



TOM TOM

JUNE 2010

Our Vision

To transform lives
through faith in Jesus

And then the telephone rang

A few weeks ago Frances and I were sitting in our lounge discussing how to let the congregation know about Tansen Hospital, one of the causes St Thomas ' supports through its outside giving programme. Would the fact that 11,504 patients were admitted to the hospital have any meaning? Probably not, unless you knew that many of these patients had been carried along mountain tracks for four days to get to the hospital. Would the fact that 1,754 babies were safely delivered be of interest? Probably not, unless you knew that when we visited the hospital in 1993, there were only two beds in the delivery room and "We only use this one, because the other one always collapses." So how should we tell the congregation about the valuable work of the hospital?

And then the telephone rang

"Is that Pat Butler? You won't know me, but my name is Margaret and I live in Bath."

"Well, yes, that's me Why?"

"Last weekend, a friend of mine was playing in a concert and spent the night in a hotel at Beaconsfield. On Sunday morning, he went along to St Thomas ' church for the morning service, and came home with the church 's newsheet, which had your name and telephone number."

"That's a coincidence, because Frances, my wife, spoke to a man she didn't recognise and he said he had only dropped in for the service, as he didn't live locally. That must have been him."

"He knew that I had worked at Tansen for a year as a paediatrician and had seen your item in the newsheet, mentioning the fact that you had their annual report and would circulate it to anyone interested. Did you or Frances work there?"

"No. Our church was supporting by prayer, correspondence and gifts John and Jules Butterworth, CMS missionaries. John was the Hospital Administrator and Jules was running a group for young ladies making birthday and Christmas cards. We were going on an "over 50s" holiday to Nepal and arranged to visit them at the hospital for four nights. When were you there?"

हामी सेवा गर्छौं
येथुले निको पार्नु हुन्छ



We Serve Jesus Heals



“ Thirty years ago. Before they had started building the new maternity wing. ”

“ Yes, the photographs a few years ago of the finished building were quite impressive. And now they have a new radiology department. ”

“ So you are still in contact. ”

“ Yes, with the dentist, Roshan, and his family. When we were there, we talked with the lady that in the old days we should have called the ‘almoner’ and she explained that there is no national health service and the hospital receives no financial help from the government, they have to charge patients about a quarter of the actual cost of treatment – and of course many of the medical staff are doing a sabbatical year and don’t take any fee. Even so, there are many patients who cannot afford even a small amount. And that is where our support of the Medical Assistance Fund comes into use. ”

“ Do you remember any of the staff that I would have known? ”

“ Not by name, but there was the Austrian doctor who was raising rabbits so he could have meat once a week. What sticks in your memory most? ”

“ The words above the main gate – **We serve; Jesus heals** ”.

By Pat Butler



In June we wish Happy Birthday to



James Robson
Joanna Snelling
Jack Ward
Anne Smith
Kitty Greenwood
Francesca Butler
Rebecca Jurdon
Ros Sharkey
Betty Hudson
John Lewis
Fiona Wilson



The work of the church – the mission of the Kingdom of God

Matt 5:1-16

The Beatitudes

¹Now when he saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down.

His disciples came to him,

²and he began to teach them saying:

³"Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴Blessed are those who mourn,
for they will be comforted.

⁵Blessed are the meek,
for they will inherit the earth.

⁶Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they will be filled.

⁷Blessed are the merciful,
for they will be shown mercy.

⁸Blessed are the pure in heart,
for they will see God.

⁹Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called sons of God.

¹⁰Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹"Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. ¹²Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Salt and Light

¹³"You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled by men.

¹⁴"You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.

The sermon on the mount is widely regarded as being one of the most profound pieces of religious teaching in history. The beatitudes themselves lay bare the blueprint of the restoring work of God that took effect in the person of Jesus Christ. I believe though that many find them hard to understand and if they are misunderstood perhaps we miss a vital ingredient in the mission that we as Church inherited from Jesus following his Ascension and the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.



Where you see the Church you should see the ministry of Jesus and the power of the kingdom of heaven realized in the presence of the Holy Spirit.

Matthew places this teaching at the very beginning of Jesus ' ministry following his temptation in the desert and return to Galilee. A significant verse for understanding the beatitudes is Matt 4: 17 "From that time on Jesus began to preach, repent for the Kingdom of heaven is near". It is followed by a description of Jesus ' ministry of preaching, healing and deliverance. The emphasis for Matthew is on the divine, transforming power of the Kingdom of heaven made real on earth in the person of Jesus.

So in his use of the beatitudes, Jesus is not saying that the poor in Spirit are blessed because they are poor in Spirit or even because they are humbly aware of their spiritual poverty. We cannot earn God 's blessing by being anything and neither spiritual nor material poverty have any place in the kingdom of heaven anyway. The poor in spirit are blessed because in the coming of the kingdom of heaven they will be released from their poverty. The blessings of the kingdom of heaven are made accessible to people on earth in Jesus. The beatitudes alongside Jesus ' quotation from Isaiah 61 (Luke 4) are his manifesto for his work on earth.

So to clarify; when exposed to Jesus the poor in spirit will be transformed to be people who are fully aware of the kingdom of heaven; those who mourn will be transformed into those who are comforted; those who are meek will regain self confidence; those who long for righteousness will know the reality of it and so on.

Finally where does this lead us as Christians today? Significantly, Jesus, in spelling out through the beatitudes his own manifesto of the transforming power of the kingdom, then invites his disciples to share in it. "You are the salt of the earth..... you are the light of the world." Salt and light are transforming. Your dinner tastes different with salt on it and salted meat does not go off like unsalted meat. Light in the darkness changes everything.

For us the challenge is this. Where you see the Church you should see the ministry of Jesus and the power of the kingdom of heaven realized in the presence of the Holy Spirit; the beatitudes in reality.

A very helpful and more detailed appraisal of the beatitudes can be found in 'The Divine Conspiracy' by Dallas Willard, pages 111-143

ART EXHIBITION - SATURDAY 3 JULY - ST THOMAS' HALL

In light of the fact that, at the last exhibition which Barnaby Lathom-Sharp ran, there were so many great paintings, drawing and photos, we thought we would give you all another chance to show off again with other wonderful works.

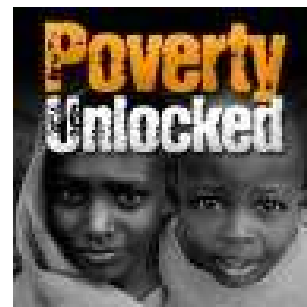
There are many forms of "Art" so we are widening the scope a little - do you do embroidery, patchwork or quilting, or perhaps make models? We would love to show them off, so please bring them along to the Church Hall on Friday 2 July between 5.00-6.00 pm or on Saturday 3 July from 10.00-11.30 am.

The actual exhibition will be on Saturday July 3rd from 2.00 pm and will be left up until lunch time on Sunday 4 July.

Looking forward to seeing all your great works so don't hide your talent - do a bit of showing off! Jan and Chris.

Poverty Unlocked

Understand the Biblical perspective
on Poverty



Poverty Unlocked is a four-week series that introduces Christians to the Bible's teachings on poverty. Through interactive group activities, Bible study, DVD's and stories you will deepen your understanding of poverty and what you can do about it.

I would like to invite anyone who is interested to join me in walking through the 4 sessions (2 hours each starting at 7.30 pm on Thursday evenings) Please also feel free to bring a friend who may also be interested

17TH JUNE PARADISE TO POVERTY: HOW GODS' WORLD GOT THIS WAY

UNDERSTAND THE DEGREE OF PHYSICAL POVERTY WORLDWIDE AND THE DIMENSIONS OF POVERTY WITHIN THE BIBLICAL CONTEXT.

24TH JUNE THE ROOTS OF POVERTY

DISCOVER WHY PEOPLE ARE POOR IN THE CONTEXT OF BIBLICAL VALUES AND EXPERIENCE THE VULNERABILITY AND HOPELESSNESS FELT BY VICTIMS OF POVERTY AND INJUSTICE.

1ST JULY SUSTAINABILITY: CHANGE THAT LASTS

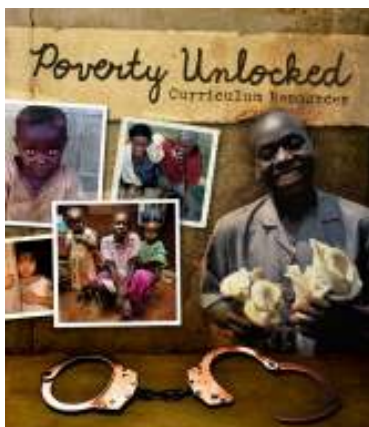
CONSIDER THE GOD-GIVEN POTENTIAL OF PEOPLE WHO ARE POOR, GAIN A GREATER UNDERSTANDING OF WHY IT'S SO HARD TO GET OUT OF POVERTY, AND DISCOVER WAYS EVERYONE CAN SPARK CHANGE.

8TH JULY WALKING LIKE CHRIST

LEARN FROM JESUS' MINISTRY TO THE POOR AND BE INVITED TO PRAYERFULLY CONSIDER HOW KNOWLEDGE CAN TRANSLATE INTO ACTION

*I will sort out the venue when I know how many people are interested in the mean time please feel free to ask me any questions, take a look at the web-site below and let me know if you would like to join me on this journey
Paul (674898 or paul_cornelius@tiscali.co.uk)*

The series has been put together by Food for the Hungry a Christian Relief and development charity graciously supported by St Thomas



www.povertyunlocked.com



We made it and Thank You

Our last newsletter was just before we climbed Mt Kenya. As many of you know we all made it! A huge thank you to those who made extra donations for the work of MAF - over £1,300 has been very gratefully received. We really enjoyed the fantastic scenery - didn't enjoy the cold nights - but were extremely blessed with the weather. Two weeks later our guide, Mary, was with her next clients and there was snow and no views from the top at all.



Treating the Jiggers



On a recent Saturday morning I (Derek) gathered 10 passengers and set off for Marsabit in N Kenya. The group, organised by Karura Community Chapel in Nairobi and subsidised by MAF, comprised volunteers, media people and a celebrity (Miss Kenya 2005). Marsabit is a green oasis town built on the shoulder of an isolated small mountain (by Kenyan standards) surrounded by arid semi-desert. After a short cramped drive from the airstrip we joined a pastor and more volunteers in church grounds where a number of local people were waiting for treatment. After a short prayer and a briefing by the team leader, the first patients were registered and moved on to the treatment area. Jiggers burrow into the skin, usually on the feet but sometimes on the hands and lay eggs. The wounds become infected and painful resulting in loss of mobility, such that children do not go to school and adults cannot work. Treatment consisted of washing the affected area with soap and water, then immersing those areas in Potassium Permanganate solution and finally applying cream to moisturise the dry skin. Each patient, and they ranged in age from toddlers to the elderly, was given soap, Vaseline and nail clippers to continue the treatment. Over 100 people were treated during the session and a news report of the event made it onto national TV and newspapers. Feet aren't really my thing (too far away) so I helped by keeping the supply of bowls of clean water or solution flowing.



Thank you for your support and prayers, and we ask for your continued prayers.

- Give thanks to the Lord that the presidential elections in Sudan have been quite peaceful. Pray for confidence to return and that MAF's resources can be fully utilised. Pray for good health and energy for Ruth Haley who is serving as the Juba Base Administrator for 6 months. Give thanks for her willingness to serve the Lord.*
- Praise the Lord that Derek and Ruth should be grandparents this month as Ian and Claire are expecting a baby. Please pray for a safe delivery and a healthy baby. Pray for smooth travel arrangements when Derek and Ruth travel to meet the new arrival in June.*
- We are expecting to be with MAF in Kenya until April 2011. Give thanks for all the people who are supporting us and the work of MAF financially and with their prayers. Please pray for our continued good health, safe flying and opportunities to serve the Lord*



St Thomas ' Church, Mayflower Way Holtspur



Saturday 3 July 2010

Diamond Anniversary Celebration

2.00 – 5.00 pm Art Exhibition (Hall)

Refreshments available

5.00 – 6.30 pm Barbecue (Church Garden)

Food & Drinks available

5.30 – 6.30 pm Puppet Workshops (Church)

6.30 – 7.00 pm Music & Dance (Church)

Holtspur School Choir

Holtspur Brownies

7.00 – 7.45 pm Drama – “Thomas ” (Church)

For more information contact: Steve Painting 01494 670460

Diamond Anniversary Tom Tom

I should like to make the next edition of Tom Tom a special one celebrating the Diamond anniversary but I need your help!

It would be great to have as many quotes and photos as possible.

Could **you** send me a short quote “ *What St Thomas has meant to me* ”?

I shall be really grateful for all your contributions – either my e-mail to ep@stdoms.ac.uk

Or on a piece of paper when you see me at church.

Many thanks, Erica

CHURCH DIARY JUNE 2010

- Fri 4 June** Tom 's Tots meets in Church Hall from 2.30-4.30 pm
playgroup for babies and pre-school children run in conjunction with Beaconsfield NCT. £2 per family – call in any time during the afternoon.
- Sun 6 June** Prayer and Reflection 9.30-10.00 am
Holy Communion at 10.00 am
Church Prayer @ 7.00 pm
- Mon 7 June** Churches Together AGM @ 8.00 pm
- Tue 8 June** Holy Communion @ 9.30 am
- Tue 8 June.** “ Behind the sun ” A 60 minute dramatisation of the life of a believer in a Middle eastern country. 8pm in the church
- Wed 9 June** Kiln Court Service @ 10.30 am
- Thurs 10 June** ‘ Grill the Vicar down at the Pub ’ – An opportunity to put questions to Steve Painting and Rob Hayden on matters of faith or topical issues. 8 pm in the Falcon, Watery Lane, Wooburn Green.
- Fri 11 June** Tom 's Tots meets in Church Hall from 2.30-4.30 pm
- Sat 12 June** DCC Away Day - Pelagos
- Sun 13 June** Church Breakfast 8.45—9.45 in the Hall
Prayer and Reflection 9.30-10.00 am
Morning Worship at 10.00 am
Church Prayer @ 7.00 pm
- Tues 15 June** People Group meeting 8.00pm 119 Heath Road
- Wed 16 June** Twelfth Night at Hall Barn with picnic in grounds
Contact Margaret (674858) or Frances (674386) for details
- Sun 20 June** Prayer and Reflection 9.30-10.00 am
Holy Communion at 10.00 am
Church Prayer @ 7.00 pm
- Tue 22 June** Holy Communion @ 9.30 am
- Fri 25 June** Tom 's Tots meets in Church Hall from 2.30-4.30 pm
- Sun 27 June** Prayer and Reflection 9.30-10.00 am
Morning Worship at 10.00 am
Church Prayer @ 7.00 pm