

Parish Magazine



December 2008

# St. James'

35p

**Christleton**

[www.christleton.org.uk](http://www.christleton.org.uk)



# Countdown to Christmas

Mon	1	10.45 am 11.20 am	Holy Communion at Tarvin Court Nursing Home Holy Communion at Oaklands Nursing Home
Wed	3	10.45 am	United Communion - followed by refreshments
Thur	4	7.45 pm	Compline (Night Prayers) and Meditation for Advent
Fri	5		NB: Last date for contribution to January Parish Magazine to Janet Milton (335469). Earlier if possible. You can attach your Word Document and e-mail to: christletonmag@hotmail.co.uk
		6.30 pm	Choir Practice
<b>Sun</b>	<b>7</b>		<b>The Second Sunday in Advent</b>
		8.00 am	Holy Communion (Order 2)
		10.45 am	Parish Communion (Order 1)
		10.45 am	Sunday School (Parish Hall)
		6.00 pm	The Crew Youth Group (Parish Hall)
		6.30 pm	Evensong - followed by refreshments
			Prayer Link Road: Church Walks and The Paddock
			Neighbourhood Link: Judith Edwards
Mon	8	2.00 pm 7.00 pm	Advent Meditation High School Carol Service - St James
Tues	9	9.00 am	Church Walking Group and Christmas Lunch. Contact David Cummings (332410)
Wed	10	10.45 am 11.30 am	Holy Communion - followed by refreshments Holy Communion at Birch Heath Lodge Nursing Home
Thur	11	7.45 pm	Compline (Night Prayers) and Advent Meditation for Advent
Fri	12	6.30 pm	Choir Practice
<b>Sun</b>	<b>14</b>		<b>The Third Sunday in Advent</b>
		8.00 am	Holy Communion (Order 1)
		10.45 am	Family Toy Service followed by refreshments
			You are invited to bring wrapped Christmas gifts of toys (labelled with the appropriate age and sex) to be given to less fortunate children in the Chester area

	6.00 pm	The Crew Youth Group (Parish Hall)
	6.30 pm	Evensong Prayer Link: Cotton Edmunds and Cotton Abbots Neighbourhood Link: Ellen Frost
Wed	17	10.45 am Holy Communion - followed by refreshments 2.00 pm Primary School Carol Service (St James) 7.00 pm Primary School Carol Service (St James)
Thur	18	7.45 pm Compline (Night Prayers) and Advent Meditation
Fri	19	6.30 pm Choir Practice
Sun	21	The Fourth Sunday in Advent 8.00 am Holy Communion (Order 1) 10.45 am Parish Communion (Order 1) 10.45 am Sunday School (Parish Hall) 6.30 pm FESTIVAL OF CAROLS AND CEREMONY OF LIGHT Prayer Link Road: Croft Close Neighbourhood Link: Beryl Cummings
Wed	24	CHRISTMAS EVE 10.45 am Holy Communion - followed by refreshments 7.00 pm Carols round the Tree 11.30 pm Midnight Communion (Order 1)
Thur	25	<b>CHRISTMAS DAY</b> 8.00 am Holy Communion (Order 2) 10.45 am Christmas Family Service 11.45 am Holy Communion (Order 1)
Fri	26	9.00 am Holy Communion for ST STEPHEN
Sat	27	9.00 am Holy Communion for ST JOHN
Sun	28	<b>The First Sunday after Christmas</b> 8.00 am Holy Communion (Order 1) 10.45 am Matins 6.30 pm Evening Communion Prayer Link: Durban Avenue Neighbourhood Link: Jenny Brown
Wed	31	10.45 am Holy Communion - followed by refreshments
Sun	4 January	10.45 am United New Year Service - St James

# The Rector's Letter

Dear Friends

## The Proof of the Pudding

To believe, or not to believe, that is the question. It is a question which comes into sharp focus as we come to Christmas – or is it the midwinter festival? The church, in the past, has been accused of an authoritarian arrogance in assuming the truth of its dogma. I sense an equal arrogance today in the implicit assumption of secularism that somehow it has a monopoly of reason. ‘Not to believe’ is taken as the ‘default’ position, and is regarded as ‘neutral’, whereas any ‘faith’ position should be qualified. I also object to the promulgation of the myth that ‘science’ is based on ‘fact’ whereas ‘faith’ is unreasonable. Many eminent scientists are convinced Christians, and the scientific method itself is based on using ‘working models’ which are constantly open to modification. Personally, I find that not to believe in God poses as many, if not more, questions than belief. If, in the last resort, we are just a random collection of atoms, that raises enormous questions in explaining vast areas of human experience and knowledge. It also reduces the basis of aesthetic appreciation and moral behaviour to chemical reaction and self interest as there can be no ‘objective’ value to such an accident. The truth is that there can be no ‘neutral’ position. Atheism, secularism, agnosticism and faith are each as much ‘working models’ and ‘value judgements’ as the others.

Traditionally the Sunday before Advent was known as ‘Stir up Sunday’. This was because the Collect started “Stir up O Lord, the wills of your faithful people ...”, but also because it came as a reminder to stir up the ingredients for Christmas puddings. It is time to get ready – to stir up people and puddings! Obviously that involves the hectic rush to prepare for Christmas in terms of physical and material provision. But what will you be celebrating? Is life just a physical and material ‘accident’ to be indulged, or is there more to life than that? One of the reasons I am a Christian is that time and again in my life the words of the Bible ‘come to life’ and are proved true in my experience. As I read the teaching and parables of Jesus, they give a guidance and compass which illuminate and direct behaviour. Equally, as I am confronted by people and situations, sometimes in times of tragedy or crisis, words of the Bible come to me which speak to that situation. And it is the privilege of being a Priest that time and again over the years of my ministry, people have shared experiences with me and have spoken of how faith was confirmed and help was given. It is the discovery of the truth of the Christian paradox that it is in giving that we receive, it is in forgiving that we are forgiven and in dying that we are born to eternal life. So Advent is a wake-up call. Now is the time for decision and action. How often we are left repeating those two words – ‘if only’. Traditionally Advent

warns us of the day of judgement at the end of time – the Parousia. But every day is our day of judgement when we are found wanting and left to regret that we were not better prepared to do, or not do; to say, or not say, what it is now too late to reverse. So what does it all mean?

Christianity is unique among the religions of the world in its belief in the Incarnation: that the word became flesh: that God became human in Jesus Christ. The main reason I am a Christian is my experience of a relationship with the living God. In the words of the song:- “Something deep inside, cannot be denied.” That is not something I can prove or, indeed, explain rationally. But that is also true of the things which matter most in life which cannot be seen – love, joy, peace .. Christmas is a mystery. That does not mean it is a definite uncertainty, but an indefinite certainty. Christmas means that something wonderful has happened to a weary and dreary world. Emmanuel – God is with us. His love and power and purpose is entering into your life and mine in a way that transforms life so that the ordinary becomes special and the secular becomes holy. To believe, or not to believe? As we come to Christmas may each one of us discover that the proof of the pudding is in the eating!

Yours sincerely



**Prayer of the Month**

*The Iona Community*

*Christ of the Cosmos, living Word*

*Come to heal and save.*

*Come from the depths of eternity,  
unfolding the purposes of God.*

*Come from the dawn of time,  
shaping the universe:*

*divine expression,  
mystery made known.*

*In your quiet hidden way,  
come to heal and save.*

*Incognito, in our streets,  
beneath the concrete, between the cracks,  
behind the curtains, within the dreams,  
In ageing memories, in childhood wonder,  
In secret ponds, in broken hearts,  
In Bethlehem stable, still small voice,  
Word of God, among us. Amen.*

# From the Christleton History File

## *More memories of village life from Antony Barrington Brown The airship R 100 flies over Christleton & Littleton*

Aged 3, I have a very strong memory of seeing an airship flying over Five Oaks where I lived with my parents at the time and where my sister Mava was born on 30 June 1929. Thanks to the internet I can fix to the hour when this was, because the movements of all airships are on record. The date was August 16 1930 and the time about 9.00 am. The airship was the R100 on its return flight from Montreal having left there at 9pm on August 13, arriving at Cardington near Bedford at 11am on August 16 after a flight of 3,000 miles. Two airships were built in parallel; one by the government, the ill-fated R101 and the other by private enterprise the very successful R100 designed by Barnes Wallis assisted by Nevill Shute-Norway (subsequently the popular novelist). Unfortunately the disaster to R101 in October was the death-knell of British support for airships and the R100 was broken up the next year. see [www.aht.ndirect.co.uk/airships/r100](http://www.aht.ndirect.co.uk/airships/r100).

## *From the Parish Magazine of January 1922 Carol Singing causes problems in the Village*

I've often heard people complain that Carol Singing around the village isn't as good as it used to be. It was much better in our day.! Was it! Whilst researching in some old parish magazines I came across this story written by the Rector in 1922.

The Rector GMV Hickey writes.;

Christmas was ushered in by the ringers and waifs from other Parishes. We are told that some of our residents contributed when they heard that "The Choir" and "The Scouts" were treating them to various sounds and strains of music under the idea that they were helping Christleton Organisations.

But this was not the case and another year we can announce if any Carol Parties from Christleton are visiting in the parish. We have not encouraged the practice because it so often degenerates into a trespass on Christmas charity.

Carols sung heartily and well, and send a message of good-will, are very delightful. We would readily go around with a party of singers who would simply carry the cheerful greetings of the season in this way. That is the highest type of carolling. Then there are the Companies who sing and collect for good causes, and that is an unselfish act which cannot be blamed. But the common custom of touting with poor music and discordant noises for the sake of gathering and dividing the spoil does not represent the spirit of Christmas at all, and we are glad to be free of such methods in Christleton. He concludes his letter;

For the Festival itself, though the morning was a wet and the village roads running with water, there were many Communicants and the congregations remarkably good, and evidently others \_as well as the Clergy \_prefer Christmas Day to fall on a Sunday.

## **Advent night prayers and meditation**

### **‘Understanding Angels’**

Escape the hustle and bustle of Christmas shopping and join us on Thursdays in Advent at 7.45pm in St James’ Church for this short service of night prayers and meditation.

Tina Lightfoot will be leading the meditation on the theme of  
Angels.

**The first in the series will be on Thursday 27th November**

## Parish Communion with Special Intention for Healing

**O**n Sunday October 5th a Parish Communion with Special Intention for Healing was held at St James.

The Service was introduced by Doctor Liz McClure, who used the graphic illustration of a painting of the Tomb of Ahmun ker Khosp and the scenes of healing it depicts to illustrate her story. The mural representing scenes from a wall of the tomb of Ahmun ker Khosp was painted in 1990 by a Christleton High School Sixth Form student Susan Lees, as part of an A Level Art competition to design such a mural. The mural now decorates the Northgate Surgery in Chester and gives much interest to patients. DC



## Our Thanks



**O**ur thanks to Phil Hodges for his drawing for this years Christmas Card and illustration on the front of this magazine



## The Bells

*I heard the bells on Christmas Day  
Their old, familiar carols play,  
And wild and sweet the words repeat  
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!*

Longfellow

# Quiet and Still

*The snow came drifting gently down  
When all was quiet and still,  
The village clock chimed out the hour  
This season of goodwill.  
And in the distance music notes -  
Many voices singing,  
Sacred hymns and Christmas carols  
Church bells started ringing*

*The presents tied and gaily wrapped  
Are placed beneath the tree,  
Which has been dressed in tinselled best  
For this festivity.  
Tomorrow will be Christmas Day  
Excitement, noise and cheer,  
And friends and family will come  
To a happy atmosphere.*

*But for tonight I'm lost in thought  
Just gazing at the snow,  
Thinking of another Christmas  
Of many years ago,  
A young girl and her new born Son  
A stable had to share,  
With sheep and shepherds, ox and ass  
And angels everywhere.*



**Kathleen Gillum**

# BACK TO POLAND



## The Baptism of Franciszek

**S**ince I met them my delightful young Polish friends in Dresden, Krzysztof and Izabela had been gently leaning on me to revisit Poland, a prospect that was realised this year for a very special reason. They are both from the city of Radom between Warsaw and Krakow, their respective parents still live there and they were married in Radom Cathedral. After studying at Dresden University, Krzysztof and Iza have stayed in Dresden to rear their young family. Their daughter, Florentina is 3.

They returned to Radom to celebrate Christmas a year ago in a spirit of some excitement; their second child was due in March. But Franciszek surprised everyone, arriving on December 29 after a pregnancy of only 26 weeks and weighing just over 2½ lbs.

That Franek (as he is known) survived is a miracle and a great tribute to the ambulance crew who rushed mother to Warsaw's neo-natal unit two hours away, to the doctors and nurses there, and to the marvellous Iza. She and Franek stayed at the unit for 10 weeks, the loyal Krzysztof of driving the 8 hours from Dresden fortnightly.

As for little Florentina, she rehearsed her chatty Polish with her grandparents in Radom, mixed with odd bits of Saxon German!

Hearing the news about Franek's birth, I immediately ruled out the prospect of seeing Poland for the moment even though we had agreed that 2008 was to be the year for my return. But Krzysztof and Iza quite soon insisted that I did – and would I go to Radom for Franek's baptism? In a joyful week in July I was there, entertained royally by Iza's

parents and also witnessing the engagement of Iza's sister, Sylvia

Naturally the Roman Catholic Baptism Service was in Polish, but I felt very much part of it. Four babies were christened during the Family Communion, a service specifically for Baptisms. Their Christian faith is very important to Krzysztof and Iza and the sanctity of life has never been closer to their hearts. That back in England our parliament, churches, and the press were then debating the controversial Abortion Bill only briefly deflected me. Witnessing the loving and strong Christian values of two families united in their joy at Franek's recovery made me feel how blessed we all were.

As myself a lightweight twin born in wartime, I have often mused at the world that each baby is respectively born into. That is unique for each child. Franek was born into a prosperous Europe and his native country of Poland was resurgent. Already the world financial crisis has changed some of that.

The day after Franek's christening, his grandfather and a young father from Lublin took me to the Auschwitz and Birkenau concentration camps. Born myself on June 25, 1940 I was immediately confronted with a staggering date; the first arrivals for extermination at Auschwitz were on June 14, 1940 just eleven days before my own birth. I survived the war; thousands of young children did not.

Pope John Paul II twice revisited his native Poland as Pope. When in Radom he pronounced "Never worry, Jesus is open". Like a shop that never closes, He is there for each us, as for Franek.

*John Carruthers*



# WHAT'S

## SUNDAY SCHOOL

Held in the Parish Hall from 10.45 am – 12.00 noon each Sunday during term-time, except when Family Service is held at St James. For further details please contact Berenice Hogg, 336779.

## CHRISTLETON METHODIST CHURCH

We meet for Informal Prayers and a Simple Lunch on the first Thursday of each month at 12 noon. All welcome. There is no charge for the lunch but a donation to cover costs would be appreciated

## ST JAMES TUESDAY WALKING GROUP

**December 9th 2008**

Beeston Castle & Shropshire Union Canal. Moderate 6 ½ miles

Walk followed by Christmas Dinner at Mitchells

Depart Church Car Park at 9.00am

Leader David Cummings. 332410

## CHRISTLETON W.I.

Meets on the second Wednesday of the month at 7.15 pm in the Parish Hall  
*Next Meeting - 10th December  
Christmas Meeting  
All Welcome*

## CHESTER FLOWER CLUB

Meetings are held in Christleton Parish Hall on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 1.30pm. Details of any events can be obtained from the Secretary, Mrs. Edna Ellis telephone Chester 346497

## CHRISTLETON W.I. MONTHLY WHIST

Meet in the Parish Hall on the last Wednesday of the month at 2pm.

## MAGAZINE DISTRIBUTORS

The January Magazine will be available for collection from Church on Sunday 28th December 2008.

## MAGAZINE CONTRIBUTIONS

Please ensure all items for inclusion in the **January** edition are sent to Janet Milton, as soon as possible

**BEFORE Friday 5th December** or you can e-mail this to

christletonmag@hotmail.co.uk

St. James' Christleton Parish Magazine

## CHRISTLETON WEDNESDAY GROUP

### FESTIVE HOTPOT

on

**Wednesday 3rd December**

at Christleton Parish Hall

12 Noon

Tickets £9, available from members (includes a glass of wine)

In aid of the

“Friends of the Mulberry Centre”

### Christleton Primary School Association (the PTA)

presents

### The Christmas Fair

**Saturday 6th December 2008**

**2.00pm - 4.00pm**

at Christleton Primary School,

Quarry Lane

Grand Draw - Father Christmas -

Crafts - Books - Tombolas

Toys & Games

Teas - Hamper Raffle

Cakes & Home - Produce

Games to play - Jewellery

*And much more!*

All welcome.

Entrance: Adults 50p, OAPs and children free.

## FEAST OF CAROLS

Christleton High School Choir join forces with Ellesmere Port Music Society Chorus, The Metropolitan Brass Quintet and Father Christmas

for:

### *A Charity Carol Concert in aid of The Motor Neurone Disease Association*

Carols old and new, Christmas music and cautionary tales.

Young and old come in good voice!

Venue : Civic Hall Ellesmere Port

**Saturday 13th December**

**7 00pm**

Tickets in advance from

0151 327 4062

Or [www.epmsonline](http://www.epmsonline)

Or EPMS members

Some availability at the door

### Carol Singing at Oaklands and Birch Heath Lodge

#### Birch Heath Lodge

**Thursday 11 December**

2.00pm for 2.15pm start

#### Oaklands

**Thursday 18 December**

2.00pm for 2.15pm start.



## Christleton W.I.

**D**uring the A.G.M. at the November meeting Rossina Williams was voted to become a new committee member. The President's report and Finance Report were adopted. June Hargreaves gave an illuminating talk on Heraldry and was thanked by Margaret Dromgoole. Members enjoyed the trading tables and book stall.

Next meeting 10th December, 2008 is the Christmas Meeting. Starting at 7.15pm. Everyone welcome

## A Christmas Tail



**R**egular readers of our Parish Magazine might remember the saga of Micky a couple of years ago (still available to read on the Christleton web site). The article prompted one reader to write to our magazine editor.

Friends of all creatures great and small will be pleased to hear he is back. Yes Micky is back. Sitting in an armchair waiting for the TV to be switched on. The very same humane catching box came out of hibernation. He fell for it again and within the hour he was inside. I did not think it was fair to release him in the dark. The next morning there was no sound from the trap. Oh dear had I murdered poor Micky in solitary confinement. Not a bit of it. He is just a late riser after gorging on Ryvita bait. Within the hour he was free again in the meadow opposite which he now shares with a horse. Will this be the end of this tale. I doubt it knowing his determination.

*Richard Nicholson*

St. James' Christleton Parish Magazine

## **Magazine Contributions close dates – 2009**

January	05.12.08	
February	09.01.09	
March	06.02.09	
April	13.03.09	
May	10.04.09	(Good Friday)
June	15.05.09	
July	12.07.09	
August	10.07.09	
September	14.08.09	
October	11.09.09	
November	09.10.09	
December	13.11.09	
January 2010	04.12.09	

## **Magazine available for collection on**

January 09	28.12.08
February	25.01.09
March	22.02.09
April	29.03.09
May	26.04.09
June	31.05.09
July	28.06.09
August	26.07.09
September	30.08.09
October	27.09.09
November	25.10.09
December	29.11.09

# Should a Christian go to War? - A Reply

**A**fter reading the article on page 24 in the November Magazine “Should a Christian go to War?” I am prompted to write about “A Pacifist at War”.

This is the story of the military memoirs of a Conscientious Objector in Palestine 1917 – 1918. In January of this year the late Dorothy Colley McNair and her husband Philip were turning out a cupboard when she found a bulky jiffy-bag. Inside were letters written by Philip’s father Donald McNair to his wife during the First World War. He was a Conscientious Objector with sincere convictions which were disallowed by the authorities, so he found himself in the British Infantry in Palestine, actually going over the top with loaded rifle and fixed bayonet, yet determined not to fight. After the war he selected seven of the letters, typed them out and bound them - the other 93 he buried in a field.

Donald McNair was 33 and had only been married to Janie for a matter of weeks when he was sent to fight against the Turks in Palestine in 1916. The letters show that McNair, a rifleman, was shocked by the coarseness of his fellow soldiers and suggest he made a point of never firing a shot at the enemy. He survived the war and died in 1975 aged 91.

The book makes a fascinating read and can be obtained by post from the Anastasia Press, 5 The Square, Much Hadham, Herts, SG10 6BX for £11.50 (post included).

*Margaret Croston*

### **LEPROSY MISSION**

#### **Stamp out leprosy!**

Please donate your used stamps so that money can be raised for Leprosy Mission. Stamps should be trimmed to quarter inch border around the stamp, and can be left at the back of Church.

#### **PLEASE TELL US...**

If you know of any special birthdays, anniversaries or anyone celebrating a special occasion, who is a Parish Magazine reader, please inform the editor, David Bull.

#### **AVAILABLE AT ST JAMES CHURCH**

"Loop" system, for the hearing impaired  
Large print books for the visually impaired & large print weekly notice sheets  
Easy to follow Communion Service Books for children  
Access for wheelchairs  
Please ask any of the Churchwardens or Sidesmen if you need assistance in any way.

### **CHRISTLETON UNDER-FIVES**

#### **COMMUNITY PLAYGROUP**

#### **Registered Charity 1022817**

Christleton Under Fives is an established pre school playgroup attracting children from a wide area. It enjoys good and well founded links with Christleton Primary School. Children from the age of 2 1/2 years until school age are accepted. Please contact the Supervisor, Carole Penny, on 336586 for further details.

#### **MOBILE LIBRARY VAN SERVICE**

The van calls weekly: alternate Thursdays all day and alternate Fridays in Quarry Lane 11.15 am – 12.45 pm. For further details of when the van is next in your area, please telephone Upton Library on 380053.

#### **READERS**

Please remember to support our magazine advertisers and mention where you have read their name.

## **Thoughts for anyone tempted to spend, spend, spend....**

The world provides enough for every man's need but not for every man's greed. - Mohandas Gandhi.

If we have God in all things while they are ours, we shall have all things in God when they are taken away. - Anon

It is easier to renounce worldly possessions than it is to renounce the love of them. - Walter Hilton

Nothing influences a man so much as that which he calls his own.  
- C H Spurgeon

### **CONTRIBUTORS**

The best way to send contributions to St. James' Parish Magazine is to e-mail the document.

Attach your Word document and e-mail it to

**christletonmag@hotmail.co.uk**

# Parish Registers for October 2008

## Holy Baptism

Freddie Mervyn Ogilby, son of Stephen and Danielle Ogilby,  
16 Dryersfield, Great Boughton

“We welcome you into the Lord’s family”

## Marriage

James Macdonald Fletcher, 74 Sunnyvale Road, Totley,  
Sheffield and Victoria Elizabeth Lloyd, Thornbank Farm,  
Plough Lane, Christleton

*“Those whom God has joined together let no one put asunder”*

## Funerals

15 Colin Baker, 98 Cheney Road, Chester  
21 Roma Mabel Grace Owen, Southerndown, Moor Lane,  
Rowton  
Jean Audrey Owen, 8 Bythom Close, Christleton

*“Grant them eternal rest”*

October	Cash	CSE	2008	2007
5	123.18	625.50	748.68	929.09
12	445.65	756.00	1201.65	1128.13
19	135.20	540.00	675.20	1019.70
26	198.75	709.00	907.75	614.50
Totals			3543.28	3691.42

*“Of your own do we give you”*

