

Ploughshare

st **thomas**
BRAMPTON

LOCAL CHURCH LOVING JESUS CHANGING LIVES



STOP PRESS

Rev'd Canon Matthew Barnes

Following the appointment of Rev'd Canon Sue Jones as the next Dean of Liverpool Cathedral Rev'd Canon Matt Barnes, Rector of St Thomas Brampton with St Peter's Holymoorside has been invited to take up a 6-36 month full-time secondment to lead the Diocesan Mission team (Director of Mission, Evangelism & Pioneering) and to give extra capacity to the wider Mission & Ministry Department based at Church House, Derby.

Matt will continue to live in the Rectory but serve as Rector of St Thomas' in name only for the duration of his secondment. The Rev'd David Owens will assume responsibility as *acting* Rector and will lead the parish during Matt's absence. Certain initiatives, most notably the Hope House project and the proposed Chesterfield deanery Church plant, Matt will remain closely connected to.

Matt said, "I'll really miss being involved with such a great group of people but I'm thrilled to be able to support the diocese in this vital area of its life at such an exciting time of change and transition. I look forward to returning to parish ministry in the not too distant future".

Matt's appointment will help the diocese maintain momentum whilst giving the new Bishop of Derby (*once appointed*) maximum flexibility to move forward in the way they feel best.

Commissioning prayers will be said for Matt at St Thomas' on Easter Sunday morning and there will be opportunity to say an informal au revoir during the Easter parish lunch on Easter Day. Matt will visit Holymoorside after Easter to be with the St Peter's congregation. Matt's last official act before beginning his secondment will be to Chair the parish APCM. Matt (and David's) new role(s) will begin formally on Monday, 16th April 2018.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Matt, David, and their families as they all adjust to new roles and responsibilities. As Erica Clegg prayed at the 11 o'clock service we should also pray that God will guide each one of us to look at how we offer support to the staff, David Mouncer, all the readers and churchwardens and the activities of the Church.

At times the Christian faith can feel like a complex business. There are so many different churches and denominations, hundreds of thousands of books about various aspects of faith. Then there's the Bible. It's such a big book it can be hard to even know where to start and some bits can seem incomprehensible. Even in our own heads we'll have lots of questions about what we believe and why. In a sense this is hardly surprising because we believe in an infinite God who - although knowable - is also a mystery.

Perhaps some words of Jesus can help us out, because although our faith is complex, in a sense it is also straightforward.

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind”; and, ‘Love your neighbour as yourself.’ (Luke 10.27)

This neatly sums up the life of discipleship. At first glance it appears Jesus is asking two things of us here, but actually there are three simple things:

1. Love God
2. Love others
3. Love yourself (*'...as yourself.'*)

If you've been a Christian for any length of time I'm presuming you know the first two things well. God wants us to love him and to love other people (even our enemies - Matthew 5.44). But sadly I've found that when it comes to loving yourself - well this is something that we regularly neglect.

Now you might say, well hang on a minute, it's a bit self centred to love yourself. What's that got to do with the call to humility that we see in the New Testament? What I'd say to you is that we've got a misunderstanding of humility. As someone once said: 'Humility isn't thinking less of yourself, it's thinking of yourself less.' For many of us we desperately need to rediscover our true identity in Christ and start living in it. The first step of that is to love yourself. Here's two reasons why we should do this.

God loves us. If God loves us what gives us the right not to love ourselves. If we talk ourselves down then guess what? We're also talking God down. It's a bit like criticising a painting and expecting the critique not to be a criticism of the artist. You are a beautiful painting, and God is a mighty artist. CS Lewis once said that if we don't forgive ourselves is like setting up a higher court than God's. It's the same here. The verdict is out - you are lovely! It's how God sees you.

If we don't love ourselves how can we love our neighbour. 'Love your neighbour *as yourself*' Jesus says. Well what if I don't love myself very much. That means we're not going to love our neighbour much either. I'm confident that Jesus wasn't after that kind of response.

God's plan is to show his love to this world, and he did that through his Son (John 3.16). His mantle was passed on to the Church (you) - the body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12.27 - look it up). You are part of God's plan. But to fully engage with this calling we need to love ourselves.

Over the Spring and Summer we'll be looking at aspects of our real identity at the 11am Sunday service. If you want to find out more then why not join us. For now I'll leave you with a verse of scripture for your personal reflection. It's how God sees you, his Church.

'But you are a *chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.*' (1 Peter 2.9)

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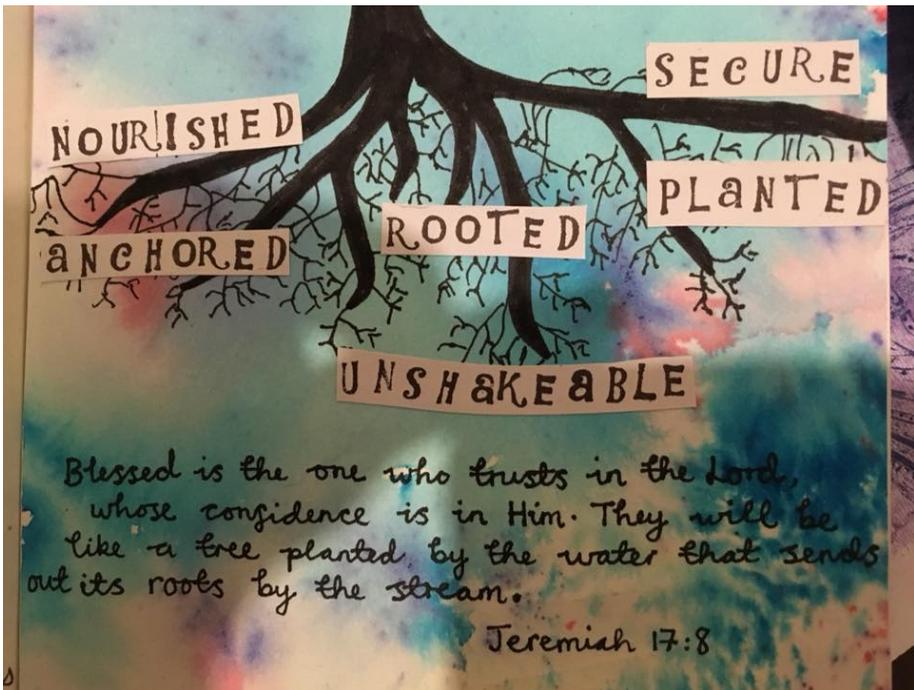
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Chesterfield's Second Creative Arts Retreat

Karen Herrick

To grow anything takes preparation, toil and patience. So, too with us. Preparing the soil ready for planting in our lives can often be messy, muddy and exhausting work and takes the commitment of a lifetime ... so why do we often expect spiritual growth to happen in an instance?

Over the weekend of the creative arts retreat we provided space, reflection and creative opportunities to explore the theme of spiritual growth in our lives, to ask the question "How can we each help prepare the soil of our spirit?"



We spent time, facilitating quiet space to be still before God, hearing from Scripture and asking Him to help us as we sought to dig the soil of our lives, in readiness for God to grow the dreams He has planted within us.

Through Bible readings and led creative reflections each morning, afternoon and evening, we explored how we must each be prepared to surrender all to God and to let go of self to plant seeds of the Gospel; how we must be nourished through Scripture and spiritual discipline to flourish where we have been planted; prepared to go deeper with God to be rooted in Him. How, if we tend and nurture all that God has planted in us, then we also need to allow seasonal pruning - for this will grow lasting fruit for harvest in us and others' lives. We looked at the cyclical nature of the seasons and how after harvest, we have choice whether to let the fruit rot, keep all that God has given us for ourselves, or gather the abundant harvest and share it with others.



All this, amidst an array of creative arts workshops for participants to choose from! We provided seven different workshops including batik, Bible journaling, lino print, textiles, and wood turning through 7 different Christian artists from around the Midlands. 30

participants arrived from all over the country to take time out to listen to God and went home, weary but refreshed, renewed and encouraged to continue to serve God.

This is some of the feedback we received: “A wonderful weekend - I have returned home feeling very blessed and inspired both spiritually and creatively... one of the best retreats I have been on”, “gentle thought provoking reflective questions”, “excellent retreat and so well prepared - all the details added to the retreat... God’s Word was upheld and God glorified; very inspirational. Meals were brilliant.”

For me, whatever I have done in my life, at the root of it, has been the calling to draw others closer to God through creativity. Whether this has been through children’s ministry, community workshops, retreats or quiet days, I am trying to use what I have been gifted with to fulfil that calling. I wonder how your God given gifts enable others to grow? Perhaps God might be calling you to grow deeper with Him?

May we each use our gifts wherever we are to honour God and draw others to Him.



STREET AND SCHOOL PASTORS

Tony Witham

The third weekend in March was a special time in Chesterfield as Rev Les Isaac OBE and his wife Louise spent 3 days in town visiting local churches. Les is the founder of Ascension Trust, a Christian charity that he set up in 1993 with the objective of '**equipping people to serve**'. Two of Ascension Trust's very successful initiatives are the Street Pastors and the School Pastors. In Chesterfield a team of Street Pastors patrol the streets every week on Saturday nights and into the small hours of Sunday morning, offering practical help and a listening ear to all. At Parkside School a dedicated team of School Pastors have become an integral part of school life, listening, helping and mentoring young people.

On the Friday afternoon Les and Louise visited Parkside School, meeting staff, pupils and school pastors and being told about the amazing achievements that have been made there. Later on Friday they visited ROC Café at Grace Chapel to meet with the volunteer helpers and young people.

The next day about 80 people enjoyed an excellent lunch at St Johns Church, Walton, before settling back to listen to Les talk about the work of Street Pastors and School Pastors. After becoming a Minister he had begun to question how relevant the church was, and had taken to going out into the streets to talk to people in his local area. He described how a senior police officer had challenged him to do something about knife crime. These experiences led firstly to the formation of the Ascension Trust and later to the first Street Pastor patrol in Brixton. Les talked about how everyone involved in the night time economy were so enthusiastic about the positive impact that Street Pastors make. Les concluded his talk by saying that he hoped that some of the people present would be inspired to volunteer. The event was an excellent opportunity not only for Street Pastors from Chesterfield, Derby and further afield to meet up, but also for others to learn more about the work of Street and School Pastors.

Later that day Les and his wife were present at St Mary and All Saints Church for a service to commission a new Street Pastor and three new School

Pastors. A member of staff from the Parkside School and the School Pastor Co-ordinator both spoke passionately about the positive effects the school pastors have. A Police officer spoke about the assistance offered at night time by the Street Pastors – unfortunately other contributors were unable to attend due to the snow! Les preached on the theme of the parable of the Good Samaritan, calling on all of us to **take risks**, have **compassion**, and be **generous**. He pointed out how the Priest and the Levite were not prepared to take the risk of stopping to help someone whilst they were on a dangerous stretch of road. Similarly neither of them showed any compassion for the injured man. However the Samaritan was prepared to take a risk, showed great compassion and then was generous in his offering of money to the innkeeper for the care of a man who was a stranger. Les stressed the need to for us 'take a risk' and get out of our churches and into the community. Otherwise he said, we would simply 'sit in our pews and get woodworm in our posteriors!'

On the Sunday morning the Isaacs braved the snow and the icy wind to attend the Central Methodist Church on Saltergate. Again Les preached, this time based upon Jesus' call for us to be the 'salt of the earth' and 'the light of the world'. He talked about the need for Christians to be **relevant** in the modern world. He emphasised how Jesus' use of the word salt was very relevant to his audience as they were familiar with the everyday use of salt within their religious ceremonies, in cooking and eating, and in preserving food. Likewise we must make sure that our deeds and our words are seen to be relevant. Les related how angry and frustrated he had been to hear a radio commentator say that 'the Church should be helping homeless people', because Les knows full well how much work is done by churches to help the homeless. He said this was just one example of how bad we are at Public Relations. If we are to be a **Light to the world** and be seen as relevant then it is important that we make people aware of what we are doing. Les was also invited to speak specifically to the younger members of the congregation. He described his own childhood being raised by his grandmother in Antigua. Not only was church attendance compulsory but if he couldn't go home and tell

his grandmother the key message of the preacher's sermon then he couldn't have any Sunday dinner! Later as a teenager in London he had lost his faith and become a rastafarian. Then one day a man in the street stopped him and talked to him about Jesus. This was the starting point for Les to re-discover his faith and thus changed his life. Les made the rather startling statement that 'there are no grandchildren in Heaven' and went on to say that we are all **children** of God and rather than simply inheriting the faith of their parents, it is important for young people to develop their own relationship with Jesus.

If you are interested in knowing more about Street or School Pastors – and Response Pastors – we have three members of the congregation who are Street Pastors – Diane Boothby, Stuart Clarke and Tony Witham – who is also a Response Pastor. There is also a great need for Prayer Pastors – who do not need to stay awake quite so long as Street Pastors! - but who are vital to the work of all types of Pastor.

There are now also Rail Pastors who both travel on trains and are available at stations and who have prevented suicides. This came about at the request of the British Transport Police. There are Shopping Centre Pastors who work with the staff in large shopping centres, College Pastors, and other urban initiatives all run by the Ascension Trust which is the overarching body training and resourcing all of the above initiatives. The Ascension Trust are celebrating 25 years this year – see their website for further information and more events. www.ascensiontrust.org.uk

*May those who are lonely be warmed by your presence;
those who are bruised and hurting find healing in your love;
those ashamed and without hope be set free by Your
forgiveness and grace*

Wanted, a Project Manager

Robin Dawson

I have just completed my term as Estates Team Leader. While I was in this position we saw through the tower repair project, as well as doing all the other maintenance stuff.

During my term, through responsible budgeting by the PCC and the generosity of donors we have got to a position of having a surplus in the development fund. This is available for improvements to the church. The Estates Team has worked on outlines for three schemes. These are improvements to access at the west door; to the church heating; and to the lighting in the church. The PCC has considered these outline schemes and priorities have been established.

Now we need somebody to do the project management side of getting the first of these schemes off the ground. Were I ten years younger I would go for it, but I am getting close to my sell by date now. None of the other members of the Estates Team, who are a great bunch, feel able to take the project management function on.

There must be somebody who would like a stab at it. Further information from me Robin Dawson, or Matt Barnes.

*May we, in the name of God most high,
receive Christ's healing touch to make us whole,
in body, mind and spirit.*

*May the power of God strengthen us,
the love of God dwell in us and give us peace.*

Paul Tester has a new job

Robin Dawson

St Thomas Church has helped the work of Church Mission Society for over ten years by providing funds which go towards the supporting the Tester family in Lima, Peru.

Paul and Sarah went out there so that Paul could advance youth work in all the churches in the Diocese of Peru. Sarah worked amongst the children of the shanty town churches.

The Anglican Church in Peru is not a big organisation, having 26 parishes, but they are spread over a country that is twice the size of France. As time went on Paul joined a group that visited each one of these parishes and produced a discipleship programme for the whole diocese.

Then when there were bad floods and landslides a year ago Paul was involved in the team that mobilised the Anglican Churches to carry out relief work.

Those of us who have seen Paul in action are not at all surprised that he has collected all these jobs. He is very competent. And he believes in training Peruvians to take over his job.

Now CMS have moved Paul from working directly with the Peruvian Anglican Church so that he can take up the job of Mission Development Manager for CMS in the whole of Latin America.

This is what Paul says about the new job.

Imagine you were asked to help the people of a whole continent to engage in mission both locally and globally. Imagine you were asked to lead an international team of people in mission spread across a whole

continent. How would you start? That is where I now find myself! I have been asked to do just that across Latin America. And I am starting with prayer, listening to God. Because, if God is truly raising up a Latin American mission movement, He will do it. He will put the right people in the right place at the right time. As His disciples our role is to listen to his call on our lives and follow. So I am doing just that, following God's call, connecting with people who want to do the same, joining in God's mission through, and together with, CMS, helping them to follow God's call on their lives in mission. That might be as they cross the road to reach those close to them, or cross the continents to reach those on the other side of the world.

At the same time I am responsible for leading CMS's Mission Partners, Short Termers, Mission Associates and Local Partners serving in Latin America, who total more than 100 people. They currently live and serve in 11 countries from Honduras and Guatemala in Central America right down to Argentina and Chile at the southern tip of Latin America. I am responsible for developing their placements with local churches and organizations, supporting them in their ministry and helping them form part of the Latin American mission movement.

This is a really big job. As well as our financial report the Testers need our prayers.

They will continue to live in Lima and be members of San Juan Evangelista church. Paul will obviously be doing a lot of travelling.

For more information see <https://churchmissionsociety.org/people-in-mission/paul-and-sarah-tester>

God's Kingdom is stronger than storms



Volunteers from churches have collected house to house during Christian Aid Week since it began more than 60 years ago.

Together, our supporters delivered over six million envelopes last year.

Could you help us do the same this Christian Aid Week?

Each envelope delivered sends a message about Jesus' love and justice. Every envelope delivered is act of witness, proclaiming Jesus' good news to the poor. And each envelope collected could help someone living in extreme poverty to protect themselves if a disaster strikes.

Your collection could help people like Marcelin. He lost his home, possessions and livestock when Hurricane Matthew hit Haiti in September 2016. 'I lost pigs, goats, everything in the house. I have nothing left,' he says. He's working hard to provide for his three teenage daughters, but can no longer afford to send them all to school and they often go hungry. He now lives in an old concrete shower block, a tiny space he shares with his teenage daughters. There are no windows or doors, and the only furniture is a single bed that the girls sleep on.

If another hurricane were to strike, Marcelin fears the worst. Marcelin has fought hard to raise his children alone but can no longer afford to send them all to school. He gets up at dawn each day to work the land, but the changing weather frequently destroys the food he grows and the family often go hungry. Marcelin fears his daughters' hunger could lead them to be exploited by predatory men in exchange for food.



How Christian Aid is helping

Our local partner in Haiti is helping people prepare for disasters. Ahead of Hurricane Matthew, we

warned communities, helping evacuate around 5,000 families, potentially saving many lives. We then gave out much-needed shelter kits, hygiene kits, and food, seeds and cash transfers. We're also building disaster-resistant homes to give people safe, secure places to live. Of the dozens of new houses we built before the hurricane hit, only one lost its roof in the disaster.

But there are still lots of people like Marcelin we haven't yet reached, and we need your help. Could you donate to help people like Marcelin? A gift from you could help families like Marcelin's to thrive.

£25 could... buy a hygiene kit to prevent disease after a disaster.

£50 could... buy basic building tools to help people build secure homes.

£210 could... pay for two days' construction training for a local builder in Haiti to help build people secure homes.

Give us, Lord God, a vision of your Kingdom as your love desires it, a world where the weak are protected, and none go hungry, a world where life is shared, and enjoyed by all, a world where all races, nations and cultures live in tolerance and respect, a world where peace is built with justice, and justice is guided by love, and give us the inspiration and courage to build it. Amen.

NO CLEAN WATER - HOW WOULD YOU COPE?

I suspect not very well!! After the recent outcries after the snow and ice when many were issued bottled water because our usually highly reliable water sources were not so reliable due to burst water mains – I was left wondering how we would cope if we had to walk the distances many people do – to then only be able to obtain unclean water!

22 March was UN World Water Day

This is one initiative within a huge global effort to give people access to safe water. This is related to Sustainable Development Goal 6 which commits to ensuring that everyone has access to safe water by 2030. This includes targets to protect the natural environment and reduce pollution.

See information from Compassion, Samaritans' Purse Turn on the Tap, Toilet Twinning and other organisations.

Samaritan's Purse are supporting people living in the slums of Kampala, the capital city of Uganda, who have no clean water. Their only choice is to fetch dirty disease-ridden water from a ditch, river or other unprotected water source nearby.

These communities are confronted with deadly waterborne diseases like Cholera and Typhoid every day. These diseases kill – they're also preventable.

CLEAN WATER For 7,700 people in their homes through BioSand filters, or by having access to protected natural springs.

PUBLIC TOILETS For 400 people, reducing open defecation and contamination of surface water

EMPOWERING CHURCHES By training Christian Leaders to educate 5,000 people in good hygiene and sanitation, whilst sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Marian and Joe Pateman have supported Samaritan's Purse with water aid projects via the sale of their preserves for the last 7 years. They have an impressive record – having donated £2000 in 2017 and **£13,891.60** since they began. The Knit and Natter Group – which meets on Tuesday mornings in the Centre - also sends funding to this cause.

Dear Marian & Joe, 23 November 2017

Thank you so much for your kind gift of £400.00 towards Turn on the Tap. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Three of the four Gospels account Jesus' words concerning the "signs of the End of the Age." Matthew reminds us that we will hear of wars and rumours of wars, that famines and earthquakes will occur and that all of these will be "birth pains..." Later in this same chapter, He adds;

"And this Gospel of the Kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come." (Matthew 24:14 NIV)

I have always thought it interesting that this verse is included in a passage that alerts us to the wars and disasters we are seeing happen more and more frequently – birth pains, getting ready for the baby (yes, I mean Jesus the King!) to come again. That in the midst of all these awful events, the Gospel will be preached. As if to say, and indeed to remind us, that it must be preached. When such terrible things transpire, I immediately think of ways to alleviate the pain and suffering. But for as much as I think this, I ought to also think of how I will preach the Gospel – the Good News of our hope in Christ.

We are experiencing birth pains and the Baby is coming. Thank you for helping us care for those suffering and for helping us create opportunities to preach the Gospel.

Yours in Christ, Sherrie

***Sherrie Farnsworth* Donor Response Representative/Church Relationships Coordinator – Samaritan's Purse & Billy Graham Evangelistic Association**

I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink.

Matthew 25:35

BILLY GRAHAM – Tribute by his son, Franklin Graham, President and CEO of Samaritan's Purse International.

My father, Billy Graham, went into the presence of the Lord yesterday morning. (21/2/18)

The Bible tells us in Revelation 14:13: “Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord...that they may rest from their labours, and their works follow them”(NKJV).

Many have said that his death ends an era, but he would be the first to say that when God's ambassadors die in Christ, the Lord raises up others, because the preaching of the Gospel will go forward until the end of the age. God's blessing continues as He opens doors for the Gospel around the world.

My siblings and I would appreciate your prayers in the days ahead as we honour a man who served the Lord with his life, loved his family, and was always grateful for God's faithful people who supported him in the work of the ministry in Jesus' Name.

As we lay to rest this very public ambassador, please pray with us that the testimony he leaves behind will touch many lives and point them to salvation in Jesus Christ. My father's journey of faith on earth has ended. He has been reunited with my mother and has stepped into the eternal joy of Heaven in the presence of his Saviour, in whom he placed his hope.

If you would like to know more about my father's life, share a memory, or read public visitation details, please visit BillyGraham.org.uk. God bless you, and thank you for your prayers for our family.

“I have had the privilege of preaching the Gospel on every continent in most of the countries of the world. And I have found that when I present the simple message of the Gospel of Jesus Christ . . . He takes that message and drives it supernaturally into the human heart,” said Dr. Graham.

World Prayer Centre: IT IS TIME By Steve Botham

In this very special time WPC is significantly expanding what we are called to do. It is easy to say we look to the Lord for His provision, because we do, but practically we also look to our friends and supporters to stand with us in prayer and giving.

These are some of our challenges:

It is time for turning- 2018 is a critical year – our role is to communicate what we believe God is saying so we can stir up, encourage and enable more prayer.

It is time for prayer– we will run a national TRUMPET CALL day of Prayer on Saturday June 9th. We are calling people from across the generations, denominations and regions to stand together for change in our nation. We want to promote this widely and fill the hall at The International Convention Centre, Birmingham

It time for partnership- God has given us a pivotal role enabling people with a heart for God's kingdom, prayer and mission to stand together.

It is time to communicate– there is an increased urgency as we communicate prayer needs and issues. We are producing new material, and engaging many more people

It is time to build– we want to build a House of Prayer in Birmingham, for the nation and the nations. In the months to come we sense the need for a new place where we can have continuous prayer and worship and improved communications.

We would love you to stand with us as the ministry continues to develop and grow. In moments like these, we have an expectation and believe that resources and finances will be released. Giving becomes an exciting adventure!

If you feel God is enabling you to give please go to our website or phone us on 0121 633 7393.

Hope House rises from the ashes

Matt Barnes

Following an electrical fire at Hope House on Derby Road in December 2017, the hostel for homeless, pioneered by members of St Thomas' Church, has been closed to residents. Although the physical damage to the property was only slight, the nature of the fire has meant that a full rewiring of the building is required and until completed, the property is unsuitable for habitation. Residents at the time of the fire, all of whom safely evacuated the building, have been re-homed and Dawn Cooper (project key worker), has worked really hard to ensure they are supported and settled in their new accommodations. Many volunteers have been involved in the clearing of the property in order to make it safe and ready for building work to commence.

A long and thorough investigation by the insurance company has delayed progress but that work has now been completed and the go-ahead has been given for preparations for reinstatement works to begin. An architect has been engaged to prepare detailed drawings of the building and a Quantity Surveyor is also on hand ready to help the project move forward. Whilst the building is empty the Directors of Hope House are taking the opportunity to look at the existing space and see what other vital improvements are needed to make the building, which has been neglected over many years, suitable for its new purpose. "It's important that we create a space that is safe and gives dignity to its residents and can make this house a home" says Rev Canon Matt Barnes, chair of the project.

It is hoped that a settlement with the insurance company can happen in the next couple of months. Other funds are being sought to ensure that both reinstatement and betterment works can be done simultaneously in order to save both time and money. Donations and offers of help are welcome and anyone wishing to support this vitally needed work with the most vulnerable people in Chesterfield are welcome to contact Beth Robson (project coordinator) at the St Thomas Centre. It is hoped (funds permitting) that all works will be completed by the autumn and the project can be reopened ready for the winter.

The hospital is now completed, which is a great blessing.

Global Emergency Medicine - sent a team from the UK in January for a few weeks - to train the staff in emergency hospital care. There are no actual doctors - but rather clinical officers; who receive 3 year training. Plus some nurses, a midwife, a nutritionist and a pathology assistant.

I have not been back personally yet, but I send regular medical tutorials to the staff and am encouraging a philosophy of whole person medicine, centred on Christian values, with the teachings and healings of Jesus as absolutely central.

I am hoping to return later this year.

God bless, Mark

*Lord God, whose Son, Jesus Christ,
understood people's fear and pain
before they spoke of them,
we pray for those in hospital;
surround the frightened with your tenderness;
give strength to those in pain;
hold the weak in your arms of love,
and give hope and patience
to those who are recovering;
we ask this through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord,
Amen*

Someone to turn to

Marie Witham with Kevin Morley

The Saltergate Children's Home in Ethiopia is going from strength to strength and more children and families now have someone to turn to, due to the work of Kevin Morly, his other trustees and their many supporters.

It is three years since the charity started and there are now 30 children being supported. One of the newer children, Robuma, was born without arms. Kevin said how well Robuma can hold and use a mobile phone with his feet!



Kevin, his wife and their daughter Hana (pictured left) will be taking part in the London Superhero Run 2018, on 13 May, to raise funds for our children in Ethiopia. We shall be using our Givey website for donations - Saltergate Children's Home, Ethiopia on Givey. They would love you to support them – to give more chances of shelter, education and health care to the children who are now in their care.

Kevin and his family are visiting the Saltergate Home during this Easter holiday and will be checking on the progress of each child.

One of the young girls, who I have written about before, Kalkidan, has spinal muscular atrophy – she was provided with a wheelchair, One of Kevin's tasks on their visit is to liaise with her doctors to discuss diet, medication and any other support needed. Kalkidan is already receiving physiotherapy – which is helping.

Danait – a young man sponsored by St Paul's Church in Hasland leaves school this summer and another task is to look at suitable further education for him. Kevin said that there are good opportunities for further education in

Ethiopia. Some of those who gain degrees do then take their training abroad BUT they send money home and may support as many as 20-30 people in their family.

Networking is vitally important in the care of the children and in raising awareness, support and money. Betiel was sleeping alone outside the home for a while, she is tiny, under 2 years of age. She was taken into the home and enquires made – her mum was tracked down in a confused state. Mum's family were found and her brother took them in.

People have come to support the Home having read items in the Reflections magazine – including someone who worked with the Ethiopian Police force – and so has a strong connection to the country. Mike Snow, the advertising manager for Reflections magazine completed the Great Ethiopian Run last year – see the article in January's Reflections and raised money for The Saltergate Home.

The political position in Ethiopia is giving cause for concern, there is a state of emergency as the prime minister has stepped down. The ruling tribe was much in the minority. I asked if this causes any particular issues – it has not as yet apart from communication – as uprisings can be co-ordinated by social media the internet is periodically turned off. There are children from all three tribes in the home and it is not an issue. Kevin stressed that they want to ensure that no child is excluded from school because they belong to a particular tribe. A number of the children are doing particularly well in school.

Kevin has further talks planned at the Ragged School in April and the Methodist Church later in the year. They are trying to enter the London Marathon and are in talks to be involved in Africa Day in London in October.

*O God, who would fold both heaven and earth in a single peace:
let the design of thy great love
lighten upon the waste of our wraths and sorrows:
and give peace to thy Church,
peace among nations,
peace in our dwellings,
and peace in our hearts:
through thy Son our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen*

REGISTERS

Baptisms

Renee Robinson	14 January	St Thomas'
Harper Warren	2 February	St Thomas'
Lucia Hudson	18 February	St Thomas'

*As children of God, we have a new dignity
and God calls us to fullness of life*

Weddings

Simon Champneys and Georgina Slack 10 February St Peter's.

*Pour out the abundance of your blessing upon
this couple in their new life together*

Funerals in Church

Carol Bates 5 March aged 70 St Thomas'

May she rest in peace and rise in Glory

*God of compassion,
whose Son Jesus Christ, the child of Mary,
shared the life of a home in Nazareth,
and on the cross drew the whole human family to himself:
strengthen us in our daily living
that in joy and in sorrow
we may know the power of your presence
to bind together and to heal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.*

ST PETER'S SERVICES AND EVENTS

St Peter's Church, Cotton Mill Hill, Holymoorside, S42 7EJ

Associate Minister Bill Bazely: 01246 558461
associate@st-thomas-brampton.org

Website www.stpetersholymoorside.org.uk

District Warden, Maxine Rotheram 01246 769040

DCC Secretary, Ken Franklin 01246 568401

Sunday Services at 9.30am

Morning Prayer - First Sunday of Each month (usually except 1 April is Easter day) so 8 April, 6 May

Holy Communion - 15 April, 29 April, 13 May,

All Together Worship – 22 April,

(Communion is offered at All Together Worship)

Evensong Sunday 4pm - 15 April

Meditation The meditation group will now be held in the evening on Wednesdays at St Peter's at 8.30pm. For further information please ring 01246 769040.

Coffee & Communion 10am Wednesday, Churches Together – Held at the URC Church. First Wednesday of each month – led alternately by St Peter's and URC.

Teach us good Lord, to serve thee as thou deservest;

to give and not to count the cost;

to fight and not to heed the wounds;

to toil and not to seek for rest

to labour and not to ask for any reward

save that of knowing that we do thy will.

St Ignatius Loyola 1491-1556

ST THOMAS' CHURCH OFFICE

Chatsworth Rd, Chesterfield, S40 3AW

Open Monday-Friday 9am -3pm

For general, baptism, marriage, funeral and booking enquiries please contact
Telephone: 01246 558461 email: admin@st-thomas-brampton.org

Prayer requests can be emailed to the Church office at
admin@st-thomas-brampton.org
– or can be phoned or sent in by letter.

Rector	Canon Matthew Barnes rector@st-thomas-brampton.org	01246 567634
Associate minister	Revd David Mouncer revdavidmouncer@gmail.com	01246 551313
Associate minister	Revd David Owens david.owens@st-thomas-brampton.org	01246 566047
Parish manager	Sally-Anne Beecham admin@st-thomas-brampton.org	01246 558461

COFFEE BAR Open Monday-Friday 8.30-4pm
Saturday 8.30-2.30 and Sunday 10-2

Centre manager	Beth Robson-Smith beth.robson@stthomascentre.com	01246 279916
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SUNDAY SERVICES



9.30 am – Parish Communion using 'Common Worship'. Accompanied by the organ.

11am – Service of the word: for those with families.
An informal service; sung worship led by the band.

Activities for children 0-12.

Once a month Holy Communion.

6pm – Evening Worship. A relaxed service with in-depth teaching and extended sung worship led by the music team.

Once a month Holy Communion.

7.45-9.30pm Youth Group for 14-18 year olds

Christian Aid Week Big Brekkie

Sunday 13th May 10.15-11.15am

St Thomas' Church Centre

Want to change the world over breakfast?

Then come and fill up at our **Big Brekkie!**

We'll be serving up a delicious morning meal (including vegetarian options) and raising money to help fight poverty and injustice. Donations made can be gift aided and there will be a quiz and colouring sheets for children.

All you have to do is turn up and enjoy!

As you tuck into your delicious breakfast you're standing up for people like Marcelin and his three daughters in Haiti. They still haven't recovered from Hurricane Matthew which destroyed their home and farmland in 2016. You are helping them to rebuild their lives in a new home strong enough to survive the next hurricane.

(Please note that our two morning services will be organised so as to enable both regular congregations the time to join in the fun either before or after worship.)

If you would like to join in the fun please sign up either in the Coffee Shop or in church nearer the time. We would love to see you!



FOOD & CRAFT Market

Saturday 7th April

10am to 1.30pm

St Thomas' Church Centre

Free admission - All welcome - Food Bank Collection Point

Chatsworth Road, Chesterfield, S40 3AW
www.st-thomas-brampton.org || 01246 558461

stthomas
brampton
Local Church loving Jesus Changing lives

*Remember me, God? I come every day just to talk with you, Lord,
and to learn how to pray. You make me feel welcome;
you reach out your hand.*

I need never explain, for you understand.

I come to you frightened and burdened with care,

So lonely and lost and so filled with despair,

and suddenly, Lord, I'm no longer afraid -

my burden is lighter and the dark shadows fade.

Oh God what a comfort to know that you care.

Online: www.st-thomas-brampton.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/stthomasbrampton

Email: admin@st-thomas-brampton.org

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