

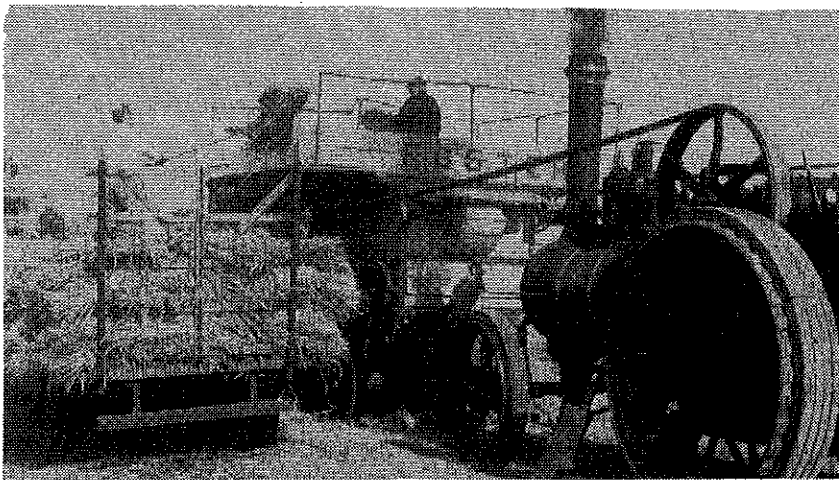
Mustard Seed

ST. THOMAS' CHURCH BRAMPTON, St. John's Walton, St. Peter's Holymoorside
Free throughout the Parish

September 1991

HARVEST TIME

-raises serious issues



Corn ripens in the field, trees grow heavy with their Autumn fruit and marrows and pumpkins decorate a country church at harvest festival time.

For centuries, harvest has been a favourite subject for painters and poets, emphasising the toil of the labourers gathering in the crop and the goodness of the produce itself.

The rustic picture, though, seems a long way from our lives in modern towns and cities where the pace of life goes on day after day, unaffected by the rhythm of the seasons.

But even here in Brampton and Walton, harvest time gives us an opportunity to think over some important issues affecting our lives, our world and the lives of others less fortunate than we are.

Just a minute, though. We say OUR world - but exactly WHOSE world is it? Maybe that's a good question to consider first

Christians believe that it is GOD'S world. "The earth is the Lord's" the Bible tells us. And that changes the whole way we look at it and how we should treat it.

God, then, is the owner - and it's as if he has made us His caretakers to look after the earth. Sadly, on recent evidence, we haven't made a very good job of it.

Our atmosphere grows more polluted daily, the rivers, seas and beaches are contaminated and we squander the resources God

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CHRISTIANS IN SPORT

Buffet Supper at The Terminus

Our daily sports pages are full of famous names. When one of them becomes a Christian it makes headline news. Recently you may have read features about Kris Akabusi, Glenn Hoddle, Lisa Opie, Ginny Leng, John Salako, Ayrton Senna or Andre Agassi and their faith in Christ.

Christians in Sport aims to ensure that the spiritual side to life is not forgotten in the sporting world. It helps people build their lives on something firmer than the shifting sands of sporting prowess or selectorial whim.

Former Dorset cricket captain Rev'd Andrew Wingfield-Digby is the first national director of Christians in Sport. He has been involved in the chaplaincy teams at the last two Commonwealth Games, the Seoul Olympics and the recent Student Games. He also encourages chaplains in the professional golf and tennis circuits, and in football and other clubs.

When Ted Dexter asked him if he would be available to offer pastoral care and advice to the England cricket squads, he was delighted. You may have seen him on the England balcony over the summer.

On meeting the players, Ian Botham volunteered to sing in the choir! "It was nice to have that sort of mickey-taking" said Andrew, "because I was very nervous going into the England dressing room."

Andrew Wingfield-Digby is the guest speaker at a buffet supper at the Terminus



on Monday 16th September. He also hopes to bring one or two "Christians in Sport" to tell their stories. Tickets are available price £5.00 from Jonathan Jee (231089) or fill in the reply form on the back page.

Things are different now!

Rock musicians, sports stars, politicians, ex-terrorists and film stars are among the Christians who could tell dramatic stories of their conversion.

Many have had their lives completely turned around after discovering Jesus and it can make gripping reading. Greed has been replaced by generosity; ego by humility; and instead of a relentless quest for perfection there is a new-found security and contentment.

Well, we may not have many high-profile personalities in our churches but there are many, rather more ordinary people who could still, if you asked them, describe the remarkable change Jesus has made in their lives.

So Mustard Seed asked two members of St. Thomas', Alan and Enid Sheldon, to tell us about the difference Jesus has made in their lives and how it all began ...

Enid first started coming to St. Thomas' to lend moral support to their daughter Beth who was then in the Brownies, on church parade Sundays. "I would listen to the sermons and find myself amazed at the way the man in the pulpit was talking about Jesus.

"It was the same Jesus I had known from Bible stories in Sunday School, but people were talking as if they knew Him and He was still alive. Curiosity got the better of me - it all began to sound very relevant.

"I wondered how you could find out more and the adult confirmation class was mentioned to me. I decided to go, but with an open mind. The first one was very quiet, with a room full of strangers and I thought I was the only one who was not sure of my faith. But as the weeks went by we became friends and just over halfway through the course, I decided 'yes, these people are right.'"

Enid feels her faith has given her a new sense of peace and security in her life which was missing before. "I always used to think I had to attain things, to reach new standards and become a better and more knowledgeable person.

"After leaving school with no qualifications I felt I had to get more knowledge, and went on a number of courses - maths, French, dressmaking. But I no longer feel these things are the be all and end all. My faith has made me more complete as a person.



"I realise now that God loves you as you are - not because you have 10 O-levels but because you are you. And as well as that security, God has given me a new confidence to do things I had always secretly wanted to do - to be able to talk easily to people, to go to meetings or visit people who have been bereaved."

Alan, meanwhile was pursuing his favourite Sunday morning pastime - cycling along the highways and byways of Derbyshire. "I would be off cycling while Enid went to church - I was a fanatical cyclist and would compete in time trials.

"Then I would come home for lunch and Enid would tell me about what had happened in church that morning. It was obviously important to her but she never put any pressure on me. At that time I was open-minded - I've always been the kind of person who has to see all sides of something before I'll make up my own mind about it.

"But I was becoming curious myself, and decided to go with Enid to church one Sunday. I wanted some facts to work it out for myself. I didn't want to be brainwashed - I had an idea that Christianity was either for people who were searching, lost or weak, or for people who like to jump on bandwagons. Neither of those fitted

"But when I went to St. Thomas', I felt very welcome. There was no brow-beating and I was very unpressured. Yet the people there seemed to have something in common which you could sense, that was very real. There was a different dimension to them.

"I started to go more often and was reading as much as I could - books like Who Moved the Stone, which examines all the evidence for the resurrection of Christ. I'd read Enid's confirmation books and notes - I wanted facts, I didn't want to be emotionally manipulated."

Alan found himself not fitting into any pigeon holes he had imagined were normally filled by people turning to the Church.

"People do come to church with things wrong in their lives, or perhaps at a time of crisis, but my life was very happy. I was not conscious at the time of anything that was missing in my life. Everything was ticking along and I was fulfilled and happy. But I could see these people at the church had something extra."

And it was around the time of their wedding anniversary that Enid realised something was happening in Alan's life. "We always bought each other something for our hobbies at this time and I would usually ask Alan what I could get him for his bike. But this time he said he wanted a Bible - and a little voice inside me said 'Whoopee!'"

Alan was by now going to confirmation classes himself. "One of the things about confirmation I was most concerned with was that I wanted it to be more than just a rubber stamping of my new faith. I wanted it to feel very real inside me.

So what difference has being a Christian made to Alan's life?

"I feel I'm a calmer, less easily angered person than before, even though I always considered myself to have a fair degree of tolerance and patience. At work I get a lot of leg pulling over being a Christian, but although they might not understand, they do respect my faith."

The last word goes to Enid: "I now realise that before I became a Christian I was like one of those water-boatmen you see skimming over the surface of ponds. I didn't know the depths there could be to life. But now there is so much more that Jesus wants us to have, to live life to the full."



Teenagers in the Church

They say it all began in the forties: the teenage phenomenon. Brought up on a diet of rock and roll and the latest fashion, courted by advertisers, and now jolted by mass unemployment, today's teenager faces the most fast-changing, high-tech society the world has ever known.

Yet some things never change. In 1114 AD Peter the Hermit complained that

"Youth has no regard for old age, and the wisdom of centuries is looked down upon as stupidity and foolishness. The young men are indolent; the young women are indecent and indecorous in their speech, behaviour and dress"!!

More importantly, God has not changed and nor has the young persons' search for identity. We believe that God has made us to be in relationship to Him, and that it is by putting Him first that we discover ourselves.

The youth group at St. Thomas' is part of the Church Youth Fellowships Association, and is known by its initials: CYFA. It is open to all aged 14-19 and at present has about 30 members. Its aims are to get to know God, and have as much fun as possible in doing so.

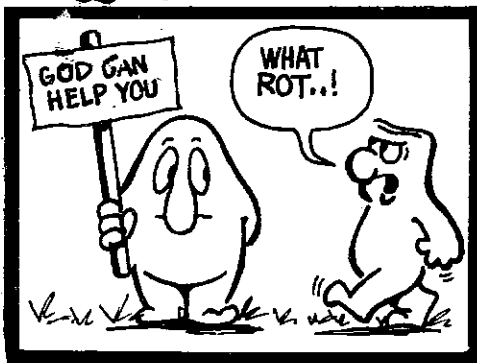


CYFA's main meeting is on Sunday nights after church. It also meets midweek for Bible studies and an annual confirmation course. We are particularly keen to apply what we learn to our daily lives.

Discovering God's truth in scripture is interspersed with various social events, from Ten Pin Bowling to weekend hikes. A highlight is the annual venture to the Lake District for a week in August.

There are also various other groups for young people: Pathfinders for those aged 11-14, Quest Club for the 7-11's and a Sunday Club for children of all ages. For further details send in the reply slip on the back page.

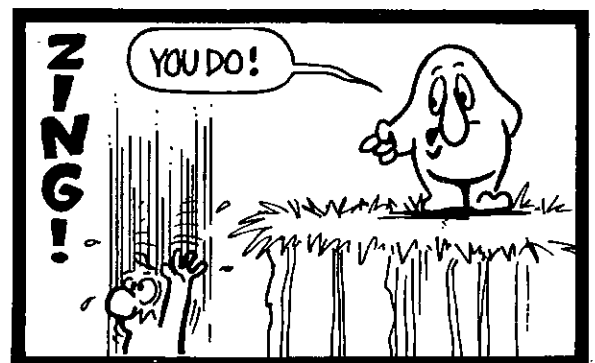
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AFTER HARVEST
 Informal CHRISTIAN BASICS GROUPS will start for those who want to find out

- * What is Christianity?
- * Is it true?
- * Is it relevant in 1991?

Six week courses ... open to all ... no obligation ... come simply to find out. If interested, please complete the reply slip on the back page or phone one of the clergy.



HARVEST

a time to celebrate

Celebration is the keynote. We have been given so much beauty, so much opportunity to create, so much food and drink. Our churches will be celebrating in various ways:

HARVEST SUPPERS

Church members are throwing their homes open and offering hospitality to friends and neighbours - just to celebrate the goodness and generosity of their Creator and Provider. Let us know if you'd like an invitation.

HARVEST SERVICES

St. Thomas', Chatsworth Road

SUNDAY 22 SEPTEMBER

8.00am. Harvest Communion.
 10.30am. Harvest Thanksgiving
 6.30pm. Harvest Thanksgiving

St. John's Walton Back Lane

SATURDAY 5 OCTOBER

6.30pm. Songs of Praise

SUNDAY 6 OCTOBER

9.00am. Harvest Communion
 10.30am. Harvest Family Service

St. Peter's Holymoorside

SUNDAY 6 OCTOBER

9.00am. Harvest Communion
 6.00pm. Harvest Praise

Come and see the Flower Festival too.

THE HARVESTERS

A folk evening with the Harvesters, on Wednesday 18 September at 8.00pm. in St. Thomas'. It's free - just come on the night.

HARVEST TIME

continued from front page

has given us with little thought for what will be left for future generations.

At harvest time, we can take stock of our own lifestyles and examine our responsibilities towards the environment, our children and our children's children.

But as well as caring for the earth, God wants us to share its good things. Just as any good parents want the best for their children and care for each one, God sees us all as equally precious to Him.

So while we are grateful that our harvest guarantees full supermarket shelves in this country, it's important that we remember people living in other lands where the harvest has failed yet again this year, leaving many thousands facing starvation.

Christians, at harvest time, are truly thankful for all the good things God has given us - our homes, family, friends, possessions, health and freedoms. He sustains the earth in its beauty and we can rejoice in the magnificent countryside surrounding us here.

And above all, we remember God's most wonderful gift to us, His son Jesus. Jesus who promises us life in all its fulness, with a new dimension two members of our church talk about elsewhere in Mustard Seed.

We hope you will join with us at our harvest services to reflect further on these things - and to celebrate God's gift of a fruitful earth and His son, Jesus.

ST. PETER'S HOLYMOORSIDE

150th Anniversary

Celebrations are in full swing in Holymoorside. The little church has stood right on the roadside of Cotton mill Hill for a century and a half. There is to be a Flower Festival over Harvest weekend, October 5 and 6, when the church will be open to many visitors.

On Sunday 27 October, the Bishop of Ripon, the Rt. Revd. Henry Richmond, is coming to preach at a service of Thanksgiving at 6.00pm.

ST. JOHN'S WALTON

At last, the new Church Centre to be built alongside St. John's has the go ahead. It will consist of a hall seating up to 175, a lounge, a kitchen, toilets, office and store-room.

The new building will mark the real development of St. John's from small and humble beginnings to a growing, thriving church wanting to serve the ever expanding community of Walton.

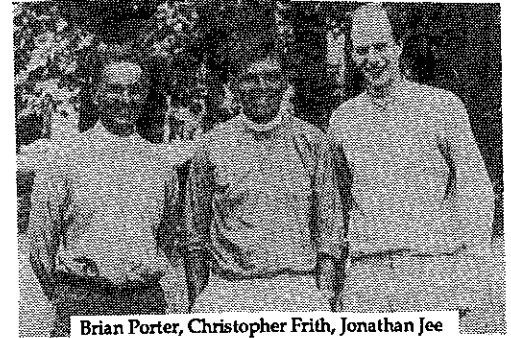
The most important advance will be the opportunity for children's and youth work to develop. Whole families will be able to come to worship together every Sunday with children's activities going on at the same time as adult ones.

THE CLERGY

CHRISTOPHER FRITH has been Rector since 1985. "My faith came alive when I was a student back in the Sixties," he says. "Since then, my overriding concern has been to help others to experience the joy of following Jesus Christ. My 23 years in the ministry, in Sheffield, Manchester and Chesterfield have proved to me that people in our day are interested in Christ - once they see how real and relevant He is."

BRIAN PORTER came from Plymouth in early 1990. His main responsibility as Curate is now for St. John's, Walton, although he ministers throughout the parish.

JONATHAN JEE became Curate in 1988. He is involved in leading youth work and organising the outreach into the community.



Brian Porter, Christopher Frith, Jonathan Jee

PHONE NUMBERS

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Brian Porter	569106
Jonathan Jee	231089
CHURCH OFFICE	558461

MUSTARD SEED

MUSTARD SEED is our way of saying: "We want to keep in touch with those who live in our community." We value any link we can make.

Mustard seeds are very, very small, but they can grow and grow. Any work of God is like that:

Jesus said, "What shall we say the kingdom of God is like, or what parable shall we use to describe it? It is like a mustard seed, which is the smallest seed you plant in the ground. Yet when planted, it grows and becomes the largest of all garden plants."

From Mark chapter 4

Jesus also compared faith with a mustard seed. A person doesn't need great faith. So long as it is in God, a small grain of faith is enough because God himself is great and there is no limit to what he can do.

MUSTARD SEED is going free to all homes in our parish and we trust something will grow out of it.



CUT HERE

Please complete this and return it to Philip Herrick c/o 481 Chatsworth Road.

I would like to

- receive SPEARHEAD, St. Thomas' bi-monthly magazine (£1.50 a year)
- attend a HARVEST SUPPER - free!
- attend the CHRISTIANS IN SPORT SUPPER in the Terminus (16 September) Tickets £5.00
- receive information about YOUTH ACTIVITIES
- receive information about CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES
- receive information about MUMS AND TOTS GROUPS
- receive information about CHRISTIAN BASICS GROUPS
- have a VISITOR from the Church

NAME

ADDRESS