

## David Tamcken

In North Arizona there is a crater that was made thousands of years ago by a meteor that had plummeted through our atmosphere hitting the Earth. It is nearly 1 mile across, 2.4 miles in diameter and over ¼ mile deep. The rim of the crater rises about 50 feet above the plains surrounding it. It is possible that it could have been responsible for some of the Ice Age and the demise of the mammoths in the surrounding areas. It may even have been responsible for creating a gap between the Isle of Wight and the mainland.



I was very fortunate to be able to visit this site a few years ago and see this incredible 'hole'. What struck me most was not the size of the crater, but that the size of the meteor that made the impact which was no bigger than an average size armchair. I was amazed at how something so small could make such an impact, not only in Arizona but right across the world.

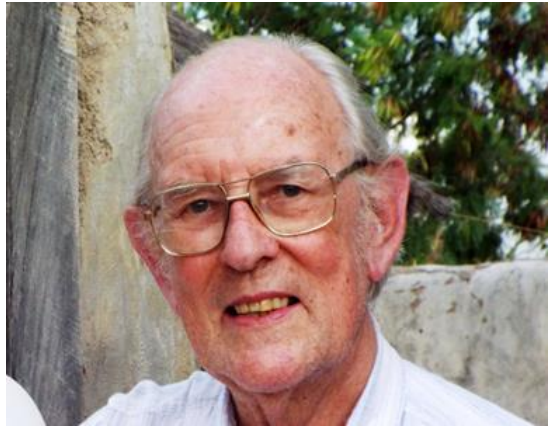
Many of the tributes given about David at his thanksgiving service, and in this magazine, include the words 'amazing', 'fantastic', 'influential' - and hidden amongst these is the word *impact*. David made a huge impact on the lives of the people he came into contact with.

When the meteor hit the Earth, its effects were felt in that instant and they were felt thousands of years after. I'm not sure that David's impact will be felt for thousands of years, but it certainly will be felt for a very long time to come.

In the book of Joshua, which starts by referring to the death of Moses, we read, 'Moses the servant of the Lord... is dead'. It goes on to say, 4 times, in the opening 18 verses, 'Be not be afraid - be strong and courageous'.

David loved talking about Jesus and one of the last songs David and I sang together one Sunday morning was an old song: 'It is no secret what God can do, what he's done for others he'll do for you'.

We thank God for what he did through David's life - and what God will continue to do through all our lives.



*Adrian Pinnock*

## **Tributes to and Memories of David Tamcken**

How can one begin to do justice to such an amazing and inspirational man as David?

He had so many gifts which he utilised to capacity. He lived life to the full in a caring and loving way, leading by example people to a faithful belief in God.

His wife Shirley and all the family were everything to him as he was to them. The fun, love and caring way he created in everyday life and especially at Christmas and on holiday was infectious and is reflected in his wife, children and grandchildren.

David was dedicated in all that he undertook and that was a great deal. He had been a Lay Reader for over 50 years besides being a School Teacher. He was a Churchwarden more than once and the six years we served together at St Catherine's were a joy and inspiration.

David had joy and love in his heart for all he did, whether it was preaching, teaching or the wonderful work he did for Ghana which inspired others to follow his lead. He carried this love through all he did such as holidays in the Isle of Arran or on his allotment.

David was an exemplary example for us all to follow. “Jesus I have promised to serve thee to the end” was fully met by him.

He was a close and dear friend who cannot be replaced. He gave so much too so many and never expected anything in return but we can repay his love, faith and commitment by following his example and spreading the Gospel by word and deed.

Do not let him down!

God Bless you David; you will be sorely missed by so many, but you fully deserve your rest.

**Ann Radcliffe**

A quote from the lent course: ‘Your life may be the only Bible someone reads, you are the fifth Gospel’ *Mark Russell CEO Church Army*. David was the Fifth Gospel as the Light of Christ shone through him (his words and his actions) to others.

**Mary Coombs**

David’s preaching was fantastic. He was always saying that the church cannot stand still and move onwards. His rendition of the 12 days of Christmas will always be remembered.

**Roger Glover**

His enthusiasm was so inspiring; he did everything with a passion that was infectious. **Nicola Pinnock**

He was a lovely man, always a kind word; we will miss him so much.  
**Hurst DIY, Ventnor**

David was special—as a friend you would turn to for advice, or as a Speaker and Leader whose every Service was special; his Christmas

shepherd monologue made me tearful. We mourn a very special Christian friend.

**Ann Allen**

I learned so much from his gentle quiet approach to worship and his deep love of God which came across in all he did.

**Gill Smith**

David was inspirational, irreplaceable, truly gifted and an exemplary Christian. For us arriving in 1996, he has always been there and it has been unthinkable that St Catherine's would be what it is without him. His teaching gifts were amazing and we have him to thank personally for leading our House Group for many years. Just massively missed.

**Mick and Nava Young**

David....patient and principled teacher, fluent and knowledgeable preacher, keen allotmenteer and soup-maker, constant lover of wife, family, friends, cricket and Arran, kind mentor, wise elder statesmen, Number One Friend to Ghana....we shall none of us know all the things he did so quietly and diligently.....until they don't get done!

**Gill Chaloner**

It was an honour and a privilege to have known such a very nice man. I will always remember him with fondness. Happy Memories.

**Molly**

I first became acquainted with David around 1964/65 under the auspices of the then IOW Evangelist Association Youth events centred on Ventnor and Pier St Baptist Church. I recall David leading a Bible Study group in the undercroft (now the Youth Club in Victoria St). His ministry was calming and reassuring. Our paths have crossed many times over the years, and he is remembered with gratitude.

**Andrew Pellow St Albans**

'The Man with the Midas Touch' (henceforth to be known as 'The Tamcken Touch').

Those of you who know me will certainly be aware of the fact that I

have a 'monkey' mind, flitting from one thing to another with ease, and seeing related links in quite random things!

I was recently listening to a man talking about a friend who'd suddenly died, and that set me thinking about David Tamcken.

Almost immediately, the tune 'Goldfinger, the man with the Midas touch' came into my mind. I wondered why; what was the link? I then realised that the "Midas touch" is exactly what David had. It seems to me that whatever David 'touched', or was involved with (and that was a myriad things, always for the benefit of others), turned to gold; his involvement brought immense value.

So, I think 'The Tamcken Touch' is a phrase which might henceforth be included in our St. Catherine's vernacular! Thank-you David for everything.

**Michele Brock**

The first time I met David was over 30 years ago at a Christmas concert evening at Ryde High school when his rendition of the Twelve Days of Christmas took on a whole new meaning - with the addition of musical underpants.....it became an annual event not to be missed. A lovely true Christian man who will be sadly missed.

**Gill Kennerley (St Boniface)**

I only ever remember David getting cross once, when as a boy on a school trip, we went to Arran and I thought it would be good to put salt in the pancakes instead of sugar. David, our teacher, tried tossing the pancakes and they had stuck to the pan! Never ever heard him cross again! Wonderful memories of a wonderful teacher and person - far too many to tell.

**Andrew Cooper**

A memory of David from many years ago, taken from a report back to the Church. It was the days when St Catherine's had established a link with St Pauls Church, Wenchi in Ghana.

I think it was David's second visit to them, to see how things were going. He was met at Accra, probably by Solomon, who was our main contact at that time.

They were driving north on very poor roads and tracks and were due at Wenchi around 6pm, where they would be met by the Vicar, Churchwardens and the congregation.

Then the rains came and that made driving very hazardous and they slipped way behind their schedule. Eventually arriving around midnight, they thought everybody would have gone home - not a bit of it; all were assembled at St Pauls, singing, dancing and praying. The greeting was fabulous!

I think this event certainly moved David and strengthened his resolve to go on supporting Christians in Ghana. Today Ghana link is still carrying out that work.

**Roger Glover**

## **David Tamcken**

### **St Thomas Awards 2018.**

The Bishop of Portsmouth, The Rt Revd Christopher Foster makes an annual award called the St Thomas Award.

This award recognises exemplary Christian service to the community, the world or the church. Many in our diocese serve generously and faithfully without expecting or needing thanks or recognition. The Bishops intention in initiating this award is to honour all that is done in Christ's name and to mark particularly distinguished service.

David was given the award that would have been presented to him on the 29<sup>th</sup> April at the Portsmouth Cathedral during the Evensong.

As reported elsewhere in the Link, Shirley Tamcken, David's Wife, was able to collect the award on his behalf which was also attended by members of David's family and friend's.

# Details of the nomination

The nomination would be for David Tamcken, who has faithfully served the Church's on the Isle of Wight and notably the Parish of Ventnor, as a reader, confidant, friend to many and Church warden at St Catherine's.

Whilst it seems that this is a normal service of a servant of Christ, I feel he shows at 80 years of age the energy and enthusiasm that belies his age and can put to shame others who are half his age who often tire before David does.

David, also with an energy that is infectious supports, drives fund raising for the Hope School in Ghana and has almost single handily been the pivot of raising consistently over the years finance and gives wise direction to the school there. He often visits, at his own cost, and is regarded as something of a local hero, in his preaching and leading. He was made an honorary Canon by the Church in Ghana. He was recently quoted as saying the last money that was raised went straight down the toilet as the money went into giving a sanitary block.



David has been the major supporter of the roll out of LYCIG and whilst many have almost derided, he has driven growth putting the message of Jesus 1<sup>st</sup>. He has supported wholeheartedly the new Come and See Café Church at St Catherine's and takes part in the services with fun and originality.

For a number of years David has unselfishly given his full backing to creating a community gardens at St Catherine's through an enhanced churchyard project, one that is hopefully coming to fruition this year, and despite harsh criticism and opposition at times David has never lost sight that the community must be reached for Jesus. His unfailing focus, which would have caused others to have given up, is the sole reason for the exciting project.

His wise and prayerful council is always available, his love of Jesus is unfailing, his word and services is always sound and many can learn from him, his desire to reach out into the community never ceases and despite some health issues his enthusiasm is always infectious. As the nomination for the award suggest it is for those "in our diocese serve generously and faithfully without expecting or needing thanks or recognition" David fits this category like no other.

His bass singing voice should win him the nomination alone! If you are looking for a nomination with the "intention in initiating this award is to honour all that is done in Christ's name and to mark particularly distinguished service" and "recognises exemplary Christian service to the community, the world or the church" then if this award was a jacket it would fit David perfectly.



# Worshippers honoured for their service to church and community

Bishop Christopher presented special awards to the 15 stalwarts at an Evensong service in Portsmouth Cathedral. The cathedral was packed with family, friends and fellow worshippers of the recipients.

The St Thomas Awards, which are small lapel badges, are given each year to churchgoers who have spent years serving their churches and communities. This is the third year the bishop has awarded them. He said: "It is love in action that we celebrate in the lives of those receiving awards this evening, and of course many others too. It is not that their work has only focused on their local areas, but that in a variety of different ways, long-standing service has demonstrated that love which keeps on going with the messy and challenging concrete realities of day to day life.

"They are genuinely unsung heroes and it is truly a privilege to draw them out of their humility and honour them, along with the countless more who serve the Gospel so faithfully in our communities, parishes and chaplaincies."

Two of those who were due to receive an award sadly died before the service took place, though both knew they would be honoured. **David Tamcken** from St Catherine's Church, Ventnor - a Reader, confidant, churchwarden and energetic supporter of links with Ghana - had rung the bishop a week beforehand to say how "gobsmacked" he had been to learn of the honour. He died suddenly the next day. His wife Shirley and other members of the family attended the service to receive the award on his behalf.

## Bishop Christopher



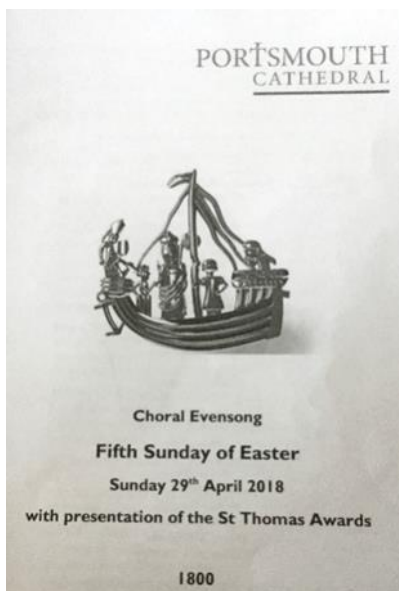
## **SHIRLEY RECEIVES DAVID'S AWARD**

On April 29<sup>th</sup>, several of us gathered in Portsmouth Cathedral with Shirley Tamcken and all their immediate family, for the presentation of the St Thomas Awards to fifteen people from our Diocese, including four from the Isle of Wight.

David, said Bishop Christopher, had expressed his surprise and pleasure at being nominated for this award, given to mark notable Christian Service in the Church and the wider society, and had fully intended to be present. So Shirley bravely attended to accept it on his behalf. Bishop Christopher expressed his sorrow at David's death and his gratitude for all he had achieved and presented Shirley with the award, a badge which is a copy of a medieval pilgrim's badge.

Although I wouldn't claim that Cathedral Sung Evensong was completely David's "cup of tea", as he preferred services where people could join in a little more, Bishop Christopher's tribute to him, and the prayers, too, were very moving.

Adrian, lurking beneath the central tower, was able to take a brief video of Shirley being presented with the badge and also with a lovely bouquet. It was lovely to see her there with all the family, and to hear how much David's work had been appreciated by the Diocese.



# Funeral of David Tamcken.

(We'll be hearing a great deal about D this afternoon but I thought I'd just pay him a very brief tribute at this his Committal.)

I am wearing this stole which I think says a lot about David as I knew him. It is Ghanaian, traditional Kente cloth, with Ghanaian colours, brought back, no doubt, from one of David's many trips to Ghana. Secondly, it has a clear message: Jesus is Lord. From this I draw two things which I believe were central to David's character. 1) His desire to reach out to communities, near and far and 2) His belief in the centrality of Christ his and our Saviour and Lord.

I first met David long before I came to Ventnor, 20 years ago. He and I were part of a 5 man delegation to Ghana in 1998 from the East Wight Deanery. IT was a memorable visit with some worrying, even alarming moments, including a visit to a crocodile pond, but we came through it OK. On a whistle-stop tour with the Bishop's we visited what seemed to be every parish in the Bishop's diocese, including Wenchi, where there was a well-established link with Ventnor. I remember being very impressed by the amount of the cheque handed over by David for their school building, but also by the clarity and passion with which he addressed the people. Then, when I came to Ventnor, I saw this passion as related to our local community. David was passionate about reaching out to the people of Ventnor and opening the church up – inside and out- to its people.

Much of this passion came from David's faith in Jesus Christ. WE have just heard the reading from John 14 where Jesus says of himself 'I am the way, the truth and the life.' The purpose of all David's preaching, family services and Bible studies was to point people to Christ and find the precious gift he's found in Jesus all those years ago.

Now he is at rest in the Lord, having heard the voice of his Saviour, 'Well done, thou good and faithful servant. Enter into the joy of my Kingdom' It is that faith that we commit him today. Amen.

Rev'd Canon Hugh Wright