

Parish Magazine



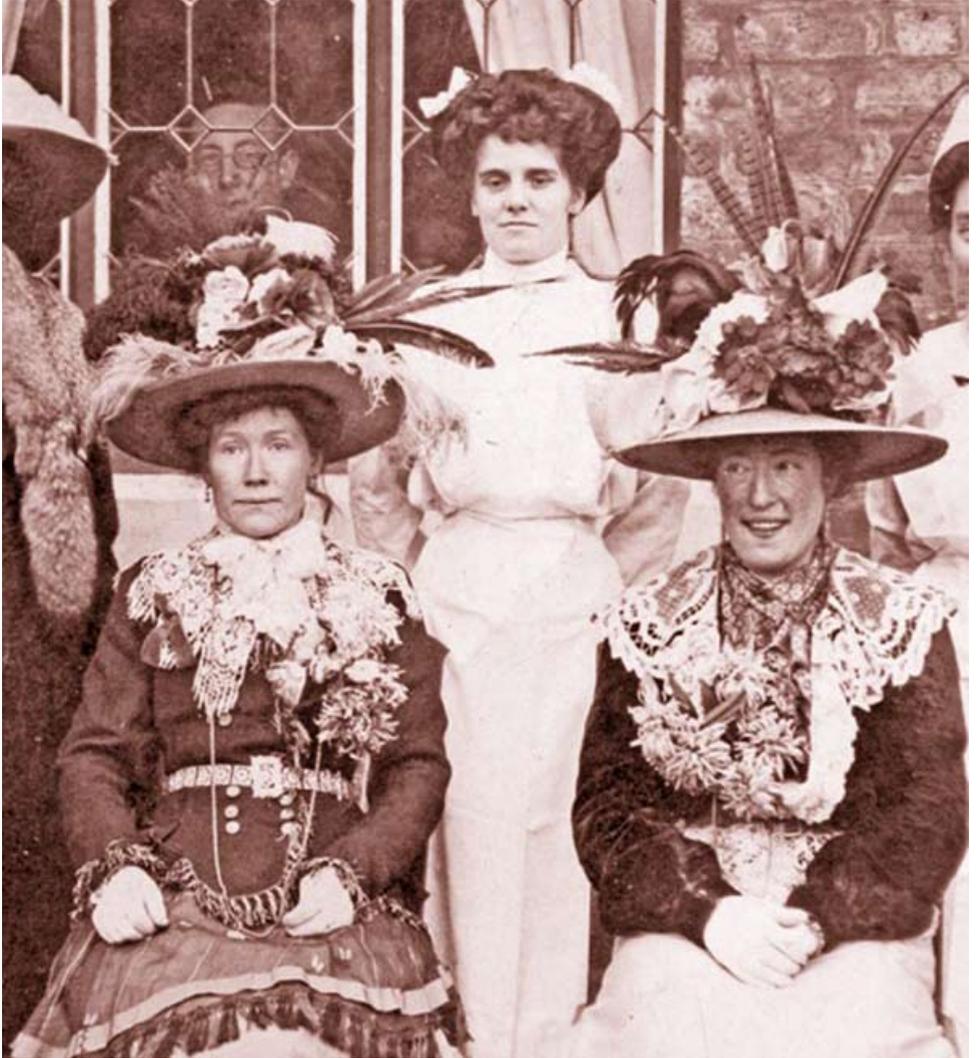
August 2007

# St. James'

## Christleton

30p

[WWW.CHRISTLETON.ORG.UK](http://WWW.CHRISTLETON.ORG.UK)



Advertising August - Rector's Letter - Coronation Festival 1911 - Cathedral News  
Village Fete - Living in Lesvos - Nature Notes - Riches in Romania - Local Events  
Monet's Garden - Flower Festival & Village Show - Our Page - Parish Registers

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# Advertising August

Wed 1 10.45 am United Communion - followed by refreshments

Sun 5 **The Ninth Sunday After Trinity: Proper 13**

8.00 am Holy Communion - Order 2

10.45 am Parish Communion - Order 1

6.30 pm Evensong

*Prayer Link Road: Home Close*

**Neighbourhood Link: Gertrude Wright**

Wed 8 10.45 am Holy Communion - followed by refreshments

Fri 10 **Last day for any contributions for September Parish Magazine, preferably earlier please, to Rector (335663). You can attach your Word document and e-mail to:**

[christletonmag@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:christletonmag@hotmail.co.uk)

Sun 12 **The Tenth Sunday After Trinity: Proper 14**

8.00 am Holy Communion - Order 1

10.45 am Morning Prayer

6.30 pm Evensong

*Prayer Link Road: Little Heath Lane and Pearl Lane*

*Neighbourhood Link: Judith Edwards and Liz Evans*

Wed 15 10.45 am Holy Communion - followed by refreshments

Sun 19                      **The Eleventh Sunday after Trinity: Proper 15**

8.00 am                  Holy Communion - Order 1

10.45 am                Parish Communion - Order 1

6.30 pm                  Evensong

*Prayer Link Road: Littleton Lane and By Pass*

*Neighbourhood Link: Judith Willacy*

Wed 22 10.45 am        Holy Communion - followed by refreshments

Sun 26                      **The Twelfth Sunday after Trinity: Proper 16**

8.00 am                  Holy Communion - Order 1

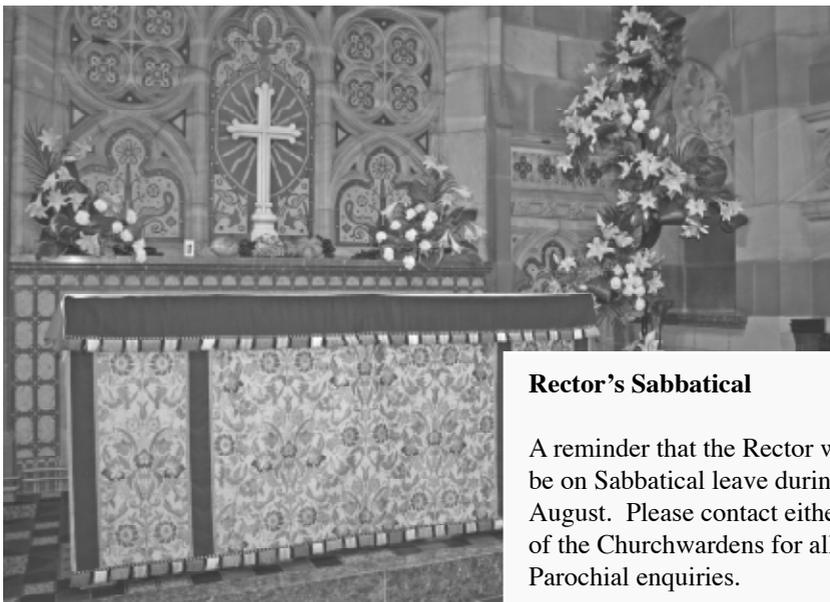
10.45 am                Matins

6.30 pm                  Evening Communion - Order 1

*Prayer Link Road: Moor Lane and Chapel Close*

*Neighbourhood Link: Gwen Knight*

Wed 29 10.45 am        Holy Communion - followed by refreshments



The altar edcorated for the July Flower Festival

**Rector's Sabbatical**

A reminder that the Rector will be on Sabbatical leave during August. Please contact either of the Churchwardens for all Parochial enquiries.

# The Rector's Letter

Dear Friends

## Recreation

The Genesis story tells us that the Sabbath was written by God into Creation – that on the seventh day God rested from all that he had done. I believe that it is a truth of life that we need regular ‘time-out’ for ‘re-creation’, and that without it things begin to go wrong and fall apart. The Ten Commandments are not just religious observances, but the Maker’s Instructions which need to be carried out to get the best from His Creation – and to validate the guarantee! Part of that ‘re-creation’ is to open our lives to a spiritual awareness, which alone will give life its value and purpose. So, as August is a holiday month, and is also my Sabbatical break, I offer this meditational prayer on the verse of the Psalmist: “Be Still, and know that I am God.” It was written by Clifford Wilton, who is a regular contributor to “All the Year Round”, which is a valuable resource produced by the Council of Churches for Britain and Ireland:-

### Be Still, And Know That I Am God

*Living and loving God,  
in these days when our daily papers  
and television screens  
carry news of conflict, violence and war,  
we listen again for that still, small voice  
speaking to our hearts,  
telling us of the Prince of Peace  
and the possibilities of hope  
in a world which is so often dark and cruel.*

*We need to be reminded of the hope  
you hold out to each of us,  
in our individual lives and in the world's life.  
We still our hearts before you,  
and listen for your voice.*

*We look for that stillness of heart  
which discovers the beauty of holiness,  
and makes a space in every day, our God,  
to look with love upon your glory.*

*But we know and confess that we are often so restless,  
so preoccupied with our own small concerns,  
that we fail to see the glory all around us,  
and miss the sound of your voice within.  
Touch us with peace. Make us people of stillness.*

*Give us such a glimpse of your wonder and beauty  
that we go into your world as people transformed,  
speaking with generosity and love to those we meet daily,  
looking with gentleness and forgiveness  
on the people we encounter.  
Thus shall we know what it means to walk with you,  
and for our hearts to be quiet as they rest in your love.*

*Out of such a stillness, rich with such a peace,  
may we be inspired to live as people of your Kingdom,  
in a noisy world which needs your quietness,  
in a cruel world which needs your gentleness,  
in a sinful world which needs your purity,  
in a heartless world which needs your love,  
in a mean world which needs your generosity,  
in a threatening world which needs your calm,  
in a selfish world which needs your kindness,  
and in a hopeless world which needs faith.*

*We cannot do this, nor be such people,  
in our own strength alone.  
So come to us, abide with us,  
until heart and spirit are filled with a vision of your glory,  
and our lives are rich with your peace and love. Amen*

*Clifford Wilton*

May this help us all to be refreshed in body, mind and spirit, and so become better equipped to be God's people in God's world.

Yours sincerely

*Peter Lee*  

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# Flower Festival

I feel sure that the 2007 Flower Festival will be remembered for many years to come as a very special event in the life of our Church and Village. It was a truly remarkable weekend and was so much a 'Village affair' with the Village Show, the refreshments in the Methodist Hall and the decoration of the Village as well as the displays in Church and the Churchyard.

Our admiration and gratitude go to all who arranged the displays on the central theme of 'Our World', which were stunning in their beauty, creativity, imagination and skill. Obviously our particular thanks go to Margaret Renner, who initiated and devised the whole project and Angela Haswell, who master-minded the plan and pattern of the displays. But the Festival would not have materialised without the involvement and help of so many people in so many different ways that it is impossible to thank them individually. There was the organisation and volunteers for stewards and 'front desk', the army of workers preparing the Churchyard and providing 'back up' work in Church, the separate contributions of the refreshments in the Methodist Hall and the Village

Show in the Parish Hall, the financial and administrative tasks and all the heavy work of preparation and transport and so many other details.

It was a joy to me just to spend time in St James talking to all the visitors – some very familiar and others complete strangers – and to hear their stories of what the Festival had meant to them. I believe it touched many people and inspired all sorts of responses – most of which will never be public knowledge. The whole Festival was a marvellous team effort and a real blessing. It was one of those occasions where as St Paul observed, God blesses the blessings. The Festival was a real blessing in itself, but inspires and initiates so many more, often unintentionally. Thank you to each and everyone who contributed in any way to help make the Festival such a success. And if it inspired in you any particular thoughts or visions for the future in our shared ministry and mission please share them.

*Peter Lee*

# CATHEDRAL NEWS



to an old rhyme,  
the weather for the next forty  
days:

*Saint Swithun's day, if thou  
dost rain,  
For forty days it will  
remain;  
Saint Swithun's day, if thou  
be fair,  
For forty days 'twill rain nae  
mair.*

## Saints Windows in the Cloisters

**S**t Swithun was raised in an abbey. He was Chaplain to Egbert, King of the West Saxons, Tutor to Prince Ethelwolf and also Bishop of Winchester. His shrine was destroyed during the Reformation, but miracles were associated with his relics. Almost 60 ancient British churches were named for him.

His patronage of the weather arose when monks tried to translate his body from an outdoor grave to a golden shrine in the Cathedral in 871. Swithun apparently did not approve as it started raining for 40 days. The weather on the festival of his translation indicates, according

Born: c 800 at Wessex, England,  
Died: 2 July 862.

Patronage: drought relief, Stavenger  
England, Winchester England.

## Did you know?

If a statue of a person on horse has both front legs in the air, the person died in battle.

If the horse has one front leg in the air the person died as a result of wounds received in battle.

If the horse has all four legs on the ground, the person died of natural causes.

In Shakespeare's time, mattresses were secured on bed frames by ropes. When you pulled on the ropes the mattress tightened, making the bed firmer to sleep on. Hence the phrase 'goodnight, sleep tight'.

It is impossible to lick your elbow.

# Village Fete & Rose Queen



**M**egan Gibson this year's Rose Queen continued a long tradition by opening this years Fete at the Primary School with a delightful speech. Despite the appalling weather everyone gathered outside the Parish Hall to see the procession start, headed by the Farndon Brass Band and a wonderful three masted pirate ship pulled by 2007 Fete Chairman Gareth Bowdler and Al Holland, and pushed by many villagers including Clare Holland, Ed Whalley, Brian Bailey & Ian Beech. After some delicate manoeuvring through the hazards of trees and power lines, the procession arrived at a very wet Primary School field, where "wellies" were the order of the day. The Rose Queen and retinue were as well equipped as they could be for the conditions with pink umbrellas and wellingtons, but despite the rain and mud, everyone seemed to enjoy themselves, raising a great deal, for village charities in the process. I heard a comment that "it was like WWII spirit" again, with lots of fun and laughter despite the wellies, umbrellas and pouring rain. Gareth Bowdler & Ed Walley welcomed everyone, including





a large number of appropriately dressed pirates (young and old) before Hilary Devenport officially crowned the new Rose Queen. In her excellent speech Megan stressed the history of the fete, and invited people to help our good causes by spending money on the many stalls around the field.

Megan with her attendants also attended the annual “Flower Service” held for the first time in the Parish Hall, due the dreadful wet weather\*. Despite the crush,

we had an enjoyable and festive occasion, and this was finished off with the village tradition of placing flowers on untended graves. The Flower Service was followed by a very enjoyable barbecue provided by church members, led by Janet Milton Gillian Brackenbury, Chris Platel and Mike Lightfoot.

\* Last month (June) was the wettest month I’ve recorded in Christleton or Rowton since 1972. My rain gauge had 175mm (7inches) of rain in it, and already in July (up to the 9th) we’ve had a further

## Celebrating Reg Morgan

**F**or a number of years I have arranged that one of the children taking part in the Flower Service places flowers on Reg Morgan's grave. As someone who takes a large number of photographs of village events, and Chairman of our Local History Group, I'm all too aware of the debt we owe to Reg, as someone who recorded the life of our village between 1890 and 1920. It is a wonderful source of material, and evidence of village life, and I hope everyone has enjoyed seeing some of his work on the covers of this magazine during the year. Anna Thompson is pictured placing a floral tribute on Reg's grave after this year's service. DC



### **Many Happy Returns and Many Thanks!**

**C**ongratulations to Richard Nicholson who achieved the ripe young age of 65 on 12th July. We wish him many, many, happy returns of the day.

Richard is an unsung hero of Christleton who not only compiles St James' Parish Magazine month after month, year in and year out, but also is responsible for the, now world renowned, Christleton Village Website [www.christleton.org](http://www.christleton.org) We send Richard - a very big THANK YOU from all in St James' Church and from Christleton Village!

*DCB*

# LIVING IN LESVOS

In early May, Beryl & I joined a group of friends walking on the remote Greek Island of Lesvos.

This beautiful island, the third largest in Greece, is largely unspoiled and apart from walkers and birdwatchers is not on the general tourist route. Apart from fishing which is still largely a family business, the main production on the island is the cultivation of the olive, and Lesvos produces huge quantities of olives and a good quality oil. They also produce sea salt, by using salt pans,



where the stored water evaporates leaving fine crystals of salt which can be harvested. In fact it's near these salt pans that the best bird watching takes place, with over 350 species seen on the island as resident birds or passing migrants. There are carpets

colourful wildflowers everywhere in spring, millions of red poppies in and around the olive groves with huge patches of yellow chrysanthemums. Blue "statis" can be seen all along the coast, and wild orchids, paeoni, anemone, red tulips and fritillarias in the mountains. The paths were good, and we found ourselves walking in completely unspoiled scenery, often high up on mountain tracks, as on Mount Olympos 968m. Walking is mainly along "caldorini", primitive but substantial tracks & paths made of cobbles, used by growers to transport olives by donkey, back to their farms or to the market.

We walked for several days from Agiassos, a delightful town, with narrow streets of close packed houses, centred around a walled church dedicated to the Virgin Mary. Here in this beautiful Byzantine building, there is said to be a miracle working icon of Mary with Infant, the work of St Luke, brought to the village in AD803 by Agathon of nearby Ephesus. This is probably the reason why pilgrimage is made by people from throughout Greece to this Holy site.

However there are still villages tucked away in the mountains where seeing a tourist is a major event,

and where the pace of life is very slow. The men seem to spend all day, sitting at taverner's, fingering komboloi beads and drinking strong black coffee. We also came across several Turkish Baths in remote situations, where thermally heated streams (75-90C) emerge from underground, providing water of excellent quality for the treatment of skin ailments, and for hydro therapy. What struck me most however was

doors always open and welcoming, and the buildings well kept with fresh whitewash. Often there were flowers decorating the building for a particular occasion, Easter & St George's Day had just been celebrated, so garlands of flowers bedecked each building, often, with floral archways at the entrance. We also came across a chapel dedicated to St Paul, built on the site where he had landed during one of his many



the simplicity and unhurried pace of life, and particularly the deep religious convictions of the people. Everyday we came across small chapels situated in the middle of the countryside, with no houses or farms close by. They were cool places for us to shelter from the heat of the sun, the

journeys. Other churches were dedicated to Saint Irene who was exiled on the island and who gives her name to many islanders. Most people who have heard of Lesvos, [Levbos] or {Mytilene} have done so because of its association with Sappho a famous poetess who celebrated women's love some 2000 years ago. We found the island a warm, welcoming place, with a simplicity and unhurried pace of life that we envied.

*David Cummings*

# Cover Picture



## Coronation Festival 1911

I believe that this month's cover picture by Reg Morgan depicts a village celebration for the Coronation of George V in June 1911. Mrs Dean from the Dean's Marina family, is the lady on the bottom right of the photograph and like several others wearing wonderfully decorated hats. We can date the picture because of the appearance in the window of Rev GMV Hickey who was looking after the church whilst Canon Garnet was away in Ireland, and who lived in the house where the photograph was taken for three weeks. Although the picture could easily be one of the ladies of the Temperance Society, very much to the fore in Christleton at that time, or even a Village Play, I suspect that it is a gathering to celebrate the Coronation of George V. If anyone knows the identity of any of the other ladies I'd be pleased to hear from them.

# RICHES IN ROMANIA

## 1. INTRODUCTION AND HISTORY

I had never expected to visit Romania, but a final-year student at Dresden University persuaded me to spend two weeks this summer in her native city of Sibiu in the heart of the country. Hiana was staying with her family on the outskirts, and an excellent guest-house near the city centre provided me with a base for an independent and challenging foray into Romanian life and culture; some days on my own, others with the expert guidance of Hiana or her friends and family. That Sibiu is currently the European Capital of Culture was a bonus.

What of Romania and its history? There can be no country in Europe which has seen so many constant changes in the past 3,000 years. Whatever the view from Britain may be, Romania's entry into the European Common Market several months ago was one of the least complex! For most of its long history, a recognisable Romania has had a large circular shape with



varying lengths of the Black Sea as its seaboard and the eastward-flowing Danube forming its southern boundary. But within that geometrical volume there have been all sorts of comings and goings; each one affecting the social, religious, and political fabric of the country.

Various archaeological discoveries over many years date back to Neolithic times, notably in the far south-east of the country close to Bulgaria. Later the Greeks landed from the nearby Black Sea in the seventh century B.C. and remnants of their settlement remains by Lake Sinoie. If not protected in the coming years, this area so rich in wildlife and plants is threatened with concrete villas and marinas à la the Costa Brava.

It was in that part of Romania that the ambitious Roman Emperor Trajan established his residence

in Constantia from 86 A.D. The biggest engineering feat of his troops was to construct a bridge 1,100 metres long across the river Danube. Roman settlements a little further inland are now UNESCO heritage sites, reminding one of Romania's tremendous potential for balanced tourism.

To the student of place-names, the history of the country since the last Roman settlement in 211 A.D. is the richest minefield! For example, today most villages in the north-western half of the country, Transylvania, still retain three related names reflecting their Romanian, German, or Hungarian origins. As a Christleton parishioner born over 80 years ago in the tiny village of Dobring just west of Sibiu has reminded me, it is also known as Dobirca or Doborka.

Such variations are the outward signs of both minor and major incursions over many years from all directions. Bucharest, the bustling capital city, was reputedly founded as a village by a shepherd called Bucar. Perhaps fortunately, he never lived to see it grow to be the summer residence of Prince Vlad III the Impaler in 1459, nor later burned down by the Ottomans in the early 1600's, nor the sprawling city of today.

That between 1716 and 1881 Bucharest alone alternated at least 4 times each between Austrian and Russian control says little for the stability of the more rural parts of the country either, except that their villages were the regular passageways for the passing invaders. Life just carried on there.

All this brought together the provinces of Moldavia and Wallachia into the Kingdom of Romania in 1881. Stability and continuity since then? Far from it, as a subsequent article will reveal.

*John Carruthers*

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### **The Slide**

As I watch  
She climbs the steps steadily,  
Holding the handrail,  
Her two-year old feet following each other  
Rhythmically, unhesitatingly  
To the platform at the top  
Where she sits down  
And freezes.  
Holding tight to the sides,  
Knees up, feet flat  
She judders down a little way  
Then looks up.  
Her eyes meet my smile, my outstretched arms –  
And she takes her hands off the edge of the slide,  
Shooting forward with a squeal of delight,  
Trusting the love she knows.  
Lord, I have climbed so steadily,  
I have come so far, in my own strength,  
Holding on, holding back,  
Sometimes freezing.  
But I am your child,  
Today I will lift my eyes  
And meet your smile, your outstretched arms,  
I will lift my juddering feet -  
And take my hands off the edge of the slide  
Released to ride, by your Spirit,  
Into the freedom of your will,  
Trusting the love I know.

*Daphne Kitching*

# LOCAL EVENTS DIARY

## SUNDAY SCHOOL

Held in the Parish Hall from 10.30 am – 11.45 am 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.

## THE TREFOIL GUILD

Welcomes former Guides to their monthly meetings at Caldy Valley Centre

2.00pm

Last Thursday in the month  
Chairman Mary Pleavin  
01829 770278

## CHRISTLETON W.I.

Meets on the second Wednesday of the month at 7.15 pm in the Parish Hall  
Next meeting on July 11th  
*Stories from the Theatre*

## 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 DRIVE

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

## CHRISTLETON GARDEN CLUB

The next meeting will take place in September

## MAGAZINE DISTRIBUTORS

**T**he September magazine will be available for collection from Church on Sunday 26th August 2007.

# LOCAL EVENTS DIARY

## CHRISTLETON WEDNESDAY GROUP

### Charity Christmas Card Sale & Coffee Morning

on

**Saturday 13th October**  
**Christleton Parish Hall**  
**10.00am – 12.00 noon**

Admission 80p, includes coffee / tea  
& biscuits.

*Come and buy  
all your Christmas cards  
direct from local & national  
charities at the same!*

*Homemade cakes & Jam together  
with  
a toy stall also available*

## STOP PRESS

A date for your diary  
**Wednesday 3 October**

ADAM PARTRIDGE  
from Marshall Antiques and TV's

## FLOG IT

Is coming to spend an evening in  
Christleton Parish Hall  
Start thinking about which interesting  
antique(s) you will bring

with you for him to look at

More details in next month's magazine



Registered charity 1020854

Do you have a child aged between 0-3  
years? Stuck for something to do on a  
Tuesday morning between  
10 - 11.30a.m? Why not come along  
and meet the **Christleton Toddler  
Group** in the Parish Hall. We meet  
every week during term time. £2.00 per  
session, which includes refreshments

## MAGAZINE CONTRIBUTIONS

**P**lease ensure all items for inclusion in the **September** edition  
are sent to the Rector, as soon as possible BEFORE Friday  
10th August or you can e-mail this to

[christletonmag@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:christletonmag@hotmail.co.uk)

# MONET'S GARDEN

Four intrepid travellers

With all the talk about Flower Festivals, flower arrangements & the Village Show, 3 worshippers from St James plus one other from Welshpool thought they wanted to see the real thing and decided to go & see Monet's Garden at Giverny, France. These four intrepid travellers were collected by their faithful driver 'Edward' at 6.30 am and driven to the

in the right place & not able to see very much through the windows of the car due to the heavy rain. Gill went on a "recky" & came back with newspapers and mints but no more information.

Eventually the coach arrived and we finally set off about half an hour late. We had an eventful journey in some ways, stopping at a Service Station & had "bacon butties", delays on the motorway due to an accident, the hydraulic system on the coach door became temperamental & thanks to mobile phones the driver was able to fix it – the first time. At the next stop to collect more passengers the door again failed to close & again the driver managed to fix it, but decided to go across country to another Service Station to meet an engineer who would do the job



motorway services at Lymm, there to board the bus to start their journey to France. They parked in the car park as instructed, surrounded by hundreds of huge wagons, not very sure that they were

properly. By the time we reached Oxford the passengers there had been waiting, in the rain for 2 hours & were not too happy! We had lunch en route which we'd brought with us & with our damask

serviettes on our knees we had smoked salmon sandwiches, followed by fresh fruit, all washed down by a nice bottle of red wine! With all the passengers finally on board it was full speed for Dover but due to the delays we had missed our slot on the train so had yet another “comfort” stop waiting for the next train. There were no customs formalities apart from photographing the underneath of the coach but as Gill and Janet had never been through the Channel tunnel before they went to the front of the train & sat in the Vantage Point to see what was going on (just wanted a good old nose about really) & the other two stayed on the coach. Our journey took about 35 minutes & we arrived at Calais with another 4 hours driving before reaching our destination. We stopped at a French Service Station for “comfort & sustenance” and were delighted at the standard of food offered – far superior to the English. Refreshed & a little tired we continued our journey & hit the rush hour traffic in Paris finally arriving at our hotel approximately 20 minutes from the centre of Paris at 11.00 pm – totally exhausted!

We were up bright & early the next morning to have breakfast – continental style - at 8 o'clock. Unfortunately plastic cups were provided for our tea/coffee which everybody grumbled about so Christine took it upon herself to be spokesperson in requesting proper cups to drink out of – and guess what, yes, we did get proper cups the next day, thanks to Chris. We arrived at Giverny & Monet's Garden later that morning & the sun was shining. We walked round, completely spellbound

by the garden and the lake covered in lilies, just like his pictures, picking out lots of the varieties of flowers which we had in our own garden but also the weeds which just seemed to blend so well with all the flowers in their natural state. We had coffee and pastries sheltering from a heavy rain shower & then made our way round the house which was fascinating with lots of his family's possessions on display together with copies of many of his pictures which had notices on telling us in which museum the original was on display. The view from the bedroom window overlooking the garden was magnificent & we all agreed it must have been wonderful to wake up in the morning to look out on such an amazing display of flowers, plants, trees, colours etc.

We spent a little bit of time in the shop choosing a souvenir of our visit and then it was time to board the coach to travel through the Seine Valley to Rouen.

It was in Rouen that Joan of Arc was tried and burnt at the stake and a church has now been built to commemorate her name. As we didn't have a lot of time to explore Rouen, we decided to take a ride on an open sided train which took us past all the places of interest but unfortunately when we were half way round, there was an enormous cloud burst of torrential rain and Margaret, who was sitting nearest to the open side of the train, took the full force of the rain. By the end of our sightseeing journey, the rain had cleared and we were back on the coach making our way into Paris for the evening & Margaret none the worse for

her soaking.

Some of our fellow travellers were going on a boat up the Seine but as Janet did not travel well on water, we, along with several others, left the coach at Bastille Square and found a truly French restaurant nearby where we spent the entire evening, just relaxing and enjoying the French cuisine together with a bottle or two of wine!

Sunday morning we were again up bright and early & left for Fontainebleau where we walked through the magnificent gardens of the ancient chateau and had coffee at a pavement café opposite, before coming across the local open air market where we had a lovely hour or so rummaging for the bargains. We went back to the pavement café for some lunch before going on to Barbizon which was a delightful rural village where the French Impressionists Rousseau and Millet lived and there are several artists who live there today and display their paintings for sale in their gardens as you walk by.

Rae, our rep and guide was an amazing fountain of knowledge and throughout our travels she was constantly updating us on the local landscape and it was she who organised a tour of Mont Martré on the Sundry evening. En route we were driven round Paris to see the famous Eiffel Tower, the tunnel where Diana, Princess of Wales died, the Arc de Triumph, Champs Elysées and the famous roundabout where there are no lines or rules of give way – the traffic just goes in all directions. Was that scary! We

left the coach and made our way up the hill (in the rain by this time) to see the magnificent pearl white dome of Sacre Coeur cathedral overlooking Mont Martré but unfortunately it was too wet and too late for us to get any closer as Rae had arranged for all of us to meet in a French restaurant for a ‘farewell’ meal. This meal was not as good as the one we had the night before but it was nice to be with everyone and chat about what we thought of Paris. It was quite late when we got back to our hotel that night, but not too late for a ‘nightcap’ in the bar.

We had to leave very early on the Monday morning to start our journey home and again were caught up in the Paris rush hour. By the time we got to Calais we had again missed our slot on the train and had to wait, so passed the time in the ‘duty free’ shop, but it was so expensive we didn’t purchase anything. Before we could get on the train the underneath part of the coach was again photographed and we all had to get out of the coach with our passports, go through passport control and get back on the coach, while the sniffer dogs were searching our luggage. All this of course, to prevent illegal immigrants. So, we’re on the train again, Gill and Janet go to the Vantage Point again for the journey while Chris and Margaret stay on the coach and soon we arrive at Dover. It’s so nice to be in England once again! The long, long journey home was uneventful but tiring and we arrived back at Lymn Services to see our trusty driver ‘Edward’ waiting for us to drive us back to Chester. Home sweet home.

*Christine, Gill, Janet & Margaret*

# Nature Notes



There is very little to report this month due to the awful weather. Some plants have clearly made exceptional growth due to the warm wet conditions, and several varieties of orchids have really done well, displaying some fine patterns. Giant hogweed, a poisonous plant to humans, which can grow up to 5m in height (15ft) can be seen in huge numbers along the banks of the Dee near the Racecourse, Butterflies, moths and many second brood birds seem to have suffered badly from this extraordinary wet spell. However our swans with their 7cygnets are still growing fast, usually to be seen between "The Trooper" and Egg Bridge at Waverton. On Saturday I spotted CP56 one of last year's cygnets on the children's boating lake at Llandudno. Another cygnet from that brood is at Southport in

Lancashire. We've also heard that yet another Christleton born cygnet is now one of a breeding pair at Plymouth in Devon That, I guess is probably the furthest record we have, beating the arrival of one of our cygnets at Slimbridge in Gloucestershire, or the pair that were seen breeding near Cardigan Island in West Wales. The moult flock at the Groves is now 9 swans, which is at least a start, but nothing like the numbers of the 1990's. However I did see a flock of 128 mute swans on the Menai Straits at Aber-Ogwen, a nature reserve near Penrhyn Castle. So it's pleasing to know that there are still some good numbers of swans about. I wasn't able to get a close enough look, but I suspect that several more of our cygnets were in that group.

DC

# PILGRIMAGE TO

Jordan & Sinai

1 – 9 October 2007

Led by Canon Chris Samuels

Flying from Heathrow to Amman with  
Royal Jordanian Airways

A chance “to walk with MOSES” and fol-  
low his steps to view  
The Promised Land, visiting:

Aqaba and Nueiba  
Mount Sinai Summit  
St Catherine’s Monastery  
Wadi Rum  
The rose-red City of Petra  
Kerak Castle and Mount Nebo  
Madaba and The Dead Sea  
Jerash Roman City

Be uplifted and inspired by these Biblical  
lands: enjoy a truly  
spiritual experience in the company of fel-  
low pilgrims.

Price includes flights, coach, ferries, hotels  
(half board)  
and guide  
£1,020 (single supplement £85)

Booking details from Canon Chris  
Samuels

Riversleigh House  
Station Road  
Rossett LL12 OHE  
01244 579097

## Oldfield Educational Trust

**E**ach year the Oldfield Educa-  
tional Trust offers grants to  
young people from the Ches-  
ter District needing financial help to  
continue their education and develop-  
ment. Annually about 150 youngsters  
benefit.

The target population is widely inter-  
preted, and it is not only college and  
university students who are helped.  
Anyone under 25 may apply, and  
grants are renewable.

Applications may be made at any time  
during the year, although the bulk are  
considered at the Grants Committee  
meeting in mid-September. They are  
means-tested.

Over the years many young people  
from the Christleton area have ben-  
efited.

Application forms may be obtained  
from The Clerk to the Governors, Old-  
field Trust, Exchange House, White  
Friars,

Chester CH1 1NZ (tel: 310022); or  
further information from Ken Holding  
(312689).

*Congratulations*

To Diane Garner who will be  
celebrating a Special Birthday on  
1st August.  
Many Happy Returns,

# FLOWER FESTIVAL & VILLAGE SHOW



*...er, 'sorry about this - but I think I completely misunderstood you on the telephone when you called to ask for permission to hold a festival in church...*

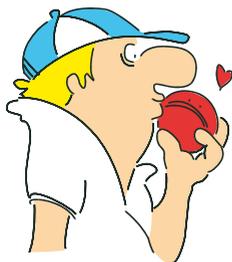
**T**here was no misunderstanding with the Christleton Flower Festival held at St. James' Church on 13th, 14th and 15th July. The wonderful floral arrangements both outside and inside the church brought gasps of joy and wonderment. The colour of so many blooms sculpted into striking artistic arrangements based on a theme of "Our World" set against the dull stone and polished wood features of the church was quite amazing. Then there was that unforgettable scent. Despite the weather only being kind on the Saturday there were a large number of visitors.

The Christleton Village Show across the road benefited from the good Saturday weather as well as the increase of people visiting the Flower Festival with queues forming at times to get into the Parish Hall. Hours of work by willing helpers goes into this yearly event. Besides all the time setting out the exhibits which are then individually judged and talked about the kitchen team prepare a meal for the judges. All went to plan until a judge asked for a corkscrew to open the wine bottle entries. This is an essential item that I have at least forgotten once to take on a picnic. A cry went out and someone dashed home for theirs. Then there is the washing up. All this is before the public are allowed in at 2 o'clock.

Whilst all this was going on not very far away in the Methodist Church Sheila Roberts and many others were providing luncheons and teas. When I called in on Sunday afternoon a beaming John Milton was not only taking the money but also proudly polishing his cup for "Best Plant in Show". It was the first year he had entered the Village Show so he was somewhat surprised as well as delighted. Well done John. Your garden always cheers me up as I return to Christleton.

If you were not able to visit the Flower Festival or the Village Show you can catch up with all the pictures on the Christleton web site.

*Richard Nicholson*



# CHRISTLETON CRICKET CLUB

**D**espite some fine performances from the first team we are still near the relegation zone. The game against league leaders Neston ended with scores tied, but we gained 18 valuable points. Daron Cruikshank scored 116 against Nantwich, but with both Guy Newell and Rick Moore unavailable the team were unable to force a win

The 2nd team are in second place having not played for two weeks, because of the weather, losing ground to Didsbury.

Competition for places is evident and shows the strength of the membership. The future of the club seems secure with a number of young players showing outstanding ability. Chris Hollindale scored 106 in his first game back from university

The 3rd team are totally frustrated by the weather this season. Another cancelled game on July 15th meant that only two

Sunday games have been possible so far this season!

This has also been a difficult season for our junior section with many cancelled training sessions and matches. However we have a lot of very good players and they have won most of the games played.

On Sunday mornings it is worth a visit to see the performances of the village youngsters. You may even bump into head gardener, Jim Partington, feeding the flower beds!

We would like to thank the following sponsors for June/ July:

Wynstay fuels, Mike Jacobs, Brian Davies, Phil Morrey, Owain Davies, David & Joyce Grey, W G Jones, The Bike Factory

For information about the club ring Brian - 332326

## ROUGH

*A little girl asked her mother, "Can I go outside and play with the boys?" Her mother replied, "No, you can't play with the boys, they're too rough." The little girl thought about it for a few moments and asked, "If I can find a smooth one, can I play with him?"*

*"It's hard to suffer in silence, because that takes all the pleasure out of the suffering."*

## **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.



*Flower Festival - the Font at St. James'*

## **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 June 2007

## **The Wedding Service**

- 16th Gareth John Jones 17 Hope Street, Saltney  
& Jane Turner 34 Bluebell Close, Huntington, Chester.
- 30th Andrew Mark Davies 23 Croft Close, Rowton, Chester  
& Natalie Louise Bolton 76 Longton Lane, Rainhill, Merseyside.

*“Those whom God has joined, let not man divide”*

## **The Funeral Service**

- 7th James Selwood Mount The White Cottage, Little Heath Road,  
Christleton
- 11th Nellie Weetman Guild House Nursing Home, Denmark Road,  
Gloucester  
(Burial of Ashes)
- 13th Pamela Antoinette Wilson 13 Stamford Court, Vicars Cross,  
(Burial of Ashes)
- 19th Frances Amy Edwards Birch Heath Lodge Nursing Home,  
Christleton.

*“Grant them eternal rest”*

## **Offertories**

June	Cash	CSE	2007	2006
3rd	130-34	752-20	882-54	1069-75
10th	341-17	670-00	1011-17	802-97
17th	128-60	572-90	701-50	1060-68
24th	165-70	654-35	820-05	866-04
Totals			£3415-26	£3799-44

*“Of your own do we give you”*

