

# Mustard Seed

Free throughout the Parish

March 1993

# 1993

## ONE THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED AND NINETY THREE YEARS SINCE WHAT?

## A lot happens in thirty years

In 1963, Brian Porter was happily involved in a small family business in Plymouth as a builder and funeral director. Barbara, his wife, had recently stopped work in a bank, looking after their two small children. Little did they guess what the future held.

In 1973, Brian's father became Lord Mayor of Plymouth. All the family went to the Civic Service at St Andrew's church, which marked the start of his term of office. That triggered something off. Brian, Barbara and the children went back to church that evening and what impressed them particularly was the wonderful crowd of young

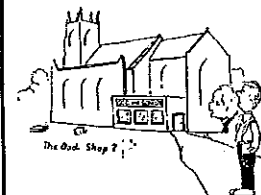
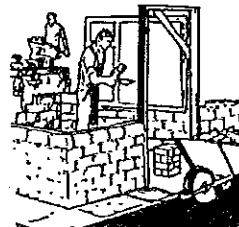
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## How do you see the Church?

Various people have given these views of the Church at different times. Do any of them ring a bell with you?

Do you perhaps see it simply as Bricks and Mortar - a building? Fair enough. Nobody needs to dispute that. St Thomas', your parish church, is

a building on Chatsworth Road, Brampton. But saying the Church is simply a building is like saying Old Hall School is only bricks and mortar. Ask past pupils about that; or stick your head inside on a busy school day - with the Head's permission, of course! Come to think of it, what about doing that at St Thomas' (or another local church) one Sunday? You will be most welcome.



Some folk think of the Church as a **God Shop**. That is somewhere to turn to when you feel it's right to include God. Weddings, for instance, or when babies come along may be two such occasions. When someone dies is another. Good! - it is available all hours because God longs for us to turn

[cont'd on page 2]

ST. THOMAS' CHURCH BRAMPTON, St. John's Walton, St. Peter's Holymoorside  
- going for growth in Christ -

# How do you see the Church? [cont'd from front page]

to him at all times. He wants to show us his love and care, day by day - and he gives it freely. There are no credit cards asked for or down-payments. God's paid for it all. Enquire for further details.

**An Ostrich Farm?** - that is, a place where people bury their heads in the sand, pretending that the troubles around



them don't exist. If we do that, we aren't taking Jesus Christ seriously. He warned his friends that there would always be

troubles in this life. He also said he had overcome it all. He offered to share his know-how with us as well. Not a bad offer that! Any takers?

Perhaps you think it is just a **Holy Huddle**. Holy or not, there is an unhappy possibility that it could look like this to an outsider. Some families appear the same. They seem very close. There's a love and loyalty which binds them together. For



[cont'd on page 41]

## MUSTARD SEED

MUSTARD SEED is free, delivered to every home in the parish by our members. We want to keep in touch with all who live locally.

Mustard seeds are proverbially small but they grow and grow. We trust that something worthwhile will grow from this MUSTARD SEED

# A lot happens in thirty years [cont'd from front page]

people. Brian even gave up his Sunday morning golf in order to attend in future. Within five months, he had come to a decisive, personal faith in Jesus Christ.

Barbara was more cautious. "We joined an adult confirmation group and were confirmed together," she explains. "But even then I wasn't quite sure. When we joined a home group, I could see how real Christianity was for the different members. I think that was what really helped me. It was a very gradual process of coming to faith."

Brian and Barbara were soon roped in to help with the large Pathfinder group. Memories of that make them chuckle. "Within two or three months, we found ourselves in charge of the group, after the main leaders had left to be missionaries. We knew practically nothing about

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*"When we joined a home group, I could see how real Christianity was for the different members."*

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the Christian faith. We were literally just one step ahead of the group, teaching 70 or so eleven to fourteen year olds. Still, that's the best way to learn," says Brian.

**By 1983**, there had been another major change. Brian had already done two years as an ordained, Church of England minister. He was non-stipendiary, continuing his building and funeral directing, while preaching and leading worship on Sundays. It was a busy life.



Barbara & Brian Porter

Brian soon felt a strong desire to devote himself to serving "full-time" as a clergyman.

**In 1993**, Brian and Barbara are living and serving in Chesterfield. They moved up from Plymouth in January 1990 and Brian took on the role of curate at St Thomas'. He was based in Holymoorside to start with and now has main responsibility for St John's Walton.

"It certainly is a very different life," says Brian. "I used to wonder how ministers managed to fill their week. Now I know! Time passes so quickly. There's so much happening, so much variety. Life in a building firm was varied, but this is even more so. I can honestly say that our three years in Chesterfield have been the most fulfilling of our whole lives."

Looking back on their decision to accept the invitation to come up to Chesterfield,

Brian and Barbara remember their conflicting feelings. On the one hand, they were excited and felt sure God was

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*"I used to wonder how Ministers managed to fill their week. Now I know!"*

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calling them. On the other hand, it meant stepping into the unknown and led to feelings of uncertainty and insecurity. This wasn't helped by the fact that Derbyshire is land locked and one of Brian's greatest joys was dinghy sailing in Plymouth Sound. However, with married children living in Plymouth, opportunities to sail are still available from time to time.

Parishioners are delighted that Brian and Barbara, despite their cold feet, did agree to come. They bring an important fresh dimension to the life and witness of the churches.

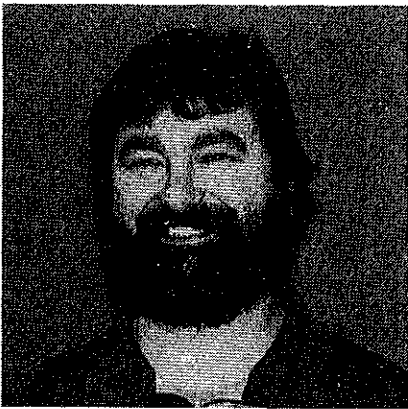
# Into teens with ...

# ...Pathfinders

It was one of those occasions which make working with young people so rewarding and worthwhile for youth leaders.

The young girl could have just ignored the tearful figure in the ladies' loo and gone back to her friends to join in the fun. Instead, gently, she asked the middle aged woman: "Are you all right? Can I fetch you a glass of water or get someone to help you?"

And when Peter Brassington, the overall leader of the Pathfinders group for 11 to



Peter Brassington

14 year olds at St Thomas' Church, heard of the girl's sensitive attitude, it confirmed his beliefs that our young people have so much to give us.

"This girl's very caring, nurturing side



St Thomas' Pathfinders

highlighted what we are aiming for in the family of the church, with young people looking after the adults as well as vice-versa.

"There is still a lot of good in kids, in spite of what the national media highlights as being wrong with young people and society. We need, certainly, to be aware of the social problems but we also need to stress the good things, too.

"You see so much of kids with nothing to do and so they get up to things that society doesn't want them to do - glue sniffing, taking away cars. What we are trying to say through Pathfinders is that there is an alternative. You can have friends, enjoy yourself and have fun in a safe, caring environment."

As the name Pathfinders suggests the group - part of a network of hundreds more across the country - aims to point the way for its members, through the early years of adolescence.

And the guideposts along the way are provided by the teachings and life of Jesus revealed in the Bible.

A typical Sunday night meeting might include activities ranging from eating as many marshmallows as possible to acting out a role play on the desperate situations of famine and disease facing governments in African countries.

"Through different games and activities we aim to illustrate a message or a part of the truth and it is great to see how receptive our members are. The simple



Pathfinder Badge

message of Jesus is still the same one of forgiveness and reconciliation to God.

They start to realise that reading the Bible and learning more about Jesus is not a fuddy-duddy thing done by other people, but something very relevant to their lives," said Peter.

Bowling, ice skating and trips to the ice hockey in Sheffield are also arranged and help to build on the close friendships within Pathfinders.

"The group has a sense of fellowship and trust you perhaps wouldn't find in a secular youth club. In our meetings we talk about trust and even dare to talk about our feelings - it's not a place they come to just for the sake of it," added Peter.

The early teens can be a difficult stage to pass through in life's journey. Through Pathfinders, our church aims to help young people realise they are not alone but have each other and, above all, Jesus as a constant friend and companion along the way.

And as the young Good Samaritan in the ranks of Pathfinders proved when she did not pass by someone in difficulties, age is no barrier to acts of compassion.

Pathfinders meet from 6:15 to 8:00pm on Sunday evenings in the meeting room at St Thomas'. For more information contact Peter Brassington (tel 206803). New members are always very welcome.

[cont'd from page 2]

the church, it's a shared love and loyalty for Jesus Christ and he teaches us to love one another. In the popular sense of the word, most of us aren't holy at all. In the proper sense of the word, any of us could be holy because it means being available for God's use. Now that really puts a purpose into living. So - "holy huddle"? You could be right.

The Church is only a **Home for Hypocrites** - or so some suggest. Well, you certainly need to know a lot of people



very well to label all Christians this way. But if they seem to be saying one thing and doing another, then fair enough, you may be right.

Jesus came down pretty hard on hypocrites, so it's not part of real Christianity. What he wants of us is to be right inside and out. Get it right inside and it will come right in what we do. And we need Jesus Christ for this to happen. That's why many of us have joined the Church. So, as somebody has said, "The Church is a school for sinners not a museum for saints".

If you have a real concern about the Church and would like to talk it over with someone, please don't hesitate to ask.



### ENQUIRIES

The administration of our churches is based in St Thomas' Church Office and general enquiries should be made there. It is staffed, Monday to Friday, from 9.00am until Midday.

Office telephone: 558461

If you want to enquire about a wedding or baptism, or 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
Curates	Brian Porter	566346
	Sheila Pite	231089
NSM*	Judith Henderson	569106
Co-ordinator	Philip Herrick	558461

\*Non-stipendiary Minister

### ST. THOMAS', CHATSWORTH ROAD

**Palm Sunday, 4 April**  
10.30am Family Communion  
with children's procession and a donkey

**Good Friday**  
10am Activity Morning (for all)  
12noon Family Service  
2pm Hour at the Cross  
7pm United Service

**Easter Eve**  
11pm Service of Light

**Easter Day**  
8am Holy Communion  
10.30am Family Service  
and Communion  
6.30pm Easter Praise Communion

### ST. JOHN'S, WALTON BACK LANE

**Palm Sunday, 4 April**  
10.30am Family Communion  
with a donkey and procession

**Good Friday**  
9.30am Family Service  
2pm Hour at the Cross

**Easter Day**  
9am Holy Communion  
10.30am Family Service

### ST PETER'S, HOLYMOORSIDE

**Palm Sunday, 4 April**  
9.30am Holy Communion  
10.45am Palm Sunday procession with a  
donkey

**Good Friday**  
9.30am Family Service  
2pm Hour at the Cross

**Easter Eve**  
11pm Service of Light

**Easter Day**  
9.30am Family Communion  
6.00pm Easter Praise



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Please complete this and return it to:  
Philip Herrick, St Thomas' Church Office,  
Chatsworth Road, Chesterfield, Derbys., S40 3AW.

I would like to receive information about:

- |                                                     |                                                  |
|-----------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES      | <input type="checkbox"/> YOUTH ACTIVITIES        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CHRISTIAN BASICS GROUPS    | <input type="checkbox"/> PARENTS AND TOTS GROUPS |
| <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNION AND CUPPA        | - (Thursday 2.00pm., monthly, lifts available)   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SAMPLE BIBLE READING NOTES |                                                  |

I would like a VISITOR from the Church.

NAME .....

ADDRESS ..... TEL .....