



April 1995

Free throughout the Parish

Mustard Seed

St. Thomas' Church Brampton, St. Peter's Holymoorside, St. John's Walton

— going for growth in Christ —

Turned upside down

a report from the new 9.09 congregation at St. Thomas'

DONKEYS GO TO CHURCH

Dougal, Harry and Daisy will be on parade on Palm Sunday, 9th April.

These popular donkeys will help congregations enter into the spirit of the first Palm Sunday, when Jesus rode on a donkey into Jerusalem to face his supreme challenge.



Children are encouraged to come in "biblical costume" an assortment of dressing gowns, tea-towels and the like! Adults are invited to do so too.

Daisy will lead a procession down Chatsworth Road to St. Thomas' for the 10.45 service, Harry will be at St. John's, Walton and Dougal at the Holymoorside Easter garden, both at 10.30am

Early Christians were described as the people who turned the world upside down - but this Easter some members of St. Thomas' Church here in Brampton will be turning the clock upside down too.

For instead of meeting for worship at their normal time of 9.09a.m. they plan to start the Easter Day service with sunrise.....at 6.06!

The daybreak meeting at the rising of the sun reflects the importance for christians of that first Easter morning when Jesus' disciples realised that He was risen from the dead.

Departs from the 'norm'

And just as the crucifixion and death of Jesus took place outside the city walls of Jerusalem, the 9.09 service worshippers will weather permitting celebrate this very special festival beyond the

boundaries of Chesterfield, on a hillside overlooking the Town.

The Easter Day dawn meeting is just one of the ways in which the 9.09 service at St. Thomas' departs from what many people might imagine to be the 'norm' for church worship, and that was one of the chief reasons for its launch, six months ago now, to offer more variety in worship, to experiment, and to welcome in people who might otherwise not go to an 'ordinary' style of service.

On any given Sunday, 9.09 members take it in turns to lead the worship. The emphasis is on involvement, with as many people as possible taking part, not just a member of the clergy standing up and leading the service. Instead you might find a teacher, a housewife or even an optician giving a talk or announcing a song.

continued overleaf

SURPRISE!

said Jesus to his friends 3 days after they buried him...

TURNED UPSIDE DOWN

Continued from front page

Another aim was for people to get to know one another more closely than might be possible in a larger congregation.

9.09

Relationships between people have been strengthened and new friendships made, often thanks to a community evening held on Monday nights when there is the time to talk, pray together, learn new songs and play games - with or without the flourishing number of children who are fully involved with the 9.09 fellowship.

All Age

Often they help with planning services and a number of the older children are key members of the music group leading the worship, and the usual sight of the children going out during a service to their Sunday School is a little rarer at the 9.09 - the adults are just as likely to go out to another room themselves, leaving the children in church for the rest of their activities. Some of the best services have been when old and young have stayed together for all age activities, proving that learning can be fun however old you are.

Through all this, people's experience of God has been deepened, as they have been ready to share what He has been doing in their lives.

Maybe YOU have been thinking about giving church a try, seeing what it is like? If the idea of the 9:09 service appeals to you, we would love to see you - why not give it a try?

6.06

TOUCHSTONE NEWS

The last issue of MUSTARD SEED invited readers to contribute to the special Christmas project, supporting Touchstone Community Enterprise.

There is encouraging news of this employment project. First, the Christmas offerings amounted to £1,031.63. All involved in Touchstone are most grateful.

The other news is that a Project Manager has now been appointed. He is Ken Singleton and is based at Portacabin 2, St. Thomas' church and can be contacted by telephone on 554932.



A POWERFUL WORD

Passion

A POWERFUL EMOTION

It can also involve a powerful commitment. In fulfillment of a vow at the time of a plague in the village, the Passion Play at Oberammergau in Germany has been performed without fail every ten years since 1634!

But an even greater commitment was made by Jesus himself.

A commitment to us. He went through death on a cross for our sake - because he passionately loves us. That's why the events leading up to Christ's crucifixion are called "The Passion" (the Latin word "Passio" means both suffering and love).

Jesus gave his life to save us from an eternity without God.

JESUS a passion FOR YOU

Quite a change...but some things are just the same

Picture a village church in south-western Scotland. Its sandstone walls pink and bare, but with a genuine sense of beauty in the simplicity of the place.

Decorations are few and far between, but the one thing that does stand out, at the heart of the church, is a cross. It is the focus of the building and the focus of the people who worship there.

As Easter approaches, it is a time when the cross comes into even sharper focus at the centre of life for Christians like Ian and Eileen Gordon who spent ten years among the faithful congregation at that Presbyterian "Kirk" in Mauchline, Ayrshire.

Almost two years ago they moved to Chesterfield with sons Alastair (14) and Douglas (10) when Ian's job with the Employment Service meant a transfer to Sheffield. There have been many changes and adjustments to cope with, yet their commitment to Christ has remained steady, "the thread running through it", as Eileen described it.

"The Gordons have been encouraged to see another of those threads linking place to place"

Mauchline, in a rural area, was no bigger than an oversize village. Now they live on the edge of Walton's large housing estate, itself more than twice the size of their former Scottish neighbourhood.

In Mauchline, theirs was the only Church of Scotland kirk for miles around. Here there were many churches to choose from before they settled on St. Thomas', Brampton as their "home".

The Mauchline church's involvement in community life was more obvious because of the smaller size of the place. Out of a



Eileen and Ian Gordon

population of around 3,000, the roll call of church members stood at 1,000 and while many may have been nominal churchgoers, they kept up the link nevertheless.

"Whether at School meetings, the Women's Rural Institute or the Horticultural Society," recalled Ian, "you would find Christians involved in the thick of things - the Burns Club, especially, had a very healthy number of kirk members!"

Chesterfield, with its industrial base and bustling, urban life-style, could well seem like a million miles from the quieter way of life in Mauchline.

But the Gordons have been encouraged to see another of those threads linking place to place - the presence in a strange town of friendly, welcoming faces - as they have become members of their new church family at St. Thomas'.

We never considered going to an Anglican church when we were looking around the churches in Chesterfield. But after three months of living here, we still had not found a church where we felt at home. Then a copy of Mustard Seed came through the door with an invitation to worship and we felt, as a family, we should at least give St. Thomas' a visit - so we could say the Anglican church was not for us!" said Ian.

At first, admitted Eileen, some aspects of the worship seemed quite different and strange. "But the fact that there are so many people with different backgrounds in the congregation has made it easier for us and we do feel accepted," she said.

Now, more than a year on from settling on St. Thomas' as their spiritual base, the Gordons are rolling up their sleeves to serve God, with Ian on the church council and Eileen working in the church office half a day a week and helping out at a Communion and Cuppa service for people who can't always get to Sunday worship.

But while there have been many differences to adapt to south of the border, Easter is a reminder for Ian and Eileen of the unity in the church whether people are worshipping in Mauchline or Mauritius, Chesterfield or Chile.

"The focus on Easter, the cross and the resurrection is the same. However we celebrate Easter, the everyday experience Christians have of Jesus is the same.

"The resurrection is not for one day of the year but affects every day that we know Jesus is with us - the risen Lord, present and helping us in all that we do." said Ian.



ENQUIRIES

The administration of our churches is based on St. Thomas' Church Office and general enquiries should be made there. It is staffed, Monday to Friday, from 9.00am until 12.30pm.

Office telephone: 558461

If you want to enquire about a wedding or baptism, or just have a word with one of the clergy, please come to the office on a Monday between 6.30pm and 7.15pm (through the door opposite church view, not the tower end.)

CHURCH STAFF

Rector	Christopher Frith	232717
Curates	Brian Porter *	566346
	Sheila Pite	231089
NSM #	Judith Henderson	569106
Co-ordinator	Roger Freestone	558461

* likely to be convalescing following surgery

Non - stipendiary minister

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SERVICES

ST. THOMAS'

Palm Sunday, 9th April
10.45am Family Service

Wednesday 12th April
8.00pm Faures Requiem
by Holymoorside Choral Society

Good Friday
10.00am Family Service
2.00pm Hour at the Cross
7.30pm United Service at
Walton Evangelical Church

Easter Eve
11.00pm Service of Light

Easter Day
6.06am Sunrise Service
8.00am Holy Communion
10.45 am Family Communion
6.30am Songs of Praise

ST JOHNS WALTON

Palm Sunday 9th April
9.00am Holy Communion
10.30am Family Service

Good Friday
9.30am Family Worship

Easter Day
9.30am Celebration Communion

ST PETERS HOLYMOORSIDE

Palm Sunday 9th April
9.30am Holy Communion
10.30am United Procession
from the Easter Garden

Good Friday
2.00pm Hour at the Cross
(Ecumenical Service at
Holymoorside URC)

Easter Eve
11.00pm Service of Light

Easter Day
9.30am Holy Communion
6.00pm Easter Praise



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"Not just now dear..."



CUT HERE

Please complete this and return it to:
Roger Freestone St. Thomas' Church Office, Chatsworth Road,
Chesterfield, Derby S40 3HD

I would like to receive information about:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES | <input type="checkbox"/> YOUTH ACTIVITIES |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CHRISTIAN BASICS GROUPS | <input type="checkbox"/> PARENTS AND TOTS GROUPS |
| <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNION AND CUPPA (Thursday 2.00pm., monthly, lifts available) | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SAMPLE BIBLE READING NOTES | |

I would like a VISITOR from the Church.

NAME

ADDRESS TEL

