

Mustard Seed

ST. THOMAS' CHURCH BRAMPTON, St. John's Walton, St. Peter's Holymoorside
Free throughout the Parish December 1999

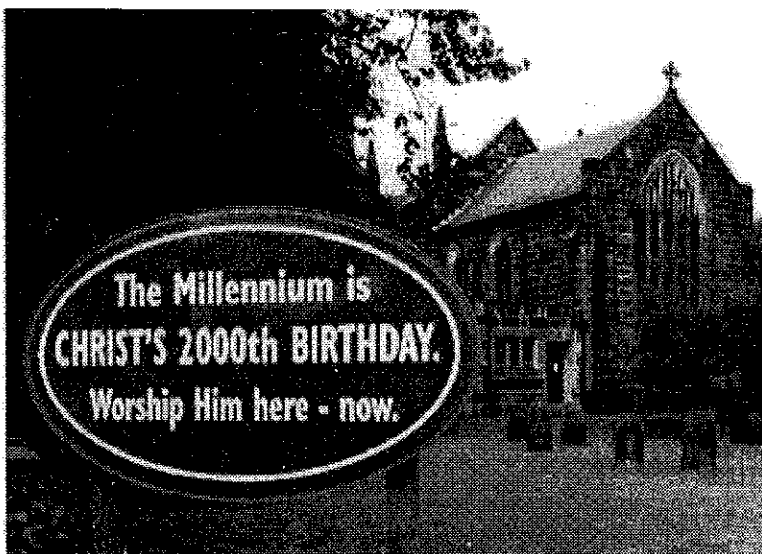
A chance in a Millennium

It's the only new Millennium we will experience and we don't want to waste it.

It's a reason to celebrate. There will be parties, headaches and hangovers. Trips to the Dome. Millennium babies. Millennium weddings. Millennium holidays. Millennium anything and everything.

It's a reason to remember. Our dating systems takes us back to the birth of Jesus Christ. Christianity has been around for 2000 years – and is still very alive. This is *the* reason to celebrate.

It's an opportunity to start again. New Start is to be the theme of churches up and down the land for the new Millennium. With this edition of MUSTARD SEED, many households will receive either a special Millennium candle or a special copy of one of the Gospels. They can be reminders of the opportunity for a New Start.



THE MILLENNIUM RESOLUTION

*Let there be
Respect for the earth
Peace for its people
Love in our lives
Delight in the good*

Six magnificent aims for a new century make up the national Millennium resolution.

They are challenges for everyone – and for those who believe in God they can be a prayer. Without His help, they will be hard to achieve. With His help and the cooperation of everybody, society can be transformed.

We ask you to take this resolution seriously.

NewStart

NEIL McGOVERN and KATH STEER are two of the many who have accepted God's offer of a New Start.

NEIL McGOVERN (16) is a member of St Thomas' Youth Fellowship. Mustard Seed asked Neil to describe what his Christian faith meant to him.



“I didn't have a big conversion from raging atheist to faithful Christian, but I have had many experiences of God. I only wish I could remember them all.

I've always gone to church and my faith has just developed. At the beginning of secondary school my spiritual life became quite stagnant and I wasn't moving forward with God.

One of the things that got me moving was music and especially playing in St Thomas' Youth Band. To start with, I was much younger than the others, but I loved (and still love) to play in the band, leading the congregation in worship and doing something worth while. I am much more comfortable playing a sax solo than doing a reading or leading in some other way.

Two years ago I was confirmed. It meant quite a lot to me. It wasn't just a formality that everyone goes through. I committed myself to Christ and my faith continued to grow.

This last year has been an incredible one for me in terms of faith and spiritual growth. I've learnt so much from our Curate Petra. I've gained a lot of confidence in telling my peers about the best thing in the world – knowing Jesus Christ. I've changed a lot, I like to think for the better. Everyday I feel as if I have moved on in my relationship with God.

Mum encourages me. Dad challenges me and makes me think. Petra teaches and supports me. I am really thankful to them all – and especially to God.”

KATH STEER (85) is one of St Thomas' most senior members. She has a deep experience of Jesus Christ and she talked to Mustard Seed about some of the things that have been significant along the way.



“When I was 14, I asked Jesus to save me from my sins. I didn't have to *try* to be good, Jesus would change my whole life. I learned a Bible text: “If anyone is in Christ, (s)he is a new creation. The old has gone. The new has

come”. That's what happened to me. I learned that God had “blotted out” all my sins. This was wonderful! Then I discovered that thousands of people in Britain were experiencing the same thing. Whole families, including mine, were coming to know Jesus as their saviour.

There were many being *healed*, including my mother who was cured of tinnitus and a neighbour who received back her ability to smell. I myself some years later was healed of heart trouble.

It was wonderful to experience being filled with the Holy Spirit. As a young person I wondered if these experiences would last and I learned from the Bible that “God is able to keep you from falling”. Jesus doesn't just save us he keeps us as well.

Through 71 years I have really *enjoyed* being a Christian. I have also learned many things about Jesus' promise to come again. Many of the Bible's promises have already been fulfilled and we know that Jesus is coming soon. This is the *hope* of Christ's church – to which I belong *by grace*.”

A Prayer for the Millennium

Almighty God,
two thousand years ago
you sent your son Jesus Christ
to be the way,
the truth and the life.
Help me to discover his way
for myself
to understand the truth about him
and to experience his life.

Amen

Invitation

- to a once in a lifetime opportunity. Come to make a New Start at a special Millennium service on

Sunday 2 January

ST THOMAS' BRAMPTON

9:00am Holy Communion
11:00am All Age Service
6:30pm Youth Service, *led by teenagers, for the young and young at heart.*

ST JOHNS' WALTON

9:00am Holy Communion
10:30am Millennium Songs of Praise and Christingle

ST PETERS' HOLYMOORSIDE

9:30am Holy Communion
6:00pm Evening Prayer

DEVELOPMENTS

St John's Walton will soon be a separate, independent parish. The church has grown significantly and is ready for this challenge. Details of the new parish boundaries will be published during 2000.

St Peter's Holymoorside has recently been extended and improved beyond all recognition.

St Thomas' has been completely refurbished and is now much more attractive - and flexible.

YOU ARE ALWAYS WELCOME

ENQUIRIES

General enquiries should be made at St Thomas' church office, which is staffed during the following hours;

9am to 12:30pm Mon to Fri
2pm to 4pm Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri
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.

CLERGY

Andy Broom *St John's* 567490
Petra Owen *Curate* 231089
Christopher Frith *Rector* 232717

SHINE 2000: YOUTH EVENT

Sunday December 19th

Cameron Dante

Reverend - J

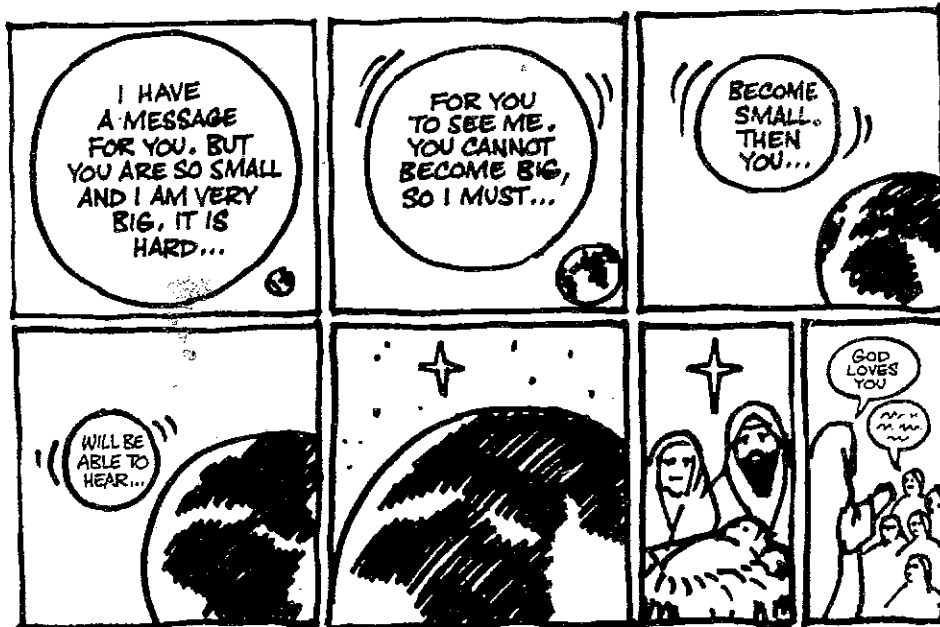
Doors open @ 8:00

venue: Genesis, Chapel Road, Chesterfield
info: 01273 555427

extra: Shine 2000 is an alcohol and drug free event
Shine 2000 is sponsored by Christians Involved in Derbyshire Schools (Chesterfield)

NewsStart

2000 years of Christmas



FREE OFFERS!

To celebrate the new Millennium and to emphasise what it is about, we would like to offer you

- A SPECIALLY PRODUCED MILLENNIUM EDITION OF THE GOSPEL OF MARK from the Bible. A chance to check out the true story of Jesus – and a Millennium memento.

**A
D**

A small book with fine colour illustrations telling the lives of famous Christians and how they have left a lasting effect on British culture. A reminder of our great Christian heritage.

We offer both the Gospel of Mark and AD free to anyone who returns the reply form below. **We also will be delighted to lend a copy of the video "So who is this Jesus?"** Filmed on location in Israel, presented by actor Russell Boulter, it can spark off an exploration of what the Christian faith is about.

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

I would like to receive free

A copy of a Millennium Edition gospel of Mark

A copy of AD

I would like to borrow the video "So who is this Jesus?"

Name

Address

Phone

Christmas Services

ST THOMAS' BRAMPTON

Sunday 19 December
6:30pm Carol Service

Christmas Eve
6:00pm All Age Carol Service
11:15pm Midnight Communion

Christmas Day
8:00am Holy Communion
10:00am All Age Communion

New Years' Eve
8:00pm Millennium Party
11:35pm Watchnight Service

ST JOHN'S WALTON

Sunday 19 December
10:30 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 16 December
6:00pm Blessing of the village crib
and joint Carol Service in the URC.

Sunday 19 December
9:30am Children's Carol Service
6:00pm Carol Service

Christmas Eve
7:00pm Carols around the tree
(Recreation Field)
11:00pm Midnight Communion.

Christmas Day
9:30am Christmas Service in URC