up to pray between Easter and the summer. This has largely been cross-congregational, which has helped to build relationships.

**Bells** – Our bells have been rung for weddings this year and for a commemorative service on 11 November marking the end of World War 1. Our bells joined thousands of others across the country on this day.

**Flower Arranging** – Pauline Kelshaw and the team are doing an excellent job. We have been blessed by beautiful arrays of flowers and are very grateful for the work they do.

**PA and Visuals** – Thank you to all those who operate our sound desk during services, it is crucial to the smooth running of our Sunday worship. This year training has been made available. PA and visual training is commencing and we look to add 3/4 new members to the rota from April 2019 onwards.

**Sacristans** – We have an experienced team of sacristans who support the services by setting up for communion and clearing away, as well as changing the seasonal altar coverings. Thank you to all those involved.

**Refreshments** – This too is a crucial part of our time together on a Sunday, particularly for newcomers. Thank you to all those who serve.

**Music Worship** - The worship team has had a number of new members recently with contacts with organists who are willing to play occasionally, eliminating the need for CD tracks at the 9:30 service, as well as new young musicians joining the team and featuring regularly at the 11am service.

**Rotas** – And all this is kept running smoothly by our rotas. Rotas are never easy to compile and we are therefore very grateful to those of you who are involved in creating them.

As you can see, we need an army of volunteers to keep our services going and there are always vacancies that need filling. If you feel led to serve in this way, please have a word with a member of the clergy or one of the Church Wardens.

**Sally-Anne Beecham, April 2019**

## Youth Ministry

This year has been an interesting year with the Youth including lots of developments and change. Near the start of 2018 we had a big party to say goodbye to a number of the older ones who had grown out of Youth. It was a great celebration to end their time in the group.

The focus then became Youth Alpha. We met for weekly meetings with snacks and discussions, whilst watching the Youth Alpha series and we had some new members join us. Twelve took part in the course, all enjoyed it and fed back how they had gained a lot from it. They all agreed that the course had either started them on their faith journey or developed it. As a youth worker, I would totally recommend the course, it's very well done.

With various socials and BBQ's, etc., this took us up to the summer term where we made our annual trip to Soul Survivor. The group who went had a great time. In September we said goodbye to more of the older Youth who headed off to University.

The Youth team then focused on delivering an in-house course inspired by 'The Girl Deconstruction' project. All who attended the project felt they had a good time and their confidence in themselves and how God sees them grew. Also in the Autumn I began a Theology, Mission and Ministry Certificate to develop my studies and knowledge.

Towards the end of the 2018, I began to liaise with Brookfield School and have started to build relationships there. I am hoping to deliver a Mentoring Project in the school for young people struggling with low-level mental health issues.

We now have a small, but wonderfully lovely group of young people in St Thomas' Youth and we regularly meet for hot chocolate in the Coffee Bar and for socials. We are currently discussing a fresh vision for this group. Your prayers are always appreciated.



**Letty Underdown, Youth Coordinator, April 2019**

## **St Thomas' Centre**

This year the Centre has continued to support church and serve the community and has grown from strength to strength with the help of loyal customers as well as lots of new faces finding the Coffee Bar for the first time. It has been a place that schools have visited and groups have met finding friendship and community.

The Centre has been host to many events over the last year including church breakfasts, Easter lunches and hot cross bun events, supported by the coffee bar team, as well as the many other activities including Alpha, Messy Church and Rendezvous.

In the last year the Centre has welcomed a number of new groups and we already have bookings for 2021!

The Coffee Bar team are creating new menus including lots of fresh and tasty new food. We are buying from as many local suppliers as we can and including Fairtrade products in our purchases. The Centre has also made the swap to free range eggs in the last year.

As a Centre we have focused heavily on our waste and the amount of food we produce and this has helped us to reduce the amount of waste that goes into the bins. To do this we have begun composting, and giving away coffee grind and bottle tops. We have also found effective ways to deal with glass waste and moved onto fully compostable cups and takeout boxes.

The staff team has worked extremely hard this year and grown together becoming more family-like. We currently employ eighteen local people in addition to our amazing volunteers. If you would like to find out more about becoming a volunteer in the Centre, please come and speak to me.

Dreams for the next year include the development of a community garden, to increase our stewardship of the earth and provide an activity that people can participate together in. We are also looking at more ways that the Church and the Centre can work together in, and how the Centre staff team can further support the life of the Church.

**Beth Robson-Smith, Centre and Business Development Manager, April 2019**

**STB Directors - Sally-Anne Beecham, Phil Bird, Mark Hoare, David Owens, Ian Simmons and Chris Sellars.**