

st ^{onethousanddaysofprayer}thomas
brampton
11.10.09-07.07.12

Spotlight

Highlighting past and future events

Christmas 2009

After 35 years, the wait is over read more inside...

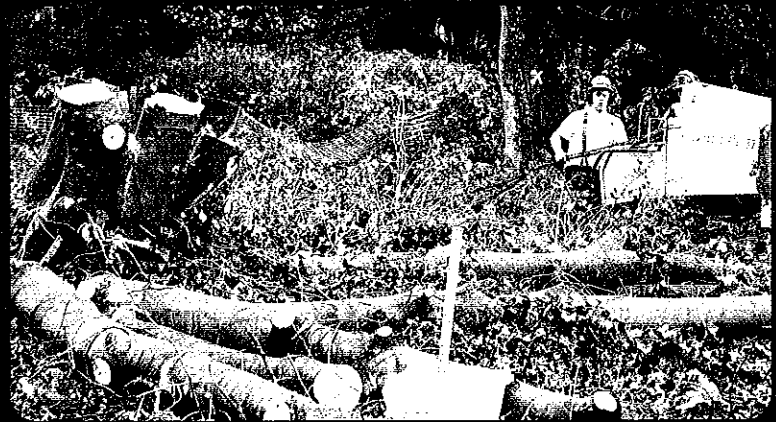


Greetings,

A very warm Christmas greeting to you from all at St Thomas'. Christmas is a wonderful time for giving and receiving – I'd like to offer you a very special Christmas gift this year – our prayers!

As a church we've recently begun a new prayer initiative called 'one thousand days of prayer'. From 11th October 2009 until the 7th July 2012 we as a church have committed to focus our energy on praying for God's world, especially our community of Brampton. That's why you may have heard our Church bells ringing at unusual times during the day. Each weekday at 9.30am and 12.30pm we ring our bells in order to mark out the time that our church is OPEN for anyone to come in, find peace and say a prayer.

It's true you don't need to be in church to pray ... but as a 'house of prayer', church is a great place to speak to God. Everyone is welcome; you don't need to be a regular churchgoer. So, whether you've experienced a great joy in your life or a deep sadness or simply suffering from seasonal stress why not drop into church and talk to the Christ-child. Someone once said, 'However difficult life is, God is only one prayer away', maybe it's time you popped in and discover the powerful gift of prayer for yourself.



Reversing the trend

our church is now
OPEN during the week
Mon - Fri 9:30-12:30

I look forward to welcoming you to St Thomas' over the next few weeks as we celebrate Christmas, be assured of our prayers for you at this special time. I hope you can make time to call in one morning and receive your special Christmas gift time to pray. Your church Your prayers ... You're welcome.

Seasonal Greetings,
Matt Barnes
Rector.

Is This It?



Alpha and My Faith.

Is this it?

It was a question I had been asking for most of my life. I attended ALPHA at St Thomas' in two minds. Was there something to Christianity or was it all nonsense?

Talking about Jesus and The Holy Spirit at ALPHA was refreshing. I began to see what a personal relationship with Jesus Christ might mean for me and how, through the love of Jesus, I could begin to untangle the knots in my life. I had been living life in my strength alone and was spiritually grounded.

Following the Rector's advice at one Alpha session I began to read the bible daily and to pray regularly. Discovering how prayer can be

a deep two-way personal communication with the Lord Jesus Christ, was both startling and exciting. Listening for guidance is as important as praying for specific requests. The more I pray the more I need to pray. Praying brings positive results. If I forget to pray the consequences are stress and tears.

ALPHA has had a cataclysmic effect on my life. I began to understand worship, prayer and confession in a new way. I decided to try living the life of a Christian and at some point found I had become one.

Living as a Christian means changing from the inside out. It can be painful and it certainly isn't easy. For me it is the only way. I am not perfect, no-one is. That's the point.

The sacrifice Jesus made on the cross, out of love for us, redeemed us from our sins past, present and future, if only we truly repent. The burden has been lifted and this brings liberation beyond comprehension.

Come to St Thomas', try ALPHA, And BE AMAZED.

Carolyn Baker

Next Alpha starts Tuesday 5th January (12 week course) Ring the office for more details.

A New Staff Member

Back in September of this year, I joined the staff team here at St Thomas' Brampton. My official 'Job title' is the 'Worship Administrator and Parish Assistant', which I guess could mean anything! The main essence of what I am doing is working with the already brilliant worship team we have here, organising what we do, as we strive to develop our Church's musical worship.

Worship and music, and how the two go together is a real passion of mine. I believe that there is something about music that goes far beyond anything most of us could say in mere words. Music is a truly amazing way of communication, and it really is something you cannot get a way from. The radio, the TV, the song in that film that always brings a tear to your eye, it's in the shops, in the underground, oh, wait that's the ice-cream van. And let's face it; X-factor has quickly become the



biggest news story each week.

Here in the church we don't over look the fact that music is a beautiful thing, which is why we love to use it to worship. It is a beautiful way to relate to our Saviour, a beautiful story to sing, the greatest love story ever written, a love that laid down all glory, to humbly lay in the manger of a grotty cattle shed, a story that, to this day is more alive than you know.

Gaz Simmonds

The Development Project



Rector Matt Barnes

You will be very much aware of St Thomas' proposals to build a new parish centre within the grounds of the churchyard. I have great pleasure to inform you that in September we received final approval to proceed with construction.

The ground has been cleared of Japanese knotweed and by the time you read this update, we will have removed a number of trees/stones and relocated memorials by way of site preparation. Site investigation works have been carried out with the findings being sent to our architect. We will keep you informed of progress in future issues of Spotlight.

The Church congregation have already secured approximately £700,000 towards the construction of the building and this has been made possible through 'Gift Days' and a continuation of the 'Fun'draising events started in late 2007

Although this is a large amount of money raised, it is expected that additional funds will still be needed to construct our 'living stones' centre. Your prayers for the selection of the appropriate construction partners and a tender submission that is affordable are much appreciated.

The Rector, Matthew Barnes, says, "this vital new community facility will be of enormous benefit to our community. We look forward to welcoming the people of Brampton to our new centre very soon!".

Paul Benson



Phil and Myra Johnson - Turning the first sod of soil



If you would like more information about St Thomas' development project you can visit the St Thomas website at <http://www.st-thomas-brampton.org/sttdev.html> or alternatively contact the Church office:

01246 558461

stthomasbrampton@tiscali.co.uk

Christmas Services

Sunday 13th December

4pm

Christingle Service

Sunday 20th December

11am

Nativity Service

6pm

Carols by Candlelight

Enjoy a drink and mince pie afterwards

Christmas Eve

4pm and 6pm

Family Carol Services

with refreshments afterwards

11.30pm

Midnight Communion

Christmas Day

10am

All-Age Christmas communion service

church open

Mon - Fri

9:30-12:30

Don't miss the miracle of Christmas time

Amidst the tinsel show

Don't miss the love Christ offers

As you grab the mistletoe

Don't be misled by fairy tales

Inside your Christmas cards

Behind the singing and the laughter

Christ is waiting to be heard

Ring out the bells for God is with us

Emmanuel the King of kings is here

Bringing the hope of a peaceful tomorrow

Born to rid our lives of fear

Ring out the bells we have salvation

A chance to live life with our King

Drawing all His people together

Giving us joy we need to sing

C Reid /R Turner copyright (c) 1987

Seadream Music

Regular Service Times

Traditional Worship - 9am

Family Service (With Children's groups) - 11am

Evening Worship - 6pm

Youth Events 10-14s Sunday 4:30-6pm (Church)
14+ Monday 8-9:30pm at 6 Holly Court

www.st-thomas-brampton.org