

September 1994

Free throughout the Parish

# Mustard Seed

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

## A new beginning at Saint Thomas'

**Some things never change. Most things do, however - even the church!**

A new congregation is starting at St. Thomas' on Sunday 2 October. It will be called "909". Its services will be held, Sunday by Sunday, at 9.09am - just one of what will probably be several unique features.

909 will be an all-age congregation. Children and teenagers will be just as welcome and just as significant as adults.

Its worship will aim to be simple and imaginative. It will probably start small but, like the church as a whole, it aims to grow.

A small group of church members, who will form the nucleus of 909, have been meeting regularly. They have been seeking to find God's will for the new service, as they have prayed, looked at the Bible and discussed together.

One more regular Sunday service means one more opportunity to come and see. Is Jesus Christ really a contemporary figure? Has Christian worship any relevance in today's world?

Your local Church is your local showroom. See inside for information about all our Sunday services.

### Aussies in the locality

The England cricket team is off to Australia soon, hoping to win back the Ashes. At the same time, an Australian couple will be temporarily living and

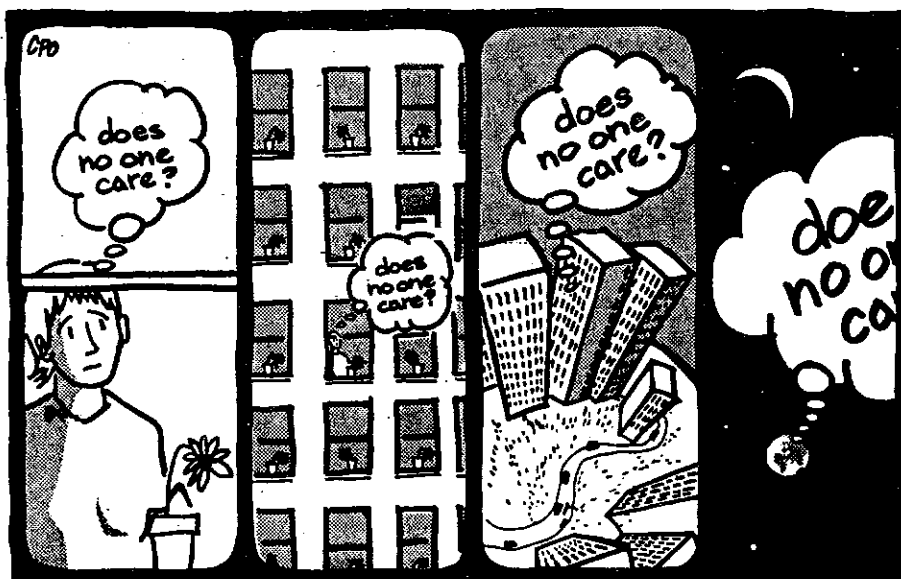


Gerald & Jan Beckett

working in St. Thomas' parish. They are Canon Gerald Beckett and his wife Jan and they aren't cricket enthusiasts.

Gerald is "on exchange" with Brian Porter, the Curate responsible for St. John's, Walton. He is taking on Brian's responsibilities for three months, and will often be seen around the area.

Brian and Barbara Porter have flown to a parish near Sydney to stand in for Gerald. They hope to gain experience and insights from life in Australia. They will be back in England in time for Christmas - with their thermals!



© CPO

God cares †

# Boarding the 909 service...

**David and Pep Brooks and their daughters Hannah and Rosalind are looking forward to the exciting journey they begin early next month.**

They've been planning for some time now and know just when they'll be setting out - 9.09 on the morning of Sunday, October 2nd. Certainly, it will be a journey into the unknown but they'll have plenty of friends travelling with them on the 9.09 service.

But they won't be boarding a bus or a train on this 9.09 service. Instead they'll be settling into their pews at St Thomas' Church, Brampton for the first of a new type of service which aims to be a quite different form of worship.

David and Pep and their young family are among a group of 50 or so members of St Thomas' who have committed themselves to a new service which has been launched to help the church develop and grow.

The hope is that the smaller numbers at the outset will encourage people to get

---

*"Christianity is more than Sunday. People want to be transformed ..."*

---

to know one another more closely than might otherwise be possible in a large congregation of several hundred - and seem less daunting for newcomers.

"The idea of being part of a smaller congregation really appealed to us," said Pep. "It's a lot easier to serve people and see their needs. We hope to build a sense of community, to develop spiritually and grow together at the same time."

Research has shown that when a congregation reaches 250 to 300 people, it often stays at that size because of the difficulties newcomers may have in getting to know people in a larger group. And from David and Pep's own experience, smaller congregations can bring people closer together.

Pep was brought up in a Christian family attending a newly established church on a new housing estate on the outskirts of Sheffield and David grew up going to a village church in Walkington near Beverley.

"We both found from our upbringing in smaller churches that because you know



Pep, Rosalind, Hannah & David Brooks

and love everyone you are worshipping with it is easier to be sensitive to each other's needs. And it's easier, too, for a smaller community to embrace the diversity that you find in people who follow Jesus, because you know and love the person behind the peculiarity," explained David.

Another 909 aim is for more informal styles of worship, with as many people as possible involved in planning and taking part in services. Again, this is something Pep and David are enthusiastic about and enjoyed being involved in during their time at university in Liverpool, where they met and were both committed members of the Anglican chaplaincy fellowship.

"Hopefully in smaller groups it will be easier to encourage people to do things they haven't done before. It doesn't matter if you make a mistake. We are all going to make mistakes but that's all right," said Pep.

David and Pep point to Jesus as the supreme example of this acceptance of us as we are, warts and all, faults and failures. "Jesus went out of his way to be

with those who were considered failures and unacceptable in his time - undesirables like prostitutes and tax collectors," said David.

"You see people struggling to be valued and accepted. People trying to be perfect so we will see that they are successful and meet society's standards. Or there is the eternal search for love with people going from relationship to relationship and marriage to marriage trying to find it.

"Yet Jesus accepts us as we are. We don't have to be special or doing anything monumental. It is so easy for us to expect people to behave in a certain way, to conform, when all the time Jesus just wants us to be ourselves. Hopefully we will begin to realise more of this freedom to be ourselves," Pep added.

For the past few months would-be travellers on the 909 service have been getting to know one another through social events, a workshop morning and prayer and planning meetings.

Important though the Sunday services may be, Pep feels the hour or so of worship is just one part of a bigger vision. "Christianity is more than Sunday. People want to be transformed and share their lives and become more like Jesus."

---

## Join A 'Christians For Life' Course

This is an informal Christian Basics course, similar to those which have been popular for the last three years - a chance to find out what Christianity is about.

There are no strings attached, no obligation except to be committed to the six week course.

For more information return the coupon on the back page of **Mustard Seed**.

# On offer on Sundays

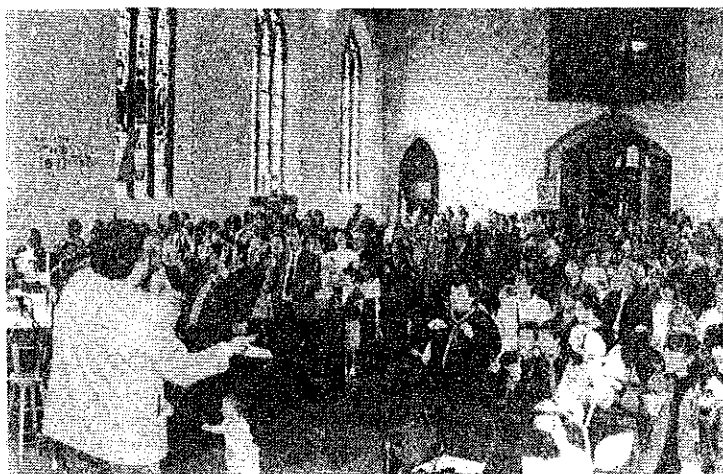
## at St Thomas:

8.00am

A simple Communion Service, without music. The whole congregation is small (15 to 25 usually), the atmosphere quiet and the old 1662 service is used on the first Sunday in the month.

10.45am

The former 10.30am service including Sunday Club for children and young people under 15. An all-age Family Service happens on the 2nd Sunday each month, Holy Communion on the 1st, 3rd and 5th Sundays and Morning Prayer on the 4th. It is a blend of traditional and contemporary worship. Every age group is usually represented and variety is the key note.



St Thomas' Family Service - 11 September 1994

## at St John's:

9.00am

A straightforward Holy Communion service with hymns. On the first Sunday each month, this congregation joins with the later one for a joint service at 10.30am. This is a particularly friendly, fairly traditional service.

10.30am

For a younger congregation, bristling with life. Children are an integral part - Sunday Club on the 1st and 3rd Sundays, otherwise they are all-age services.

9.09am

An unknown quantity as yet. This imaginative, all-age service starts on 2 October. It will not usually last more than an hour.

6.30pm

Evening services have an informal but reverent flavour and seek to include young people - especially on the first Sunday in the month when a Youth Service is held. Communion services are on the 2nd and 4th Sundays. Prayer for healing is always available after these services.

## at St Peter's:

9.30am

A wide variety are to be found in this Holy Communion congregation - including several young children. Refreshments and warm fellowship follow the service.

6.00pm

A quiet Evensong attracts a steady congregation which is slowly growing. The 1662 Prayer Book is used and much appreciated. On the first Sunday each month, there is Holy Communion and special prayer for healing

## Enquiries

General enquiries should be made at the St. Thomas' Church Office, which is staffed each day, Monday to Friday, 9.00am to 12.00pm.

Office Telephone: 558461

### Clergy

Rector Christopher Frith 232717

### Other Clergy:

Sheila Pite 231089

Gerald Beckett 566346 (St John's)

Judith Henderson 569106 (St. Peter's)

### Co-ordinator:

Philip Herrick 558461

# TOUCHSTONE-a new community venture for unemployed people

TOUCHSTONE is an exciting community venture started last year by members of St Thomas' three churches concerned about the damaging effect of unemployment in the Chesterfield area. TOUCHSTONE COMMUNITY ENTERPRISE (CHESTERFIELD) - its full name - is soon to be incorporated as a non-profit company limited by guarantee. It aims to work with the full participation of unemployed people. Its aims, which are mainly charitable and completely for community benefit are:

- (i) to open a Centre, readily accessible to all unemployed people, to provide practical and counselling support; vocational development opportunities; and a crucible for new business ideas.
- (ii) to create jobs by stimulating, supporting and running non-profit community businesses and encouraging other business initiatives.

TOUCHSTONE has the support of the Derby Diocese (including a significant grant) and Churches Together in the Chesterfield Area. It is gradually gaining the support of other local people and organisations. There is an active fund-

raising programme but considerable funds are still needed.

The Enterprise is being managed on a short-term basis by a volunteer Development Manager, Peter Morrison. Having acquired some allotments in Brampton and Newbold, it is focusing first on horticultural activities which are being managed on a voluntary basis by Ray Fletcher who plans to start a community gardening service. Both Peter and Ray are working temporarily from No.2 Portacabin, behind St Thomas' Church.

HELP with the following would be gratefully received:

- financial support;
- donations in kind;
- premises (at no/low cost);
- voluntary time and expertise.

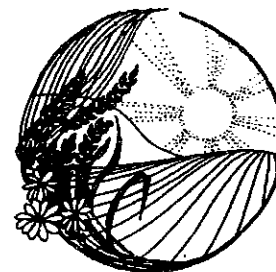
If you are unemployed, TOUCHSTONE would like to hear from you. Your help and advice are essential to ensure that the enterprise meets your needs and works in your best interests.

Please contact Peter or Ray on  
(0246) 554932

## Harvest Thanksgiving

An important time in the life of a community ...

- expressing gratitude for all the beauty and goodness of the world around.
- increasing awareness of our responsibility to look after the earth and its resources.
- encouraging generosity in sharing what we have received with those in the developing world. (Our special project this Harvest is the Living South Africa Memorial).
- remembering our Creator, praising and thanking Him and facing up to the challenges He puts before us.



**HARVEST SERVICES**  
Sunday  
25 September

**ST THOMAS' CHATSWORTH ROAD**

8.00am., Holy Communion  
10.30am Harvest Thanksgiving  
6.30pm., Holy Communion

**ST PETER'S HOLYMOORSIDE**

9.30am., Holy Communion  
6.00pm., Evening Prayer

**ST JOHN'S WALTON**

9.00am., Holy Communion  
10.30am., Family Service

✂----- CUT HERE -----

Please complete this and return it to:

Philip Herrick, St Thomas' Church Office, Chatsworth Road, S40 3AW.

I would like to receive information about: (please tick )

- Christians for Life courses
- Free literature about the Christian Faith
- Children's and Youth Activities
- Parents and tots groups

I would like a visitor from the Church.

NAME .....

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