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*St Thomas*  
**Ploughshare**



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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'.

Please could any articles for the March-April edition be sent to Cassie Wainwright via email to [ploughsharestoms@outlook.com](mailto:ploughsharestoms@outlook.com) before Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February 20203

**Service Information**

More information online at [www.stthomasbrampton.com](http://www.stthomasbrampton.com)

## **Community Spirit**

### **Andrew Smith**



Christianity has always been about a people and predominantly a people meeting together for a common purpose. We all come together in many ways to share and enjoy experiences or advance a shared passion.

Last advent and Christmas one of the biggest events that draws the whole world together has run as a parallel narrative. The football World Cup, held uncharacteristically in the winter months of the northern hemisphere, has seen domestic football seasons put on hold and an additional distraction to the essence of the season for Christians around the world.

There remain things we can take from this unusual year. The biggest thing to take is that the world and people enjoy encountering adventures together. The World Cup provides that taste of coming together for a common goal, shared emotion and to celebrate life's ups and downs.

Shared community is something we thrive best in but has become lost through advance of technology, diversification of industry and workplaces, even more amplified by hybrid working and the pandemic. Christmas provides that opportunity for us to come together as church family, as family and as friends to celebrate together once again, find common purpose, and celebrate one another.

It is against the backdrop of what many have deemed the most successful World Cup in history, however you define successful. The news came that the majority of people in the UK no longer associate them-

selves as Anglican. There is not time to unpack all this here. The purpose of this subplot here is we need to be inspired to gather people once more to be part of the great community of Christ. To allow the teachings of the Bible to permeate our culture and inspire us to achieve great things for humanity and on toward the greater goal of heaven's call.

The excitement this World Cup will soon fade, the things that brought people together are now a distant memory, but Christianity is so much more and the world cries out for more.

Let us therefore, brothers and sisters, be inspired to let this Christmas, just as it was so many years ago, be the beginning of change. A chance for the redemptive message of Christmas to ring out through the year. Just as we gather people to church to sing carols, watch nativities and celebrate Jesus' birth. Similarly, as the world has gathered to watch the World Cup let's be inspired to invite our community in to share the adventure of knowing Jesus .





# UPCOMING EVENTS



## VALENTINES MEAL

Join us for the first Bistro night of the year with our 3 course Valentine's menu

£29.99 pp

FEB  
14



## EASTER MARKET

Join us to support local makers and bakers and see what exciting goodies are available.  
Coffee Bar Open

MAR  
18



## WHISKY NIGHT

Taste 6 Scotch Single Malt Whisky on a guided experience.  
2 course meal included  
£30 pp

MAY  
27

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 01246  
279916 OR EMAIL  
ENQUIRIES@STTHOMASCENTRE.COM

## **Ten Questions with....**

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

I'm Julie Sparks and I work a couple of days in the Church Office as the admin. assistant, alongside Becky, our Operations Manager.

**Are you a morning person or a night owl?**



Definitely a morning person; no energy left in an evening.

**What is your favourite worship song and why?**

I've not really got a favourite – so long as the theology is sound! I love 'O Thou who camest from Above', also 'Love Divine, All Loves Excelling', but I also love a lot of contemporary worship songs.

**What keeps you motivated in your role?**

People. The staff team are great, the church family are great. I need to interact with someone daily.

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

I wish I could play a musical instrument, like the piano or guitar. I know, it's not too late; perhaps when I retire.

### **What are you most thankful for?**

My family; Tim and our sons Matt and *Ross*.

### **How would you spend your ideal day?**

A day in the Cotswolds on a bright crisp morning, perhaps meandering through the quaint villages, a walk in the country, a nice vegetarian pub lunch (not easy to find in Gastro pubs), nice glass of Merlot ...

### **Do you like your cereal crunchy or mushy?**

Porridge, so mushy – nice and thin, definitely not thick.

### **What song is guaranteed to always get your feet tapping?**

Ooh I don't know about that, but I like musicals so perhaps some familiar song and dance number.

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

Easy - Just for a brief time I'd live in the setting to the 1995 film of *Sense and Sensibility* (my favourite film). I love the etiquette, the costumes, the scenery, the music, and the swooning and overacting!

### **What is your favourite meal?**

I don't think I've got a favourite really. Being veggie I don't eat meat or fish and I'm not keen on Chinese food. A nice brunch is wholegrain toast, crunchy peanut butter topped with sliced banana and a sprinkle of cinnamon.



## **ST. THOMAS' BRAMPTON, INTO THE 20<sup>th</sup> CENTURY AND BEYOND**

### **A History of St Thomas' Church**

**Pam Brimelow**

The "Scott Window" in the south-east side of the nave was dedicated on 30<sup>th</sup> September 1936. This window was given in memory of Thomas and Emma Scott and Sarah Ann Scott, long standing members of St Thomas' Church. The window depicts the Virgin and Child surrounded by a number of saints.



In September 1938 the George V Memorial Window was unveiled by His Grace the 10<sup>th</sup> Duke of Devonshire. The church was packed on this occasion and many people, unable to find room inside, stood in the church grounds and on Chatsworth Road. Detachments of the Sherwood Foresters marched to the church from the Drill Hall in a parade headed by their band.

The Memorial to King George V took the form of an Oriel Window in oak set above the Baptistry on the west wall of the nave. The window was designed and made by Mr. Hubert Maggs at his workshop on Chatsworth Road. The carving was done by Mr. F Langenus of Chesterfield and the small coats of arms along the top of the memorial were emblazoned by Jesse South a student at Chesterfield College of Art.

Also in 1938, it was proposed that the coloured patterns painted on the walls of the nave and chancel in 1903 should be covered with white lead paint and distemper, "The Whitewash Plan". When the walls had been painted in 1903 the finished effect had been unpopular with some church members. The Rector, the Rev. H. J. Sillitoe was quoted as saying, "Perhaps now the criticism will be translated into generous donations towards removing the objects of criticism". Rev. Sillitoe was often



forthright in expressing his views on a number of subjects these were recorded in his letters to his parishioners in "Spearhead", the Parish Magazine of that time.

In the February gales of 1962 eight pinnacles were blown down from the tower and one came through the nave ceiling at the northwest end doing considerable damage to the ceiling and to six pews and other fittings. Over the next five years most of the damage was repaired but during the following years further problems continued to arise and in 2017 the church was granted Heritage Lottery Funding to help with vital restoration work to the tower.

In 1961 an appeal was launched to raise the money to build the long-awaited choir and clergy vestries. Thanks to a generous response from parishioners the vestries were built on the south-east side of the church and were consecrated by the Rt. Rev. C. W. J. Bowles, Bishop of Derby in 1964.

In 1970 St. Thomas' Schools, (on Chatsworth Road) were compulsorily purchased and demolished to make way for a road improvement scheme. This created a need for premises suitable for educational and social gatherings in the parish. This need was met when the Meeting Room Suite (now St. Thomas' Suite) was built adjoining the old vestry on the north side of the church. The room was opened and dedicated by The Rt. Rev. Cyril Bowles, Bishop of Derby on 28<sup>th</sup> November 1971.

In anticipation of the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the opening of St. Thomas' Church the P.C.C. approved a five-year re-ordering scheme to take place in three phases. The chancel altar to be moved forward from the east window to enable the priest to celebrate communion while facing the congregation, the nave floor to be levelled and five rows of pews to be removed at the rear of the church to make room for a carpeted area; the west porch to be re-furbished to the design of Professor K.H. Murta, Professor of Architecture at Sheffield University and was to serve as the main entrance to the church instead of the south porch. The alabaster

font was removed from the west porch and re-sited at the north-west end of the nave. The work on the west porch was completed in time to commemorate the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. The rest of the work was carried out in 1982.

A series of special events were held to mark the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in September 1981. The Rector, Vyvyan Watts-Jones, in a letter to his parishioners stated that, "Saturday, September 19<sup>th</sup>, 1981 will be a great occasion, not only for the congregation of St Thomas', but for all the people who live in the parish." "The church exists to serve the whole community; and we want the whole community to be associated with this celebration." The main theme of the service was thanksgiving. The Duke of Devonshire (whose ancestor laid the foundation stone of the church in 1831) was present and the Bishop of Repton preached, Holymoorside Band played and leaders of the local community, including the Mayor of Chesterfield and representatives from churches in the locality were present.

In 1989 the P.C.C. Appointed Buttress Fuller Alsop Williams to prepare a three phase scheme for re-ordering St Thomas', this was to include an extension to the Garden of Remembrance, re-ordering the church interior and the provision of a Church Centre.

1999 saw the major re-ordering of the interior of the church. The pews, pulpit and font were removed, the ceiling repaired, wiring and lighting updated, carpets replaced, new cupboards were built either side of the chancel, a platform was installed and new notice boards put up at the west end. A modern altar table, font and preaching desk were purchased. The contractors for the work were J. W. Andrews Ltd of Swanwick.

One of the proposals in the 1999 re-ordering scheme had been that the chancel and sanctuary should be stripped of existing furnishings and modernised. The Victorian Society made a legal challenge against this

proposal and a Consistory Court hearing was held to discuss this. The outcome was that the chancel and sanctuary would be preserved as an example of early 20<sup>th</sup> Century craftsmanship.

The church was closed for eight weeks (services were held at St John's, Walton) and was re-opened on Easter Day, 4<sup>th</sup> April, when Jonathan Bailey, The Rt. Rev. Bishop of Derby re-dedicated the church and its people.

The extension to the Garden of Remembrance went ahead but the Church Centre was not built until 2011. The long awaited Church Centre was opened by Dr. Rowan Williams, Archbishop of Canterbury in September 2011.

## **FOOTNOTES**

St. Thomas' Church and Parish has been part of several dioceses. When the church was first opened it was part of Lichfield Diocese. The new Diocese of Southwell was formed in 1887 and St. Thomas' Parish was transferred to it. In 1927 the Diocese of Southwell was divided and a new Diocese of Derby was created, St. Thomas' became part of the Derby Diocese and still is today.

When the Parish of St Thomas', Brampton was first formed it covered a very large area including Brampton, Walton, Holymoorside, parts of Ashgate and Newbold. Over the years there have been a number of significant changes to the size of the original parish. In 1927 the Boythorpe Estate became part of the new Parish of St. Augustine. In 1961 St. Mark's was designated a Statutory District and became a parish in its own right. In 1962 the Church of the Ascension, Loundsley Green was built. This part of St. Thomas' Parish joined the Parish of Old Brampton in 1973. In the year 2000 St. John's Walton became the first new parish of the new Millennium. In 2022 St. Peter's Church, Holymoorside is now part of St John's Parish and St. Mark's has come back to St Thomas' Parish.

**Pilgrimages: Santiago de Compostela, Spain, July 2022 and Following in the Footsteps of St Augustine, Bridlington to Scarborough, Bank Holiday weekend, August, 2022  
Stuart Robinson**



I was motivated to write this after reading Marie Witham's article about her and Tony's holiday to the Isle of Arran – which took my mind back to 1981 when I stayed there with my Mum and Dad and a friend at the age of 18.

### **The Spanish Camino**

Some 40 years on, I thought I'd like to be a bit more adventurous and do something 'different' as I recognised I was feeling stale and bogged down. Whilst I love this country I felt the urge to travel further afield although didn't fancy a European city break. Q: Was I brave enough to solo travel to New Zealand or Australia? A: No. And then the idea gradually came to me – to sample the countryside in Europe: the Camino – walkway – Santiago (of Saint James) in Galicia, Northern Spain. I'd vaguely heard about this although not fully appreciated it. I looked online and discovered a travel company that would identify accommodation for me and move my luggage (backpack) on, making the task of co-ordinating it easier and taking away some of the hard slog.

The Camino culminates in Santiago de Compostela, where the magnificent Cathedral exists, dedicated to St James, one of Christ's disciples. Legend has it, following Christ's crucifixion, he travelled from Jerusalem to Spain although his enthusiasm was treated with

suspicion, whereby he returned to the Holy Land – and was decapitated by Herod Agrippa in AD44. His followers placed his body on a boat and set it out across the Mediterranean which then travelled northwards over the Atlantic, before beaching at Padron on the Galician coast of Spain. From there, his disciples transported his body to Santiago where he was buried in present day Santiago de Compostela (SdeC) and where a magnificent largely C12th cathedral exists. Hence pilgrims travel the route to SdeC with various route ways culminating there – through Portugal and France – and a lesser known route (although increasing in popularity) that starts at SdeC and culminates at the coast: Finisterra. This quite literally translates as ‘the world’s end’ – or what was perceived to be in medieval times.

I would be travelling alone although joining other walkers. What should have been the start of a de-stressing holiday from the word go suffered a hiatus when I arrived at Gatwick Airport to find that the scheduled flight that evening had been mysteriously cancelled – and none of the passengers informed. That said, we were individually offered gratis accommodation and an evening meal/ breakfast at an airport hotel – which was luxurious – and booked onto the next available flight, exactly 24 hours later. Maintaining the notion of this being out of my control and that, all things considered, it was not going to materially affect my life chances (a measure I particularly apply after the invasion of Ukraine by Russia), I spent a relaxing evening chatting with other passengers. Determined not to spend 12 hours the following day sitting in the airport, I contacted friends in nearby Haywards Heath and arranged to meet up with them – and their delectable 14 month old Collie – which I duly did.

From getting onto the flight later that evening to returning to UK seven days later, everything went like clockwork. I was met by a taxi at Santiago Airport and taken to my hotel. This was an hour plus journey as originally I’d planned to stay in the city of SdeC although due to the

travel delay I had missed out the first part of the journey and needed to travel to the next town, Negreira. I was dropped off outside a converted farmhouse at almost 01:00 AM in total darkness, to receive a welcome from a beaming, friendly hotel proprietor who insisted on me having a late supper: mixed salad, bread and a platter of cheeses, washed down with a glass of local white wine. And 'Why not'? I was after all, on my hols.

The next morning, after pushing back the shutters of my bedroom window and deeply breathing in the mountain air, the events of the previous 48 hours seemed distant. I couldn't believe I was where I was. The air smelled freshly of pine and



eucalyptus and the views of the mountain and countryside were fantastic. Over a breakfast of local honey and natural yoghurt, breads, cheeses, eggs, tomatoes and fresh fruit, I chatted with the other guests, Barbara and Martina, 2 German friends who likewise had experienced delays with their flights and arrived late in the day. We had the same route mapped out westwards to Finisterre and the other travellers had gone ahead of us. And so, our journey began: the opportunity to get to know two other people very well, respecting each other's wish for conversation and quietness and to bask in the beauty of the open country, discovering churches and shrines along the way, resting at small villages and exploring towns.

The holiday consisted of staged journeying to our destination -

Negreira to Olveiroa, Olveiroa to Cee and Cee to Finisterre: some days covering 22 miles, others 15 – all quite manageable as the route was well signed and largely followed tracks. My overall impression of the Camino, was, quite simply, being immersed in nature and meeting a range of interesting people of all nationalities. We kept bumping into Alex, a young man from South Korea who shared with us his Ninja app, showing the altitude and how much we would be climbing/ descending. We four got on well together – he had a great sense of humour – and when we met him by chance again in a restaurant on our final evening together at Finisterre, we joked that we'd refer to it as the Kim-ja app from there onwards. We kept passing and then finding ourselves behind, an earnest Dutch female walking alone; we'd bump into a friendly group of Spanish guys who were always ready to chat and share a drink with us at a cafe; and a Mum, alongside her teenage son and the boy's Grandmother, who carried a massive rucksack on her back and a smaller one on her front, containing the belongings of all three. The lad looked carefree – why wouldn't he be? - whilst his Mother stoically persevered. Perhaps that was the purpose of her pilgrimage?

Every kilometre there was a concrete marker – a bit like a trig point – with the sign of Il Camino (a scallop shell) and a directional arrow, so it was easy to stay on track. People left stones on the top of markers or constructed their own monuments along the way – with small rocks, notes, photographs, and other significant personal memorabilia, unburdening themselves. The association of the scallop shell with the Camino – and they lie abundantly along the Galician coast – is that a pilgrim was tempted by the Devil to drink water from a river in return for denouncing his faith. The pilgrim resisted and was rewarded by the appearance of an apostle wearing pilgrim clothing (sack cloth) who instead, offered him water from a scallop shell. Hence there is a Fuente de Reneiga (Fountain of denial) at one particular point of the Camino, commemorating this legend.



Whilst my walk along the Camino followed in the footsteps of Christians over the centuries, for me, it was more of a spiritual experience – chance to clear my head and appreciate the beauty of the world. At another level, it helped me realise that each one of us is journeying, whether holding a faith-based belief or not and of the variety of humanity and life experience. It did bring me closer to God in the sense that it pared back some of the organisational ‘stuff’ we can all too easily get bogged down with and caused me to think about my personal relationship with God.

Ultimately, I intended to travel back by road from Finisterre to SdeC and have opportunity to explore the city. My final day in SdeC which I thought would be the pinnacle of my journey, was certainly interesting – for instance, the magnificence of the cathedral and shrine within – although I did find the heat overbearing and the crowds rather distracting. My preference was walking through countryside and the process of discovering the way forward and surprises along the way.

If you want to read about others’ experiences of travelling along the Camino, a book I subsequently read, borrowed from Chesterfield library, is by Jean Ann BUCK: *Walking for Wildlife – El Camino to Santiago de Compostela* (2004), Upfront Publishing, Leicestershire. This is a very personal account of the walk she and her friends did almost 20 years ago, heading westwards to Santiago de Compostela.

### **Bridlington to Scarborough: Following in the Footsteps of St Augustine**

My next adventure came about from visiting Bridlington Priory – a beautiful building, almost a mini York Minster – with the choir I sing with in June and noticing a poster advertising a 3 day walking tour, whereby Christians would quite literally follow the route St Augustine took, along the coast. Having the notion of the Santiago pilgrimage in

my head, where I would have traversed some 70 miles, I thought I'd be well prepared to cover the 30 miles of this route. It would stop at various Anglican churches along the way where we would share acts of worship and eat together: a true sense of community.

The walk was led by a retired Christian vicar and (well) co-ordinated by a parishioner from Bridlington. We sat down to shared breakfast and prayers at the Priory on the morning of Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> August at 08:00 AM (I'd been up from 05:30 and on the road @ 06:00 AM). Everyone was welcoming. I was the furthest travelled although someone else had journeyed from Malton. As we set off I walked alongside the vicar of St Mary's, Scarborough (the church below Scarborough Castle) and we easily shared our histories. He too had graduated in Hull and we seemed to connect, at many levels. After a short service – spoken word, prayers and singing – we lunched in the church hall at Flamborough. After walking along the cliffs with beautiful views of the North Sea, we arrived at Bempton church where there was a flower festival. Along this stretch of the walk I chatted with Jane and Martin (and their friendly rescue dog, Tom), Burt and James and again felt a connection. We were able to pick up conversations where we'd left them, over the course of the 3 days. That first evening there was a concert in Filey church by a Celtic Christian folk group – Celtist – attended by a good few of us (and others), which was a truly marvellous experience. I bought a CD which I've played regularly since.

Day 2 involved us walking from Bempton (after a further 09:00 AM short service) to Speeton – a beautiful C11th church ¼ mile in from the cliff edge – where there was a welcome from parishioners and a shared lunch on the church grounds. Days 1 and 2 were absolute scorchers (as the photos show. Beyond that we walked to Filey where we once more received a warm welcome and refreshments and held a brief service. The following – final – day involved us walking from Filey to Scarborough. The weather was less settled and occasionally we had a

few splats of rain although it brightened toward the afternoon. We lunched together down in Cayton Bay at the Surf Shack Cafe – great!! – having walked along the cliff edge. Then it was the final push to Scarborough and to St Mary’s, again, a beautiful old church. To share communion with people I’d got to know deeply and who, like me, had shared aspects of their lives and spiritual journey was a real privilege. I was sad, in some ways to come away, although I felt so much closer to God, recognising how he’s been alongside me throughout my life and of his direction and influence upon the other pilgrims, from our ‘testimonies’ during those 72 hours. I aim to keep in contact with everyone I met (and their dog) and believe that there is a warm welcome for me in that part of the world when I next venture there.



Photos provided by Stewart Robinson

# TIME FOR TEA

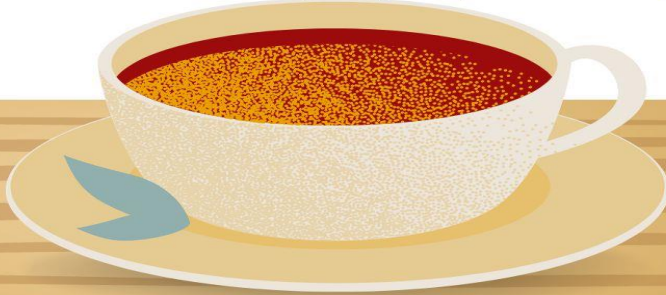
at St Marks Church

Games, conversation, music and friendship.

Sandwiches, cake, crisps, tea and coffee. No charge but donations welcome

2-4pm

Wednesday 18th January 2023



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

## Warm space@ St Mark's Church

Dropped the children  
off? Need a break before  
the rest of your day?  
Free coffee, tea, toast!

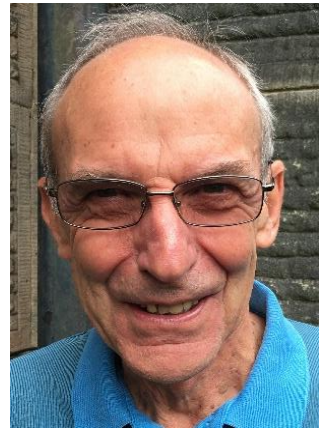


Wednesdays from  
8.45-10am

Toys and a warm  
welcome

St Mark's Rd, S40 1DH

**Thom's Blokes Magazine**  
**Number 24**  
**Robin Dawson**



Hello, this is the first time that the Thom's Blokes Newsletter appears as part of the Ploughshare Magazine. The previous 23 issues have been circulated to Thom's Blokes only. For those who don't know, Thom's Blokes meets monthly, usually on the third Tuesday for talks, outings, fun and friendship. As I write we are anticipating our Christmas Lunch. And our next fixture is our annual visit to the Chesterfield Bowl for a bit of bowling, a bit of pool and some banter. Our Newsletter gives news of our activities, has an article about some item of interest and a joke of the month. Enjoy!

**November's meeting, the Ecclesbourne Valley Railway**

The railway buffs in Thom's Blokes had been feeling a bit neglected so we managed to get another railway item into the programme. Eric Boulton talked to us about the revival of this abandoned branch line into a thriving tourist railway that also had a number of other strings in its bow, such as use of the line for testing new machinery and providing a place for training personnel. The talk was illustrated with pictures of the huge amount of work that had gone into clearing and renovation of the right of way. These pictures also showed groups of high vis clad muddy blokes that had obviously had a good time doing it. It was evident that creative thought had gone into how the organisation was structured to take full advantage both voluntary and commercial activities. We all thought that Thom's Blokes needed to go on another visit. We'll have to wait until 2024 before we can fit it into our crowded programme.

## A Welsh Haka

Watching the New Zealand rugby team do a Haka before a match is always fun. The face pulling and tongue bit always amuses me especially. The Haka is not just a war dance, it is a ceremony that can be used to show respect, mourning or welcome. Similar ceremonies are used by other Polynesian nations. I enjoyed watching the Tongans and the Samoans performing their differently named equivalents before matches in the Rugby League World Cup. It's very much a Polynesian thing.

The use of the Haka is spreading. A number of teams from schools and colleges in the US have taken to doing a Haka before playing their style of football. There is a certain sensitivity in New Zealand about this. Many don't like the idea of the cultural appropriation involved. It's a Maori thing. In their defence the colleges will say that they have a number of Polynesian players in their teams.

However, the most far out Haka was performed in 2008 before a rugby match in the Welsh village of Bethesda, population 4700. This village was once the setting of an enormous slate quarrying industry. The quarries were owned by Lord Penrhyn who it seemed didn't get on too well with some of his workers. There was a quarrymen's strike from 1900 to 1903, the longest in British industrial history. Since the final closures of the quarries in the 1960s there hasn't been much employment in the place, so the community has had to grit its teeth in much the same way as North Derbyshire pit villages have. One of the things they've done is to set up the second longest zip wire in Europe. Speeds of 100mph can be achieved!

Imagine their delight when their rugby team, Bethesda RFC, down in WRU Division 1 North, was drawn to play Cardiff RFC, of the Welsh Premier League, at home in the WRU Challenge Cup. Cardiff fielded

two internationals. What could a team of amateurs do against that lot? Well, they had one secret weapon. Bethesda had its own Maori, a life member of the club, called Bill Hauki. At the start of the match he did a one man Haka with the welcome and challenge spoken, or rather shouted, in Welsh. A clip of it can still be found on YouTube. Just search for BETHESDA CAREDYDD and enjoy. You'll see the three tries Bethesda scored, but none of the greater number that Cardiff put away!

### **Joke of the month**

Nothing is made in the UK these days. I just bought a new TV set. It says built in antenna. Where the devil is Antenna?

*Acknowledgments to Andrew Travis*

### **What's coming up?**

Tuesday January 17<sup>th</sup>. Our annual visit to the Chesterfield Bowl on Storforth Lane. Meet on site at 10.15am. There will be banter and prizes. Expect to spend about £10.

Tuesday February 21<sup>st</sup>. A talk about Blood Bikes. This is a voluntary organisation that ferries urgently needed blood around the place. We meet at the St Thomas Centre at 1pm. £3 entrance.

Well, that's all. Cheer up, the days will soon be getting longer.

Please send in any contributions you might like to make to this newsletter. You can get in touch at [jrdawson07@btinternet.com](mailto:jrdawson07@btinternet.com) or at 07910821663. All the best!





## **6pm Service Information**

### **Marie Witham**



From January until March the 6pm service will meet in the Suite. This is to try to save heating costs for the church, which have risen alarmingly. It is not efficient to heat the church in the morning, let it go cold and then re-heat for the evening. We hope everyone will understand the need for this move and we are hoping to make the Suite a more inviting place.

We would like people to be involved in sharing ideas as to how we might do this. One idea may be fabric banners, with designs and or words. If you would like to be involved in sharing ideas, please come along to the 6 o'clock service or contact [mariewitham@gmail.com](mailto:mariewitham@gmail.com).

Fran Johnson has loaned us a banner with the word 'Forgiven' and we have made another one with the word 'Restored' which we are hoping to leave up all the time. We also hve a wonderful wooden cross made by Graham Johnson which we use during the service. Wwe will arrange further dates for ideas and making items.

### **Zoom Evening Prayer**

We are experimenting with a Zoom prayer meeting – once a month – for anyone who would like to join. The meeting is for half an hour from 7.30pm. There will be suggested topics but there is also space for people to bring their own prayer requests and to raise local and global issues in prayer. The planned future dates are 17 January ; 21 February ; 21 March

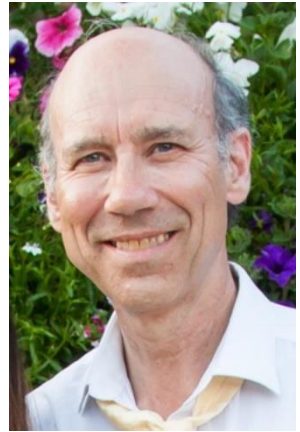
If you would like to receive the Zoom link for these events or raise issues for prayer please email [prayer@stthomasbrampton.com](mailto:prayer@stthomasbrampton.com).

## Christmas Greetings - Smiles of Hope

### Kevin Morley

When I lived in East Africa it was a common sight to see children working instead of getting off to school and they start young. At 3 years old toddlers are collecting donkey droppings and cow pats in buckets as fuel for the fire as the stuff burns when it is dried out. By the age of 5 girls have heavy jerry cans strapped to their backs filled with water from the well.

Boys tend the sheep and goats and help with the work in the field or sell vegetables on the market. By 13 years old girls are often married to men much older than them and it isn't long before they are giving birth. And these are the lucky ones not begging in the street. All the 118 children we care for go to school - or will when they are old enough - and will have some choice about how they live their lives.



Yeshume is a great example of what can be done ...Beggar to student to graduate and since November - Special Needs Teacher in a Government School. We spoke with Yeshume last weekend and she is very happy with the chalk dust under her fingernails. Now independent, now self-sufficient and she sends her love and thanks to everyone. 'Well done Yeshume and don't worry about a thing - you're the best.'





In 2015 Amanuel was abandoned and crying at a few hours old with no chance, Christmas 2022 he is loved and laughing at 7 years old and has every chance. Followers of local league football in Derbyshire might recognise the badge on Amanuel's new coat - many thanks to Rachel and Manor Rangers.

Frei 2017, Frei 2022 - now with a bright future. That's when you're going to eat today and the rags you're wearing don't fall to bits. That's when you have somewhere to sleep where the hyenas can't get you and that cough doesn't kill you. And then you go through the school gates instead of begging on the outside and get the tools to overcome ignorance, break free of poverty and have some say about how you live. Frei has all this now - and more.



In 2019 we agreed to look after Soliyana and Hananiya. Earlier this year they were featured on Ethiopian TV and after watching the programme an American businessman made the decision to fund the building, staffing and ongoing costs of a specialist school for blind children in Addis Ababa. It opened in

September and is going strong. Soliyana, Hananiya and many other children are regular attenders and are very happy.

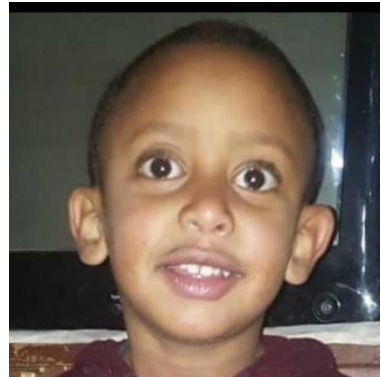
SCH - specialising in bonny babies. It took a while to get a smile but our Peniel always finds a way. Little Helen and big brother Abanezer looking great. We don't overdo formulas, processes and strategies. We ask the question 'What would you do if this child was your own?' Then we do

it. Happy to be cared for by Peniel - just one of the amazing folks who work with us.

A widowed, pregnant Letay escaped from 'the most devastating conflict on Earth,' (World Health Organisation - October 2022), walked the 300 miles to the city and found us. Three weeks ago Letay gave birth to a baby daughter. Filimon looks to have taken the little one under his wing and she is in good hands. Mother and child doing well.

New boy Ezekiel used to be scared what tomorrow might bring. Now safe and well tomorrow can bring what anything and Ezekiel knows he will be loved and protected and he is settling into life very happily with his 117 new pals.

Best wishes and Happy Christmas from all the boys and girls at Saltergate Children's Home, Ethiopia.



Photographs provided by Kevin Morley

*God, please strengthen my commitment to pursuing You. You know my heart- You know where I'm strong, and where I struggle. Please shape and strengthen every area of my life and help me to endure whatever comes my way. In all seasons, show me how to pursue love and righteousness so that way I can honour You with my whole life. In Jesus' name, Amen*

- Anon

## A Magical Evening at St Thomas' Cassie Wainwright

After several years of Success with The Polar Express, on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> December over 100 people met to enjoy the magic of Christmas and watch the Raymond Briggs Snowman Trilogy.



On entering the centre, we were greeted at the ticket booth where we were welcomed and had our tickets stamped before being encouraged to adventure on.



To watch the films, we ventured through a winter wonderland and woodland forest, complete with a vintage motorbike, a nod to what was in store in the stories, before arriving at a beautifully decorated hall, twinkling with fairy lights.

With interludes between films for hot chocolate and sweet treats, the centre was filled with the magical spirit of Christmas. After the films had finished, everyone was treated to meet Santa and his elf before the evening was finished. The evening was fantastic, and I hope that we get to enjoy a similar evening next Christmas.



Photos by Cassie Wainwright

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