

Mustard Seed

ST. THOMAS' CHURCH, BRAMPTON AND ST. PETER'S CHURCH, HOLYMOORSIDE

Free throughout the parish

July 2002

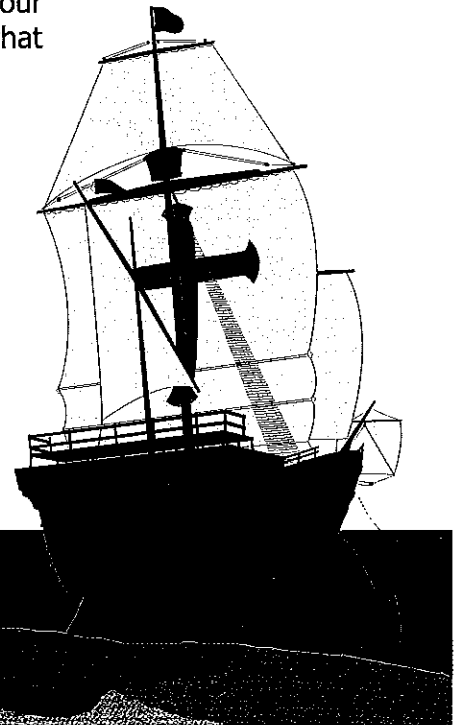
PIRATES AND PARROTS AND FUN

The holidays are nearly here, and children are invited to come and join **Treasure Seekers** at St Thomas'. It will include games, craft, music, video and drama. There will be pirates and parrots and lots of fun for all. Anyone with talents can come and show us what they can do, and everyone will have a chance to dance. Note the dates which are not as previously advertised.

It was great last summer at Cosmic Circus our holiday club. Why not come and find out what is happening this year?

Treasure Seekers

Children's Holiday Club (ages 5 - 11)
Sailings Mon-Fri, 22-26 July (mornings only)
Cost: £1 a day, £4 for the week
Applications as soon as possible to
Neil Roper (Tel: 558461)



MUSTARD SEED

is your local Church saying "we want to keep in touch with all who live in our community". It is delivered free throughout the parish. Mustard Seeds are proverbially tiny things which can grow and grow. We trust that something worthwhile will grow out of this MUSTARD SEED. Please read on.....

The Jubilee?
The World Cup?
The UN Earth Summit?

Is there more to life?
Turn to the back page
to find out



New Situation 11th September

CHRISTOPHER FRITH says goodbye to St Thomas' Parish on Sunday 1st September at a special farewell service at 6.30pm. Ten days later, he will become a Vicar in Derby at St Michael and All Angels, Alvaston. Mustard Seed has some questions for the departing Rector of St Thomas'.

How do you feel about starting a new job on September 11th?

A bit alarmed! The world changed in such a horrific way on 11 September 2001 and that will be in everybody's mind. Since then, however, there has been a terrific desire to start again and strive harder for what really matters. In a strange way, perhaps it is an appropriate day for a new beginning.

Why are you leaving Chesterfield?

We have a hunch that it is what God wants, having prayed quite a bit. If that's the case, we want to go with it. A number of people agree it's time for a change. If we don't move now, I will have to stay on till I retire. That would mean St Thomas' having the same Rector for 25 years - rather too long in this day and age. The Church needs the stimulus of fresh leadership. They have had 17 years of me as it is! And there are those who think I need a fresh challenge and so common sense indicates that a move is a good idea.

How does your wife feel about it?

Like me, very sad. It will mean leaving so many friends behind - and the wonderful countryside. But Pam, as always, is such an encouragement and she gladly accepts that it is right to move to Alvaston and like me is rather excited about the fresh challenge. We wouldn't be going if it



Christopher and Pam Frith

wasn't a joint decision. Pam has had to battle with M.E. for much of our time in Chesterfield and it hasn't been at all easy. She is quite a bit better now and we pray that the upheaval and hard work of moving won't set her back.

What outstanding memories will you have of St Thomas'?

First, it has been amazing to have shared in the special, deep experiences of so many families, especially the grief of bereavement and the joy of marriage.

Regarding St Thomas', I will always think of the wonderful people - it's been a privilege to live and work among them. We have seen many of them come to faith in Jesus Christ during our time here and that has been very special indeed.

I have never come across a church containing so much variety. There is the traditional part although it isn't quite as solemn and dignified as some would like. There is the contemporary part but, likewise, not as up-to-date as some would choose. There is plenty for the young and young at heart and yet older people are so much part of St. Thomas'. There are connections all over the world and a real heart for what we call "world mission".

I shall always treasure memories of tremendous generosity. When there has been a project requiring finance, we have had a gift day. I'm bad at maths but I guess that over £1m have been given in the last 15 or so years. The outstanding thing so far has been the building of the Church Centre at St John's, Walton, but we have also extended St Peter's, Holymoorside and that is beautiful completely reordered St Thomas' and created a new Garden of Remembrance. It has all stemmed from direct giving.

Now, St Thomas' is about to grasp the nettle of replacing inadequate portacabins with a permanent extension aiming for much better facilities for children and young people, and much more community involvement.

There are at least two other things that I must mention. First, St John's, Walton growing so much that it is now independent rather than part of St Thomas' parish. Secondly, the inspiring Vision Statement we have had for the last two years "SHARE THE LOVE OF JESUS".

Has it been an easy job being Rector of St Thomas'?

No.

Why not?

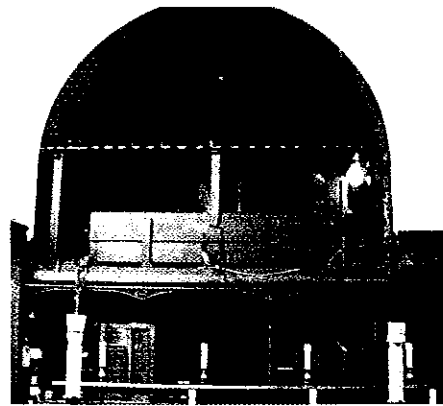
Well, I am acutely conscious of not doing a good job at all. There have been two main problems. One has been sheer busyness - there has usually been too much to do. The other has been the way in which St Thomas' has, from time to time, found it hard to agree. It stems from a real strength: such an extraordinary range of people makes up the church. I have striven hard to hold varying ideas, approaches and people together but there have been times when it has led to failure. That is acutely painful.

I guess there has been a third problem - there are a lot of things I'm not very good at and people expect a Rector to be omni-competent! Through it all, however, God has continually provided renewed energy, comfort and encouragement by being so very real. Whenever there are problems, there is Jesus Christ right in the middle. It makes quite a difference!

What are your family up to now?

For a change, none of them are in Africa and they are all in England at the moment! They're all serving God in different ways. I'll start with the youngest. **Dan** is studying music at the University of Surrey and involved in leading musical worship in a large church in Guildford. **Sarah** is about to graduate in Law with French at Birmingham and will be at Law School there next year. **Jonty** has just become a father and is a clergyman - the 7th consecutive generation of Friths to be ordained! He is Chaplain

A BIG HOLE..



has appeared where St Thomas' organ should go and the top end of the Church is screened off. For some time the organ has been in poor health and now it is having major surgery at the costs of over £35,000. Very many thanks to all the generous people who are contributing towards this cost. The organ, which is nearly 100 years old, should be back in action in September.

of Cranleigh School, near Guildford. **Ruth** is expecting her second child any day now, and lives in Reading. Her husband Paul works for TEARFUND, being responsible for much of its development and relief work in Africa.

Finally, how do you think you will adapt to life in Derby?

We started married life in Crookes in Sheffield, and then lived and worked in Manchester for 14 years. So we're used to city life. But the upheaval of moving and leaving so many friends in Chesterfield will be hard. It would be great if readers would pray for us. With God's help, it will be ok!

POINDEMONTE... THE MONTH OF MAY

Sometimes I dread the month of May.

Surely not you say. Isn't May the best of months? It's spring, the sun is warmer, the day is longer, all that sort of thing.

That's just it. May is so beautiful. All those different sorts of green on the trees. And they all go so well together with the blue sky and fluffy white clouds lit by a high sun. Cuckoos and thrushes singing.

It goes so quickly. That's why I dread it. And the older I get the more I dread it. Don't get me wrong. I do enjoy it. This last Bank Holiday weekend we had a cracking walk up Bradford Dale and into the hills beyond. Really wonderful. But I am running out of Mays. How many more have I got left? 20 if I am lucky. And the way my knees are going I won't be walking far on the last few.

And after that? Is it the urn, the scattering of ashes, fertiliser for a crematorium rose bed and that's it?

What about heaven? Well what about it? I find heaven very hard to visualise. And anyway there is too much to do and enjoy in this life to be spending time trying to understand the incomprehensible.

So I put my head in the sand? Not really. I believe there is a Creator who made (or caused to evolve if it suits you) the wisteria flower, the ladybird's wing case and the zillions and zillions of stars and galaxies in the velvet depths of space. A Creator who sees and comprehends it all. And who became one of us in the person of Jesus Christ.

Jesus Christ, who did good, who set incredibly high standards and taught righteousness and judgement. And who told his followers that His Father's house had many rooms and that he was going to prepare a place for them.

If we follow Him, could **this** be our real Maytime?

Wistful of Brampton.





Have you ever wondered if there is such a thing as God?

Or maybe you believe in God but you are not sure how this should fit into the rest of your life.

The Alpha course offers an opportunity to discuss your own beliefs and thoughts with others, some of whom are Christians who want to explore further what being a Christian means in the modern world. Others may well be non-believers but are people, like many of us, who know that they want and need a spiritual side to their lives, people who are dissatisfied with the material things that the modern world holds to be so important.

A series of 10 evenings in a very informal atmosphere, starting with a meal, will provide an opportunity for you to ask the questions that are troubling you, to learn from other peoples experiences and doubts, and to see what God has to say to us about some of the very difficult issues we all face during our life.

The Next Alpha course starts on **Wednesday 25th Sept. at 7 pm.** For more information contact Bill Galloway tel. 569296 or Julie or Anne at St.Thomas' Office, tel. 558461



Please complete this and return it to: The Secretary, St Thomas' Office, Chatsworth Rd., Chesterfield S40 3AW. Or e-mail us at stthomas@ukonline.co.uk

I would like to receive:

- Details of the next **Alpha Course** starting in September
- Details of **children's and youth** activities
- A **FREE** copy of **Mark's Gospel** the authentic story of Jesus
- A copy of **Ploughshare**, the bimonthly Church magazine, with details of Church activities and services.

Name: Tel:

Address:

TEN MORE COMMANDMENTS

You shall not worry; for worry is the most unproductive of all human activities.

You shall not be fearful; for most of the things we fear never come to pass.

You shall not cross bridges before you come to them; for no one yet has succeeded in accomplishing this.

You shall face each problem as it comes; you can only handle one at a time anyway.

You shall not take problems to bed with you; for they make very poor bedfellows.

You shall not borrow other people's problems; they can better care for them than you can.

You shall not try to relive yesterday for good or ill, it is forever gone; concentrate on what is happening in your life and be happy now.

You shall not become "bogged down" by frustration; for 90% of it is rooted in self-pity and will only interfere with positive actions.

You shall be a good listener: For only when you listen do you hear different ideas from your own.

You shall count your blessings; never overlooking the small ones, for a lot of small blessings add up to a big one.

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**

What about coming to Church?

St Thomases' Brampton

(9.30am Holy Communion
(with children's prayers, kindly invited))

(11.00am Service of the Word
(with children's prayers, kindly invited))

(6.30pm Holy Communion or Evening Prayer
(Youth Service 2nd Sunday))

St Thomas' Holymoorside

(9.30am Holy Communion
(with Sunday Club for children))

(6.30pm Evening Prayer (013622))