

St. James'

PARISH MAGAZINE

www.christleton.org.uk



BEST KEPT VILLAGE

February 2011

35p

FEATURES IN FEBRUARY

- Wed 2 10.45 am United Communion - Revd Canon Peris Williams
 followed by refreshments
- Fri 4 6.30 pm Choir Practice
- Sun 6 8.00 am Holy Communion - Revd Canon Peris Williams**
10.45 am Holy Communion - Revd Canon Peris Williams
10.45 am Sunday School - Parish Hall
6.00 pm The Crew Youth Group - Parish Hall
6.30 pm Evensong
 Prayer Link Road: Birch Heath Lane
 Neighbourhood Link: John Eccles
- Mon 7 10.45 am Holy Communion at Tarvin Court Nursing Home
 11.20 am Holy Communion at Oaklands Nursing Home
 2.00 pm Mothers' Union - Parish Hall
- Wed 9 10.45 am Holy Communion - Revd Gill Hibbert
 followed by refreshments
 11.30 am Holy Communion at Birch Heath Lodge Nursing Home
- Fri 11 6.30 pm Choir Practice

NB: Last date for contributions for March Parish Magazine to Janet Milton (335469).
Earlier if possible please, or you can attach your Word document and e-mail this to
christletonmag@hotmail.co.uk

- Sun 13** **8.00 am** **Holy Communion - Revd Gill Hibbert**
10.45 am Family Service - Revd Brian Harris
 followed by refreshments
6.00 pm The Crew Youth Group - Parish Hall
6.30 pm Evensong - Dr Wayne Morris
 Prayer Link Road: Bridge Drive
 Neighbourhood Link: Margaret Croston
- Wed 16 10.45 am Holy Communion - Revd Canon Chris Samuels
 followed by refreshments
- Fri 18 6.30 pm Choir Practice
- Sun 20 8.00 am Holy Communion - Revd Brian Harris
10.45 am Parish Communion - Revd John Carhart
10.45 am Sunday School - Parish Hall

6.30 pm Evensong - Revd Canon Chris Samuels
 Prayer Link Road: Brown Heath Road, Greenfield Road
 Greenfield Crescent
 Neighbourhood Link: Val Mountcastle
- Wed 23 10.45 am Holy Communion - Revd Brian Harris
 followed by refreshments
- Fri 25 6.30 pm Choir Practice
- Sun 27** **8.00 am** **Holy Communion - Revd Canon Chris Samuels**
10.45 am Matins - Dr Wayne Morris
 followed by refreshments
10.45 am Sunday School - Parish Hall
6.30 pm Evening Communion - Revd Peris Williams
 Prayer Link Road: Bush Road
 Neighbourhood Link: Stan Smith

THE PARISH LETTER OF ST. JAMES, CHRISTLETON

Dear Friends,

ONWARDS AND UPWARDS

It seems a long while ago since we began the Interregnum. We have enjoyed much variety and a stronger fellowship in our services as all of those who minister to us have given their best to St. James. Everyone has worked closely together to ensure we remain a strong church.

We thank you all for your help and support.

It was a joy to announce, just before Christmas, that our new Rector will be the Reverend Malcolm Cowan, Vicar of the Parish of St. Helen, Witton, Northwich. Malcolm is married to Joyce, who is an Occupational Therapist and they both hope to start the new phase of their lives in Christleton on May 1st.

Malcolm's career began as a legal executive and he was called to the Ministry ten years ago, serving as a curate in West Kirby prior to his appointment at Northwich. His own spirituality is centred upon the Eucharist, the daily office and a regular pattern of prayer, meditation and Bible Study. This is the spirituality we share at St. James, and we are assured that under Malcolm's leadership and with Joyce's support, we will all move onwards and upwards in our Faith.

May God guide Malcolm and Joyce in their new calling to St. James, and the village of Christleton.

As we write, we have just completed the many Services over the Christmas Period with the “Christingle” service. The atmosphere was wonderful and many new people joined us for that service. We had a very meaningful service of communion on Christmas Eve which combined reverence of God with the meaning of Christmas, and Christmas Day brought a family service and communion service together seen through the eyes of young children. Our Joint Service in the New Year was full of life and hope-and so we can detail all those services- each one special in many ways with fine music and singing.

St. James has remained at full strength, with many services at full capacity. God has been gracious.

We thank all the many people who have made this possible, and who will continue to make this possible. In particular, it is right to thank Gill Hibbert, John Carhart, Wayne Morris, Brian Harris, Peris Williams and Chris Samuels. It has been our privilege to enjoy their gifted ministries. This is not to exclude all those who have worked with us to ensure that the Interregnum has been a time of spiritual development, which it has.

As we look forward to Malcolm and Joyce joining us at St. James, let us give thanks for all God has done for us as He leads us onwards and upwards in the Christian Faith.

Yours sincerely,

John Pearson and Keith Smalls

CHRISTMAS FAIR 2010

Total raised on the day	1407
Proceeds from BBQ in June	90
Donations in lieu of sending Christmas Cards	125
Other donations	<u>328</u>
	1950

Cheques have been sent to:-

Water Aid (International)	650
The Samaritans (National)	650
Dorin Park School, Upton (local)	650
	1950

Many thanks to all those who contributed in giving their time and money.

CHRISTMAS COLLECTIONS 2010

Carols around the tree	650.48
Midnight Communion	191.50
Communion Christmas day	76.42
Family Service Christmas day	<u>348.00</u>
	1266.40

Cheques have been sent to:-

USPH	316.60
CMS	316.60
Adoption Matters in Chester	316.60
Chester Aid to the Homeless	<u>316.60</u>
	1266.40

David Mercer

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS!

It is almost a year since the earthquake in Haiti. At Sunday School we had an opportunity to respond in a practical way by sending pencil cases filled with pens, pencils, rubbers etc. colouring books and notebooks to the children of Haiti. Some of the Sunday School children wrote letters to the children there (one of our parents who teaches French even translated the letters to send). We sent them via Christian Aid.....one of their London staff packed her suitcase with them. We received an e mail thanking us.

More recently, the children responded to an appeal by Water Aid to raise money to improve sanitation and provide clean water to some of the poorest communities overseas. They collected £60 worth of pennies! We had great fun by playing a team game whereby we had to throw them into buckets!(Thanks also to other friends from St.James who also contributed too).

Lastly, the Sunday School have produced their own prayer book which includes 80 prayers which have been contributed by all who have passed through Sunday School in the past nine years. We paid for the printing of this by using some money that was very kindly left us by Gerald Goodyear – one time “superintendent “ of Sunday School. I know he would be delighted to know that this money was used for this purpose. If anyone would like to buy a copy, there are some in church. A donation of £ 5.00 is asked for and will be given to charity.

SCHOOL SATCHELS NEEDED!

If you have an old school satchel and would like it to appear in a production of “The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie” in Nottingham in March, please get in touch with Margaret Croston on Chester 335955.

ST JAMES' YOUTH GROUP – THE CREW

The Crew kicked off the autumn term with the 'Adopt a Toilet' appeal. £72.67 was raised by a cake sale after the Harvest Festival service to fund the building of a latrine in Burundi.

As well as the Harvest Festival service in October, the Crew have taken part in services in September, attending Evening Communion and November for Remembrance Sunday. November meetings were also spent in making boxes and sweets to sell at the Christmas Fair. Thank you to Bob and Gwen Knight who helped with the sweet making.



At the beginning of December the Mini Crew joined the Crew for a Christmas party involving party games and lots of food. Although everyone had fun we also used the evening as an opportunity to remember young people who are less fortunate than those in the UK. At the party, each member made a small donation and enough money was raised to fund after school activities for poor children in Brazil through the charity Action Aid.

The term ended with 17 members going to watch the latest Narnia film – Voyage of the Dawn Treader at the Vue cinema in Cheshire Oaks, followed by a meal at Pizza Express.

The Crew Youth Group is open to all young people in Years 7 and above. We meet each Sunday during term time in the Parish Hall from 6.0 pm – 7.30 pm.

NATURE NOTES

David
Cummings

December & January have been one of the most exciting periods that I've known to study wild birds in the village. Reports came in from all areas of wonderful sightings of a variety of species. Waxwings continued to show well, with Sue Churchill reporting a party of thirty or so on a rowan tree and hawthorn bushes alongside the canal behind Toll Bar Road. Two days later I saw forty of these pretty visitors sitting upright on a television aerial and roof ridge tiles opposite Sainsbury's. My friend Ken Jackson then reported seeing at least one hundred further down in Caldy Valley. After morning service at St James' on Sunday December 19th there were hundreds of thrushes in a feeding frenzy in amongst the churchyard yews, taking the remaining berries as winter food sources elsewhere became scarce. It seems that the yew is almost the last of berries



to be taken, as I understand the taste is extremely bitter. Anyone walking along the church paths after this date were treading on the crushed remains of this feeding frenzy, as clearly not all parts

of the berries were edible. All four main members of the thrush family could be seen feeding there, including song and mistle thrushes, redwings and fieldfare. Other species seen in the village during the cold spell included large families of goldfinch seen feeding on bird feeders in gardens, together with sightings of redpoll, blackcap and brambling, whilst raven, woodcock, snipe and curlew have all been seen flying overhead. A surprising resident species seen hunting on two occasions was a barn owl, which must have found food hard to find in such freezing conditions. One of our local buzzards has even taken to sitting on a fence post within a few metres of the Whitchurch Road near the “Cheshire Cat”, no doubt on the lookout for small rodents



in the rough grassland there. One villager even saw a heron catch a grey rat and swallow it whole whilst she was bird watching at The Pit. Although the single rescued swan remains at The Pit, our village pair could be seen huddled together in a small patch of open water on the almost frozen River Dee* at the Groves in Chester, whilst the wintering mute, whooper and Bewick swan

flock on the Inner Marsh totalled 228 on December 26th. At one point just before Christmas during the coldest spell of weather, the river had blocks of ice growing in large plates near the weir. * One block even resembled the perfect shape of a small pyramid, a miniature version of the famous glass pyramid at the Louvre in Paris.



SAMARITANS

The Samaritans organisation was fortunate enough to be the National Charity chosen to receive proceeds from the Christmas Fair at St James at the end of 2010. Along with Water Aid and Dorin Park School they each received the sum of £650.

Having been a Listening Samaritan for 10 years now I thought it would be interesting to write about our local Branch. In Chester we cover Chester & District, Ellesmere Port, Neston, Wrexham and Deeside and we pride ourselves on a long and unbroken record of service to the Callers and community. We aim to reduce the number of deaths by suicide by providing a listening service for people who are distressed, desperate and struggling to cope with life. Our Callers are not always suicidal; many are seeking emotional support either to help them through a short-term crisis, or to give them the strength to continue with the on-going problems and sadness of their daily lives.



Thousands of people, from the very young to the older Callers, have had phone, text, e-mail or face-to-face contact with us during the year. Many are from the local area but can also be from anywhere in the UK when our telephone lines are available. E-mails can be from anywhere in the world! Circumstances and cultures can vary greatly, but the emotions that people feel remain much the same. Our Callers know it is a safe place to talk; they will never be condemned for their views or failings, nor judged for how they choose to live or end their lives.

We do not offer advice; we provide a gentle, confidential listening ear and the opportunity for Callers to express their feelings with the freedom and honesty that often isn't possible with those they know.

As well as Listening Samaritans, we have Friends of the Samaritans and without the fund-raising efforts and the publicity that the Friends have given to the work of the Samaritans; we would not have been able to serve our Callers nearly as effectively as we do. Chester and District needs to raise about £40,000 each year to ensure that the Centre is financially self-sup-

porting and the Friends raise a substantial amount each year to help keep the Centre and telephone lines open.

Much of the work of the Friends involves plain ordinary collections at stores, town centres and events such as Chester Races. They also organise treasure hunts, croquet matches, sponsored walks, bridge drives, and take part in the Dee Raft Race plus many other good ideas that raise awareness and much needed cash.

The Outreach Team are active in the wider community and are becoming an integral part of the school programme of personal and social education. Head teachers and school governors are becoming more aware of the emotional and pastoral needs of the young people in their care, and the need to offer support to their pupils. We have a team of speakers who, last year, gave talks to schools and colleges throughout the district and also provided support to a school in which a pupil tragically died. Our Outreach Team of experienced speakers are available to visit local organisations and charities such as schools, local youth groups, hospitals and students unions. We do not make any charge for our visits.

Once a week, our volunteers provide valuable emotional support to patients and their families by attending A & E at the Countess of Chester Hospital. We are on hand to give support with sensitive issues or just to offer a shoulder to cry on. All our conversations are in total confidence.

There are 115 volunteers in the Chester branch who have all been through an extensive training course and we are expected to do a four hour shift at the Centre every week plus one over/night shift every 6 weeks. This enables us to offer a 24 hour totally confidential service to the Callers. The emotional support we give our Callers is underpinned by the support, companionship and lively interchanges we share with each other. With 115 volunteers we can claim a comprehensive cross-section of ages, interests, views and histories – all bound by a common belief in Samaritan principles and a pride in what, together, we have and will continue to achieve at No. 36 Northgate Street.

If you would like to know more about our work, or arrange a talk, please telephone 01244.377999 when we will take a message and arrange for you to be contacted by the appropriate volunteer.

Janet Milton



Christleton Parish Hall

**available for Meetings, Parties, Functions etc,
occasional or regular use.**

The Hall has wheelchair access
and specially adapted facilities.

Please contact the Booking Secretary,

Janet Milton 01244 335469

Please telephone between 10.00am and 8.00pm
Monday to Saturday

This Bellringers hymn was sung recently at the funeral of an old friend who was a bell ringer in North Wales and is sung to the tune Aurelia (The Church's One Foundation)

*Unchanging God, who livest
Enthroned in realms on high
To men the power Thou givest
Thy name to magnify.
We raise the bells for ringing
With ready mind and will
And come before Thee, bringing
Our hearts, our strength, our skill.*

*We call from tower and steeple
Upon the day of days
All faithful Christian people
To worship, prayer and praise
We ring with joyous gladness
When man and wife are blessed
We peal in muffled sadness
For loved ones laid to rest.*

*By union free and willing
The work of God is done
Our Master's prayer fulfilling
We would in Him be one
One, as the Church our Mother
Would have her children stand
Befriending one another
A strong and steadfast band.*

*Our lives, like bells, while changing
An ordered course pursue
Through joys and sorrows ranging
May all our lives ring true
May we, through Christ forgiven
Our faults and failures past
Attain our place in heaven
Called home to rest at last.*

H C Wilder

Margaret Croston

Royal Arms in Parish Churches

Part 2

Last month I described and gave details of the Arms of Charles II to be found on the north aisle at St James. Whilst reading copy of this Magazine for 1984, I found an article by The Rev. Fred Pryce Parry, who I'm sure many older parishioners will remember with great affection. It was Rev. Pryce Parry who had instigated the cleaning of the Arms of Charles II painting, and had accompanied it with a detailed account of the significance of Royal Arms in English Churches. It seems that they were first placed in parish churches in the reign of Henry VIII, towards the end of the 1530s after his break with Rome, to establish the sovereign's position as Head of the Church of England and defender of the faith. This was later changed to Supreme Governor because it was realised that there could be only one Head of the Church and that was Christ.

The whole story co-incides with the Reformation in Europe, and also a period of learning and discovery called the Renaissance. King Henry VIII having defied the Pope and wishing to assert his new authority, sensed a desire by many in England to hear and read the bible in English. He also realised a longing to hear and use a prayer book in public services in the English Language. He then made two crucial decisions.

- 1 He ordered Bibles printed in English to be placed in all English Churches. This was to be known as the Great Bible of Henry VIII.

2. He commissioned the Archbishop of Canterbury, Archbishop Cranmer to produce a prayer book in English, and so the first Book of Common Prayer was printed and first used in 1549. About 100years later at a time of even more great upheaval during the Civil War, during what is now called the Puritan Revolution, there was a reaction against institutional religion and the monarchy. By 1649 Charles I had been deposed and executed, as was the Archbishop of Canterbury, Archbishop Laud. The Monarchy was abolished, together with the Bishops, and the use of this version of the Book of Common Prayer forbidden. It was at this time that the earlier Royal Arms were

taken down and destroyed. All human figures in churches were thrown out as idolatrous, together with stone altars and holy water stop, whilst altar rails were broken up and smashed. An example of this can be found in Chester Cathedral, where the figures surrounding the shrine of St Werburgh were beheaded. By the early 1660s however another significant change took place, as people throughout the land became fed up with the autocratic rule of Oliver Cromwell, and desired the return of the Monarchy. It was an enormous relief when Charles II returned to England from exile in 1662 and soon afterwards all royalist clergy reinstated. The Book of Common Prayer of 1662 was brought into use and every church invited to display the new Royal Arms in thanksgiving for the King's safe return and the restoration of worship.

In the later part of the 18th & 19th C things changed, and the Monarchy had again become unpopular. Many of the surviving Royal Arms were taken down and destroyed, people forgetting what good Monarchs had done to preserve and hand on Christian faith and worship. Few original Royal Arms remain in Cheshire, and the Board at St James' is said to be one of the best surviving examples. These Royal Arms are a continual reminder of our faith and heritage, and of the sovereign's role in helping people worship in their own language. The Rev Pryce Parry then invited Parishioners to remember this story and the Monarchy by examining the coins that we use every day.

He said "If you look at any coin you will find these letters.

Elizabeth. D. G REG. F.D. which means, Elizabeth Dei Gratia Regina- Fidei Defensor

That is Elizabeth, by the Grace of God, Queen, defender of the faith.

So the Royal Arms are there to call us to thank God for, Faith -which has come down to us through the ages. Heritage of Worship which is ours through the bible and the book of Common Prayer, and Good Sovereigns who have helped and encouraged us towards these good ends. These surely are splendid reasons for having the Royal Arms displayed in Parish Churches today."



Ref. Christleton Parish Magazine March 1984.

The photograph shows the Rev. Pryce Parry in conversation with Ronald Hugh Smith, Organist of St James in the 1980s.

WHAT'S ON THIS MONTH

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 W.I.

Meets on the second Wednesday of the month at
7.15 pm in the Parish Hall

Next Meeting

9th February

Childbirth Appeal

Pat Davids

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

MUSIC AT ST. JAMES'

Saturday 2nd April 2011

7.30pm

Chester Ladies Choir in Concert.

Full details next month.

CHESTER FLOWER CLUB

Meetings are held in Christleton Parish Hall on
the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 1.30 pm.

Details of any events can be obtained from
the Secretary, Trish Pollard

COFFEE MORNING

Wednesday 23 February

10.30am – 1.30pm

Christleton Institute

Coffee, home-made cake, sales table

In aid of Serian UK Charity 1111711

All welcome – admission free

CHRISTLETON LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

Christleton Primary School in Quarry Lane

Wednesday 16th February

Speaker. David Cummings

The Art of Stained Glass. Part II

This talk is a follow up to last year's introduction to the making of stained glass, with close up views of the magnificent examples of stained glass to be found in the area. This includes Chester Cathedral, St John's Church, St Paul's Boughton, St James' Christleton, St Mary's Within the Walls, St Bridget's West Kirby, and St Margaret's at Bodelwyddan.

Digital photography has made the capturing of coloured glass images much easier, and using a high definition photo card & slow speed you get very impressive reproduction of the colour and detail contained in these beautifully crafted windows. The talk includes the work of Charles Kempe and of several members of The Arts & Crafts Movement.

WHAT'S ON THIS MONTH

Christleton Gardening Club

Did you know that Christleton has its own Gardening Club?

We have been meeting together now for several years and during that time many new people have moved into the village, but rarely do they join us.

We have an excellent programme of speakers and events, regular visits to N.G.S. and enthusiasts' gardens. From time to time there are plant swaps where you could restock your garden with other members' overgrown perennials.

If you enjoy growing things, anything from a house plant to a market garden, we'd love some new members, new vitality, and new ideas.

The annual subscription is only £10, we meet every second Monday of the month at the Methodist Church Hall (by the pond) at 7.30pm.

In order to entice you, we invite you to come along **FREE to our next meeting on February 14th.**

Mr Harry Delaney of Reese Heath College will be giving a talk entitled "Seeds - when, where, how?"

Of course, you don't need to live in Christleton in order to join us, if you read "THE A 41" you won't have far to travel!

If you would like to know more

Telephone Ann Wilkinson: 01244 332388

GROSVENOR MUSEUM SOCIETY

The following lectures will take place at the Grosvenor Museum, starting at 7.30pm.

FEBRUARY, Tuesday, 15th

"The Royal Charter, Chester-built treasure ship, wrecked on Anglesey".

Speaker : Chris Holden.

MARCH, Monday, 1st

"The Wirral's Dee Villages".

Speaker : Gavin Hunter.

Entrance : Members, free. Non-members welcome.

Suggested donation, £4; students, £2.

Membership information from Ken Holding, Tel 312689; email, k.holding@sky.com

www.SHORT TERM HOUSE GROUP

at

Bob & Gwen Knight's

Telephone: 336236

For 7.00pm Tuesdays

starting at 7.30pm

25th January to 8th March

inclusive

on

Daniel: Spiritual Living in a

Secular World

Part 2

Note this date in your diary

Christleton Village Show 2011

Is on Saturday, 9th July

In Christleton Parish Hall

This year the show theme will be Traditions which should give plenty of scope for inspiration particularly in the Arts categories.

We're hoping for another successful Hanging Basket effort this year. The Baskets and containers at the front of houses and businesses makes such a difference to the village scene and adds to the rural style of our village.

Schedules are now available from Phil and Sue Prees at Christleton Village Stores so get a schedule, choose some categories and start planting, sewing, painting etc. etc. whatever is your thing. It doesn't cost much, is great fun and you could win a trophy – there are lots of them.

This year Linda at Drakes has agreed for the hairdressers to be a collecting point for completed Entry forms which makes getting your forms in on time so much easier.

This is in addition to the direct Entry form collection point of Judith Butts house –Greenmantle, Plough Lane.

If you have any queries or if you would like to help on the day (PLEASE) ring any of the committee below.

David or Beryl Cummings - 332410, Janet Brown – 335785;

Charles Smeatham – 335209. Margaret Croston – 335955

Sue Haywood – 01829 741814; Chris Marsland – 335424;

June Pearson - 335101, Judith Butt – 335296;

Sue and Lewis Rees Christine Abrahams; Iris Foster; Edward Elliot; Sarah Donald.

You can keep up to date with events in Christleton by checking the
WHAT'S ON PAGE at www.christleton.org.uk

CAROLS AT GILLIAN'S

On 17 December we gathered at Gillian Brackenbury's home together with members of the Choir from St James who, having spent time at their usual choir practice arrived at Gillian's together with Steve and his electric organ, and joined members of St James congregation in singing Christmas Carols.



Mulled wine and mince pies were served and a thoroughly enjoyable evening was had by all. Thank you Gillian, for welcoming us to your home. £100 was made for the Choir fund.

14th February - St Valentine's Day

There are two confusing things about this day of romance and anonymous love-cards strewn with lace, cupids and ribbon: firstly, there seems to have been two different Valentines in the 4th century - one a priest martyred on the Flaminian Way, under the emperor Claudius, the other a bishop of Terni martyred at Rome. And neither seems to have had any clear connection with lovers or courting couples.

So why has Valentine become the patron saint of romantic love? By Chaucer's time the link was assumed to be because on these saints' day -14 February - the birds are supposed to pair. Or perhaps the custom of seeking a partner on St Valentine's Day is a surviving scrap of the old Roman Lupercalia festival, which took place in the middle of February. One of the Roman gods honoured during this Festival was Pan, the god of nature. Another was Juno, the goddess of women and marriage. During the Lupercalia it was a popular custom for young men to draw the name of a young unmarried woman from a name-box. The two would then be partners or 'sweethearts' during the time of the celebrations. Even modern Valentine decorations bear an ancient symbol of love - Roman cupids with their bows and love-arrows. There are no churches in England dedicated to Valentine, but since 1835 his relics have been claimed by the Carmelite church in Dublin.

ON REMEMBRANCE

Dedication and Survival

I am constantly amazed at how people who have gone through family tragedy survive; indeed somehow face their deep sorrow with such fortitude that in due course they still find the emotional energy to think of others. We all have friends with that God-given serenity. They are truly blessed, and so are we to know them.

In the 1960's I lost an uncle and an aunt on each side of the family in car accidents in which they were innocent victims. Indeed, my aunt was a passenger. Her three teenage children and their widowed father had a farm to run; cows to be milked, animals to be fed, wheat to be harvested. The regular routine of agriculture was their saviour, even when my aunt's daughter a few years later lost a son aged 5 with a brain tumour. Mutual support in the rural community was a rare quality; my uncle and his family continued to receive, but also to give of themselves with generosity.

Only recently my mother's surviving cousin had his 99th birthday. Joe is a marvellous inherently kind man with an encyclopaedic memory about that side of the family. Four days before his birthday his wife Renée died unexpectedly but peacefully aged 96. I did not have the privilege of knowing Joe and Renée until they were in their 80's, but I knew that the loss of their son and his young bride in a car accident over 60 years ago devastated them. Renée especially mourned their loss deeply for many years. Yet as I met her so much later, and in no way to my credit, she entered more smiling years and was a serene and chatty host when I visited. Indeed, only a month before she died, Renée wrote a neat letter to me on hearing that I had developed a small medical condition. "Fancy you getting that, you'll be fine lad, just be strong, I'll think of you" summarised her sentiments.

True thinking of others before self. Nothing convinces me more that there is something of God in each of us. He somehow bestows in

our hearts not only the potential to love but the courage to be strong; stronger than those like myself who have led pretty fortunate lives can even imagine.

We pray especially at the present time for young widows, girlfriends and children of young soldiers killed or badly wounded in Afghanistan. They need all our love. Nor do we forget those in the parish who have lost family members in recent years, especially in accidents.

Writing about remembrance is not easy, some may find it disrespectful. Indeed I nearly didn't submit these two articles to the Magazine. But over many years I have found that Christleton is an unusually supportive community and at St James Church we constantly pray for the suffering. With God's help we try to reach out to them, even to place a kind bit of ourselves in their hearts.

In our annual service for the bereaved on All Souls Day in November, much of our prayer is personal, quiet, silent. Short moments of silent worship in our regular services are likewise so precious.

Remembrance, precious remembrance.

John Carruthers

Making the most of marriage

Marriage Week UK this year runs from 7th to 14th February, with the aim of celebrating marriage as the basis for family life in the UK. It seems that marriage is still very popular – more than 90% of young people in the UK hope to be married at some point in the future, and the large majority will achieve this. Two out of every three first marriages will last until one partner dies, and one in two second or subsequent marriages will also last a lifetime.

Visit: www.marriage-week.org.uk

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.

MAGAZINE CONTRIBUTIONS

Please ensure all items for inclusion in the **March** edition are sent to Janet Milton (335469), as soon as possible **BEFORE Friday 11th February** or you can e-mail this to christletonmag@hotmail.co.uk

MAGAZINE DISTRIBUTORS

The **March** magazine will be available for collection from Church on **Sunday 27th February**



Today's hymns are based on last week's trend in petrol prices...

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 December 2010

Holy Baptism

5th Benjamin Harry Rushton son of Graham & Alexandra Rushton
23 Melrose Avenue, Vicars Cross, Chester

"We welcome you into the Lord's Family"

The Wedding Service

28th Nicholas Peter Hughes & Hilary Andrea Major
Apartment 2 The Headmasters House, 108 Welsh Row, Nantwich
29th Paul Michael Deacon & Alice Claire Hughes
13 Shocklach Road, Upton by Chester

"Those whom God has joined together, let not man divide"

The Funeral Service

7th Maureen Wade Birch Heath Nursing Home, Village Road,
Christleton

"Grant them eternal rest"

Offertories

December	Cash	CSE	2010	2009
5th	69-50	531-00	600-80	928-43
12th	197-17	724-50	921-67	1065-49
19th	259-59	588-00	847-59	1144-63
26th	24-50	498-50	523-00	953-67
Totals.			£2,893-16	£4,092-22

Details of Christmas Collections

	2010	2009
Carols Around the Tree	658-28	985-25
Midnight Communion	192-00	318-23
Christmas Day 8.00am	76-41	95-07
Family Service 10.45am	348-00	626-20
Totals	£1,274-79	£2,024.75

"Of your own do we give you"

PARISH CHURCH OF ST. JAMES, CHRISTLETON

SUNDAYS	8.00 a.m.	Holy Communion	
	10.45 a.m	Parish Communion	1st & 3rd Sundays
		Family Service	2nd Sunday
		Mattins	4th & 5th Sundays
	6.30 p.m	Evensong	1st, 2nd & 3rd Sundays
		Evening Communion	4th Sunday
		Songs of Praise	5th Sunday
WEDNESDAYS	10.45 a.m.	Holy Communion	
SAINT'S DAYS	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion	

WHO'S WHO & WHAT'S WHAT

Rector:	Interregnum All baptism, weddings and appointments by arrangement with Janet Milton, 335469
Churchwardens:	John Pearson 335101 Keith Smalls 335688
Deputy Wardens	Lois Dickinson Alan McAllester
Reader	Wayne Morris 01978 263389
Verger	David Ellis 336879
Sacristan:	Betty Dunning..... 335652
Parish Worker:	Berenice Hogg336779
Sunday School:	Berenice Hogg.....336779
Mother's Union Branch Leader	Janet Brown335785
Organist & Musical Director:	Steve Roberts815277
P. C. C. Secretary:	Brenda Bailey335034
P. C. C. Treasurer:	David Mercer336155
Stewardship Envelope:	Betty Dunning.....335652
Gift Aid Secretary	Nigel Seddon.....335588
Bellringers	Ian Braithwaite300565
Bellringers Secretary	Nicky Dromgoole.....351124
Parish Hall Booking	Janet Milton335469
C. M. S. Secretary	Janet Brown335785
Children's Society Sec.	Lesley Morgan335088
Visiting Group:	Berenice Hogg.336779
Library	Lois Dickinson378320
Church Flowers	Olive Hammond.....336562
Magazine Editor	David Bull332234
Magazine Compiler	Richard Nicholson336004
Magazine Distributors	Jenny Davies and Valmai Griffiths.....335884
Neighbourhood Link Co-Ordinator	Janet Bowden335705
Parish Resource	
Person for Child Protection	Alastair Holland332819