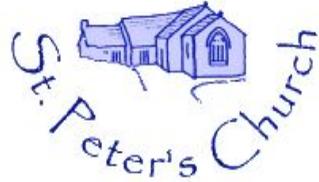


Ploughshare With Church Family News

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Online: www.stthomasbrampton.com
Facebook: www.facebook.com/stthomasbrampton
Email: contact@stthomasbrampton.com
60p per copy or £3 per year

Service of Lessons & Carols

Available on our YouTube channel from Sunday 20th December.

Christingle (All age)

Available on our YouTube channel from Christmas Eve. See our website for info on how to book an activity pack.

Also keep an eye out for our **Angel Blessings** from 18th December and our **Nativity Trail** appearing around Brampton. More details on our website.

Midnight Mass

Livestream on our YouTube channel starts 11.30pm on Christmas Eve.

Christmas Day Service

Livestream on our YouTube channel, starts at 10am on Christmas Day.

Coffee Bar

Usual opening times Monday-Friday 9am-3.30pm (depending on government directives)
For opening times over the Christmas period please visit stthomascentre.com



Search for St T's

st thomas
BRAMPTON

www.stthomasbrampton.com
contact@stthomasbrampton.com

ST THOMAS' CHURCH OFFICE

Chatsworth Rd, Chesterfield, S40 3AW

In line with instructions from the Church of England and the Bishop's Office church is open for private prayer, 9am-1pm. At the time of going to press we have not yet received information from the Church of England about going back to in-person Sunday services after lockdown ends on 2nd December. Please keep an eye out for further announcements through our usual communications.

The Church Office email address is contact@stthomasbrampton.com

Please do not leave messages on the church office telephone at this time.

Funeral directors have been given a contact number.

Acting	Revd David Owens	
Rector	contact@stthomasbrampton.com	01246 566047
Associate	Revd David Mouncer	01246 551313
Minister	revdavidmouncer@gmail.com	
0-18 Director	Joel Botham	
	contact@stthomasbrampton.com	
Parish Operations Manager	Julie Barton	01246 558461
	contact@stthomasbrampton.com	
Centre manager	Janet Bradbury	01246 279916
	enquiries@stthomascentre.com	

LETTER FROM DAVID OWENS

Well who could have predicted that! At the beginning of this year I started reading a book called 'Your Best Year Ever'. It was about goal setting etc. I quite enjoyed it, but now I always laugh when I think this was how I started 2020; it's been far from the best year ever. It's been a tough year where the words Covid, lockdown and social distancing have been added to our vocabulary.

This Advent and Christmas the Church of England are using the theme 'Comfort and Joy' in their promotional material. If there's one thing our nation and our world needs at this moment it's God's comfort and joy. Comfort in the mourning and loss of so many and of so much. And joy to reach into weary souls and reignite the image of God in us. Comfort and joy is certainly what we need.

In the Christmas story the message of the angel to the shepherds was 'good news of great joy'. A Saviour was born, Christ the Lord! We know very little about the shepherds, their predicament, their issues. Whatever the specifics no doubt their fundamental experience of the human condition was similar to ours. Life can be tough, but it can also be full of joy. Seemingly the message of joy struck a chord with them because off they went to find this Saviour. And it was exactly as the angel had told them - joy personified.

The shepherds give us an excellent example of what it means to be blessed by God. In fact they give an insight into how blessing is supposed to work. They were blessed by meeting with Jesus and receiving the joy the angel had promised. But they didn't keep it for themselves. Read Luke 2.17-18, off they went and spread the word about this child. The blessing was received and the blessing was then shared. That's the process of blessing in God's kingdom. When God called Abram that's exactly what happened too (See Genesis 12.1-3). 'I will make your name great and you will be a blessing... all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.' What we receive from God we give away. That's blessing right there.

This Advent and Christmas we want to take on this challenge of blessing. We want to encourage you to keep Christmas local. Think local, shop local. That's because as we are receivers of God's comfort and joy, we also want to pass that on to others. To help do this as a church there's two things we're going to do.

First of all we've produced a 12 days of Christmas challenge for you. Yes it takes in Advent, so it's not strictly just a Christmas challenge, but the point is to bring God's comfort and joy from our church (which is you!) to our neighbourhood and beyond. Try some of the challenges, try all of them, come up with your own variations. Let's bless those around us in what has been a tough year. You can find the challenge printed in this magazine.

Secondly, it's been a hard year for local businesses. We want to encourage you to shop locally if you can. Perhaps buying a few presents locally rather than on Amazon, or buying part of your Christmas menu from some of the small retailers on Chatsworth Road. To help we've put together a list of some local businesses that have been part of our Christmas Tree festival in the past or who are local to church or part of our church family. It's not exhaustive, so please do let us know if there are any other business we could put on there. You can find the list at <https://www.stthomasbrampton.com/updates> .

No matter what we and our community have gone through this year, I hope and pray that this Christmas and New Year will be filled with much comfort and joy where it is needed. Let's receive this from God, and then pass it on.

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St Peter's Memorial Garden Dedication Service September 2020

(You may remember in the June July magazine Ken Franklin wrote about the completion of the memorial garden but at that time it was not known when the dedication would be – here now is Ann Cleaver's account of that event)

On a bright but chilly afternoon in late September, twenty of us, all clad in our face-masks and socially-distanced, gathered at last on the slopes of St Peter's Churchyard for the official Service of Dedication of the new Memorial Garden.

This project was initiated a couple of years ago under the guidance of our Minister at the time, Bill Bazely, and it was lovely to have both him and his wife, Mogs, present at the service. Clergy from St Thomas', Brampton, St John's, Walton, and the URC jointly conducted the short but moving service. Some friends from St Thomas' joined us, and representatives from Churches Together in Holymoorside, Walton and Holymoorside Parish Council, Holymoorside Ladies' Club, and Holymoorside Well-Dressing Group were all

present, all of whom had contributed to the success of the project, through careful planning and generous fund-raising.

The graceful L-shaped stone wall bordering its large square of grass with such a wonderful view was all made possible thanks to the skills of one of St Peter's church members, experienced builder Howard Stockton, also present at the service, of course! The Memorial Garden means that we can now bury ashes in perpetuity here in the village.

As part of the service, a poem entitled 'Our Village' was read aloud, its lines compiled (via email) by some members of St Peter's during Lockdown, under the guidance of Ken Franklin.

It was all in all a special time for us to be together in such a beautiful place, celebrating this new Memorial Garden, created for our community of Holymoorside.

Ann Cleaver,
St Peter's Church, Holymoorside



Last magazine cover

Marie Witham

I was uncertain about putting a photo of another church on the cover of the last edition BUT I was contacted by Andrew Travis to say he had done a double take as it was a photograph of the church he had worshipped in for 6 years, about 30 years ago when he and Liz lived in Whitley Bay!
It is a small world indeed and what amazing connections!

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

David Owens

This Remembrance Sunday was certainly different from any other I have known. Going into lockdown 2 meant that we couldn't meet in person in church. Of course we had an excellent online service led by David Mouncer! However, I thought it was also important to hold a short Act of Remembrance on behalf of our community at our war memorial with just me and the family to honour those who gave so much. So the four of us gathered just before 11am, and we found we were joined by a small number of folk who were either passing by or who had the same idea as us. It was a simple but moving Act of Remembrance.

We held a two minute silence, had a bugle call, prayed and laid wreaths on the memorial and on the two war graves in our church grounds.

We may not have been able to gather all together, but we were still able to remember them.



TRAIDCRAFT NEWS – deadline date for Christmas orders

7th December

Because of the Covid-19 Pandemic and our current lockdown, goods ordered from Traidcraft are taking longer than they usually do. The **deadline date for ordering Christmas cards and specific items from the catalogue is therefore Monday 7th December**. If you order more than **£50 worth** of goods at a time, we can arrange to have them **delivered directly to your door** at no extra cost. **Payments** can be made by **BACS, cheque or cash**.

Contact us: 01246 566257 / 07817 573283 or via alisonjanew@sky.com

Please note: *we can still supply you with items from the stall, such as foodstuffs and household goods at any time, so this deadline does not apply to items we normally stock. We still have gifts suitable for last minute buying such as chocolate, biscuits, Medjoul dates, men's and ladies socks and a wide variety of other craft items – some of which have a particularly Festive theme!* If you are interested, please contact us for more details of what we have. We can send you a picture file and/or a more detailed description of items by email, text or WhatsApp.

Your support is needed now more than ever. Please contact us for a stocklist for regular food/household items and copies of the current catalogue. Alternatively go to www.traidcraftshop.co.uk to see what's on offer.

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OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Due to the second Lockdown the dates for collection of shoe boxes have changed.

The collection week is now 7-11 December

Shoe boxes can be dropped off in the Church Centre

Monday to Friday 9-3.30 During the week of 7-11

December. There will be a large carton in the foyer please simply place your shoe-box in the carton.

In the August/September magazine there was an appeal from Sue Gibbons to support her Peak Pilgrimage during which she was raising funds for the Masoyi charity. Here are Sue's reflections on the walk.



Two years ago my friend, Ann, and I walked the Peak Pilgrimage - a walk devised in 2015 by the then Rector of Eyam Church to commemorate it being 350 years since the villagers of Eyam sacrificed many of their villagers by isolating themselves in an effort to contain the plague and stop it spreading. The walk was so fabulous and we enjoyed it so much that we always said that we would do it again.

When we did the walk several friends asked “who” we were doing it for. At the time I was doing it for me, for pleasure and I felt quite guilty that I hadn’t

even considered doing it to raise money for a charity.

I belong to a ladies Bible Study group which normally meets on a Thursday. As a group we support Masoyi, in rural South Africa who desperately need funds, especially in this time of COVID-19. Last year we organised several fundraising events to boost our regular giving but due to Covid this year that hasn't been possible. As a group we tried to come up with ideas of how to raise money and God gave me the idea that, seeing as how Ann and I already wanted to walk the Peak Pilgrimage again, why not ask for sponsors for Masoyi this time. What could be more apt than to complete a commemorative Plague Pilgrimage at a time when this COVID-19 "Plague" was ravaging our world!

I asked Dale Aitken, the representative for Masoyi here in England and a member of St. Thomas, if he could provide me with sponsor sheets, which he did, but also told me that I needed a Just Giving Page. I, being a complete technophobe, had no idea how to do this but Dale, very kindly, created me one setting me a target of £800. At the time I thought he was "having a laugh" and didn't expect to receive anywhere near that much. Dale assured me that I could reset the target if I wanted. Having not a clue how to do this I let the target stand.

So now I had an idea from God, a Just Giving Page, a Target and Sponsor Forms. I now needed the all important Sponsors. I have no qualms about asking people to give money for a good cause but have you ever decided to have a party, sent out the invites and then worried about if anybody was going to come?!

At the beginning of August I had received three very generous donations on the Just Giving Page, very exciting, and then by the end of August another two. I had reached a quarter of my Target. I also had a handful of donations and pledges on my sponsor sheet.

By the second week in September I started to panic as money had stopped accruing. I had written a piece for the Church magazine but was struggling to get the word out otherwise.

Marie Witham, kindly, mentioned the Pilgrimage and the Masoyi for me during the Evening Worship Zoom Meeting and David Owen promised to include it in the Church email. Relief!

Julie Barton asked me to write a piece about the walk for the Church email. Did I mention that I am a complete technophobe? I wrote the piece but provided no details of how to give. Apparently I should have included a "Link" of how to give. What a numpty! However the unflappable, calm, smiling Julie

Barton came to my aid at the eleventh hour and sorted it out. Thank you Julie!

I prayed to God that I would meet the Target and that He would Bless the Masoyi Community.

At exactly this time Knit and Natter, which I help out at, was allowed to start back, half of the group meeting one week and half the next to ensure social distancing. Perfect timing, thank you Lord, exactly the right amount of time, two meetings before the walk, two announcements. In two weeks just by placing donations in a strategically placed box, they jointly gave £160 amazing how it all mounted up! Those lovely generous ladies! So encouraging! Thank you!

I believe that all of this was a great witness to my non believing husband, Paul, who got totally behind the cause, telling friends of the plight of the Masoyi and my walk. Unbeknown to me he had contacted Mansfield Rotary through a work colleague telling them. Unfortunately they decide at the beginning of the financial year which charities they are going to donate to and their funds had already been distributed, however the chairman, who neither of us know, sent me £20 out of his own pocket and so did the friend. Amazing! Paul even had an appointment with a chiropractor during this time, told her about the Pilgrimage and the Masoyi, magically produced a sponsor form and she donated. Thank you Paul! Thank you Lord!

On the 20th September, armed with donations and pledges of money it was time for me to do my bit. I started the Pilgrimage with my good friend, Ann, and our dogs. I asked God to Bless us as we walked and invited Him along. I'm sure that I heard him say "I was always coming with you!"

The Pilgrimage starts at Ilam near Ashbourne and finishes at Eyam, some 39 miles, walking a Holy Route taking in the fabulous Derbyshire countryside and historic villages, visiting twelve churches along the way where you collect stamps and Bible Verses in your Pilgrim's book. A wonderful way to experience God's creation, His presence and to leave behind your everyday cares and stresses. God blessed us with glorious weather, amazing as two weeks before we had been in Northumberland in torrential rain!

Paul dropped us off each morning and collected us when we had finished our miles for the day to take us back to the cottage which we had rented in Monyash. He also met us in the middle of each day for coffee and cakes. This was not a Pilgrimage of hardships!

Unfortunately many of the churches were closed due to Covid restrictions but at each one Ann took a photo to show that I had been there. The second

church along the way, a small Methodist Chapel in Milldale was open and this prayer was inside:

*As the hills cradle the valley floor, so may you be sheltered in
God's Love for you.*

*As the river moves ever onwards, so may you go forward
in your journey of Faith.*

*As the moorland flowers flourish brightly, so may you show
God's Joy to those around you.*

*May the God of all Grace, Light and Life, be with you always, Father,
Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.*

How Great is Our Encourager God!

The cottage in Monyash, although lovely, had very poor internet connection. The best place to get a signal was upstairs in the bedroom. Every night I would check my Just Giving Page and shout down to Paul and Ann what donations I had received that day and who from. I was so excited and so loud they thought that I was announcing it to the whole of Monyash! How fantastic is the feeling of the faithfulness of God!

Each day as we walked I would pray for the Lord to open up people's hearts and pockets and He certainly did! With online donations of £755 and £995 in cash and cheques a total of £1,750 can be sent to the Masoyi. Wow!! I am totally bowled over by the provision and goodness of God and people's generosity and I was worrying about making the £800 target! How Great is our God! He provided excessively and abundantly above all I expected including people to help and support me!

A Pilgrimage that I thought I was doing not for Me this time but for Masoyi turned out to actually be a huge Blessing to me, made so much more enjoyable by experiencing the closeness of the Lord - a true journey of Faith! Thank you to all who came to the Party! I had a ball!!

Sue's grand total is £2,137 with Gift Aid

The next fund raising effort is "THE 12 SLEIGHS OF CHRISTMAS". The aim is to fill a sleigh a day with 12 food parcels for 12 days. Each food parcel is £20 so please donate any amount to fill the sleighs! To Sue Gibbons or Dale Aitken or via the MASOYI TRUST Website.

Malcolm Macnaughton to be the new Suffragan Bishop of Repton



Downing Street announced on 30 October that Her Majesty The Queen has approved the nomination of the Revd Canon Malcolm Macnaughton, presently Chief of Staff to the Archbishop of York, as the next Suffragan Bishop of Repton in the Diocese of Derby.

Malcolm was educated at Queens' College Cambridge and trained for ministry at Ridley Hall. He served his title at St Andrew's Haughton-le-Skerne, in the diocese of Durham, and was ordained Priest in 1982. He was appointed Priest-in-Charge at the Anglican Methodist Local Ecumenical Partnership of All Saints, Newton Hall in the diocese of Durham in 1985. In 1990, he became Team Vicar of St John's Hoxton in the diocese of London, and served as Area Dean of Hackney from 1994 to 1999. In 2002, he was appointed Team Rector in the Hambleton Valley Group of Churches in the diocese of Oxford, and became Area Dean of High Wycombe in 2005. Malcolm took up his current role as Chief of Staff to the Archbishop of York in 2007.

Malcolm is married to Pam, an ordained pioneer minister and a leadership specialist with the Church Pastoral Aid Society.

The Bishop of Derby, the Right Reverend Libby Lane said: "Bishops are called to attend to the life of the church and to share in the building up of the Kingdom of God. Malcolm brings, out of his own deep commitment to sharing the love of Jesus, a rich and varied experience of ministry. We welcome his particular gifts in accompanying people hopefully through change, and his passion for reaching those on the margins, and younger generations, with the Good News of the Kingdom of God. We pray for Malcolm and Pam as they prepare to move - that the people and places of Derbyshire and Derby will be a blessing to them, as they will be a blessing to

us.” Canon Malcolm Macnaughton said: “I am much looking forward to working with Bishop Libby and colleagues in the Diocese of Derby, and am excited by the task ahead. The COVID crisis is tough for everyone, and we need to be focussed on bringing real hope to those most at risk, those living in poverty, and young people who have so much to offer, but whose opportunities for education, development, and employment, are so limited just now. It is great to see the Church in Derby and Derbyshire finding new ways, alongside the old, of being church and seeking the common good. What a privilege to be called by God to join you and to share the next stage of this journey! ”

The Archbishop of York, the Most Reverend Stephen Cottrell said: “I am delighted that Her Majesty The Queen has appointed Malcolm as the next Suffragan Bishop of Repton. Malcolm’s work here at Bishopthorpe alongside Archbishop Sentamu, and latterly with me, has given him huge experience of the workings of the Church of England and this will be of enormous value in the Derby diocese. At heart, Malcolm is a pastor. His gentle demeanour, fine grasp of detail and tenacious faithfulness will make him an excellent bishop. And his heart’s desire is to make Christ known. He will be hugely missed here at Bishopthorpe and across the northern province. We offer our prayers and best wishes for this next chapter of ministry for Malcolm, his family, and the Diocese of Derby.”

The Archbishop of Canterbury, the Most Reverend Justin Welby said: “I’m grateful to God as we welcome Malcolm to this role at a challenging but exciting time for the Church and for Diocese of Derby. He has many years’ experience as a vicar, working in partnership across communities and helping people face the difficulties and sorrows of life – as well as celebrating its joys. For 13 years, alongside then Archbishop Sentamu, Malcolm worked tirelessly to serve him in spreading the story of hope that we have in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. This will be his message as Bishop of Repton – that whoever we are, we can have that hope, because of the love of God in Christ. Malcolm is committed to growing and deepening the Church, which reflects the diverse communities in which we minister. He has vast overseas experience and is a man of grace, warmth and humility. I warmly welcome him to his new ministry.”

Malcolm succeeds Bishop Jan McFarlane, now Honorary Assistant Bishop in the Diocese of Lichfield.

Malcolm will be ordained and consecrated a bishop by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, in a service early next year.

Nanette Sanderson writes

My 'Hope and Positive Story' centres upon thankfulness for all the prayer, care and love I have received from my family and friends since David died on the 29th March of this year after 56 years of happy married life. Thankfulness for the family who are showing their love and care in so many ways.

Thankfulness for the power of prayer that has surrounded me and also for the practical help given by Christian friends here in Chesterfield. But most of all thankfulness for the love of God and the difference He makes in our lives.

For David, in the words of 2 Timothy 4: 6-8 'The time had come for his departure for he had fought the good fight, he had finished the race and he had kept the faith and now he is with his Lord' I have received over 70 cards telling of the help and inspiration many in this country and abroad have received from David during his life time which have made such a difference to their Christian lives - what a testimony to his life!!

As we go out in the Lord's service may the words of 2 Thessalonians 2:16-17 encourage us. 'May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us, and by his grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope, encourage our hearts and strengthen us in every good deed and word'.

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2020 Real Advent Calendar

*It is not too late to get your hands on **The Real Advent Calendar** as we still have a few in stock. Alternatively, why not ask us to send one to the Chesterfield Foodbank on your behalf to **share** and **celebrate the true meaning of Christmas**.*

Price £3.99 Please contact us via alisonjanew@sky.com or 01246 566257 or 07817573283.



Christmas is a time for hope – a chance to make the world anew. And what better way to celebrate this year, than by giving gifts which really matter? A Charity Gift card is a gift of hope, and optimism. A gift which says, ‘Let’s build a brighter future next year’. And after this year, what’s not to like about that?

Gifts for Life - Here are just a couple of the great gifts which you can buy to support Traidcraft Exchange this year. For more details go to www.traidcraftshop.co.uk/gifts/by-category/charity-gifts

You can also order these directly from us at alisonjanew@sky.com or by ringing 01246 566257/07817 573283.

Thank you – Alison and Graham Wells – Voluntary Reps for Traidcraft

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Eternal God,
giver of love and power,
your son Jesus Christ has sent us into all the world
to preach the gospel of his kingdom;
confirm us in this mission,
and help us to live the good news we proclaim.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord,
Amen



Charity number – 1183254

Hope House Update

We are on course to complete the building work by the week before Christmas and hope to be in a position to take our first guests in January. As I write this we are about to advertise for a manager.

Between the completion of the building works and opening we will need to decorate a number of rooms. If anyone thinks they could help please contact Paul Willis via the website.

The Trustees would like to thank everyone who has contributed in any way to get the project to where it is now. This includes financially and practically, by members of St Thomas' and others. We have also recently had substantial donations from various firms and organisation around Chesterfield and beyond. These include:

Derbyshire County Council Members Community Leadership Scheme grants
(from Cllrs Ron Mihaly, Jean Innes, Stuart Brittain, Dave Allen, Mick Wall and Helen Elliott)

Leeds Building Society
Derbyshire Community DCF Fund
Nationwide Building Society (Local Branch)
Screwfix Foundation
Killamarsh Methodists
Bakewell Parish Church
Chesterfield Christadelphians
Redeemer King Church
Help the Homeless Charity
The Gavins Family Trust
Crown Decorating Centre, Chatsworth Road

Again, a big thank you.

Prayer needs

Our prayer needs in particular at the moment are for the Directors working through the mass of bureaucracy that goes with a project like this. We have jumped through many hoops but there are more to go through! Also we continue to pray for grants and other funding.

On behalf of the Hope House Trustees: Andrew Travis, Paul Willis, Karen Riley, Matt Barnes, Sally-Anne Beecham and Mark Hoare. Contact details are on the website www.hopehousechesterfield.co.uk

Mark Hoare 18.11.20



On the 13 November our newspapers and TV transmissions were full of the events going on at Downing Street while our Prime Minister changed his SPADs and Mr Cummings went out with his cardboard box. The news media were so taken up with this that the much more serious events going on in Peru were hardly covered. Briefly the Peruvian Congress impeached the President and he had to resign. The new President was so unpopular that demonstrations broke out all over the country. These were generally peaceful, but the police shot two young men on 14 November. This led to the resignation of the president's cabinet, and then the President. A new President took his place who was seen as a much more acceptable choice.

Our link mission workers, Paul and Sarah Tester live and work, with their three children, in Lima, Peru. I wrote to him saying that we were praying for them and that I thought that that they would have to tread carefully, being resident foreigners.

Here is part of the reply he sent:

As you mention, Peru has had a huge range of political experiences over the years but the last couple of weeks have been unusual even by Peru's standards. 3 Presidents in a week can't be beaten too often around the world (and in some places they won't go even when they are voted out!). It was so sad that two young men were killed in the protests as the protests had been both massive and generally very good natured. People were almost unanimous in their disapproval of Congress and President Merino's very interim administration. The only good thing from our point of view was that he pushed through

some major easing of restrictions on children in his brief tenure. So, after 8 months, the girls are legally able to be more than 500m from home and out for more than an hour. There was some rejoicing in the Tester household when that was announced and we have since tried to make the most of it!

We did try to remain fairly apolitical in the protests as foreigners, but Sarah did take to joining in the cacerolazos after the news of the deaths of protestors broke. To be fair, by that point almost the entire neighbourhood was joining in. On Sunday we had fasting and prayer for the nation at church and as we were joined together online with Teófila praying for a resolution to the issue news broke of Merino's resignation and there was a wave of celebrations across the city with pots, pans, car horns and shouts and claps. It was quite something!

We do hope that you are keeping safe and well during these really difficult times for the UK. We are praying for you all and hope that this latest surge / wave is brief and that the virus obliges for Christmas. Please pass on our greetings, love and prayers to all at St T's and know that you receive special greetings and love from us all.

I should explain that cacerolazos are events where everybody stands outside their house banging pots. It comes from the Spanish for casserole, and is a often used for protest in Latin America. A day to day account of the unrest can be found in the Wikipedia entry entitled 2020 Peruvian Protests. Please remember the Testers in your prayers.

ARPILLERA

Made in the shanty towns of Lima, supported by the Anglican Church

For those of you who are regulars at the Christmas tree festival you will remember the beautiful items made in Lima. Nick and Chris who usually bring the items and decorate the tree beautifully have a small stock – see below.

There is so much to see in each piece that every time you look you will see something different, encouraging you to look and wonder, over and over again. It will also become a real talking point for your visitors. The variety of texture in the materials use and their colour is so typical of South America.

Your purchase will benefit some of the poorest people in Lima, the capital city of Peru. Our Church works with residents of the Shanty Towns who have no natural resources at their disposal and who live in the poorest of self-built accommodation.

The ladies are paid a good and fair price for their work in the projects run by the Church. In addition, through making a small “profit”, all of which is sent back to Peru, we are able to develop further groups, to help members of existing groups and their families who have health or other problems, and help even more of these poor people and their families to better their lives.

Item	No. in stock	Price each
Arpillera Card	2	£3.00
Kitchen Tidy	2	£17.00
Purse (Various)	12	£11.50
Small Bag	1	£17.00
Spectacle Case (Various)	5	£12.50
Woven Dolls (Pack of 4)	7	£14.00
Small Panel (Noah's Ark)	2	£11.50

Our website: www.arpillera.org.uk

We can photo the stock we've got if anyone's interested and email the image(s) to anyone who is interested.

Nick and Chris

N J and C V Roberts (T) 01246 233590 (M) 07896 162461

Celebrate a love that builds hope this Advent



It's rare for us to live through a phenomenon which affects us in the UK at the same time as people right across the world. Not often in our lives have we experienced a threat that is shared by our global

neighbours in countries as wide-ranging as Ethiopia, Lebanon and Nicaragua. Covid-19 and measures to curb its spread have held much of the world in its thrall throughout 2020 destroying lives, instilling fear, devastating livelihoods and forcing vulnerable people into more desperate poverty.

As we approach Christmas we are reminded of a person who turned the world upside down for good, whose life in a time of oppression and fear introduced a hope that transformed the globe as it spread across it. **Looking to Emmanuel, God with us, this Christmas**, we are reminded that God walks with us through deeply difficult times and works through us in all circumstances to show love to this world.

A love that never fails. A love that unites. A love that builds hope. Inspired by Jesus, Christian Aid supporters walk alongside those for whom coronavirus is yet another threat on top of existing ones, including the climate crisis, conflict and in 2020 the impact of locust swarms.

Your gifts and actions help people like Mekonnen Sofar in Ethiopia's South Omo region, who digs a metre deep in dry river beds to try to find a water source to keep his livestock alive as the climate crisis pushes his family into hunger and threatens his whole way of life. Friends, fellow herdsmen and children have died through digging so deep that the dry bed collapses above them. Christian Aid is working with families like Mekonnen's to provide community water sources and explore alternative means of raising income such as through making soap from aloe vera and planting drought resistant crops. The new restrictions placed on how we meet and interact have caused us to rethink what it is to be community, but our supporters know that we are bound together by much more than a virus and have shown a deep determination to continue to reach out to others.

This Advent, £15 could train one woman to make aloe vera soap, £80 could provide two goats to help a family build a better future,

£290 could pay for the materials and tools to build a pond, providing life-saving, reliable water for a whole community

This Christmas we can celebrate the incredible truth that we are bound together globally by a love that builds resilience in the face of disease, drought and darkness, that **builds up hope for all our neighbours. To find out more about Christian Aid's Christmas Appeal, including how to act for climate justice, visit caid.org.uk/hope**

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Let everything that has breath, praise the Lord.

(Psalm 150 v6)

Paul Willis

Please Read Psalm 98

Now, I am not a Hebrew scholar, but I am given to understand that the word for Spirit (Holy Spirit, God's personal presence) is Ruach and that this word is also used to mean Wind or Breath. So in Genesis 1 v2, the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. God's personal presence carries with it a sense of His energy, just as the wind has energy to affect the clouds and the trees. There is also a sense here of energy, vitality and breathing deeply. The wind and our breath are invisible, just as God's Spirit is invisible. The wind is powerful, just as God's Spirit is powerful. Just as our breath keeps us alive, so God's Spirit sustains all of life. This can be taken much further in terms of God's Spirit empowering specific people for specific tasks; being present at the Baptism of Jesus; the Resurrection, and living in us as God's people today. However, for now I would like to take the aspect of breath a little further. When we talk about 'spirit' or even 'The Spirit', we are talking about the very 'stuff' of life. When we breathe, the Oxygen that we need is not just taken into our lungs. It is transported by a beautifully elegant arrangement involving haemoglobin (in the red blood cells) into every cell in your body. Every cell needs that oxygen to sustain life.

One year at school, I decided to enter the 400 meters race in the School sports day. I was drawn in the outside lane – the most difficult because you can't measure your speed against any of your competitors, and if you start to see them in the corner of your eye, you have further to run to stay the same distance behind! There is only one solution, and that is to go flat out from the start. Pursuing this strategy, I went off like the wind from the moment the starting gun fired, and for 350 meters everything worked like clockwork. The wind in my face; no one appearing in the corner of my eye. 50 meters from

the end, and with no warning, my legs turned to lead. I thought I would tumble. My momentum carried me to the finish line, but it was as though I was dragging my legs behind me. My speed must have plummeted. The muscle cells of my legs had run out of oxygen, and the waste products were building up to the point of seizing the muscles altogether – in the worst cases, it becomes a disabling cramp.

As with the Oxygen, so it is with God's Spirit. We need Him to pervade every aspect of our living in order to work well as a Christian, and to avoid spiritual cramps. Interestingly, breathing air in and out not only brings life-giving oxygen into our bodies, but also exhales some of the waste products. So also, the Spirit can show us parts of our lives that are not exactly how God would like them, and by His power we can confess them and be forgiven, and enabled to change.

In the Psalms, David talks several times about 'Shouting to the Lord (eg Ps 66 v1; 98 v 4; 100 v1; Translations vary slightly: 'Shout': 66 v 1 NIV, NIRV, ESV, AMP 94 v 4 NIV, NIRV, AMP, MSG 100 v 1 NIV, NIRV, AMP Otherwise, it is usually 'Make a joyful noise' – almost the same thing!)

He saying that he wants to praise God with all of his breath and all of his energy; indeed, all of his life. He wants to sing to the Lord, and for me, this association between breath, the Spirit and singing is an important one. For me, singing or indeed, playing my instrument, with other musicians, frequently generates an energy which is greater than the sum of its parts. On occasions this can continue to resonate in ones' being for a day or two after the actual event. Now: I fully understand why we are not allowed to sing in our services at the moment, and it is entirely right. However, I think we should acknowledge that it is to the detriment of our worship that we are unable to involve our whole beings, the very stuff of our lives, in the praise of God our Maker, and His Son Jesus who gave his life for us. I for one am so looking forward to hearing, once again, congregational singing, and indeed, live music more generally.

As part of our 6 pm series, we would like to arrange a virtual 'Songs of Praise' with YouTube links, to be sent out on December 13th Please send me your favourite hymns/choruses from the Advent and Christmas period, by December 6th. If possible, it would be great to have a note of why you have chosen this song, or how it speaks to you; If you would like to send me a specific link, that would be great, but I am very happy to source a version if required. I will arrange them into a playlist to be circulated as part of the

evening reflection. So, while we wait for this, may I encourage you to continue to worship God with all of your breath, your whole life, singing at the top of your voice in the bath/shower if needs be, to the praise of His Glory. Amen

PS I wrote this before the second lockdown. For now, we can't even meet together, let alone sing or play music together. Let's pray that we will be able to celebrate Advent and Christmas in a more conventional way, sharing joy together, as we mark His coming into the world.

PPS Great Sadness is closing in on us with the passing of more people known well to us as a congregation. It could seem inappropriate to be praising God in these circumstances. I feel that I need to remind myself that David frequently wrote songs of lament, crying out to God in his distress. He also put his whole heart into these songs. Singing the blues can be a way of pouring out our hearts to God as well. I should point out that a large part of the music that we know as Jazz and Rock, has its roots firmly in singing the Blues. Perhaps the important point is to continue expressing all our emotions to God through our music.

Virtual Songs of Praise

13th December, 6pm service reflection

**If you would like to submit your favourite Advent/ Christmas song / hymn
please do so by 6th December
send to pgmwillis@gmail.com**

Paul wrote this piece as one of the 60'clock service reflections which are sent out on Sundays when we do not have a Zoom Agape service or Evening Prayer. If you would like to be added to the mailing list for the Zoom invites and reflections please email mariewitham@gmail.com

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In relation to our Brampton community – please see back page for our Angel presence – one of the ladies who has contributed by knitting angels this year said, “after picking up an angel last Christmas I'd like to return the favour and make some this year!” Excellent – that is how passing on blessings works in a very practical way!

The Shepherd's Story

Sitting in the darkness,
High on the Galilean hillside,
With the fire burning low
And the cold of the night
Seeping into their bones,
The Shepherds kept the long night watch.
Counting down the minutes.
As time moved towards dawn,
Without any warning,
A light cut through the darkness-
So intense they could not look up
To see where it came from.
Everything seemed to pause
For what appeared to be an eternity.
Gripped with fear and uncertainty,
They were frozen to the spot,
Until a calm, clear voice said,
"I am an angel of the Lord.
Do not be afraid
For tonight I have news
So great that the Lord
Has sent me to tell you,
A Saviour has been born.
A Saviour who will give Life
In a way that all
Will have an opportunity
To accept or reject it."
Then, as they sat
Now with a peace in their hearts,
They realised that the it wasn't the usual
Experience for that time,
But on that hillside, In that hour,
Something had begun to change
For a World without hope.

RHS CHELSEA FLOWER SHOW 2021 THE PSALM 23 GARDEN BY THE BIBLE SOCIETY DESIGNED BY SARAH EBERLE

18-23 MAY

One of the great things about Psalm 23 is the way it captures not just the times of blessing we go through – those green pastures and quiet waters – but the times of pain.

During the last few months, many of us have felt that we're going through a particularly dark valley – perhaps, for some of us, even 'a valley as dark as death'. The coronavirus has had a devastating effect on us – not just directly in terms of death and illness, but indirectly in how it's affected people's jobs and ways of life. There's plenty of pain behind us, but there's more to come.

In other words, we aren't out of that dark Covid-19 valley yet. But Psalm 23 speaks to experiences like ours. It talks about going 'through' the valley: we will come out of the other side. It says, 'I will fear no evil', because God is with us; no matter what, we're never alone. And the psalm offers a hope for a better future, too. It speaks of hospitality, of a table spread in the presence of enemies – and one of the heartening things we've all experienced during the last months is the way people have joined together in the face of the coronavirus enemy.

Psalm 23 is a psalm for our times. It rejoices in the good things we enjoy, and is honest about the bad things that frighten or bewilder us. Most of all, it offers us hope for the future, and of a home with God.

Take a look at the Bible Society website where Sarah talks about designing the garden.

There are also resources looking at how to develop community gardens.

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.

COPY FOR NEXT MAGAZINE by JANUARY 24 PLEASE

General comments, information or articles for the magazine can be emailed to mariewitham@gmail.com

'Contemplate & Craft'

Jane Simmonds

We hope to create a monthly virtual group to 'contemplate & craft', releasing instructions, a contemplative reflection based around the theme and craft packs for you to use in your own time. This might offer an opportunity to try a new craft, or it might be the first time you've invited God to be an integral part of your creative time. This project follows on from our Traditional Craft workshops, set up in line with our Heritage funding, and we are thrilled to be working with Karen from Harlequin Arts; starting with an advent theme, creating decoupage baubles. Being a pilot session, December is subsidised from our Heritage Lottery Funding, other than the cost of materials [£6] plus postage if you live outside Chesterfield. Subsequent months will incur a cost to include materials, postage and facilitation [sorry, the final amount for future sessions has not yet been determined]. Registration is necessary, as packs are limited, so please let Jane Simmonds know if you are interested, and which avenue would be your preferred option -to try and cater for as many people as possible, we are considering the feasibility of sending the information either via a facebook closed group, email links, or printed, for those of you who don't have a computer. A short zoom introductory session will also be offered for those who would like to/are able to join.

Please contact Jane on: jane.stthomasbrampton@gmail.com 07974 831274, to book a place, leaving your name, address [for pack delivery] and contact details.



From the Church of England Comfort and Joy holds together the hope that Christmas will bring joy and celebration after a uniquely difficult year with an acknowledgement that – for those who have lost loved ones or livelihoods, or who are potentially still not able to be together with

loved ones – it may be the Church's role, both nationally and locally, to provide consolation, rather than assume everyone will be ready to join in jubilation. Daily Hope is a free phone number (0800 804 8044) offering music, prayers and reflections and Comfort and Joy items will be included.

ARRIVING IN BRAMPTON FROM 18TH DECEMBER

LOOK OUT FOR ANGELS GALORE
FROM 18TH DECEMBER ONWARDS,
LOOKING FOR A GOOD HOME. THEY
CAN BE FOUND IN SOME OF OUR
LOCAL SHOPS AND ESTABLISHMENTS,
AND NEAR YOUR LOCAL CHURCH.

COVID SAFE – PLEASE NOTE THAT GOVERNMENT GUIDELINES HAVE BEEN
ADHERED TO AT ALL LEVELS OF PACKING, AND ALL ANGELS HAVE BEEN
QUARANTINED FOR 72 HOURS AT VARIOUS STAGES OF PREPARATION.

Brampton churches, including

St Mark's Church

Storr's Road
Methodist

stthomas
BRAMPTON