

Ploughshare

st thomas
BRAMPTON

DISCIPLES MAKING DISCIPLES



Photo by Beth Robson-Smith

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£4 per year.

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Comments and opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect the views of the Editors, The PCC or the clergy of St Thomas' or St Peter's.

Please could any articles for the next edition of Ploughshare be sent to Cassie via email at ploughsharesttoms@outlook.com **BY FRIDAY 15th July.**

Service Information

Sunday mornings at 10:30am and evenings at 6pm
Please see page 14 for full details of the 6pm services
More information online at www.stthomasbrampton.com

Pentecost

Becky Botham

The day of Pentecost takes place 50 days after Easter. The account in Acts records how the disciples received the Holy Spirit after Jesus' ascension.



Acts 2: 1-4: 'When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.'

When the spirit came the disciples received power and strength from God to continue His work on earth. What we see following the day of Pentecost is the disciples begin to boldly declare the Gospel and tell others who Jesus is and what He's done for them. They go out in the power of the Spirit and lives are transformed. These are the same disciples who, not long before, were running and hiding and they don't even know Jesus.

Luke 22: 54-57: 'Then they seized him and led him away, bringing him into the high priest's house, and Peter was following at a distance. And when they had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard and sat down together, Peter sat down among them. Then a servant girl, seeing him as he sat in the light and looking closely at him, said, "This man also was with him." But he denied it, saying, "Woman, I do not know him.'"

Yet in Acts 4 Peter and John are brought before the Sanhedrin for healing a man on the Sabbath, and they continue to declare who Jesus is and what he has done.

Acts 4: 9-10: 'If we are being called to account today for an act of

kindness shown to a man who was lame and are being asked how he was healed, then know this, you and all the people of Israel: It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed.'

What is the transformation in Peter from disowning Jesus, to standing before the Sanhedrin declaring the gospel regardless of the consequences? The Holy Spirit. The Spirit at work in Peter's life changing and transforming him, giving him boldness and courage to speak out and declare who Jesus is.

I wonder, as we look towards Pentecost, if this is an opportunity, for us all to reflect on where we've been as individuals and as a church and look ahead to where we would like to be. Asking God to guide us and lead us by His Holy Spirit in this season. This is not always easy for us, it takes faith, trust and vulnerability all of which are difficult characteristics to practice. Pope Francis summarizes this beautifully when he says,

"To put it simply: the Holy Spirit bothers us. Because he moves us, he makes us walk, he pushes the Church to go forward. And we are like Peter at the Transfiguration: 'Ah, how wonderful it is to be here like this, all together!' ... But don't bother us. We want the Holy Spirit to doze off ... we want to domesticate the Holy Spirit. And that's no good. because he is God, he is that wind which comes and goes and you don't know where. He is the power of God, he is the one who gives us consolation and strength to move forward. But: to move forward! And this bothers us. It's so much nicer to be comfortable."

— Pope Francis, [Encountering Truth: Meeting God in the Everyday](#)

My prayer is that God would pour out His Spirit upon us once again, that we might be open to His leading, changed and transformed into His likeness. And that we might have the courage and boldness, as Peter did, to go into the world declaring who Jesus is and what He's done for each one of us.

Children and Youth Update

Joel Botham



The final term of the academic year is now well underway and, as it draws towards its end, we'll see teams from St Thomas' going into schools to share with children at Westfield Infants and Old Hall Juniors. At Westfield we'll be delivering something called Prayer Spaces In Schools (an interactive way to engage in and explore prayer) for the whole school in workshops. At Old Hall we'll be doing Prayer Spaces in Schools. We'll also be doing a year 6 workshop called It's Your Move which helps them prepare for the transition to secondary school.

We're also really excited for our Jubilee Community Fun Day after church on Sunday 5th June, 12pm-3pm. We've got loads of amazing fun things planned, from jubilee trails, hot dogs, and fete games to inflatables, face painting and crafts. It's going to be an amazing afternoon not to be missed! Make sure you bring your friends, kids, grandkids and neighbours.

The final thing we're really excited about is our all-new kids club launching in September. It's going to be every Thursday in term time 5:30pm-6:30pm for primary aged children. We met as a team to think and pray in May and there was so much excitement in the room for the possibilities of what God might do through it.

All these exciting new projects and ventures need your prayers for all the lives that we could change and for all those who could come to know Jesus through them. Please pray for them all and if you'd like to join the team just let me know - joel@stthomasbrampton.com

We're all on a Mission!

John Small

About 2000 years ago Jesus told His followers that they were the “light of the world” and that they were to let their light shine before men, with the result that those that see the light will praise God. When Jesus said this He was addressing all His followers and was not being selective or suggesting that a few of them should be lights in a dark world. It was said to all and not as a possibility but as an instruction! In John’s Gospel Jesus states that He is the light of the world and the opening chapter tells us that He is the true light that gives light to every man. So as imitators of Jesus we are all required to be on a Mission to bring His light into every part of our world.

Being The Light of the world brings a number of responsibilities;

1) We have to switch our light on. It’s no good having the best



light in the world and not using it. Stumbling about in the dark only leads to injuries and harm to ourselves and others! As well as staying in the dark, a frightening place!

2) We have to use every opportunity to share the light. I’m afraid to say that we can’t say I will do that tomorrow because the opportunity may not be there then and, in reality, tomorrow never comes.

3) We should use our light to illuminate the path to God, not to dazzle others with our brilliance, wit or even, on occasions, our wisdom. A reflected and gentle light makes for comfortable seeing!

So, what’s this all about? Let’s face it we do Mission well at St Thomas’, don’t we? The committee is good at highlighting issues and providing a response with grants and prayer plans. They seem capable of managing the situation for us! Whilst there is nothing wrong with that, we sometimes need a reminder and prompt that Mission, and shining a light to be God’s Mission Partner, is a responsibility for us all.

Mission starts at home and then spreads outwards to out locality, town, country and then anywhere we feel called to be a lighthouse. What we can do is look for our inner light, come together, light up Brampton and then who knows where.

A Response to Joel Botham's "Listening to God" Tony Witham

I enjoyed reading Joel Botham's article entitled "Listening to God" (Ploughshare Vol 29, no. 2) as so much of what Joel wrote about the importance of reading the Old Testament resonated with me. As Joel talked about his love of the Old Testament I was suddenly struck by the thought that the Old Testament was in fact the ONLY 'Bible' that Jesus had available to Him in His time on earth. Why this had never really occurred to me before I don't know, but of course the writings that we call the New Testament were all written after Jesus' ascension.



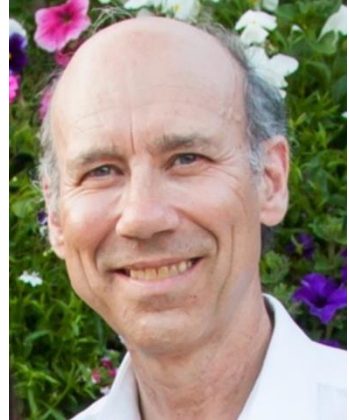
From this it follows that if we are to understand Jesus' teachings and His use of quotations from scripture, then we must study the texts that were available at that time; even though most of us will have to rely on an English translation – ancient Hebrew doesn't feature on my list of 'O' levels!

I didn't fully agree with Joel when he wrote "The Old Testament is so far removed from EVERY aspect of our 21st century Western lives ". For example, the Old Testament writings are full of stories of warfare, with strong nations attacking weaker neighbours, cities being destroyed and people displaced. Need I mention Ukraine? Yet the message that we see time and time again in the Old Testament is that God is faithful, He doesn't give up on us, He can always be relied on. So I echo Joel in saying: We would all do well to 'shema' – (listen and obey).

Saltergate Children's Home, Ethiopia

Kevin Morley

With 107 children, 7 volunteers, 100 chickens and Daisy the pregnant cow to visit, we had plenty to do in Ethiopia. All are doing well and we are now working up many of the ideas that we discussed into projects, that will help families to independence, improve the quality of life for the children and enable us to care for even more boys and girls.



Dad took one look at Rakeb when she was born and left. Rakeb is paralysed from the neck down and has a build up of fluid on the brain. She is also blind. For six years Mum, Zanesh, has cared for Rakeb alone. Alone because her family and neighbours shun and abuse them - 'Zanesh must have committed a terrible sin for evil spirits to have caused this.' And because no-one will help her Zanesh has to leave Rakeb alone for four hours everyday so she can clean houses and earn something to keep them both alive. There must be a place under the sun where the only response to this situation is 'how can we help?' We work to be in that place. There is much that can be done so we shall do it and Zanesh and her beautiful daughter Rakeb have someone to turn to at last.

Efrata's legs don't work very well so we've been knocking on Dr Tim's door. The special boots will help strengthen her limbs and the therapy sessions will help straighten them. She has been given 15 days off school for intensive treatment then it's back to the classroom and weekend visits to hospital. Efrata's legs might not work very well but there's nothing wrong with her smile.

From left to right Habtom, Temesgen (that's a big football Temesgen) Bereket and Amanuel - SCH under 7s football team (recruiting). New

shirts, shorts, trainers and the football all donated by kind folks and don't they look happy. We tried to get the girls in the team but Jitu and little Frei opted for a nail varnish session instead. 'We are so thankful for all that we have been given by kind folks who we've never even met. Food to eat, clothes to wear and a bed to sleep in at night but footballs and nail varnish - wow!'

Caleb is up on his feet and there's no stopping him now. No stopping Alysha and Paul either who ran the London 10k on May Day to raise a bit for the children. Looks like a toddle round the yard's enough for Caleb who was ready for his nap today.

Best wishes and many thanks.



Photo provided by Kevin Morley

What's on at St Mark's

A Coffee Morning was held on Saturday 14th May and raised £165 (and counting) for Disaster Emergency Committee for Ukraine. A huge congratulations and well done to all those involved.



Prayer times at St. Mark's,
Brampton
with St. Thomas', Brampton
Ascension Day:

Thursday May 26th: 10am
Fri May 27th and Sat May 28th: 10am
Sun May 29th: Morning Service 10.30am
Mon May 30th – Sat June 4th: 10am
Pentecost Sunday, June 5th:

10.30am: Holy Communion at St. Mark's

We'd like to pray for God's Kingdom to come in us and through us in
Brampton, in Chesterfield and even further as we bring these 2
worshipping communities together.

You're welcome every morning, you're welcome any morning ... the
important thing is that we pray
'Your Kingdom Come' together.

For more information
contact Rev'd Karen

Tel: 01246 913688
Mobile: 07432705285

St Mark's Church, St. Marks Rd, Brampton, Chesterfield S40 1DH

Or follow St Marks online with their Facebook Page – St Mark's Church
Brampton



Time For Tea - at St Mark's

Conversation, games, friendship and music.

Sandwiches, cakes, crisps, tea and coffee - no charge but donations welcome

2-4PM AT ST MARK'S CHURCH

**WEDNESDAY 15TH JUNE
WEDNESDAY 20TH JULY
WEDNESDAY 17TH AUGUST**

Hope House Quarterly bulletin - April 2022

This month marks our 1st birthday - we opened on 22 March 2021 with staff induction and took our first resident on 8 April. Looking back over the 12 months we can see how far we've come, and we are grateful for all the support that has kept the project going and developing over the year. There have certainly been highs and lows, but we are proud to have supported 27 residents during this time. Hope House hasn't been right for all our residents, but we've provided a port in the storm, with an open door for any who choose to return and give the fight against addiction another go. We have celebrated a number of birthdays, enjoyed a fabulous Christmas and Easter together, have been a short-term support for some and a much longer support for others. It's never easy, but there is joy to be found and the community continues to thrive.

We currently have nine residents, with another two referrals in the pipeline. Our residents continue to struggle with significant health conditions and addictions but support one another on a daily basis and various professionals also visit individuals at the house.

Spiritually, the household continue to meet each morning for a time of reflection and prayer, and on Friday evenings they meet for worship and Christian meditation. In addition, on Sundays at 6.30pm, Rev Sally-Anne our chaplain now leads a worship service in the house, including Bible study, prayer and monthly communion. Recently the guys attended the Holy Week services at SS Augustine Church next door which was a very special time.

Residents are now looking forward to being outside more often in better weather. The allotment project is ready to start and they have plans for circuit training in the yard and gardening on site.

With regard to Covid we have been very fortunate, a few of the staff and residents have now had the virus, but managed to isolate and

keep the rest of the household well, and none of them have been very poorly with it.

We've had a few staffing changes, but the current team: Brian, Daniel, Eric, Paul and Sarah, led by Dale, are a blessing and work hard to keep the household running smoothly. It's a challenging job and your prayers for both staff and residents are very much welcomed. Our next Zoom prayers is on Monday 4 July at 7pm. If you haven't joined us before to pray for the project and would like to, then please email contact@hopehousechesterfield.co.uk for the link. Prayer requests in the meantime are:

- that the staff team stay healthy and are blessed in their work,
- that we find another staff member to join the team to provide sick and holiday cover,
- that more support for residents becomes available for their mental health needs, and,
- that those ex-residents who were unable stay clean during their first stay with us, find the strength to return and try again.

Thanks again to all those who support the project financially, your generosity is very much keeping the house open. Although we are managing to pay the bills at the moment, we know that new fuel tariffs will affect us like all households, and we will need more money to keep going - so please do spread the word as we need all the financial support we can get.

That's all for now, please keep praying and if you have any questions about any aspect of the project, don't hesitate to contact us. We will report again in July.

Hope House Trustees



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6PM SERVICES

We would love to welcome you to our 6 o'clock service. We are now back in Church for most services – but we are keeping one, usually the last Sunday of the month, on-line. If you would like the link for the Zoom on-line service please contact – mariewitham@gmail.com

June 5

We will be

celebrating the Queen's Jubilee, and also looking at the Spirit as it is

Pentecost.

In Church

June 12 Communion led by Alison Cox

– theme the Son. In Church

June 19

Father's Day – what it means to be a father and Our Father, in

Church

June 26

Zoom – for the link please contact mariewitham@gmail.com

Service of Thanksgiving for The Queen's Reign

On Friday, 3 June 2022, there will be a Platinum Jubilee Service of Thanksgiving at St Paul's Cathedral, London. at 11.30am. The service will be broadcast live on the BBC.



Ten Questions with....

This edition's Ten Questions With have been answered by Rev Alison Cox



Who are you and what is your role? What do you do as part of your role?

I'm Revd. Alison Cox and I help at St Thomas, with the usual vicar type stuff!

Are you a morning person or a night owl?

I think I hit my peak 12 noon and then it's downhill all the way.

What is your favourite worship song and why?

I like songs (and hymns) that tell me things about God and lift me into praise, with a good memorable tune and limited repetition!

What keeps you motivated in your role?

Believing that God has put me here to serve God's people at this time

If you could learn a new skill what would it be?

Can I have 2? Playing the organ and speaking Arabic fluently

What are you most thankful for?

I have a very long list and I'm not sure what's on top! So, in not necessarily this order: Health, upbringing, family, life experiences – living abroad, travel, friends ...

How would you spend your ideal day?

Waking up to sunshine, on an empty, warm, palm-fringed beach, with a good book and a great cocktail, followed by an evening with family and friends in a wonderful fish restaurant.

Do you like your cereal crunchy or mushy?

Crunchy crunchy crunchy

What song is guaranteed to always get your feet tapping?

The song to the current Kellogs cereal ad, Ça plane pour moi (There's a lot that get my feet tapping but you put cereal in my mind)

If you could live in a book, film or tv series what would it be?

Either one of the gospels, to be in Palestine in the C1st or Death in Paradise with all that sunshine and warm sea... ! But only temporarily in either!

What is your favourite meal?

Shepherds Pie. With a well browned cheesy topping.

Dear Father - may we start each day with thankfulness. Whatever our concerns, pressures, difficulties - we all have so much to be thankful for. For sunrise, sunshine, rain to make things grow, the intricate patterns in all of your creation. May we pause to focus on something outside of ourselves - but also focus on You. On all that you are and all that you give us and be thankful that we are called to be your children and disciples. - Anonymous

A Lenten Prayer Meeting

Robin Dawson



I think it is fair to say that attendance at prayer meetings is a bit of a niche activity in very many congregations. You might agree with me if I suggested that at St Thomas' it is seen as an activity for the specialists.

Which is a shame. I can understand why. I remember when I was a teenage member of a Bible class being strongarmed into my first prayer meeting. There were these people heads bowed in a circle, almost as if they were waiting for a shampoo. And they were speaking in a sort of stilted religious jargon. I didn't know what to do with myself.

I got over it. And I have been to many prayer meetings since that have been really valuable to me.

I wish I had been able to start all those years ago with the sort of meeting we had on Wednesdays in Lent this year down at the Suite. There, at 8am we found a breakfast laid on and round the room a number of tables which had on them various activities with pencil and paper, pipe cleaners, cut outs and so on. These helped us with specific items for prayer. And there was a table for people who just wanted to be quiet.

Joel Botham said a short prayer for us at the start and then played quiet music as we did whatever activity caught our eye. For me, most of the time I just enjoyed sitting quietly. It was a busy room with people with ages varying from two to eighty. But I found it far easier to be quiet and enjoy the presence of God, than I do in my own private prayers where it is so easy for my mind to wander. And it was so good to see parents and children praying quietly together.

Thank you Joel for all the work you put in to organize this.

There is a more conventional prayer meeting every Friday at the back of church at 9.30am for half an hour. Why don't you join us? We try not to use stilted religious jargon. And there are so many things that need our prayers.

A History of Brampton Parish – The First 50 Years

Pam Brimelow

The ancient parish of Brampton was served by the church of St. Peter and St. Paul in the village of Old Brampton which lies three miles west of Chesterfield. The church, which was built in the middle of the 13th century on the site of an earlier church, served the whole community of Brampton, Ashgate, and Holymoorside. St. Peter and St. Paul's church had the status of a Chapel of Ease to Chesterfield Parish Church (St. Mary's and All Saints').



The fifty-year period between 1780 and 1830 saw momentous changes take place in the parish of Brampton, turning the area lying nearest to Chesterfield from a quiet rural backwater into a hive of industrial activity.

In 1781 the population of the whole of Brampton was 1,500 people, almost all of whom earned their living directly or indirectly from the land. By 1801 the population of Brampton had risen to just over 2,000. Approximately 10% of workers were engaged in part time or full-time work in industry and the remaining 90% worked the land. Brampton was basically a rural community of scattered farms and hamlets with no large concentrations of people.

When the census for 1831 was taken decisive changes were apparent. The population had risen to 3,594 with over 40% of workers employed in industry. Later census records show the population of Brampton increasing steadily in the early nineteenth century, rising to 4,409 by the mid-century. While this trend can be found in other districts in England where new industries were expanding, it clearly marks the point at which Brampton ceased to be a collection of farms, hamlets and small villages, and acquired a vigorous new and sizeable industrial

community on its eastern borders. 'New Brampton' had arrived. There are several important reasons for the rapid growth of the many industries in the eastern part of Brampton.

- Large deposits of raw materials such as coal, ironstone and clay were readily available together with a plentiful supply of water from the river Hipper. These sources of power made industrial development fairly cheap and easy.
- In addition to this the movement of raw materials and finished goods was greatly facilitated by improvements to the transport systems.

In 1777 the Chesterfield Canal was opened and transport costs dropped by a fifth. Improvements and extensions to the roads also proved to be a very important factor in the prosperity of 'New Brampton'.

In the mid-18th century the main roads into Chesterfield from the west by-passed the part of Brampton down by the river Hipper and took the line of the higher ground to the north. The new roads, built after 1759 and linking Chesterfield westwards across Derbyshire to the towns of Lancashire and Cheshire, all converged on New Brampton. The Turnpike Trust set up in 1759 to build these roads followed the old line out of Chesterfield, along Saltergate, and through Loundsley Green to Old Brampton. An important spur road was also built across Little Common to enter Chesterfield at West Bars. The following year the Turnpike road from Matlock was started, also running through Brampton on its way to Chesterfield. In 1811 the road between the end of Old Road and Baslow was improved. This Turnpike Trust straightened the road to Wadshelf and replaced the indirect route to Chesterfield via Brookside and Old Road.

Meanwhile the river Hipper, already lined with water powered mills for lead smelting and corn grinding, was having water powered machinery adapted to power new mechanised industries. A bleach works, a bobbin mill, a cotton mill, an iron foundry and forge were among the

many industrial sites built along the Hipper corridor.

Away from the river, although located to take advantage of the new and improved road system were the potteries, and over the whole of Brampton, wherever coal or ironstone was accessible, mines of all sizes were being sunk.

All these industries needed workers and while many of Brampton's farmers were born within the original parish, a high proportion of the workers in New Brampton came from outside. Some were pottery workers from Staffordshire, needle workers from the West Midlands and textile workers from Lancashire, but the majority came from the towns and villages within a 25 to 50 mile radius.

By 1851 there were opportunities for many kinds of employment in New Brampton. Unskilled labouring work accounted for the largest numbers of men in employment. Another large group were the skilled craftsmen in non-industrial occupations like builders, plumbers, smiths, shoemakers, tailors and dressmakers. Of the industrial occupations the largest numbers of people were employed in the potteries, the textile mills and in ironstone mining, with a smaller but sizeable group employed in mining coal. Most of the women found employment in the textile mills, making candlewick or sewing thread, but by 1851 there were considerable numbers making pill boxes and packing needles.

This is part one of four instalments from Pam on the history of Brampton Parish. The following three articles will follow across the next three Ploughshare magazines. Thank you, Pam, for sharing your knowledge and passion with us – Cassie Wainwright.

Safeguarding Tony Witham

As some of you will know, at the APCM in April I was elected as Churchwarden. As part of this role I was required to undertake the Church of England's Safeguarding training.



Faced with the prospect of four courses to complete I suspect many of you, as I did, would be thinking “oh no, not Safeguarding, more bureaucracy”! However, I found the courses, run by Derby Diocese, were helpful, mostly interesting, and certainly enabled me to take a wider and more considered view of Safeguarding and its place within our church's activities.

So what is Safeguarding? Basically Safeguarding is caring for those in our society who are vulnerable, identifying situations or people who may present a risk to them, and acting to guard against those risks.

During the training courses the key thing that I came to realise is that Safeguarding is actually core to our Christian faith. We are called by Jesus to follow two great commandments:

Jesus replied: ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind’. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbour as yourself.’ (Matthew 22: 37-39)

Safeguarding is simply one practical outworking of the need for us to “love our neighbour”. If we allow (for example) children to be bullied, young people to be abused, adults to be exploited, we are not following Jesus' teaching. I think the Church of England's Safeguarding Policy Statement puts it very well:

‘The Church of England is called to share the good news of God's salvation through Jesus Christ. The life of our communities and institutions is integral to how we address this task. The good news speaks of welcome for all, with a

particular regard for those who are most vulnerable, into a community where the value and dignity of every human being is affirmed and those in positions of responsibility and authority are truly trustworthy. Being faithful to our call to share the gospel therefore compels us to take with the utmost seriousness the challenge of preventing abuse from happening and responding well where it has.'

I also came to realise the importance of what you might call the jigsaw effect – where several small concerns or pieces of information can come together to reveal a bigger picture. We should all be alert for any sign that someone – adult or child – is at risk or is being abused and pass these concerns on to our Safeguarding Officers. Whilst we ourselves might think our concern is trivial, it may well be the case that our Safeguarding Team (Becky Botham, Joel Botham and Stuart Robinson), and/or the Diocesan Safeguarding Team, already have concerns and that our information is a vital missing piece in the jigsaw.

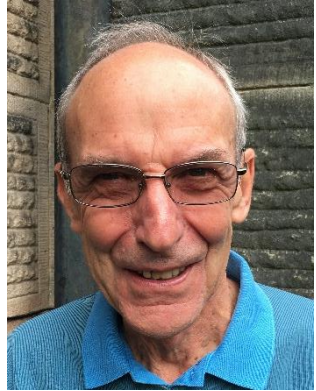
I think that Safeguarding is often thought of as being about the sexual abuse of children, but it is so much wider than that. Safeguarding applies to children, young people, and vulnerable adults. In practice this includes all adults because any one of us can suddenly become vulnerable as a result of bereavement, unemployment, accident, or mental illness (and we are all so good at hiding our vulnerabilities!). 'Abuse' can mean so many things – bullying in the playground, peer pressure on teenagers to take drugs, email scams, or controlling behavior within a marriage, are just a few examples.

I hope that, like me, you will come to recognise that Safeguarding is not just boring, politically correct, and inconvenient. Instead, it is the active working out of our Christian commitment to take care of others. We need to be alert and we need to speak out. 'Keeping it to myself' is not a valid option! And finally, if you do still feel that Church is making a big fuss about Safeguarding, watch these two videos available on YouTube (warning – they are graphic and disturbing): Exposed -The Church's Darkest Secret – Episode 1 and 2

What's he doing there?

Robin Dawson

I was looking at a Church Missionary Society publication the other day and reading an article about a conference organised by CMS in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. It was to explore peacemaking and discipleship.



There were over a hundred participants, a number of them were on Zoom. There was a screen shot of the Zoom transmission from the conference and the person on the top right hand corner was Paul Tester.

What's he doing there? We at St Thomas' support Paul in the work he does in managing CMS' Latin American operations from his home in Lima, Peru. I knew that at the time Paul and his family were in UK, back on leave for the first time for two years. So I dropped Paul an email. He replied to tell me that he had been asked to attend the conference while sat in UK to represent CMS' Africa Manager who was not able to attend.

The conference had translation locally into French and Swahili, and on line into English. So all participants were able to contribute and pray together. Paul tells me that he had to swot up a bit on his Swahili. This is an example of how the internet can be a great help in the work of Christian mission. And don't we need peacemaking at this time. Just imagine what the apostle Paul could have got up to had Zoom been available in the Roman Empire!

FREE

Queens Jubilee Community Fun Day

5TH JUNE 2022
12PM-3PM



face painting, jubilee trail,
quiz and more...

WE'D LOVE YOU TO COME AND
JOIN US FOR A FUN DAY FOR ALL

@ St Thomas' Church
Chatsworth Road, S403AW

Supported by



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Thom's Blokes

Tony Witham



In May we enjoyed an excellent talk from Nicky Loveday JP about the work of magistrates – although calling it ‘work’ is a bit of a misnomer as they are all unpaid volunteers! She described the roles of the different people who make up a Magistrate’s Court, and how the three Magistrates come to their decisions.

If a defendant pleads guilty, or is found guilty by the Magistrates, the Magistrates have a number of types of sentence that they can apply:

- A discharge, or conditional discharge
- A fine
- A community service order
- A custodial sentence of up to 12 months, which can be a suspended sentence.

If the Magistrates feel that the severity of the offence is sufficient to warrant a longer custodial sentence, then the case is passed up to the Crown Court. It was very interesting hearing Nicky discuss all the different factors that they take into account when deciding on a sentence – both aggravating factors (which increase the severity of the sentence) and mitigating factors (which decrease the severity of the sentence). An example of an aggravating factor would be where the crime was premeditated; an example of a mitigating factor would be where the defendant has a mental incapacity. Nicky stressed the detailed sentencing guidelines for each offence within which the magistrates make their decisions – the whole system being designed to ensure, as far as possible, that sentencing is consistent across all the different magistrate’s courts.

Future Events for Thom's Blokes 2022

On Tuesday 21st June we shall be travelling down to Derby to visit the Silk Mill Museum. We will meet in the car park at St Thomas' at 9:30. Anyone wishing to go on this trip who has not already booked a place must contact Tony Witham on tonywitham6@gmail.com before the event.

On the 19th July we will meet in the main hall at the Centre at 1pm for a talk on The Alamo given by David Skillen.

As usual, we will not be meeting in August.

If you would like to know more about Thom's Blokes or any of our events, please contact Tony Witham on tonywitham6@gmail.com or telephone 01246 206820.

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Masoyi Trust (UK) News

Dale Aitken, Trustee

Well, you faithful folk must have got busy praying! A week after our last article went to print, we received a £3,000 grant! This will help us to maintain the number of food parcels we fund for the next twelve months, as well as contributing to a couple of other programmes.



We have received another individual donation that is much more than we might expect; and we have been told that a church that has been supporting us for some years has now decided to promote us to one of their two major mission partners!

Treasurer

And more! Much to my surprise, Logan, the husband of Fiona, one of the trustees, said he would be willing to take over the finances. Initially, I thought he meant just the book-keeping, but it turned out that he meant the entire role of treasurer! For me, this was an enormous relief, and I am still adjusting to the shock. Logan was appointed as our Treasurer from 6th April (our new financial year), although it will take several months for all the necessary changes to be completed.

House building

Since the charity began over six years ago, we have tried to re-house at least a vulnerable family each calendar year. This year, it looked impossible: any money coming in would be needed for the basics without taking on more costs. But, as ever, God knows best...

One of our supporters discovered they had been on a higher Council Tax band than their neighbours – for 20 years. The upshot is that they were due a very substantial repayment. And they have decided to give a large chunk of that to build a house for a family in Masoyi! [A basic house costs £3-4,000 depending on size, with extra for fittings and

furniture.]

Me

Nicky and I have been involved with the people of Masoyi in South Africa for over 18 years. It was my vision, my call from God; and I have been blessed beyond measure in fulfilling that calling. The call has not changed, but my role has. Please pray that I will easily release to others that leadership role, and that I will find my new place in the charity.

Leadership

[This was meant to be a brief piece...]

To support the people of Masoyi and the life-changing work that eMasoyi do we need one or two additional hands to help us run Masoyi Trust UK. People of all skills, ages and abilities are welcome. The work is really rewarding and if God is calling you, you will receive more than you give.

Bless you

God Be In My Head - Sarum Primer (1558)

God be in my head,
And in my understanding;

God be in my eyes,
And in my looking;

God be in my mouth,
And in my speaking;

God be in my heart,
And in my thinking;

God be at my end,
And at my departing.