



St Thomas News

Volume 3, Issue 7

5th July 2009

July Worship

**July 5th, 10:00 am
Holy Communion**

Readings:

*Ezekiel 2: 1-5;
2 Corinthians 12: 2-10;
Mark 6: 1-13*

**July 12th, 9:00 am
Holy Communion
10:30 all age service**

Readings:

*Amos 7: 7-15;
Ephesians 1: 3-14;
Mark 6: 14-29*

**July 19th, 10:00 am
Holy Communion**

Readings:

*Jeremiah 23: 1-6;
Ephesians 2: 11-22;
Mark 6: 30-34, 53-56*

**July 26th, 10:00am
all age service**

Readings:

*Ephesians 3: 14-21;
John 6: 1-21*

My God is so Big

'My God is so big, so strong and so mighty' - these are the words to a children's song to praise God for his ability to show us far more than we have ever anticipated or hoped for.

We are reminded in John's gospel by Jesus 'I am the vine, and you are the branches. If any remain in me and I remain in them, they produce much fruit. But without me they can do nothing. I am not sure that we want to believe the last part of the verse! I must try hard, I must do my bit, otherwise.... Otherwise what? We are liberated, set free by the truth as it is in Jesus, which is a wholly different agenda to ours. So if we try hard to do 'our bit' we shall succeed in doing just that—achieving our own goals.

Instead we are to trust in the Jesus way which is so different from ours, that we lose sight of it, if we start to think that we have begun to know what God is doing and how God does it! Nothing could be further from reality. If we want to look at things from our own perspective, that is all that we shall see!

But, if, as I believe we have started to experience, a life together where God shows us what is possible, almost defying the odds, then we have started the real life of faith. R. S. Thomas writing in his poems explores the nature of God's way of 'behaving', if I can put it like that:

'He's such a fast God, always before us and leaving us as we arrive.'

'His are the echoes we follow, the footprints he has just left. We put our hands in his side hoping to find it warm.'

There is a good deal of surprise expressed in the gospels about the work of God in Jesus. We need to have a good deal of surprise in our life in God at St Thomas Becontree—let us continue to go where God leads, for his praise and for the service of the community and those we work with.

St Thomas Church Fete 2009



There are flyers available for the Church Fete on July 18 with many number of activities: knobbly knees, splat the rat, line dancing, tug of war, soak the clergy and other competitions

What's On

July 8th	Pennie Ley is commissioned in the Cathedral as a Pastoral Assistant, 8 pm. Pennie has `done' the course in Christian Studies, took a year out to reflect , and has spent the last 12 months preparing for being a Pastoral Assistant in the parish	July 15th	Just Men. Meeting up at the Hinds Head at 7:30pm. We will be looking at Jesus – Son of God or what?
July 11/12	`Solid at' stubbers. Solid is an opportunity for children and young people to share in a day with many others from churches in the area	July 17th	Shuffleboard evening at 204 Valence Avenue. 7:00pm All welcome
July 12th	Pennie's reception as a newly commissioned Pastoral Assistant in the church at the 10:30 service	July 18th	Church Fete 2009 from 10 am to 5 pm
July 13th	PCC at 8 pm - PCC will consider the nature of the fabric and upkeep of the building, amongst reports	July 20/21	Corina Kemp goes to Christians Against Poverty's HQ in Bradford for an interview for Centre Manager at St Thomas' Debt Counselling Centre. Please pray for her preparation and enjoyment of the interview process and for her testimony on that day.
Parent and Toddlers	9.45am every Monday	Rainbows	Tuesdays 4.30 - 5.30pm
Tiddlywinks	9.30am every Wednesday	Cubs	Mondays 6.30 - 7.45pm
Line Dancing	9.45am - 10.45am every Tuesday	Brownies	Meets Tuesdays 5.45 - 7.15pm
Music group	7.30pm every Friday	Guides	Meets Thursdays 7.30 - 8.45pm
Beavers	5.15pm - 6.30pm every Wednesday		

Quiz Evening

We give a BIG Thank you to Barbara and Jenny and their team and Rob Chesney and his team for organising the quiz evening. We all had a great time and Audrey Lewis and her team won the quiz! The evening raised a total of £660, which included good support for the attractively dressed Dave Bunn!



Please Pray!

Please pray for

- Fellowship of the church
- Life after Debt project
- Thank God for support volunteers and prayers
- Corina's interview on 21st July

Win a Bed

Buy your raffle tickets to win a £500 custom made bed. Sell them to your friends too! We need to sell at least £500 worth. Draw to be held on 20th July, proceeds to building project.

Recently Bereaved

Please pray for those who mourn the death of:

Charles Wilkinson
Lesley Paul
Muriel Carter
Beatrice Taylor
Ivy Jennings
Ivy Yearley
Arthur Brien
William Long