

Mustard Seed

ST. THOMAS' CHURCH, BRAMPTON AND ST. PETER'S CHURCH, HOLYMOORSIDE
Free throughout the parish Summer 2001

The party never stops!

This party is on at St Thomas' this summer!! There are three different events, which will keep the party going, Party in the Town, Summer Fête and Cosmic Circus. Each of these events will be great fun for all the family.

Party in the Town

On 30th June we are involved in an inter-church event in town beside the crooked spire. There will be clowns, magic, drama, face painting, balloon modelling and loads of fun for all the family.



The day will run from 10.30am to 3.00pm and will include entertainments from the stage as well as lots of fun in the crowd. We would love to see you down there, so why not come and join the fun?

Summer Fête

Two weeks later on 11th August we

are having our Summer Fête. This will take place at the church from 2 till 4 in the afternoon. There will be all the usual stalls and games as well as some special highlights.



There will be a penalty shoot out to test your football skills and refreshments to enjoy afterwards. There will even be a BBQ. A donkey may be appearing to give some rides and there will be hair braiding. Puppets will be there to entertain you and if you want to throw wet sponges at Youth Leader Neil Roper, then you can (he will be in the stocks!)

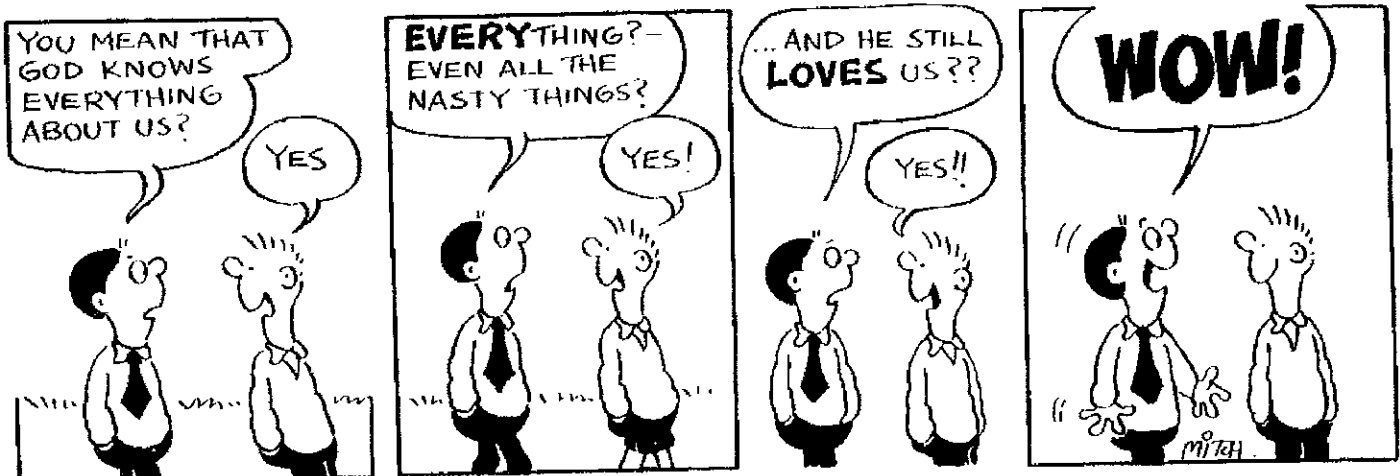
It will be a great day for all the family, so please come and join us.

Cosmic Circus

A week later the Cosmic Circus will be in town! From 20th to 24th August from 9.30am to 12.30pm everyday there will be a holiday club at the church. It will use a circus theme and will involve puppets, clowns, games, magic, drama, video, music, art, craft and custard pies (only for the leaders!)! The circus will be open to anyone from the age of 5 to 11 and will cost 50p a day or £2 for the week. We are really looking forward to the week and forms are already available from St Thomas' if you would like to book. So please come along and enjoy the week at our 'Cosmic Circus' we'd love to see you.



So we'll be partying all summer with all these different events, and there are more events already planned for the autumn. Please phone the church (558461) if you would like to know more about what we are doing. We believe God wants people to have fun.



Round the world... exploring...searching

CHRIS McHALE is going to the Falkland Islands on a short-term catering contract with the Army. He is remarkably fit and looks to be 35 to 40. In fact he claims to be 50! He is always exploring, always on the move.

Chris has been with the Territorial Army for years. He has travelled with them to Canada, Kenya, Hong Kong, Brunei, Germany, Denmark, Jersey and various other places too. After his initial training, he learned his catering skills in the regular Army - and managed to be attached to the Parachute Regiment at the same time.



Chris McHale

hedging my bets. I didn't have a real relationship with God, but I needed to explore spirituality and faith. I knew they had something to offer, but I didn't know what."

When attending St Thomas', Chris heard about the Alpha Course. He joined one and found it a tremendous help. "It was great to be able to sit down and do some hard talking about things that really mattered. Old hang-ups about religions were thrashed out, Christian and non-Christian alike.

Chris now admits to being a committed Christian. "I have found a

"In a short space of time, I seemed to lose everything I've had a lot to contend with."

Things haven't been easy for Chris, in recent years, "In a short space of time, I seemed to lose everything," he says. "My father died, my marriage broke up, I lost my family (although they're still very, very special to me), I lost my job and I lost lots of friends. I've had a lot to contend with".

How has he been able to cope? "The only way I've been able to cope has been finding what we call *Salvation through Jesus*", he says. At the end of his life, his father had seemed to turn more to God and it made an impression on Chris. "I was on the verge of a nervous breakdown and I found it helpful to go into Churches. I went into a number of different ones and tried to pray. I started going to some services too. I guess I was

HELLO GOD

Hello God, How are you? Does anyone ever ask you that?
I wonder what you are thinking! I wonder what you are feeling!
I wonder what you would say to:

Tony Blair?
David Beckham?
Big Brother?
My dad?
Melanie C?
The vicar?

I wonder why you chose us!
I wonder if you ever regret the decision you made.
I wonder why you love me?
I wonder, I wonder, I wonder!

But I know you do - all the time;
Doesn't matter what I've done, or thought or said, even if
These made you sad, you still love me.

That blows my mind, fills my heart, makes my spirit jump.

I wonder if you know how much you mean to me,
How much I love you?
I suppose you do, 'cos you are God

An item by a 14 year old from "Where are you, God?" a collection of "Modern Psalms" by members of St Thomas' Brampton, edited by Ray Hearn. It is printed in full colour and is available, price only £3, from St Thomas' office. Ring 558461 to reserve a copy or call in.

COSMIC CIRCUS

**A Holiday Club @ St. Thomas' Church
20 - 24 August, 9.30 - 12.30**

**Drama
Art**

**Puppets
Video**

**Led by
Neil Roper**

**Stories
Games**

Age 5 - 11 yrs 50p a day or £2 for the week

**"Round the world ...
exploring ... searching"**

contd...

real confidence – but not in a
brash sense. I know that I will be
guided to sort things out. With
God's help, I'll overcome
problems. Nothing is
insurmountable. Anything is
achievable now."

**"Give Christianity a chance
... You'll be surprised at
what the outcome will be."**

He wants others to find this too.
"There are many people who are
wounded like I have been. I want
them to realise that God has a
wonderful loving, caring, healing
side. I just used to think of the
retribution side of Him. Don't lose
heart. There are lots of people out
there who can help you. Give
Christianity a chance, work on
forgiveness, force out hate and
replace it with the love of Jesus.
You'll be surprised at what the
outcome will be."



INVITATION

Come and join us on Sundays

St Thomas' Brampton

- 9.00am Holy Communion
- 11.00am Service for all ages
*children's activities are provided at
both 9 and 11am*
- 6.30pm Evening Service
(including teenagers)
- 6.30pm Pathfinders (11-14)
- 8.00pm CYFA (14-19)

St Peter's Holymoorside

- 9.30am Holy Communion
- 6.30pm Evening Prayer (1662)

MUSTARD SEED

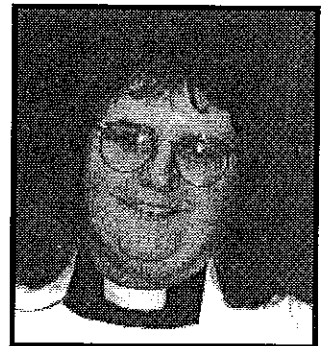
MUSTARD SEED is an attempt to
be in touch with everyone who
lives in our community. It is
delivered free to homes
throughout the parish.

Mustard seeds are tiny but they
can grow and grow. Jesus
compared faith to 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.

Petra : moving to the USA

PETRA OWEN has been a much loved
Curate of St Thomas'. With her Welsh lilt,
long hair, infectious laughs and genuinely
loving concern for everyone, she is an
asset to any community.



After three years she is moving on. She
has been appointed to a post in Federal Way, Washington State,
USA. She will be responsible for the youth and children's work, and
the teaching of all age groups, of a church there. Many will miss her
greatly.

EXPLORE THE MEANING OF LIFE WITH ALPHA

Watch out for Alpha on television soon. Programmes will feature David Frost – and are likely to make people curious. The good news is that an Alpha course near you will start in the autumn.

Alpha is amazingly relaxed and informed. Each evening starts with a meal together and is followed by a lively presentation on an aspect of the Christian faith. Then, after a coffee break, there is informal chat. Any questions can be asked, people can say what they like and there is usually plenty of laughter!

Alpha is happening all over the UK and in many other parts of the world. Thousands of people – including a good number in Chesterfield – say it's just about the best thing they've ever done.

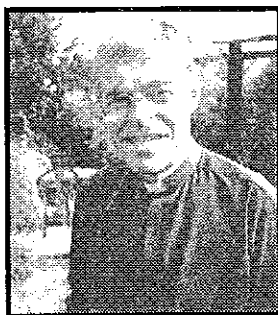
If you would like further details please complete the form below, or ring St Thomas' (558461).



ENQUIRIES

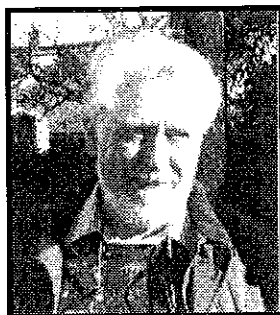
General enquiries should be made to St Thomas' office, either by calling (it is at the opposite end from the tower) or Tel: 558461 or e-mail: stthomas@ukonline.co.uk Web site: www.st-thomas-brampton.org
Enquiries about weddings or baptisms should be made on a Monday evening between 6:30 pm and 7:15 pm.

Rector



Christopher Frith 232717

Minister in Holymoorside



Alex Simpson 567490

This Vision Thing

I'm fed up with being bored by my TV. What have we had? Night after night some mournful newsperson standing outside a farm gate telling us the same story. Did they have to go to a farm gate every time? Then a whole channel got appropriated by snooker. There's excitement! And as soon as that had finished, boom!, the election was upon us. And with my bog standard receiver I don't even have the Tour de France to look forward to any more.

Election coverage. What a bore! Smoothly spun men in suits making outrageous assertions. All we are concerned with, apparently, is our comfort and financial security. Where's the vision? Is this the nation that explored half the world, sent out traders, educators and missionaries, built bridges and railways almost wherever we went?

And this lack of vision thing gets to me personally. Now the kids are grown up and working its time for the broad sunlit uplands, a bit of relaxation, a feeling of achievement. Is it heck! Suddenly the questions come. What's the point? What's next? The queue outside the Post Office on pensions day? Meals on wheels and zimmer frames?

Where can I, and my nation, find this vision thing?

I suppose we could start asking God. But he might take us seriously, and who knows where we might end up.

Perhaps its safer being bored by the TV.

Disgruntled of Brampton

Please complete this and return it to: The Secretary,
St Thomas' Office, Chatsworth Rd., Chesterfield S40 3AW

- I am interested in the **Alpha Course**. Please let me have details.
- I would like to receive **Ploughshare**, the bi-monthly Parish magazine, £2.50 per year, introductory copy free.
- I would like **a visit** by one of the clergy or someone on their behalf.

Name:

Address:

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