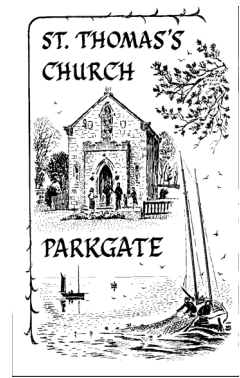


# St. Thomas's Newsletter

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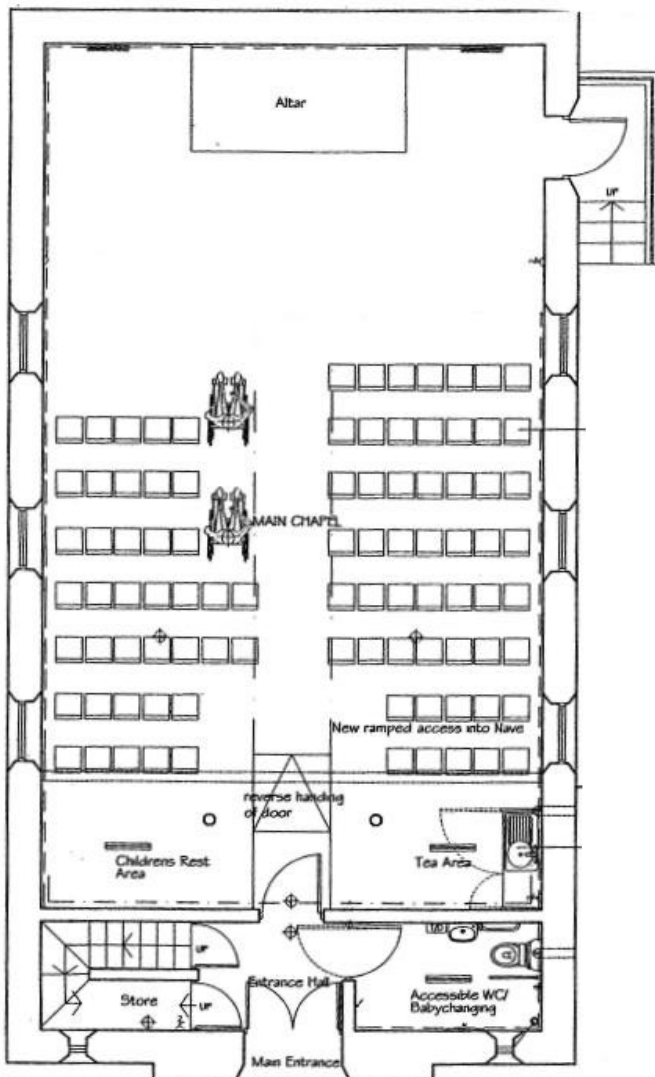


## What's Happened since last May?

Our last news letter was produced and delivered last May, so we felt you would be interested to hear what has happened in the meantime!

### Recent Developments

The Trustees of the Bishops Trust meet regularly to discuss refurbishing & reopening of the building, both as a Church and as a community centre. Unfortunately our application for the Big Lottery grant was unsuccessful, so we have had to revise our plans. Instead of extending the building immediately we will now be providing initially a small kitchen and toilet within the main body of the building (see plan below). Architects have developed these ideas in to drawings for the Trust. Meetings have also been held with heating engineers and an agreement has been reached to as to the best way to heat the building. An agreement for lighting is expected in March. Following this we expect to invite tenders for both heating and lighting services in April.



### Message from the Parish

It's encouraging to hear how the fund-raising is proceeding for the renovation of St Thomas' Church. The members of the Trust are to be congratulated in what they have achieved to date.

With the scaling down of the project it should enable the work to be finished more quickly and the Church re-opened for worship.

As I have said on many occasions when that happens St Thomas' will be very much a part of our Parish Vision and I am sure we all look forward with anticipation to that day.

**Rev. Neill Robb**

**(February 2008)**

The Trust has raised £224,385 to date

### Thank you to all our supporters

This year's successes

Sponsored half marathon £260

Tea & Scones in Church grounds £400

Cricket Match £320

Christmas Carols £200

Bric a Brac £644

This year's bric-a-brac was a fantastic success, with 30 local people helping to make the event.

### **The Fund Raising Group**

The group meets regularly to plan events. Sadly Ann Parkes who died suddenly last March is much missed. She was such an enthusiastic and hard working supporter. We have been able to recruit a new helper Gill Harker, and we would be very glad to hear from anyone else who would like to join Beryl, Patsy, Yvonne, Sheila, Betty, Derrick and Gill. Its not onerous, a lot of fun and all in a good cause to get St Thomas' reopened as a Church and Community Centre as soon as possible. Please email us if you would like to join the team!

### **When opened**

It will be a great joy for the Family and Friends of St Thomas' who worshipped in the Church to do so again, as part of the wider Parish of Neston.

We have been approached by a number of groups who are interested in using St Thomas when it reopens on a regular basis. If you would be interested in using the church or know someone who might be interested please contact us at the email address below.

### **Grant Applications**

We are in the process of applying to the Local Authority for a grant of £5,000 for the provision of tables and chairs.

### **Organ**

Planning Permission has just been granted to remove the organ. Its now for sale, either whole or in parts.

### **Message from the Chairman**

The Trust is delighted that funds are available and invitations are now being prepared for tenders for Stage II of the restoration scheme, with essential facilities being incorporated into the existing building by agreement with the Vicar until further funds can be raised for the two planned extensions. By this arrangement it is realistically hoped that the building will be restored to full public use, both as a Church and a Community Centre, within the next twelve months. In arriving at this present stage, the faith of all Trustees is amply rewarded. Many years have passed since cockles were landed at Parkgate, but the knowledge that the Fisherman's Church is at long last scheduled to be restored to public use seven days per week within a foreseeable time-scale warms the hearts of us all. Please enjoy! Please support! Please use!

**Barrie Youde, Chairman, The Bishops Trust (March 2008)**

### **Piano Recital**

By David Hill & Roger Job, Organ and Piano recital, Friday 18th April 8pm

At Mostyn House School

£12.50 per ticket (inc.a glass of wine & light refreshments)

Available from A Alister's Opticians or from Elizabeth Gordon on 336 4413

To include works by Handel, Faure and Widor

David Hill is director of music at St Johns College Cambridge. Earlier he held the same position at Westminster Cathedral and then at Winchester Cathedral. He has considerable international reputation as a recitalist, choir trainer and conductor and has been Musical Director of the Bach choir for some years. He has just been appointed Chief Conductor of the BBC singers.

Roger Job, a retired clergyman, spent much of his ministry in Cathedrals. He first met David over thirty years ago in Manchester, when David was at Chetham's School and Organ scholar of the cathedral. Later the Organist and the Precentor collaborated happily in Winchester. They first played duets together at a party in 1997.

### **Cards for Sale**

Views of Parkgate cards available

Please call Yvonne on 336 4369

Four different scenes

Contact us on [stthomasparkgate@hotmail.com](mailto:stthomasparkgate@hotmail.com) or visit our website at [www.stthomasparkgate.co.uk](http://www.stthomasparkgate.co.uk)

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