

Mustard Seed

St. Thomas' Church Brampton, St. John's Walton, St. Peter's Holymoorside
- going for growth in Christ -

Steve Chalke's Cracker of a challenge!

Steve Chalke has faced up to many a challenge in his life - setting up a hostel for the homeless in London, working with the destitute in India and mobilising thousands of young people to run charity radio stations.

And in April he will set his sights on one more goal as, watched by viewers on breakfast television, he launches an ambitious appeal to build a hospital in India.

But before he faces up to this latest task Steve will be turning the tables - issuing a challenge himself, to the people of Chesterfield.

Challenge Chesterfield will become a familiar phrase over the next few weeks as many of the town's churches gear up for a week-long programme of activities with the aim of explaining in simple terms their faith in Jesus Christ.

And the man they have invited to lead the week - Steve Chalke.

The Daily Express dubbed him "The housewives' favourite" after his boyish good looks attracted much interest from appearances on GMTV's morning 'God slot'.

Modestly Steve plays down the personal-ty tag, but values the opportunities that broadcasting offers to share his beliefs.

"I don't claim to be anything particularly special. I am just seeking to follow Jesus and want to communicate with other people what I have discovered about Him."

Christianity for Steve Chalke is as much action as it is words. From his teens, when he became a Christian, he was

acutely aware of the social responsibilities that came with his faith.

He founded the Oasis Trust, which works with the homeless and deprived people through hostels and a hospital in



Steve Chalke

London, and with orphans, prostitutes and slum dwellers in India's over-crowded cities.

Young people are invited to join in the work by taking time out of their careers or studies to serve Oasis, with money for the projects coming from the giving of Christians or through two highly original fund-raising schemes staged in the run-up to Christmas.

These were the Cracker restaurants run by volunteers all over the country, on the eat-less-pay-more principle of simple

meals for a price which included a big donation; and Radio Cracker - including a station in Chesterfield - again staffed by volunteers who sold air time for the charity.

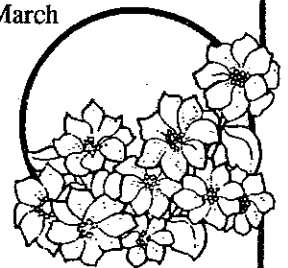
Christianity for Steve Chalke is as much action as it is words.

Steve will be applying the same boundless energy which has helped so many people around the world when he speaks at many of the meetings during Challenge Chesterfield week.

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You are invited to a
**MOTHERING SUNDAY
FAMILY SERVICE**

at St Thomas', Brampton
on Sunday 13 March
at 10.30am



Speaker : **STEVE CHALKE**
of GMTV

All ages ... both sexes ... extra special children's programme ...posies for Mums.

Something for everyone in Challenge Chesterfield:

"SCRUPLES"

Three evening meetings with a "magazine" format, each taking an honest look at today's big issues. The programme will be presented by Steve Chalke and will include sketches, music and some straight talking by Steve.

Monday 14th March 7.30pm "JUSTICE NOT JUST US"

our responsibility in a world of need

Tuesday 15th March 7.30pm "BACK TO BASICS"

what's gone wrong in our country?

Wednesday 16th March 7.30pm "BASIC INSTINCTS"

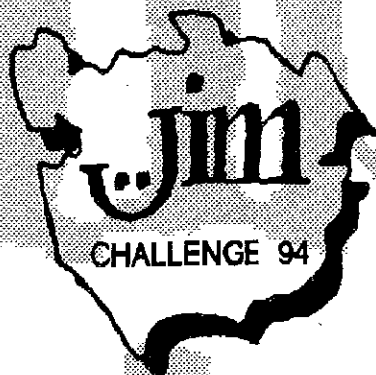
an honest look at relationships

**all to take place in The Winding
Wheel, Chesterfield**
free admission

and on Saturday, Saturday 19th March in
Brookfield School, Chatsworth Road 7.30pm

"Scruples PLUS"

Steve Chalke
PLUS
Special Guest.



All events organised by 'Challenge Chesterfield',
a multi-denominational group of local churches.

Young Parents with children under 5 at Chesterfield's Family Centre

in Hollis Lane
(Opposite Markham's Works)
Tuesday 15th March
1.00pm - 2.30pm
Activities & fun!!
Stories & Games

UNEMPLOYED?

Free Buffet Lunch

Friday, 18th March
12.00 Noon

Saltergate Social Club
Speaker: Steve Chalke

Over 55's

an afternoon joining others
in friendship, discussion &
fellowship

MONDAY 14TH MARCH
2.30PM

Refreshments provided
free admission
Zion Church,
Chatsworth Road

When you know somebody loves you

It was February 13th a year ago, the eve of Valentine's Day, when love came into Alison Shemwell's life.

Not the frothy, fluffy-bunny love of the newspaper Valentine messages but a love which endures and is the source and inspiration of her daily life.

And this love - God's love - has affected her so powerfully that she longs to tell others about it during the week-long Challenge Chesterfield event mounted by many of the town's churches next month.

I feel as if I have a new boyfriend and he loves me and thinks I am really beautiful

Alison had visited St Thomas' church certain that in her search for God, He had told her to go there. The welcome was warm and Alison was struck by the genuine faith of the people in the church.

It was after this first visit that God revealed His love for her.

The first to be told about Alison's new discovery was a Christian friend who, like Alison, was a schoolteacher. "I rang her up and said: 'I feel as if I have a new boyfriend and he loves me and thinks I am really beautiful.'

"I knew that this wasn't about my appearance and I knew I was not 'beautiful' inside, but because God had forgiven me and wiped the slate clean for me. I was stunned!"

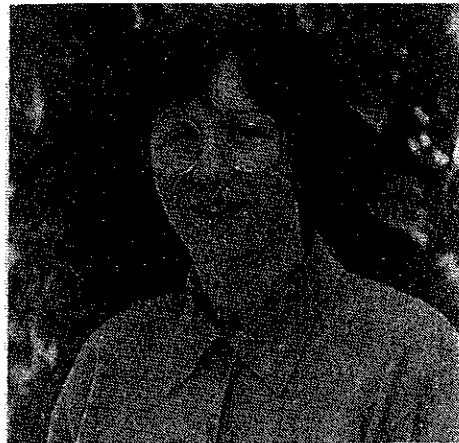
This first, intense sense of God's love for her was to be temporary. For ten days she was on a 'high' but then the feeling left her as suddenly as it arrived.

"I was left totally empty and bereft. But because of that I suddenly realised I couldn't go on feeling empty. I had known God's love in this very special

way and I knew I couldn't live without it."

This convinced her that there was no way she could go on living without Jesus.

"I realised that it was more important to me than anything. I had to take the risk even though I had so little faith and so many doubts."



Alison Shemwell

In spite of reading her Bible and praying daily, Alison had fought the idea of becoming a Christian for years, believing that she needed 'a mountain of faith' in which there was no room for doubt.

It has given her a new confidence to do things she would not have attempted before.

Now it had dawned on her that faith was a matter of trust and that God accepted her as she was and yes, that He loved her.

"The final prayer I prayed was, 'OK Jesus, I am ready now, you can come into my life,'" Alison recalls of that very special Valentine's eve morning a year ago.

A year on and she has just celebrated the first 'birthday' of her new life as a Christian and that deep sense of God's love remains.

It has, says Alison, given her a new confidence to do things she would not have attempted before and driven out the loneliness she used to feel.

"When you know that somebody loves you, you can move out with a sense of security, knowing that things may go wrong and you may make a mess of things, but ultimately God is in charge and everything will work out in the end."

* * * * *

SPORTS MEAL

Speaker

Peter Swaffield

Chaplain to the Olympic Team
in Seoul

Thursday 17th March

7.30pm

**Chesterfield Family
Centre**

Hollis Lane

£3.50 each

4 tickets for £12

Steve Chalke

(cont'd from page 1)

But what is the challenge he will be presenting to the people of Chesterfield? "I am coming here for the same reason that I do all my other work. I hope that in coming I will help people who are seeking to follow Jesus".

"Whoever they are, whether they are already church members or not, the challenge is for them to realise something of what God wants to do through them."



**Sunday 20th March
1994
6.30pm
at the
Winding Wheel
Chesterfield**

with

**STEVE CHALKE
& the
Oasis Team**

**CHESTERFIELD
CELEBRATION**

ADMISSION FREE!

MEGA-MIX

**MULTI-MEDIA
EVENT**

*Featuring music,
video show,*

chat & drama

**Queen's Park
Sports Centre
Friday, 18 March
7.30pm**

**Admission FREE Admission
FREE Admission FREE
Admission FREE Admission
FREE Admission FREE III**

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).

CUT HERE

- REPLY SLIP -

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

I am interested in CHALLENGE CHESTERFIELD

Please may I have more information about

- "SCRUPLES" in the Winding Wheel
- Free Lunch for Unemployed People
- Youth Megamix
- Over 55's
- Parents of Under 5's
- Sports Lunch

Tick here if you would like transport to any of the above.

NAME _____ TELEPHONE _____

ADDRESS _____

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

