

September 1995

Free throughout the Parish



# Mustard Seed

St. Thomas' Church, Brampton, St. Peter's, Holymoorside, St. John's, Walton  
— going for growth in Christ —

## HARVEST TIME

It's good to celebrate ~ as long as there is something worth getting excited about. Life can be too drab.

The annual Harvest Festival is certainly a cause for celebration. It's a time to reflect on the beauty of the world around and the amazing variety of things that grow in it. It's a time to realise the generosity and sheer, amazing skills of the Creator who has designed and provided it all.

So Harvest Festivals take many forms. There are visible reminders of the harvest ~ flowers, apples, marrows, loaves of bread, lumps of coal, items of machinery. There are readings from the Bible which explain God's love and warn of the danger of ignoring it.



There are prayers for developing countries and all who live in places where the harvest has failed. There are "giving" projects; this year St Thomas' are seeking to support farmers throughout Africa.

You are invited to join in a Harvest Festival this year, come and celebrate and face the different challenges of the Harvest.

## SURVEY NEARS COMPLETION

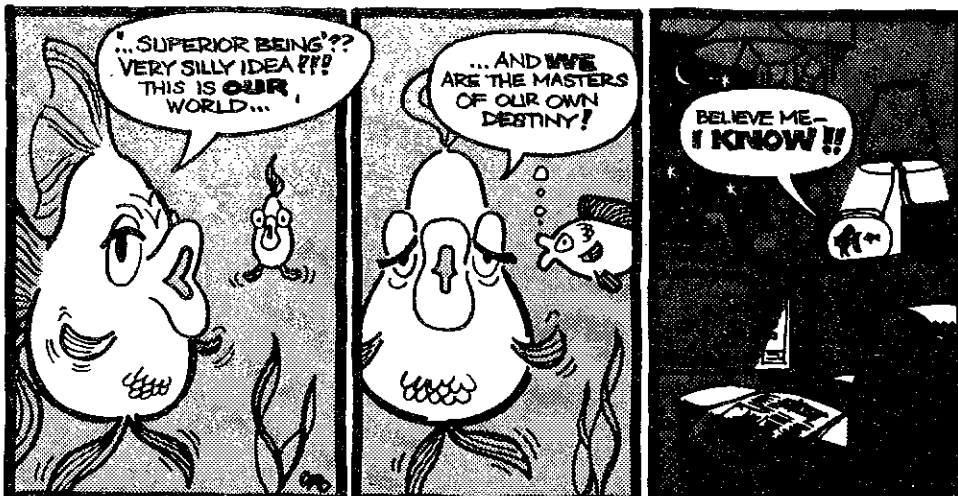
*Do You Believe in God ?  
Do you believe in life after death ?*

These questions, and five other basic ones about what people believe, have been asked many times on door steps and in sitting rooms around the Parish in recent years.

Members of St Thomas' and St John's are keen to find out what ordinary parishioners really believe. So at different times during the last four years, they have been calling door to door to find out.

The reception has nearly always been friendly and people have been most helpful. A letter informing residents what is happening is always sent in advance of a call. It is hoped to complete the operation during September. The massive task of collating results will then spring in to action. A future edition of **Mustard Seed** will inform parishioners just what people on the West side of Chesterfield really do believe.

If you have missed out and would like to answer the questions, please ring the St Thomas' church office on **Chesterfield 558461** and a visitor will gladly contact you with the survey.



The fool has said in his heart, "there is no God"!



# Harvest Celebrations 1995



# Stuart Penny

will be at St. Thomas' Church on  
Sat. 23rd & Sun. 24th September  
1995



Stuart Penny is a Christian Communicator, a singer songwriter and a speaker.

His style encourages people to "answer back".

Married, with three children, he lives in Shrewsbury.

## Saturday 23rd September:

**An evening with Stuart Penny** in the Terminus Hotel at 7.30pm

A convivial setting with food and drink.

Double Tickets £15 from Roger Freestone

## Sunday 24th September:

Stuart will be speaking and singing

at

the 9.09, the 10.45 and the 6.30 Harvest Services.

**Bring your family and friends!**

# A NEW CURATE

From the dreaming spires of Oxford to the ferment of South Africa, then on to a hospice in London and a filling station in Derbyshire.

Add three years of training at Theological college in Cambridge - and you have the many and varied experiences which have prepared Peter Wilkinson for the new life he and his wife Julia have been called to in Chesterfield.

For Peter, the move to Brampton as the new curate at St Thomas' marks a return to his Derbyshire roots, having been brought up in the south of the County.

He is delighted to be back in his native

---

*But while Julia and Pete share a love of sport, they see their main goal as making the Good News of God's love and compassion known*

---

Shire - and Derbyshire's central position should also be a useful base for Julia's work as student co-ordinator for Christians in Sport.

She travels to universities and colleges all over the country with the organisation which encourages and supports athletes and sports people with a faith in Jesus.

But while Julia and Pete share a love of sport, they see their main goal as making the Good News of God's love and compassion known among the people of our parish.

"At Oxford, people had all kinds of opinions about what God was like but they were really just guessing. I was struck, then that if Jesus is who he claimed to be - God - then the guessing is over. God has made himself known to us through Jesus - and He wants us to know Him, too," Peter told Mustard Seed.

That deepening conviction about the truth of the Christian message while he was at Oxford started Peter thinking about his future. "I began to think about

doing Christian work full time - partly because for me, maths and philosophy didn't seem to lead anywhere at all!"

After graduating in 1989, Peter took up the opportunity of a year's Christian work among students in Johannesburg. And what a year! Nelson Mandela was released from prison, the first glimmers of the end of apartheid were beginning to appear and Peter was in the stadium when the ANC held its first major rally for more than a decade, in the black township of Soweto.

"At the beginning of that year the Botha regime was clamping down with riot police and tear gas, it was very exciting having come from staid Oxford. And later on, when Nelson Mandela was welcomed at the Soweto rally, it was an emotional occasion, certainly for me, but much more so for the South Africans."

At the end of the year Peter had decided that full time Christian work was for him and, back in England, he made the first moves towards applying for training for the Anglican ministry.



While going through the stages of being selected for training, he worked in a hospice at Clapham in South London and then earned his keep in a petrol station at Glossop so that he could help out in a local church.

Then it was back to studies, three years at Ridley Hall Theological College in Cambridge, during which he met and married Julia, who was by now with Christians in Sport.

Bristol born and bred, Julia first came

into contact with CIS during her PE training at Exeter university. A good all rounder at most sports at school and a junior county squad tennis player, she was asked to start a CIS group at Exeter.....but wasn't at all convinced it would work.

"I thought Exeter was just too pagan a place! I remember praying 'If I have to do this, God, you have to provide someone to help me'. I thought that would get me off the hook because there was no obvious person to do it."

God's answer came pretty quickly- in the burly frame of a rugby player who said he would love to help Julia to set up a group.

---

*I hope to make lots of friends, play plenty of squash - and I hope it soon feels like home.*

---

They hired a room for a meeting and to Julia's amazement 20 people turned up.

Her experience in setting up the group, Bible studies and "learning masses about God and being a Christian" prompted Julia, towards the end of her training course, to question whether she would go straight into teaching or take some time out for Christian service.

She sought advice from various people, among them Andrew Wingfield-Digby, director of Christians in Sport. He told Julia he would love her to work for CIS - and for the past four years she has overseen the organisations links with around 500 members in 50 different colleges and universities.

But when she's not on the road Julia sees herself as "a normal member of St Thomas', struggling along with everyone else to be holy and learn more about God. I hope to make lots of friends, play plenty of squash - and I hope it soon feels like home."



## CHRISTIANS FOR LIFE

ARE YOU..... becoming interested in the Christian Faith ?  
 ..... wanting a refresher course about the  
 Christian Faith ?  
 ..... interested in being confirmed ?



We run six-week courses very informally, with plenty of discussion alongside teaching input. The reference book is the Bible.  
 For further details complete the form below.

### ENQUIRIES

The administration of our Churches is based at St Thomas' church 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 a Baptism 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

**NSM\***  
**Judith Henderson** 569106

**CURATE**  
**Peter Wilkinson** 231089

**CO-ORDINATOR**  
**Roger Freestone** 558461

\* Non - stipendiary minister



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

I would like to receive information about :-

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> A Christians for Life Course | <input type="checkbox"/> Youth Activities                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Children's Activities        | <input type="checkbox"/> Parents & Tots                            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sample Bible Reading Notes   | <input type="checkbox"/> Free literature about the Christian Faith |

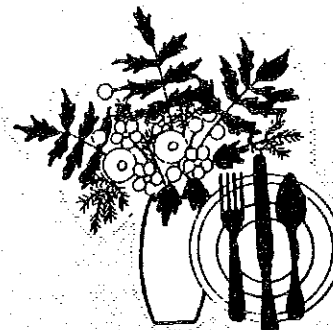
I would like a Visitor from the church

Name.....

Address.....Tel.....

## HARVEST SERVICES

Harvest services focus on God's goodness in creation and give the opportunity to give towards famine relief. Everyone is most welcome



### St Thomas'

Sunday 24th September

8.00am Holy Communion  
 9.09am The 9.09 Harvest  
 10.45am Harvest Thanksgiving  
 6.30pm Holy Communion

**Guest Speaker and singer**  
**STUART PENNY**

### ST JOHNS WALTON

Sunday 24th September

9.00am Holy Communion  
 10.30am Harvest Festival Service  
 6.30pm Songs of Praise

In addition on Saturday 23rd September there will be an open afternoon, 1.00pm-4.30pm with creative displays, flowers, refreshments, bring and buy etc.

### ST PETERS HOLYMOORSIDE

Sunday 1st October

9.30am Holy Communion  
 6.00pm Songs of Praise