

From the Rector



I've had two different kinds of comment about St. Thomas' made to me recently.

The first sort goes something like this: 'We really ought to do more for elderly people...Why aren't we involved in social issues...counselling...evangelism... campaigning for justice...open youth work...job centres...healing..' and so it goes on, the list is inexhaustible.

The other sort of comment has come since the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, when we heard a marvellous array of quick-fire reports from 15 or more Church Members about a selection of the activities taking place; 'I never knew so much went on...It was amazing to hear all that...I would never have guessed it'.

Both are true. There is so much more that we could do and yet an awful lot is going on in our parish. It is a constant temptation to be too active and not really effective at anything.

What are we supposed to be doing as a church?

This is a vital question being asked at present. In general terms, we find the answer in the Bible - and this answer does not alter from Church to Church, from generation to generation. As I understand it, there are three essential ingredients;

1. Worshipping and praising God.
2. Proclaiming the Gospel and making disciples for Jesus Christ.
3. Caring, in practical ways, for those around us.

If we ever stop doing any of these three things, we can't claim to be a Church at all. There is, however, so much that we could do under these three headings and we need to discover what God wants for us. Therefore we need to pray and at the time of writing, all three churches are praying, 'Lord, teach us your way'.

We are coming to Him with all sorts of questions.

Are our priorities right?

Are we structured for growth?

Are we reaching all sections of our Parish?

Should we be extending and re-ordering our buildings?

Should we consider employing a Church administrator?

Can we consolidate all the recent growth in our youth and childrens work?

Should we put more emphasis on supporting St. Johns' as it seeks to serve the big Walton housing development?

I don't know. But God does. That's why we must pray.

Christopher Hite

SPRING HARVEST 1988

Tales from the Roman Village...

Picture a cluster of eight or nine children between two and six years happily playing musical statues with a transistor tuned into Radio 3 for their accompaniment. The setting is a grass strip outside chalets P12-P16 in the Roman Village part of Butlins' Skegness complex during Spring Harvest week three.

The childrens shared joy, in celebrating Andrew Prentices' sixth birthday, was a reflection of the shared life we experienced being together at Spring Harvest. By the middle of the week, the Prentice, Green, and Hoare children came to forget the distinctions between homes and trooped from door to door in search of playmates.

For the grown-ups too, this was a special time of fellowship. Others have written about the excellent teaching programme, uplifting times of communal worship with thousands of other Christians, and the fantastic childrens and young peoples work. Many opportunities for learning and growing. But Spring Harvest also presented a marvellous chance to deepen our relationships with one another in Christ. As well as joy to share there was sadness too, and a genuine feeling of being able to support people in difficult times. And at night after soaking up all that teaching, we often burned the midnight oil sharing nuggets of wisdom from the speakers or wrestling with difficult biblical truths.

In a very real sense Spring Harvest was a sign of Gods' Kingdom on earth. 'By this, shall all men know you are my disciples, if you have love for one another' Jesus said. How wonderful for that love and concern to be apparent in our churches as a sign to the world outside of Gods' love.

Roger Green

A C.Y.F.A. VIEW

I began attending St. Thomas' in September of 1987 and agreed, somewhat nervously, that month to sign for Spring Harvest '88. I wasn't sure what to expect and so my feeling of 'looking forward' to the event was coupled with numerous fears. I was an 'active' member of the teenage caravan and found it easy to develop the friendships already attained and take them into further dimensions.

The teenage programme was very similar to the adults' in many respects, except for the inclusion of lavatorial humour! Each morning show (also entitled 'The Lazarus Show') began with jokes and moved onto more serious issues. These link seminars tackled controversial topics such as the 'occult', and were then followed by hourly optional seminars. The titles included 'Interpreting the Bible', 'How to be filled with the Holy Spirit' and 'Practical Evangelism'.

When these finished we were free to occupy our afternoons before the evening celebrations, which began at 7.15pm. Most of St. Thomas' enjoyed cavorting vigorously in the Funsplash complex or wielding rackets dangerously on the tennis courts.

The evening celebrations followed along the same lines as the adult entertainment in the 'Big Top' and energetic speakers, brilliant drama sketches and excellent worship were all present. Events for the lively teenagers did not end there though! After-hours frivolity was readily available at 'fast Forward' from 10.30-11.45pm every night.

Looking back on Spring Harvest, I can only say whole heartedly, that it was one of the most energetic and enjoyable seven days of my nineteen years on this earth!

Naomi Redhead.

A Pathfinders View

I was really excited about going to Spring Harvest. I pictured Butlins as something totally different to what it was.

We arrived and met up with the Sheldons. We all went to the reception area, checked in and got our keys. After unloading the car we found a barrow boy and took everything to our chalet. There I was all happy and ready to go until....we opened the door, Ugh! it was horrible - to my left was a sink and a cooker and fridge, to my right, a double bed, in front of me a table and chairs. There were two other bedrooms as well, all 'freezing' cold. But, after saying that, the warmth I felt from everyone there more than made up for it. As the week unfolded I started to experience Gods' presence more than I ever had before, especially the last night, a night of prayer and worship. It was at

the end of the meeting when one of the leaders said we were going to have a healing session while singing some songs. People were prayed for and a little girl who had been born deaf in one ear was able to hear for the first time.

That night I really experienced God. The next day, Joy, one of the leaders prayed for me and I received the Holy Spirit in a new way.

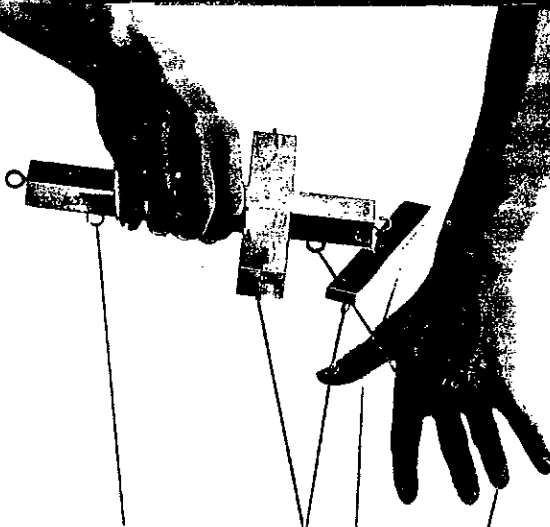
Apart from the meetings there were other things to do in the afternoon; the funsplash with several pools, with slides, waves and currents. Also there was the beach, mono-rail, fair and brilliant exhibitions. By the way the apartment seemed cosy by the end of the week!

I really want to go back again and would love to see more of St. Thomas' going next year - even a Pathfinder group.

It really was the best holiday I've ever had.

Lisa Watson.

THEME FOR 1988: WHO'S PULLING YOUR STRINGS?





THE NEED FOR JESUS CHRIST IN CHESTERFIELD COLLEGE.

After several months of attendance at Chesterfield College of Art and Technology, it has become very apparant to me and to other people that there is a great need for Christ. In a world caught up in strife, it seems to be true that the young people of this country and indeed of Chesterfield are very much involved in this wave of wordly domination; the domination of money, the occult, music and sex. These, when examined closely, can usually be identified with Satan and the evil he brings upon his people.

I am not saying that everyone is like this! I am sure that, if we were to find out how many Christians were in the College, we would find quite a good number. There are also the people who do not toe the line of Satan but who don't have faith in Jesus Christ.

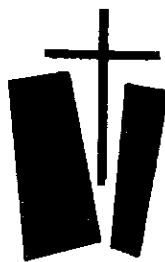
The Members of the Union of Christian Students have tried to struggle along and now we realise that it is not up to the 6 or 7 Christians at the Christian Union to try and spread the Good News of the Gospel. Maybe in the past we have tried to 'go it on our own': we expected to bring people without any trouble Well, after seven months of virtual non-existence we have finally realised that prayer and support from other people, other Christian Unions, churches and fellow-ships is so vital. It is of major importance that we rely on the Lord.

Therefore, I would ask you, the people in our Parish, to specifically pray for the Christian Union at the Chesterfield College. Please pray that we will be lifted up by the power of prayer, of Jesus and the Holy Spirit. Pray that, as time goes by, people (non-Christian and Christian) will come to the C.U. and help to spread the truth of the Gospel. Finally of course, in a world of turmoil, panic lust, evil and satanic influence, give the young people of Chesterfield the hope of a life with Christ and, therefore, of a life which is fulfilling and blessed with good friendship and love.

So, on behalf of the Union of Christian Students, we would please ask you to pray for us in the present and the future so that Jesus Christ will be exalted in the heavenly realms.

In the name of Our Lord.

Best wishes,
Carleton Badger.



NEWS ROUNDABOUT

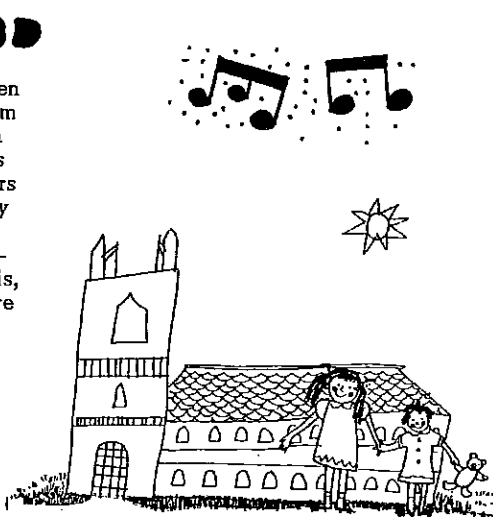


Following in the footsteps of..?

Come and find out 'who', if you are between the ages of 3 and 16, on July 25, 26, 27, from 10 until 3 at St. Thomas' Brampton. It's a summer club being run for the Sunday Clubs of St. Thomas, St Peters, St Johns and Storrs Road Methodist. You can come for one day or all three, cost is 50p per day, and all kinds of exciting events are planned - including the playbus, the inflatables, table tennis, the sports hall at Chesterfield Leisure Centre plus games, making music together, acting, storytelling etc etc.

Registration forms are available from Jim Crawley, Chris Cowley, Peter Allan, Hilary Ratcliffe, Susanne Nichols, Anita Wilson, Helen Clayton, Ann Griffiths or Margaret Duckworth - so do come and put your best feet forward and join in the fun.

HR

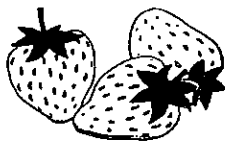


St Peters News

For a long time people at St. Peters' have had to make do without toilet or kitchen facilities. Any possibility of doing anything about this has had to wait for the replacement of the roadside windows and other necessary repairs. Now at last we are able to consider the possibility of changing this state of affairs. Plans have been drawn up for a small extension. Please pray for the church council as we seek Gods' guidance over which way to proceed. Further details in the next copy of Spearhead.

ST PETERS' HOLYMOORSIDE

LUNCH
&
SUMMER FAIR
Sat. June 18th
12 noon
Village Hall



ANNUAL MEETING

The St. Thomas' Annual Parochial Church Meeting was held on April 25th and was attended by 98 Members.

Main items included;

Rector's Report - Christopher listed ten outstanding features in the life of the church during the past year, highlighting the way the CYFA group had become so well integrated into the Church. He praised the staff team and reported the 40 per cent increase in giving which caused a financial turnaround. Christopher commented that 'The Lord is indeed building His Church in this place'.

Treasurer - Sam reported on a much improved financial situation.

St. Peters' and St. Johns' representatives reported on progress at those churches and about a dozen other church committees/activities gave brief reports. and this doesn't cover all who could have reported if time had permitted.

Phil Johnson and Myra were warmly thanked on the occasion of Phil's retirement from another stint as warden.

Elected Churchwardens for the next year were Harry Nicholls and David Oldale.

Who's Who

The PCC for 1988/89

Ex-officio - the clergy: Christopher Frith, Peter Allan, John Cook.

- the wardens: Harry Nicholls, David Oldale.

- Deanery Synod Members: Harold Clarke, Eric Fogg, John Lenthall*
Jill Robinson, Brian Smith, Andy Wright.

elected to serve 3 years (until April '89)

*Phil Johnson Keith Morgan, Margaret Naylor, Ruth Nicholls, Richard Robinson, Mike Simms.

(until April '90)

Dennis Carrington, Jim Crawley, Robin Dawson, Myra Johnson, Alan Sheldon, Clive Slack.

(until April '91)

Angela Antill*, Joyce Crowther*, Steve Green*, Sam Martin*, Hilary Ratcliffe*, Andrew Riches*.

* those elected or re-elected this year.

St Peters' representatives:

Wardens: Dilys Thomas, Les Waller

Secretary: Jean Wilson

Treasurer: Margaret Dawson

St Johns' representatives:

Wardens: Ken Waddington, Alan Wilson

Secretary: Mavis Clough

Treasurer: To be announced.

Pentecost is sometimes called 'the Church's birthday'. This year Whit Sunday coincides with a special birthday for the world's 54 million Methodists - and all the other Churches influenced by John Wesley.

250 Years of Methodism

TUESDAY, MAY 24 is exactly 250 years from that day in 1738 which marked a turning point in the life of Wesley, the Church in England, and the nation!

Always an early riser, the 35 year old John Wesley opened his Bible at 5.00 that morning at the words about 'exceeding great and precious promises for partakers of the divine nature' (2 Peter 1.4.)

In the evening he went to a meeting in a room in Aldersgate Street, where someone was reading Luther's Preface to the Epistle to the Romans. Wesley wrote in his Journal:

CHANGE OF HEART

'About a quarter before nine, as he was describing the change which God works in the heart through faith in Christ, I felt my heart strangely warmed. I felt I did trust in Christ, Christ alone, for salvation, and an assurance was given me that He had taken away my sins, even mine!

God had been preparing Wesley for that day for many years. Son and grandson of clergymen and reared in the Epworth rectory, he was profoundly influenced by his godly mother and later by Moravian missionaries whom he met during his disastrous mission to the American Indians. At long last he discovered that more works alone could not save his soul, and he came to trust in Christ alone for salvation.

G.E. Diggle reports on Wesley Day, May 24 when Methodists and others celebrate 250 years since John Wesley's conversion experience.



**A
CELEBRATION**

A TIME TO CHANGE



OUR MUCH LOVED PARISH CHURCHES are very different from those our ancestors knew.

Once, churches had no seats, everyone stood during the service, apart from the old and weak who sat on the ledge round the walls. Business was carried on in church. Social events took place there. It was the hub; the very heart of the community. Walls were covered in paintings. There were statues in niches. All services and readings were in Latin. If we were transported back in time, we would not recognise our own church!

Slowly there were changes. The Bible was translated into English, pulpits introduced, and pews. Paintings were covered over, statues destroyed, carvings smashed. The communion table, once the centre of the church, was moved to a place under the East window, and railed off. Rood screens were erected, further to make a division between the clergy and the congregation.

Surely, none of these changes were made without uproar and opposition from people who saw their way of life changing before their eyes; and didn't like it one bit!

Today we are more likely to find the communion table being brought back into the centre of the church to be close to the congregation. And once again there is opposition, people violently rejecting any talk of change.

When Jesus came into the world, the 'established church' was soon in uproar about His teaching and His way of life.

But if he did not fear change; neither must we.

AM



150 YEARS

ON JUNE 21, 1838 Captain Allen Gardiner first set foot as a missionary in South America. Not much more than a decade later, he and his companions were dead. They all starved to death, thousands of miles from home and families, and it was some four months before their bodies were found.

But Allen Gardiner's vision lives on, in the South American Missionary Society, which today sends over a hundred missionaries, from five countries, to work alongside the national Anglican Christians in South America.

- *Local churches are invited to keep June 19 as a Day of Thanksgiving and Prayer for work in South America.*
- **On June 21 there will be a Thanksgiving and Rededication service in London - at Marylebone Parish Church, at 6.30 p.m., with Lord Blanch, the Archbishop of Canterbury and Bishop Pat Harris.**
- In Liverpool Anglican Cathedral there will be a celebration on June 22, at 7.30 p.m. with Bishop Colin Bazley.

