

## Revd Canon Tim Montgomery

## *Biography*

Tim was born in Hoddesdon, Hertfordshire in 1959 and grew up in nearby Broxbourne. He attended the Broxbourne School and was involved in various sports teams as well as drama and music events. Tim was a choirboy at St Paul's, Hoddesdon and later sang in the choir at St Augustine's, Broxbourne. He was a keen 'Covenanter' achieving the silver sword award, and was a young leader at 17. He was a member of the local sports club playing rugby, football, cricket, hockey, squash and tennis.



Tim went to the University of Hull in 1978 to study Theology and gained a III honours degree. During his time in Hull he also gained experience in detached youth work mainly through a church and community outreach project in Marfleet. In 1982, he married Sue and moved to Cambridge where he completed a post-graduate teaching certificate at the University through Homerton College.

Between 1983 and 1986, Tim taught Religious Studies, History and PE at Saffron Walden School whilst also helping to develop a new youth & community centre (Romsey Mill) in Cambridge in his spare time! In 1986 he joined Mike Breen at Romsey Mill to help develop a new youth work scheme (Alpha Teams) as well as pilot an education & youth work link project called "School's Youth Worker" (a pre-runner to the current 'mentoring' scheme operating in many schools today). Tim also served as Archdeaconry Youth Officer for Cambridge from 1986. During this time Tim established the 'Romsey Mill Roadshow' - a community outreach project combining music and drama with trust and co-operation games. This roadshow project was a regular event at the Greenbelt festival and also toured Northern Ireland as part of a special week of mission and community development among young people.

In 1988 Tim became Director of Romsey Mill after Mike Breen left to take on a church in Brixton. Tim and Mike remained in close contact with each other exploring the principles of growing good church and community projects. At Romsey Mill, Tim built up a large staff and volunteer team putting most of his energies into training, supervising and releasing people into their gifts and ministries. During this time he also spearheaded 'The Jordan project' - an alcohol-free café-bar serving young families during the day and young people during the evenings. Tim also embarked on ordination training during this time with the East Anglian Ministerial Training Course and was ordained deacon in 1993 and priest in 1994. Tim served as NSM curate at St Phillip's church in Cambridge whilst continuing to develop the Romsey Mill alongside regular consultancy projects to help new and emerging community projects.

In 1993 Tim was released part-time to develop his growing consultancy work with other community projects. He led a number of groups through vision and strategy exercises as well as helping project leaders to build and develop effective teams of staff and volunteers.

In 1994 Tim embarked on a large consultancy project with a new venture by a charity called 'Causeway Trust'. He helped to guide the Trustees through the start-up phase of a unique combined-abilities project which led to establishing 'Keppleway' in Cumbria - an education and activity centre for non-disabled and able people together. Tim recruited the four key patrons (Prof. Stephen Hawking, Jonathan Edwards, Roger Uttley and Bishop Ian Harland) and set up the official launch at Crystal Palace in 1996. Tim then moved to Cumbria in 1996 accepting the new post of Chief Executive of Keppleway and spent five years establishing the project and the two key teams to manage the centre and the

programmes. During this time Tim also helped with a church plant initiative on the Hallgarth estate in Kendal as part of the outreach work of St Thomas' Church.

By 2000 Tim had completed the establishing phase of Kepplewray and was looking forward to the next development stage. However, he was invited to put himself forward for the vacancy of Vicar of St Thomas' & St Catherine's churches, and, to his surprise, was appointed to that post later in the year.

Tim's emphasis is on vision and strategy undergirded by clear teaching and equipping, always focusing on growth and discipleship. He has built a strong core-leadership team and developed the mission-focus of the churches. Following careful consideration, prayer and discussion, a Strategic Plan was begun in 2004 with a vision to see the Kingdom of God extended in Kendal and beyond. The specific mission is to grow strong and healthy churches of disciples of Jesus who worship God, love one another and reach out to others with the good news of Jesus for today. Tim has consistently taught into this vision and held out the now well-known triangular shape of church with the 'up', 'in' and 'out' (worship, fellowship and mission) becoming the core mantra of the churches!

In 2004 Tim was appointed as a Bishop's Adviser in the Ministry Division of the Church of England to help in the discerning process for those exploring the call to the ordained ministry. Tim serves on two Advisory Panels each year as a Vocational Adviser.

In 2006 Tim became the Team Leader of the new 'Two Valley Team' bringing 7 small village churches into the support network of St Thomas' church which has taken on the role of a 'resource church' within the diocesan strategy to move from survival to revival. In 2006 Tim was also made an Honorary Canon of Carlisle Cathedral. In 2008, St Thomas' church underwent a £500,000 refurbishment of the main church worship area and now has a modern multi-functional space for events and gatherings. In 2009 Tim set up a new resource for leaders in the diocese called 'Refresh' which offers support and teaching focused on quarterly gatherings at St Thomas' church. Tim hopes to develop this further through other resources as well as completing his book on Moses, his favourite leader and role-model!

Currently, Tim is focusing on the role of St Thomas' church within the local parish community as well as in the network of linked churches in the team. This strategy is called "Inside-out, Outside-in" which aims to radically change the way in which church operates as a vibrant expression of the Kingdom of God in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The parish strategy is based on the church as the hub of the community from which spokes (specific projects) go out to the whole community to enable more people to be included, blessed and respond to the continuing call of Jesus to follow him and find fullness of life. The church network strategy is based on equipping and releasing lay-led ministry for growth and new shape.

Tim is a clear communicator with a passion for connecting Christian faith with everyday life. He tries to bring Word & Spirit together with the Kingdom vision firmly in his sights. He describes himself as a 'Catholic Evangelical & Liberal Charismatic' who hates labels for people Jesus simply called 'Disciples'. His personal aim is to release disciples into life-changing encounters with God, individually and as church together, so that they might go out into the world to live and speak the good news of Jesus.

Tim is married to Sue and they have four grown up children who look after them!

Tim can be contacted via St Thomas' Church, Stricklandgate, Kendal, LA9 4QG. Tel. 01539 730683. Alternatively, you can email him [tim@STKmail.org.uk](mailto:tim@STKmail.org.uk) or text him on 07871 742840.