



THE MESSENGER

St Joseph & St Nicholas Moorends

Issue 8

June 2003

GOING, GOING, GONE!



The grand auction for charity took place on Saturday May 17th in St. Nicholas Church Hall. For weeks the organisers had been gathering goods and furniture from the neighbourhood and storing it ready for the great day. Many thanks to all those who responded so generously to the pleas to turn out the cupboards. And it was raining, wasn't it, as the boxes and furniture were brought into the hall on Friday evening!! There was some anxiety, as is always the case, that there was not enough stuff, there wouldn't be enough people, nobody would bid etc. as, from 9 am on Saturday, the punters started to arrive. Seasoned campaigners who recounted with relish past bargains, and had a weather eye open for current ones. They took their seats well in good time.

By 9.45 it was standing room only. As John Brown, a genial and experienced auctioneer, took his place on the throne – a velvet-cushioned chair on a table, the proceedings began. First box of

assorted bric a brac. "What am I bid for this mystery assortment?" Dead silence. For one heart-stopping moment it looked as if it would all be a complete waste of time but then the offers began 50p - £1 and so it went on. One of the most exciting bids was for a child's metal rocking horse in fine condition. There was a ding-dong battle of bids between three people and the price crept up from £5 to a respectable £22 at the finish. There were some amazing bargains – a brand new typewriter for £5; lots of good-as-new children's toys and games for under £1. Makeover merchants could have had a field day – candelabra, carpets, curtains, chairs and tables galore for less than the price of a pint of beer. A very fine double and a triple settee in superb condition went for £15. The pace of the auction was kept up by John Brown, who clearly knows his audience and what appeals. Thanks to his amazing speed and expertise almost everything had been sold as the clock struck twelve. Thanks must go to the organisers and helpers from St. Nicholas parish, Thorne Methodist Church and St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Moorends. The total amount raised was £425. This has been allocated to Cafod and Christian Aid. Never having attended an auction before, much less helped at one, I found the whole experience highly entertaining and enjoyable – and I have half a dozen books to read, which I bought for less than the price of a Sunday paper. Can't be bad! We all hope this will be the first of many joint ventures for the Christian community of Thorne/Moorends in seeking to further justice and solidarity with the poor – and enjoy ourselves at the same time.

Kate Heywood

REUNION FOR JAMES

Old friends and partners had a reunion on May 14th to introduce them to the completion of the conversion of James' specially equipped room. Fr Pannell kindly celebrated Mass and blessed the room. Originally it was the exercise room, but has now been converted into his own en-suite bedroom. It is unusual in that it has been installed with a mobile hoist, which can lift him from the ground and carry him across to the shower room. James and some of his guests were delighted to meet again, to renew friendships formed over 10 years, to reminisce with video recall of special highlights of progress, and enjoy a tea.



WELCOME TO OUR PARISH MAGAZINE

Hello and welcome to the Messenger! Thank you so much for all the material submitted to this edition. The response has been absolutely brilliant this time, and although it has not been possible to include everything, we will try to use it at a later date. If you have any old family photographs, and would like to have them included, then please let us have them, for future publications.

Parish website www.ourjo.org.uk

THE SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION OF UNBORN CHILDREN

THE HISTORY OF SPUC

Prior to 1967, the law gave substantial protection to unborn children. In the case of *R. v. Bourne* (1938) in which the defendant, the gynaecologist Aleck Bourne, had performed an abortion on a girl who had been raped, the jury upheld the judge's view that an abortion could lawfully be done to prevent the mother from becoming "a physical or mental wreck". On this view of the law, abortion was allowed on serious medical grounds, but abortion on demand was certainly unlawful. In 1966, the founder members of SPUC recognised that the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Bill then before Parliament (the Bill which became the Abortion Act 1967) would drastically change the law, leading to abortion on demand. Hence the Society was formed to oppose the Bill. Aleck Bourne, the gynaecologist who had instigated the landmark court case of 1938, had become increasingly appalled that his case was being used to justify the new legislation, and became a founder member of SPUC. Opposition to the proposed liberalisation of the abortion law was at that time supported by the British Medical Association and the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists. As a pressure group formed specifically to lobby for the rights of the unborn child, SPUC was the first organisation to be established anywhere in the world in what is known as "the pro-life movement". SPUC was founded to uphold the principle of respect for human life, in particular the life of the unborn child. The Society's constitution was and remains non-religious. SPUC has continued to operate as a pressure group, the main focus of its work being the Parliamentary campaigns against abortion and embryo experimentation, as well as opposing the legalisation of euthanasia.

THE PRESENT STATUS OF SPUC

SPUC is a privately funded voluntary organisation. It is not a registered charity, remaining free to pursue a legislative objective unimpeded by the constraints of charity law. The Society depends for its income (approximately 1 million pounds annually) on donations and fundraising by members and supporters. By comparison, many of the organisations opposed to the rights of unborn children are in receipt of funds from government departments and grants from private foundations, such as the International Planned Parenthood Federation, which is funded by governments and non-governmental foundations worldwide, receiving millions of pounds every year.

ACTIVITIES

SPUC's primary function is to campaign for changes in the law to protect unborn children, by initiating, and generating public support for pro-life campaigns in Parliament. The Society provides administrative assistance to the All-Party Parliamentary Pro-life Group, the principal forum in Parliament for the pro-life lobby, and provides secretarial support to MPs presenting pro-life bills if they require it. SPUC maintains that all unborn children are entitled to the protection of the law. Nevertheless, the principal focus of the pro-life political campaign in Britain is to tighten the current law to stop the practice of abortion on demand; a realistic legislative objective which would save as many unborn lives as possible in as short a time as possible. Opportunities are also sought to introduce measures excluding abortion on grounds of the baby's race, sex or disability.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership of SPUC is open to all who support the Society's aims and objectives. The Society has more than 45,000 members in the UK.

ACHIEVEMENTS

*The Society's campaigns have brought about an increase in strength of the Pro-life lobby in Parliament and the defeat of proposed legislation promoting abortion. At its first vote in 1966, the Abortion Act was opposed by only 31 MPs; today there are upwards of five times that number of MPs who will vote with the pro-life lobby. In 1984 the All-Party Parliamentary Pro-life Group was formed as the principal forum for pro-life action by MPs and Peers. *During the passage of the Abortion Act, MPs supporting the pro-life lobby secured the rejection of "the future good of the child" as grounds for abortion, wording which could in another context have been used to enshrine in law the principle of euthanasia. *Repeated attempts to make the law more permissive by making abortion more easily available, and creating a legal right to abortion, have been rejected by a majority of MPs.

THE FUTURE

Last year alone in England, Wales and Scotland a total of 198,425 abortions took place, although more than 90% of them are certified as being done to safeguard the mother's physical or mental health, it is widely recognised that the majority of these abortions are actually performed in response to social rather than medical problems. Abortion in Britain is effectively practised on demand. The subject which is at the forefront of the Society's campaigning at present is the attempt to stop the supply to schoolgirls of abortifacient birth control drugs, which is ethically and socially unacceptable. Such supply without the knowledge or consent of parents constitutes a serious assault on parental responsibility. However, SPUC is continually seeing the fruits of its work in religious grouping as more and more Christians and Muslims become involved in pro-life campaigns. Of major significance in this respect has been the Society's promotion of Pope John Paul II's landmark document of 1995, *Evangelium Vitae* (The Gospel of Life) which is addressed to all people of goodwill and has been described as a "magna carta for the pro-life movement". (If you have access to the Internet, type into the search engine "*evangelium vitae*" and you will be taken to view the complete document).

CONTINUED

THE SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION OF UNBORN CHILDREN (continued)

Through educational and welfare activities, SPUC has saved many babies.

As the Jewish Talmud and the Islamic Qu'ran state; "Whoever saves a single life, it is as though he has saved the life of all mankind"

If you feel stirred to become a member of SPUC, or would like to know more about the Society, visit the website at: www.spuc.org.uk or write to;

Society for the Protection of Unborn Children, 5-6 St Matthew Street, London, United Kingdom, SW1P 2JT

Nicola Follows

WHEELCHAIR FOR LOURDES (UPDATE)

MESSAGE FROM "THE SPIRIT LIVES" PILGRIMS

Dear Father Pannell and the parishioners,

Here is the photograph as promised. As you can see the wonderful chair was used, (third chair from the left) and it helped Eileen to get the most from her pilgrimage. You were in our thoughts and prayers, and we lit a candle for your intentions.

Thank you and God Bless. With Love from "The Spirit Lives" pilgrims.



THE LADIES WEDNESDAY CLUB

Since April of last year we have organised five coffee mornings for good causes, and we thought that the kind and generous people of the parish who support these efforts, Should know how well we did.

April 2002 we raised £183 for the Disabled Student Games (Doncaster Branch).

July 2002 for parish funds we raised £146.

October 2002 for the Lourdes Wheelchair Fund we made £130. This was made up to £150 from the Club's own funds.

February 2003 we raised £167.30 for the Famine in Africa appeal.

Our last effort in April of this year was for the Doncaster LIFE group, and £155.30 was sent to this good cause.

The total raised for the year was £801.60.

From the money raised at our weekly raffles and the sale of various items of handicrafts we were able to pay for the repair and refurbishment of the grave in Thorne Cemetery, of our former parish priests, at a cost of £240.

Our latest expenditure was £332.55 which was for a new set of sanctuary bells, two cruet sets for the Altar, the sacristy bell to announce the beginning of Mass, and a holy water vat used for blessings.

We meet every Wednesday, from 2 pm to 4 pm in the presbytery, for a cup of tea, an informal chat, a raffle and to discuss future events and needs, and we end with the recitation of one decade of the Rosary.

We offer a very warm welcome to anyone who would like to drop in and join us.

Sheila Smith

IF TODAY

If you planted hope today
in any hopeless heart

If someone's burden was
lighter
because you did your part

If you caused a laugh
that chased some tears away

If tonight your name is
named
when someone kneels to pray

Then your day
has been well spent.



EASTER JOY

The picture shows the group of parishioners who were received into the Church at the Easter Vigil Mass, on Holy Saturday night.

Two of them are members of Moorends parish and five are members of Stainforth parish.

THE GOOD SHEPHERD PRESENTATION

Jubilee Song

We are young, we are old,
In your world our lives unfold.
All around us earth's abundance
Brings more than our hands can hold.
Set us free. Make us see
What our stewardship must be:
All the gifts of your creation
Shared out equally

We sang the Jubilee Song at the presentation of cheques from all the schools in the Diocese made to Bishop John, at St. Michael and All Angels Church, Wombwell.

These cheques were the gifts of all the work and activities in school during this Lent, in support of the Hallam Caring Service.

The Bishop followed up the parable of the Ten Lepers by pointing out that lepers were the outcasts of society and that in their healing, as one of the children said "they were brought back into their families" and their village life. He emphasised that the Hallam Caring Service was there to help people back into the community by putting out a hand to them, so that they can feel part of a family again. His reflections were followed by Prayers for Healing.

Bishop John together with Stuart Hanlon of the Caring Service, received cheques from individual schools and were delighted to learn that a total of £14,133.00. had been presented with more to come by post, so that "the gifts of your creation" be shared out.

Each school represented received a certificate of presentation and, on behalf of Holy Family School, Malieka, Rhys and Josh gave the Bishop a cheque, for their schools' gift. The money was raised from Lent lunches for staff and parents, and the sale of buns, baked by parents and sold to children.

The Bishop gave all the schools a big, big thank you for what they had done to help him in some very important work, with such generosity.

The celebration was followed by orange squash and large quantities of very sticky buns.

Peter Pennington

THE LITTLE RED BOX

Reading the title you might think that this is going to be a story for children but not so! Many people have on their window sill or mantelpiece a little red box, which has on it the words The A.P.F. That stands for the Association for the Propagation of the Faith and also Mill Hill Missionaries who are Britain's own missionary society. Like me, you probably put in your loose change and note with interest how much there is when the box is opened. This usually happens twice a year around April and October. It is quite amazing how much is raised by this very simple method.

Have you ever wondered why it was a red box and not a blue or green one? Well – the original box was a white one, a tea caddy with a slot cut in the top. Who had the idea? A man who never went to school, started work at ten and taught himself to read. This man was Thomas Jackson who was born in Preston in 1844. At the age of thirty he joined the newly formed Mill Hill Missionary College in London to train as a priest, having saved enough to pay for only six months of the course. Fortunately there were good people who helped him to complete his studies for ordination. Once ordained he was sent to be Chaplain to the British Army in Afghanistan. Arriving at Karachi by ship he had to get to Quetta 500 miles away. No trains, planes, cars or buses, so he walked – all 500 miles. When he arrived he was taken for a spy since nobody knew he was coming but he was finally adopted by a regiment. While with them he marched on foot thousands of miles and was present during four battles, was wounded three times and left for dead. In fact he was recommended for a VC – the Victoria Cross awarded for outstanding bravery and would have been the only Catholic priest to have received such an honour had his superiors allowed it, but they did not. Then Fr. Thomas moved on to Borneo where there were headhunters. For fifteen years he sought to bring the Gospel to the native people, enduring dreadful conditions, climate and dangers. He was desperately poor, often close to starvation, weakened by illness and, in his own words, "left penniless in remote and almost inaccessible regions where white men have never trod". Such devotion and courage are the foundations of the flourishing missions we know of today. Fr. Jackson returned to England towards the end of 1896 a very sick man. He met in Freshfield, Liverpool, young men from working class families like himself, whose families could not afford to pay for their training as priests.

Determined that lack of money should not prevent these lads becoming missionaries, he had the idea of a collecting box and went round parishes himself collecting. The boxes were originally made of wood, but nowadays they are plastic. Some of these boxes have ingenious closing slots, which require great expertise to close, I can tell you. Fr. Jackson also probably coined the word Zelator to describe those who emptied the boxes in a parish. The box became a red one in 1936 and took on the appearance it has today. So, when you put your coins in, think of Fr. Thomas Jackson, whose missionary activity continues long after his death, thanks to you.

Kate Heywood

SACRED SPACE

You've heard of Playstation – now try **praystation!!**

Back in 1999 a young Jesuit from our diocese, Peter Scally, was in Dublin, working with the Jesuit Communications Office. He developed the idea of praying at the computer – making it quite literally a praystation. The site is called Sacred Space and has fired the imagination of people all round the world. To date people have prayed at this site over **six million** times.. How does it work? Well, once you have logged on the ten minute (or thereabouts: depends how long you want to make it) meditation unfolds. Each day there is a new picture to contemplate, taken by one of the team. That in itself focuses the attention and calms the mind. There is a new reading from the Scriptures, usually quite brief which you can think about. If you have your own thoughts then you are encouraged to go with them but if you are stuck, you can find gentle guidance on the passage. The whole format is based on classic Ignatian spirituality where you put yourself before God. There is a gradual unfolding in stages as you approach the central focus of the Scripture text – a moving deeper into a receptive state of prayer, of dialogue with God and listening to what God has to say to you. It becomes a heart to heart conversation.

There are feedback pages where the most recent or relevant messages are posted. The range of prayer people is amazing. Housebound housewives in Alaska – busy office buffs in Birmingham, UK and US; retired farmers in Ireland; mothers at home with young children in Australia; students in India and more. It is a world wide net of prayer which holds us all together. I wonder if this was the net Jesus had in mind when he told Peter and his brother that he would make them fishers of men – could be, perhaps?

What's the web site? www.sacredspace.ie

Go on – improve your day – pray!

Kate Heywood

HOG ROAST



The pictures say it all as parishioners and their friends tuck into “Miss Piggy”

The sun shone whilst the food was being eaten, but shortly afterwards the heavens opened.

“I’ve never played bingo in a monsoon before, but there is a first time for everything” commented Father Pannell.

The event raised £188 for the Parish funds.

A big thank you to everyone who helped to make the event a success.



CHILDREN'S LITURGY

Pentecost Sunday saw the arrival of the Children's Liturgy at Moorends. After many weeks of planning and preparation, our small, yet very able and committed team of parishioners have now begun to put this new initiative into practice. Having been to other churches where children have enjoyed their own special part of the



Mass, I wanted my child to be able to experience the same here – and so it all began. During the Liturgy, we have a prayer, the Gospel reading which has been adapted so children can make sense of it, followed by a discussion and an activity.

The results of this activity are then presented at the Offertory. We have all been touched by the willingness of the children to take part in all this, and the understanding they show.

We all share in their pride as they then offer their work. I am convinced that they take away much more now than they did a month ago when they were outsiders in an adult gathering.

Thank you to the members of our parish who have helped to bring this to life and thank you to Stainforth parish for their assistance in the planning stages.

Nichola M^cCay

LETTER/email TO THE EDITOR

At the Easter Vigil, I heard new people comment about how beautiful the church was looking, and it made me think that over the last year, a lot of work has been done. From the new roof, new plaster and bright painted walls, to the altar and the flowers, and the return of the statues of Our Lady and St Joseph freshly painted, and positioned so that they can be easily seen. The transformation to a fresh, bright welcoming church is wonderful. Perhaps the fresh pair of eyes of Father Pannell have helped us to see what could be done, and the hard work of parishioners has given us a church to be proud of. I for one am very grateful to those who took the time and trouble to make this happen.

Diane Barron

A FAMILY PRAYER

Dear Father in Heaven,
I ask for your touch,
bless all my family,
we need you so much.
Grant us your wisdom,
to choose what is right,
to walk in your pathways,
of truth and of light.
Strengthen our family
with faith to hold fast,
to cherish and nurture
the treasures that last.
Teach us to love,
to forgive and to share,
in the realms of the spirit,
to thrive and to dare.
But most of all, Lord,
when our journey is through,
bind us together,
for ever with you

BADMINTON

Anyone fancy a game of Badminton? With only a few church members, our group began playing many years ago, in the old Church Hall. We are now looking for new people to join us. We play at the Thorne Leisure Centre, between 8-9 pm. on Tuesdays, and are mixed both in age and ability, so whether you have played before, or have never played but would like to, please call Ron Witton on Thorne 815088 or Anne Ward on Thorne 814126

THANK YOU

Many thanks for the donation made to "ourjo", the parish website, received on Pentecost Sunday. It is very much appreciated, and very heartening to have support. Thanks again!

SILVER WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

To Sue and John,
Congratulations on your Silver Wedding Anniversary. We have sweet memories of your lovely Wedding Day. God Bless you both, and the girls.

Love from Mam and Dad, and all the families

TEARS AT NIGHT JOY AT DAWN

Andrew Robinson died on April 27th 2001 at the age of thirty one. He died of cancer. This little book is a record he kept of his last months which he was asked to write by his Archbishop, Vincent Nichols of Birmingham. Andrew hoped fervently that all the treatment he received and a visit to the shrine of his hero Padre Pio in Italy would help restore him to health so that he could be ordained and become a priest. He had just entered the seminary when the cancer was diagnosed. He writes simply and sincerely of his feelings about the pain and the chemotherapy; about the love of God which he knows is unfailing; the love of his family and friends; the support and prayers of his friends both in his home parish and in the Maltfriscan group to which he had belonged. This latter group is of special interest to us in South Yorkshire as it is a group founded by the parish priest at Maltby, Fr. Leonard May, who has just retired. Despite the deep suffering involved this story is one of great hope and faith. Anyone who is suffering like Andrew or who has experienced the loss of family members or friends due to cancer will find this book a source of comfort – although at the end I think the tears will certainly flow, a mixture of sadness but also of joy, that such a brave young man has returned to his father in heaven. Pope John Paul II has said that human suffering evokes compassion and respect but that it also intimidates. Yet each person becomes the way for the whole church when suffering enters their life. Andrew reveals this truth very clearly. The book is available for anyone to borrow from the parish library in the presbytery – go on, get it out and read it for yourself.

Kate Heywood

THE GREATEST OF THESE

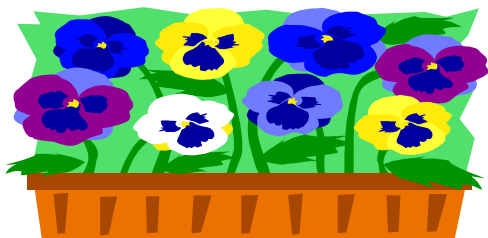
The greatest of these are the simplest things
The things you could do every day
A nod and a smile to a ragged old tramp
As you pass him on your way.

It may seem a lot to a man like him
If you give him a cheery smile
And a kindly word may help him
Over many a weary mile.

It doesn't cost much to lend a hand
To someone in distress
Nor will it take up much of your time
A kind thought to express.

Don't turn away a beggar
If ever one comes to your door
You can share just a little of what you have
Remember that Christ was poor.

He gave up his life
To teach mankind
That the greatest of these is Charity.



HEAVEN'S GROCERY STORE

I was walking down life's highway a long time ago.
One day, I saw a sign that read "Heavens Grocery Store",
As I got a little closer, the door came open wide,
and when I came to myself, I was standing inside.
I saw a host of ANGELS. They were standing everywhere.
One handed me a basket and said, "My child shop with care".
Everything a Christian needed was in the Grocery Store,
and all you couldn't carry, you could come back the next day for more.
First, I got some PATIENCE, LOVE was in the same row,
Further down was UNDERSTANDING, you need that everywhere you go.
I got a box or two of WISDOM, a bag or two of FAITH.
I couldn't miss the HOLY GHOST for it was all over the place.
I stopped to get some STRENGTH and COURAGE to help me run this
race.
By then my basket was getting full but I remembered some GRACE.
I didn't forget SALVATION for SALVATION is free,
So I tried to get enough of that to save both you and me.
Then I started up to the counter to pay my grocery bill,
For I thought I had everything to do my MASTER'S will.
As I went up the aisle I saw PRAYER and I just had to put that in,
for I know when I stepped outside, I would run right into sin.
PEACE and JOY were plentiful, they were on the last shelf.
SONG and PRAISES were hanging near so I just helped myself.
Then I said to the Angel, "Now, how much do I owe?"
He just smiled and said "Just take them everywhere you go"

Again I said, "How much do I really owe".
He smiled again and said:
"MY CHILD, JESUS PAID YOUR BILL A LONG, LONG TIME AGO!"

SECOND ANNIVERSARY

Monday 14th July is the second anniversary of Father Pannell's ordination to the Priesthood.
On behalf of the parish, we would like to wish him much joy and happiness and many blessings on this special day. Thank you Father for all your hard work here in Moorends and Stainforth.