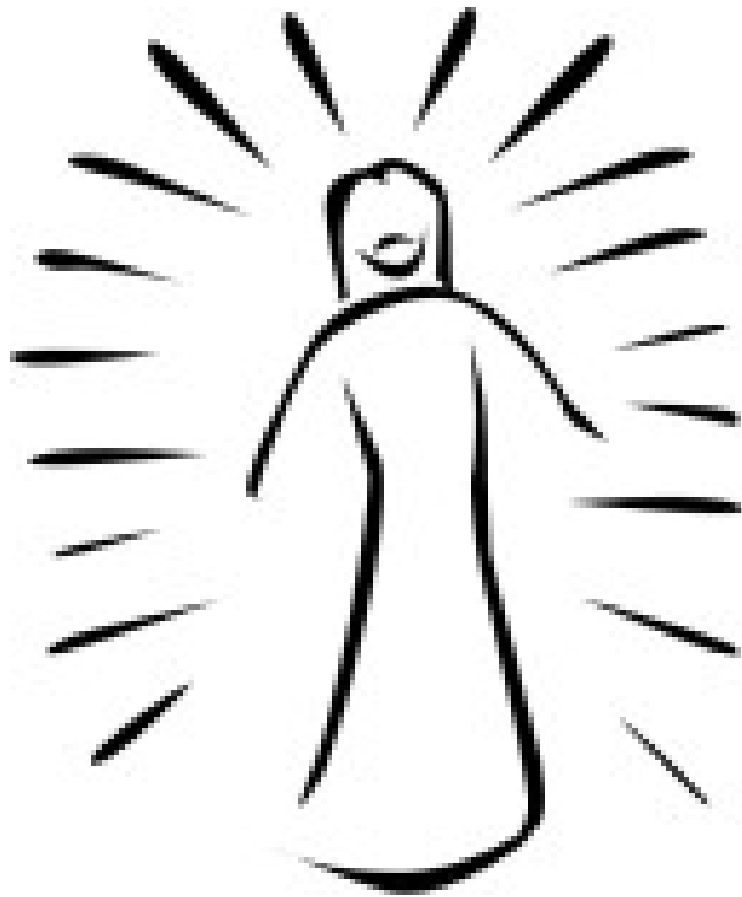


CONTACT

FEBRUARY 2012
NEWSLETTER FOR
ST. THOMAS AND ALPHINGTON
METHODIST CHURCHES
MINISTER: REV. DAVID EASTON

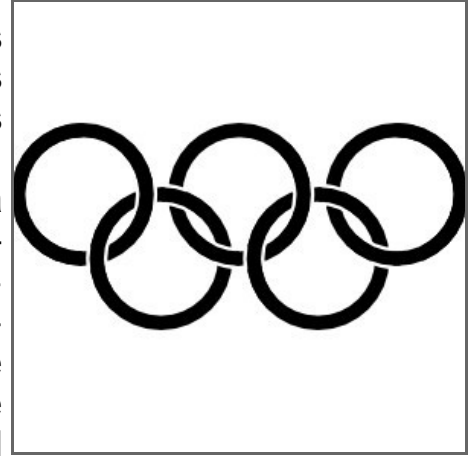


The Transfiguration of Jesus

Message From The Minister

Dear Friends

I find myself with the question 'What if?' in mind at this early stage of the year. As we look forward to later this year the expected highlights of 2012 include the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and of course the Olympic Games. I raise the question, 'What if' these occasions encouraged a new spirit of common concern and greater good in our nation. Can the Olympics in particular, allow for an engagement with the human spirit which will encourage in our society a more selfless spirit, thinking about others before ourselves. Churches are encouraged to nominate a 'More Than Gold' Champion and I am pleased to say that Paul White is to be the 'More Than Gold Champion' at St Thomas. Paul and Caroline are arranging Olympic themed events between now and July and our Lent Bible Studies are on the Olympic theme. Details of these can be found elsewhere in this edition of Contact.



The 'What if' question also applies to the Church, we are at that time of year when we try to elect Church Stewards to serve in leadership positions in the church. The Steward's job has two main strands to it. The first is to prepare the church for worship week by week and ensure worship takes place, including liaising with the preacher. The second part of the job is to exercise a leadership function through our monthly meetings. Do you feel that God is perhaps calling you to a new challenge such as this? Do you have a willingness to engage in leadership in the church? If you would like to know more speak to me or one of our current Stewards Team.



Alpha

Several people said to me that our congregations seem to have declined over the last few months. The Circuit will be running courses over this year called 'Time to Speak to God.' The hope is that this will give Christian people more confidence in sharing their faith with others since that is how the vast majority of people come to faith, through the word of a friend. In the church we shall be running an Alpha Course this year to introduce people to the basic beliefs of the Christian faith. Details again are elsewhere in Contact, consider if you can think of anyone to invite along to the Alpha Course.

So back to the 'What if' question. 'What if' the world became a better place through capturing a new spirit, 'What if' Christians were prepared to be more open in sharing their faith with others and 'What if' people were prepared to step forward to take in leadership in the local church. How our church and our worship could be transformed!

Your friend & Minister

David

St Thomas Church News

Thank You's

I would like to thank you for remembering me with your bulbs and Christmas Card. May I wish you all a very happy and healthy and blessed New Year in 2012.

Jean Rice

I would like to thank the church for the bowl of Hyacinths given to me. The perfume in my kitchen is lovely.

Rita Wilton

Accommodation Required

A 25 year old French woman who is working as a language assistant at St. Peter's School needs accommodation until summer 2012.

Laura is blind and although she is a very independent young woman, she would require some support from her host family. If you think you might be able to provide suitable accommodation, please contact Charlotte and Mike Payne on 01392 468136.



Baptisms

**On Sunday 8th January
Emily Jessica Biggar
was baptised into the life of the church.**

We remember Emily in our prayers and her parents Becky and Guy and her grandparents especially Jill and Jim Lee who as you know are very much part of our church here at St Thomas.

Our Cradle Roll now contains the female members of three generations of the family baptised at St Thomas – Jill, Becky and now Emily.



At Rest

On 5th January two services were held at St Thomas to give thanks to loved ones who have died.

Jackie Houghton – Jackie sadly died in her mid 40s, the niece of Archie Matthews. Jackie's positive attitude to life was an inspiration to others, borne out by the many who attended the Thanksgiving Service.

Kathleen Cook – Kathleen a much loved member of our fellowship died aged after a long illness. Our thoughts and prayers are with her daughter Elizabeth and all the family. Kathleen will be missed by her family and many people including all her church friends here at St Thomas.

Homelessness Sunday

This year's Homelessness Sunday service will take place on Sunday, January 29th at 4pm in St Petrock's centre.

St Petrock's Church doors will open at 3.45pm on the High Street for access into the centre.

All are welcome.

Ministry at St Thomas

In the summer Revd David Easton will move within the Circuit to take on pastoral responsibility at Sidwell Street and continue as the Circuit Superintendent.

Revd Julian Albrow will come to the Circuit from Worthing where he has been for the last fifteen years; Julian has a long connection with the Boys Brigade movement and work with young people and relates well to people of all ages. He will have pastoral responsibility for St Thomas, Alphington and Exminster. We look forward to welcoming Julian and his wife Lesley to St Thomas, and in a later edition of Contact, Julian will write telling us more about his family and his own ministry.

Church News

Project Petrock

Do you need any house or garden maintenance/improvement work undertaken? Project Petrock is a local, social enterprise recently set up by St Petrock's with the aim of helping people who are, or who have recently been, homeless back into work.

Guided by Matt Tandy, a local builder with many years' experience, clients volunteer with the project and receive on-the-job training. Many volunteers are already skilled and experienced trades people who have simply let their skills slip.

For a free, no obligation estimate please contact Matt at Project Petrock on 01392 848713 or 07956 104354 and help Project Petrock start transforming lives today.



Lent Study Course Dates

Our Lent Study Course this year will be held at the manse and focus on Olympic themes.

The dates and topics are as follows:

- 28 Feb - A Christian Country**
- 6 March - A Secular Society**
- 13 March - A Beleaguered Church**
- 20 March - Competing Creeds**
- 27 March - Handing on the Torch**

I hope you will be able to join us for these studies



Please note...

I have a new email address now.

The old email address of house_d@btinternet.com will no longer work. From now, please use this address;

davidhouse6@virginmedia.com

Thank you.

David House

Alpha Course dates & invite

See separate poster and note below

We are proposing to hold an Alpha Course at St Thomas commencing 23 Feb at 7pm. The Alpha Course is an introduction to the basic principles of the Christian faith for those wishing to know more about Christian beliefs.

Please make this known to your friends and invite them along.

(Note the poster supplied may say 7.30pm but I would like to go for 7pm I think!! - David)

Film Club

The St Thomas Film Club has met twice in November and January.

Our February Meetings will be on Thursday 9 Feb and Thursday 16 Feb.

Copyright Law does not allow me to publish in Contact the particular film we will view but speak to me if you want to know more



David Easton

Church News

Women's Fellowship.

The Women's Fellowship have had a very varied series of meetings in the first few months of the Year, We had a lovely Harvest Festival afternoon and were able to send £114 to MRDF, Trevor Gardner spoke to us about how the Ide Community shop began and continues to be a success. Flower arranging looked easy when our own members gave a demonstration. A representative from the Christian bookshop in Okehampton Street came along and we heard how the shop came to St.Thomas.

Our Christmas lunch was a very happy occasion, and we are grateful to the "cooks" for providing a delicious meal for us to enjoy. Mr. John Rhodes showed us some lovely photographs on power point of the Semonkong and Pulane Children's Centres in Lesotho which we supported with £191 from saving our 5p pieces during the year.

January saw us off to a good start for 2012 with a fine collection of Victorian Musical instruments dating from the 1800' s up to the time of wind-up gramophones and 78 rpm records. All these were in working order and very fascinating to see and listen to.

We now look forward to the coming months, and give a warm invitation to any lady to come along and join us on Tuesday afternoons.

Hilda Kellaway.

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 13th – 19th MAY

AS STATED LAST YEAR, I WILL NOT BE ORGANISING DOOR-TO-DOOR COLLECTIONS AGAIN, AND AS YET NO-ONE HAS OFFERED TO TAKE OVER -- IT IS NOT TOO LATE TO COME FORWARD, DON'T BE SHY !!

Christian  Aid

We believe in life before death

MY 'PLAN' FOR THIS YEAR IS THAT AS WELL AS A COFFEE MORNING IN MAY, THERE SHOULD BE AN 'EVENT (S) TO RAISE A (HOPEFULLY) LARGE SUM OF MONEY.

THERE WILL BE A MEETING FOR ALL THOSE INTERESTED IN HELPING, EVEN IN A SMALL WAY, INCLUDING THOSE PEOPLE WHO MAY HAVE AN IDEA FOR A NEW MONEY RAISING EVENT, ON THURSDAY 9th FEBRUARY IN CHURCH LOUNGE AT 7.30.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED BUT UNABLE TO ATTEND, PLEASE, PLEASE DO PHONE OR SPEAK TO ME, AS REALLY NEEDY AND SUFFERING PEOPLE SO DESPERATELY NEED ALL THE MONEY WHICH CAN BE RAISED.

THANK YOU

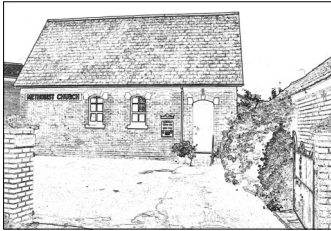
SUE COLLINS

TEL 662330

Church Events & Worship

Alphington Methodist Church February Sunday Services

Sunday Morning Services begin at 10.30 am, evening at 6.30pm



5th	10.30	Rev M Dillistone
12th	10.30	Mr Des Gardiner
19th	10.30	Mrs A Skinner
	6.30	Rev David Easton
26th	10.30	Rev David Easton (Holy Communion)



Please note...

I have a new email address now.

The old email address of house_d@btinternet.com will no longer work. From now, please use this address;

davidhouse6@virginmedia.com

Thank you.

David House

Found in a Primary School Test Paper.....

SOLOMON, ONE OF DAVIDS SONS, HAD 300 WIVES AND 700 PORCUPINES.

Saturday Morning Coffee



February 4th

February 11th

Church Funds

February 18th

February 25th

Women's Fellowship Project

Church Funds (FF)

LECTIONARY READINGS

Sunday 5th

Isaiah 40:21-31

Psalms 147:1-12, 21c

1 Corinthians 9:16-23

Mark 1:29-39

Sunday 12th

2 Kings 5:1-14

1 Corinthians 9:24-27

Mark 1:40-45

Psalms 30

Sunday 19th

2 Kings 2:1-12

Psalms 50:1-6

2 Corinthians 4:3-6

Mark 9:2-9

Sunday 26th

Genesis 9:8-17

Psalms 25:1-9

1 Peter 3:18-22

Mark 1:9-15

TRIDCRAFT@StTHOMAS

After worship on Sunday Feb 5th

During coffee morning on Saturday Feb 18th

St Thomas Church News

ACTION FOR CHILDREN NEWS

First, I would like to wish everyone a very happy, but most of all, healthy year in 2012.

I am please to report that we went Carol Singing as planned just before Christmas. Unlike last year when it was icy and cold, we had a fairly warm evening and rain, which became quite heavy during our time singing. We had a really good evening though, and every one received us well, and we raised £74. Thank you to Joan and David who provided warm drinks and seasonal snacks when we got back to the Manse. This was another opportunity to get to know each other better, which I always think is a good thing.

Sue Collins and her helpers did a grand job again this year in organising the Internal Christmas Post at Church, and also having a coffee morning for us. The total raised was £273.09 (plus Gift Aid), and we are very grateful for this. Thank you so much to everyone who used this facility and contributed to the total.

We have several things planned for the year ahead, so please keep an eye on this section in Contact for news of these activities.

Kind Regards to everyone

Jill Lee

A decorative border with floral and scrollwork patterns, framing the text.

Susanna Lord and Andy Butler
Welcome you all to join them at their wedding
At One o'clock
On Saturday the 31st of March 2012
At Wonford Methodist Church.

Please join us for tea and cakes
after the ceremony.

St Thomas Church News

The Alpha Course is open to everyone interested in discovering what Christianity is about. It's a place where people can come and relax, eat, share thoughts and explore the meaning of life. It's supported by all the main Christian denominations, over 2.8million people in the UK and 16million worldwide have already found it to be a worthwhile experience.

**LIFE
IS WORTH
EXPLORING**

The Alpha Course will be held at St Thomas Methodist Church, Cowick Street at 7.30pm every Thursday evening for eleven weeks starting on

Thursday 23rd February

Please come along on the first evening to see what you think, it's free & we would love to meet you

Church News

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Meetings are held on Tuesdays at 3pm

7th Feb Missionary

14th Feb Rev David Easton

21st Feb Mrs Mary Bailey

28th Feb Mr Andy Butler—Memory Cafe

Flower Rota for February 2012

Sunday, 5th February	Flowers provided by Carole Lane in memory of her parents Lorna & Bill Shear.	Flower arrangement by Jennie Cude.
Sunday, 12th February	Flowers provided by Ann & Archie Matthews in memory of their fathers.	Flower arrangement by Jean Bennett.
Sunday, 19th February	Flowers provided by Vera Escott in memory of her sister.	Flower arrangement by Jill Lee.
Sunday, 26th February	Flowers provided by Mary & Claude Martin For their Wedding Anniversary.	Flower arrangement by Mary Martin.

Many thanks to everyone who helped to make our Church look so special over the Christmas Season. Also thank you to the flower ladies who work so hard all the year round.

It was also lovely to see our younger groups from within the Church, make their contributions by decorating the window sills with their Christmas displays.

Once again, a very big thank you to everyone who has helped and supported throughout the year.

A Happy New Year to you all,

Jennie Cude.

St Thomas Church News

Thank you for your support during 2011. Please make a note of the dates when our 'SHOP' will be open during 2012:

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on SUNDAYS after worship: on SATURDAYS during coffee

January 1st

January 21st

February 5th

February 18th

March 4th

March 17th

April 1st

April 21st

May 6th

May 19th

June 3rd

June 16th

July 1st

July 21st

August 5th

August 18th

September 2nd

September 15th

October 7th

October 20th

November 4th

November 17th

December 2nd

December 15th

ALSO, look out for details of our '**SATURDAY SPECIALS**' during the year!

CATALOGUES are available from **the foyer** featuring:

Cards ... Gifts ... Clothes ... Jewellery ... and lots more!

Orders welcome throughout the year.

for **FURTHER INFORMATION** speak to

MARY BEWS, JANET LEE, ANN MATTHEWS GRACE PROUSE OR ROSEMARY WILLS



My next Challenge...

Having now finished my studies, I decided that I needed another challenge to focus on. Not another mountain, but last year I applied for a place in the 2012 London Marathon. In October, I was very surprised to learn that I had gained a place. Fear and excitement in equal measure, and of course, a lot more running. I have been training hard (ish) and will continue to increase the distances over the next few weeks, so that I am ready for the race on April 22nd 2012.

I am raising money this time for FORCE, the local Cancer charity that will help anyone affected by cancer, so, if you feel like sponsoring me, you can do it on line by visiting www.justgiving.com/David-House

It is really easy and very safe. All donations will be very much appreciated. I will write an update for the next contact to let you all know how the training is going.

David House



MORE THAN GOLD

Social Justice Meal
Saturday February 25th
6.30 for 7.00
Cost £6

We will be exploring the issues around

Ethical Trading

Homelessness

People Trafficking, and

Protecting the environment

with guests who have a particular interest in these issues.

There will be a four course meal with opportunities for discussion as well as good food and good company to enjoy.

Let's set ourselves the challenge of acting for social justice in the year ahead.

More Than Gold has been uniting the Christian community for the world's major sporting events since the 1996 Olympic games (Atlanta), and was established in the UK as a charitable trust in 2008. It is supported by all of the main denominations and over sixty Christian organisations and agencies.

To book tickets or for further details, contact Paul & Caroline White

(01647 440080), or email white22@btinternet.com

Diary Dates for February

Saturday 4th

10am Coffee Morning

Sunday 5th

**8.00am Early morning worship
Rev David Easton
(Holy Communion)**

**10.30am Parade Service
Rev David Easton**

**6.30pm Evening Worship
Dr Joan Wragg**

Tuesday 7th

3pm Women's Fellowship

Thursday 9th

7.30pm Open Meeting about
Christian Aid Week

Film Club

Saturday 11th

10am Coffee Morning

Sunday 12th

**10.30am Morning Worship
Rev David Easton
(Holy Communion)**

**6.30pm Evening Worship
Mr Ken Kite**

Tuesday 14th

3pm Women's Fellowship

Thursday 16th

Film Club

Saturday 18th

10am Coffee Morning including
Traidcraft shop

Sunday 19th

**10.30 Morning Worship
Miss Anna Williams**

6.30pm at Alphington

Tuesday 21st

3pm Women's Fellowship

Thursday 23rd

7pm Alpha Course begins

Saturday 25th

10am Coffee Morning

7pm

More than Gold -
Social Justice Meal

Sunday 26th

**10.30am Morning Worship
Rev Jonathan Froggatt**

6.30pm

**Evening worship
Rev Paul Collings
(Holy Communion)**

Tuesday 28th

3pm Women's Fellowship

Lent Study Course

Christmas Card Sorting and Display Boards

Again there was a very good number of cards for both 'activities', I hope you were all able to read and enjoy the cards displayed with messages for the congregations of all our Christmas services, they really looked very cheery.

A coffee morning in December raised £68 and so, with your donations relating to the cards, £273 has been raised for action for children.

That is a very good amount, so a very big thank you for all your donations.

ST Thomas Methodist Church

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Cowick Street
St Thomas
Exeter
EX4 1JE

Minister: Rev. David J Easton MTh. BA
Church office:

Tel: 01392 422525
Email: stthomasmethodist@uwclub.net

Manse:
Tel: 01392 255791

Associate Minister:

Rev. Paul A Collings
Tel: 01392 206229
Email: paul.collings@methodist.org.uk

Pastoral Assistant

Mrs Mary Bailey
Tel: 01392 2179052

Senior Church Steward

Mr David Bradford
Tel: 07775 611034

Church Weekly Notices

Mr Paul Hunkin
Tel: 01392 662146
Email: pahunkin@googlemail.com
(all items by 6pm Mondays please)

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**Deadline for March Contact
Sunday 12th February 2012**

**Editor: David House
49 Whiteway Drive,
Exeter EX1 3AL
01392 664792**

Email: davidhouse6@virginmedia.com

Regular activities and groups which meet throughout the week.....

Monday

Morning St Thomas Pre-School
(weekdays, during term time)
Morning Young Families Group
(during term time)
6.00pm 50th Exeter Brownies
(during term time)
7.30pm 45th Exeter Guides
(during term time)

Tuesday

Morning Young Families Group
(during term time)
3.00pm Network Women's Fellowship
(weekly)
5.00pm 2nd Exwick Rainbows
(during term time)
6.15pm 45th Exeter Brownies
(during term time)

Wednesday

7.30pm Wives Group
(first Wednesday each month)
7.30pm Gospel Choir
(weekly)

Thursday

8.50 - 9.20am LOVELOCALFOOD
mobile shop is open in our car park

5th Exeter Boys' Brigade

(during term time)
6.00pm Anchor Boys
6.15pm Junior Section
7.30pm Company Section

7.30pm Cross Stitch Group
(meets fortnightly)

7.30pm Poster Group
(meets monthly)

Friday

9.30am Friday Café
Meeting in Church Hall.

2.00 pm

Ladies who move
(weekly meeting of gentle exercise)
7.30pm Youth Club YC11
(meets fortnightly during term time)

Saturday

9.30am Morning Prayers
10.00am Coffee Morning
3.00pm Messy Church
(meets monthly)