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St T's

St Thomas with St Maurice

Welcome to your Parish Church in the Groves

Is something missing from this issue? If so, please mention it — or even better: write an article (80 - 180) words for the next one!



Phil Moore writes:

Marian and I have so enjoyed being part of St Thomas' and getting to know you better since joining you in March.

It has been quite a time. Many of us felt God's touch at Easter. Have you noticed how prayers offered at our Sunday

afternoon 'Prayer in the Groves' sessions have been answered?. We said 'goodbye' to Frans, Kate, their boys and their student friends. We have welcomed new members.

Isaiah once heard God say, 'I am doing a new thing.' I wonder what he's going to do next!

In Quotes:

The destiny of a person is not to have a great deal of money, to have great power, to be very visible, but rather to know how to do the will of God.

Oscar Romero 1977

Christianity is all about the belief that .. with Jesus, God's rescue operation has been put into effect once for all. A great door has swung open which can never again be shut. .. We are offered freedom: freedom to experience God's rescue for ourselves, to go through the open door and explore the new world.. We are all invited .. to discover, through following Jesus, that this new world is indeed a place of justice, spirituality, relationship and beauty, and that we are not only to enjoy it as such but to work at bringing it to birth on earth as in heaven.

Adapted from Tom Wright: 'Simply Christian' p79



A WAY AHEAD

A pack called 'A Way Ahead: Refreshing Worship' has been produced by the diocese to help churches think about the direction they are taking.

The first session recalls Moses (Exodus 3:5) 'standing on holy ground' and is about meeting with God. It asks:

•What do we mean when we describe somewhere as "a holy place"?



•Are there occasions in church when you particularly feel the presence of God and what happens as a result of this?

•Are there simple things we can do on a Sunday to make it easier for people to be aware of God and to meet him?

I wonder what strikes you after reading these questions.

BAPTISMS



Jesus told his disciples to let the children come to him.

It's been our privilege to welcome a number of families to our baptism course and our services recently. Jane Coleman and Phil Moore have been working at developing our Baptism Policy and Course. Families have expressed appreciation of the way this has worked so far and have felt welcomed by members of the church.

We had several baptisms over the summer, but now that we are getting everything into place, baptism services will only occur once every two months. They will usually be on the third Sunday to coincide with our All Age service. If there are five Sundays in a month the baptism may be on the fifth Sunday instead.

CHURCH FINANCE IN THE CREDIT CRUNCH

It's surprising how much we raise through regular giving and fundraising in order to meet the financial commitments of St Thomas'. I think a 'well done' is in order.

If you would like to give in a tax efficient way the covenant scheme is a great idea. If you are a tax payer it means we get about £1.20 for every £1 you donate.

WHERE ARE WE WITH THE BISHOP'S FIVE POINTS?

Bishop Martin gave us five things to work on at Phil's licensing.

To relate to the local population as it is now. We engage with local people through Baptism Courses, Mother's Union, Cafes and school links. It would be good to develop student links. Chris Leach would really value additional help in her work with young people through Scouts and Cubs.

To create appropriate worship patterns for this population. We have new service sheets which have simplified our services. The PCC is reviewing the new patterns. No doubt there is more to do!

To pay the parish share in full and raise any money needed for the fabric. We are up to date with the Parish Share. We will be applying for grants to help with work needed on the roof.

To broaden the use of the church and hall and if necessary to be open to a radical reordering of the church.

- A new Toddler Group in the Hall will start in November. We hope to be able to improve facilities as part of this project.
- Also, we hope to install projection equipment in the church for use during services and events.

To do all this with a very clear focus on mission. It has been encouraging to have so many guests at some of our recent services. How shall we continue to share the good news of Jesus with others in the area?

CAN YOU THINK OF MORE EXAMPLES?

Children!!! Don't forget to pick up your prize stickers each week!
Parents!!! How can we improve the Toddler area?

Calendar

10 am services.

- September 27th** 'Back to Church Sunday' (Communion)
- October 4th** Communion
- October 11th** Harvest Festival and Bring and Share Lunch. (All Age Parade Service)
- October 18th** Family Communion
- October 25th** Communion

Some other events.

- September 27th 4pm** Prayer for the Groves and the parish
 - September 29th** St Crux sale
 - Every month:**
 - 1st Saturday** Coffee morning 10.am
 - 2nd Wednesday** 4Cs Cafe 1.30 pm
 - 3rd Tuesday every month** Mothers Union 2.30 pm
- Please support these events with your prayers and come along if you can.**

Spotlight

KEN LANE



has been in St Thomas' since boyhood. He has sung in

the choir, played the organ (like his great grandfather!) and serves on PCC.

RACHAEL PARMITER



grew up in York and has recently moved back with Robin

and their son, Monty. She is helping to plan and run the Babies and Toddlers group at St Thomas'.

RITA WARD



has lived in the parish all her life. She is secretary of the Mothers' Union and is currently on the PCC.