

Mustard Seed

ST. THOMAS' CHURCH BRAMPTON, St. John's Walton, St. Peter's Holymoorside
Free throughout the Parish
December 1998

Royalty visit baby unit

THEY DID THINGS BIG down in Bethlehem. Three geezers arrived from Mesopotamia dripping with gold and stuff. Said they were looking for a king or something. In Bethlehem? Must have been joking.

Anyway the astronomers have been busy. They have reported a new star, very bright over Bethlehem. Strange coincidence that!

Seems there were some funny goings on just outside the town. Choirs rehearsing miles from nowhere and shepherds leaving their flocks at night and taking off into town. What do you know about angels?

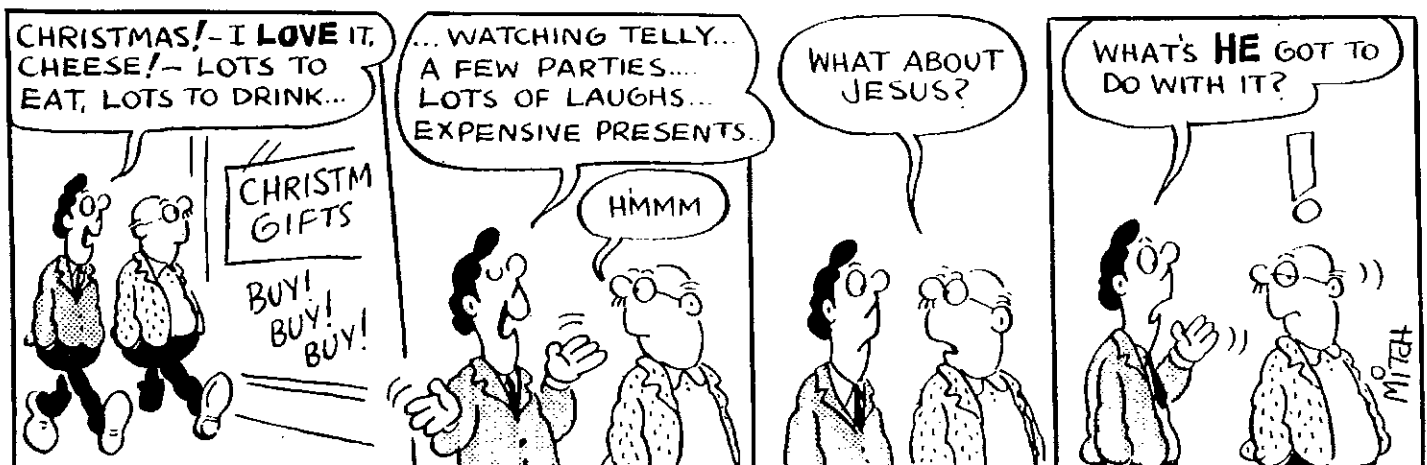
But it all gets stranger. Three wealthy fellers parked up outside a stable where a young Jewish girl had just given birth. The innkeeper saw them hand over expensive gifts then kneel down in the straw and muck with the shepherds.

Herod's going to be hopping mad. They went off home without telling him. The Roman governor will die laughing! He's been trying to get one over Herod for years.

The baby? Last seen heading quietly out of town on a donkey with his mum and dad late at night. What was going on?



See Christmas service details on the back.



Alpha continues

Since January 1996, eight Alpha courses have been held in St. John's Church Centre.

Alpha is a ten week course introducing the Christian faith and is designed for ordinary people.

A is for anyone interested in finding out more about the Christian faith. Whatever your age, you are welcome.

L is for Learning and Laughter. There is joy in learning about the Christian faith.

P is for People and Pasta and Pudding. An opportunity to get to know other people and make new friends over a light meal.

H is for Helping each other. The small groups give you chance to discuss issues raised by the talks in a supportive environment.

A is for Asking anything. No question is regarded as too simple or too hostile.

Fiona Chisnell is a district nurse and she has just completed an Alpha course at St. Thomas'. She tells Mustard Seed about her experience.

I was having a difficult time at work and a colleague told me, out of the blue, that what I needed to do was to join an Alpha course. My brother, who lives down in Kent, had been on one and he advised me to go. And then I saw an advert for Alpha in the local paper and so I rang up and went for it.



On joining Alpha I felt like I had come home from a long and tiresome journey. The warmth and fellowship generated by the group was unreserved and refreshing. I have had the opportunity to explore personal thoughts and

share other opinions, which has enabled me to put into perspective a lot of misconceptions about my faith.

I have now been able to put my trust in Jesus Christ in a personal way. Alpha has allowed me a deeper insight into my true self, facilitating a new outlook on life. I really feel like a different person, as if my internal flame has been ignited.



THE CLERGY TEAM



Christopher Frith, Judith Henderson, Andy Broom and Petra Owen

Most parishoners will meet one or more of the clergy at some time. They are here to help.

Christopher Frith is the Rector and has overall responsibility. He is involved mostly at St. Thomas'

Tel: 232717

Judith Henderson lives in Holymoorside and is responsible for St. Peter's.

Tel: 569106

Andy Broom lives in Walton and is minister responsible for St. John's.

Tel: 567490

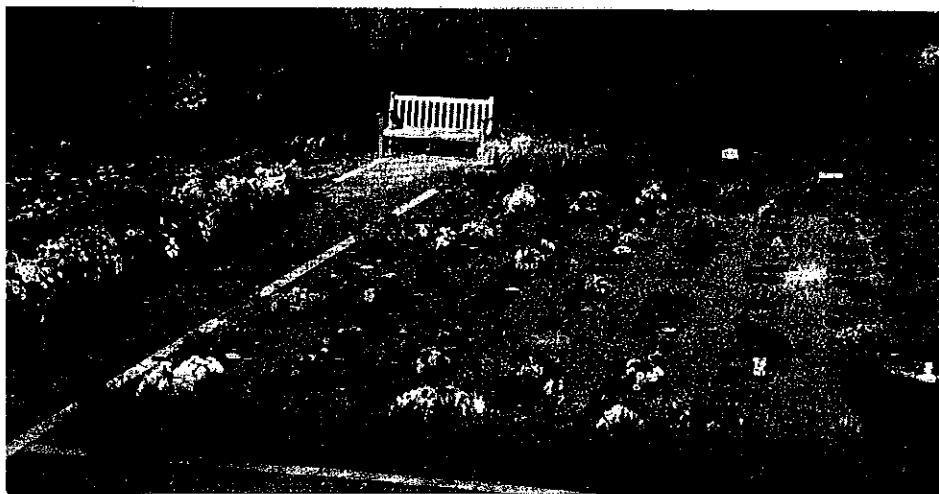
Petra Owen has been curate at St. Thomas' since July. She is a former drama and RE teacher and has particular involvement in youth and children's work.

Tel: 231089

St. Thomas' camping out - for seven weeks

Sunday 7 February 1999 is set to be the last Sunday for St. Thomas' church as it has been known in recent years. No services will be held there for seven weeks following that date while it is thoroughly refurbished. It will become more versatile and comfortable, with moveable chairs.

Between 14 February and 28 March, St. Thomas' services will be held in St. John's church centre, Walton, during the afternoon and evenings. For the period of Lent, there will be a great opportunity for seeing things differently. The new St. Thomas' is set to open on Easter Day, 4th April.



The new Garden of Remembrance at St. Thomas' has met with great appreciation

SHINE 2 : YOUTH EVENT



Please note: Shine 2 is a drugs and alcohol-free event. Anyone who is or appears to be under the influence of alcohol or drugs will be asked to leave with no refund.

date: 19th december

venue: St Thomas' Church

open: 9.00pm-1.00am

**admission: £2.00 in advance
£2.50 on door**

St. Thomas' Church

Church View

Heaton Street

Old Hall Road

Walton Road

Chalsworth Road

Shine 2: feat DJ jay lane
speed garage...big beats...hard groove...house...
commercial dance...bouncy castle...

Have you been to a Youth Service at St. Thomas?

They happen on the first Sunday each month at 6.30pm - and December 14th. Teenagers lead the services and the Youth Band, which is about to release its second album, provides the music.



St. Thomas' youth band rehearsing for a Youth Service

MUSTARD SEED

MUSTARD SEED is an attempt to be in touch with everyone who lives in our community. It is delivered free to homes throughout the parish.

Mustard seeds are tiny but they can grow and grow. Jesus 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.

We hope something really worthwhile will grow out of this edition of **MUSTARD SEED**.



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Christmas Services

ST. THOMAS' BRAMPTON

Sunday 20 December
6.30pm Carol Service

Christmas Eve
6.00pm Family Carol Service
11.15pm Midnight Communion

Christmas Day
8.00am Holy Communion
10.00am Family Communion

New Year's Eve
11.30pm Watchnight Service

ST. JOHN'S WALTON

Sunday 20 December
10.30am All Age Christmas Praise
6.30pm Carols by Candlelight

Christmas Eve
5.00pm Carols around the Crib
11.15pm Midnight Communion

Christmas Day
9.30am All Age Communion

ST. PETER'S HOLYMOORSIDE

Thursday 17 December
6.30pm Blessing of Village Crib
and Joint Carol Service in the URC

Sunday 20 December
10.30am Children's Carol Service
6.00pm Carol Service

Christmas Eve
7.00pm Carols round the tree
(Recreation Field)
11.00pm Midnight Communion

Christmas Day
10.00am Holy Communion

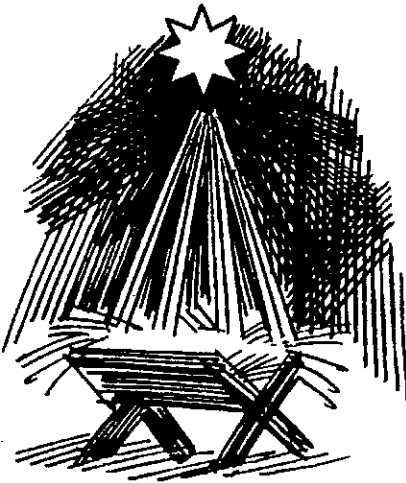
ENQUIRIES

General enquiries should be made at St. Thomas' Church office, which is staffed during the following hours:

9am to 12.30pm Monday to Friday
2pm to 4pm Monday, Tuesday,
Thursday, Friday

OFFICE TELEPHONE: 558461

Enquiries about weddings or baptisms should be made on Monday evenings between 6.30pm and 7.15pm. Please come to the office door, at the opposite end from the church tower. A clergy member will be available to see you then.



Please complete this and return it to the Secretary,
St. Thomas' Church Office, Chesterfield S40 3AW

- I am interested in joining an Alpha course. Please contact me with details.
- Please let me have details of Sunday services at St. Thomas' / St. John's / St. Peter's (indicate which)
- Please let me have information about your children's and youth activities.

Name

Address

Phone