



ST. JAMES' - CHRISTLETON

PARISH MAGAZINE

SEPTEMBER 2009 35p



www.christleton.org.uk

Starting in September

Wed	2	10.45 am	United Communion - followed by refreshments
		7.45 pm	Churches Together in Christleton Committee – The Paddocks
Thur	3	12 noon	Prayer Lunch - The Methodist Church
		7.45 pm	Stewardship Committee - Lady Chapel
Fri	4	6.30 pm	Choir Practice

Sun 6 The Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity - Proper 18

		8.00 am	Holy Communion - Order 2
		10.45 am	Parish Communion - Order 1
		12 noon	Holy Baptism
		6.30 pm	Evensong - followed by refreshments
			Prayer Link Road: Capesthorpe and Sheraton Roads
			Neighbourhood Link: Norma Tissiman
Wed	9	10.45 am	Holy Communion - followed by refreshments
		11.30 am	Holy Communion at Birch Heath Lodge Nursing Home
		3.00 pm	Standing Committee - The Rectory
		7.45 pm	Pastoral and Outreach Committee - Lady Chapel
Fri	11	6.30 pm	Choir Practice

NB: Last date for any contributions for October Parish Magazine to Janet Milton (335469). Earlier if possible please.

You can attach your Word document and e-mail to: christletonmag@hotmail.co

Sun 13 The Fourteenth Sunday After Trinity: Proper 19

		8.00 am	Holy Communion - Order 1
		10.45 am	Annual Parish Communion and Rededication followed by refreshments
			PREACHER: THE BISHOP OF CHESTER
		6.30 pm	Evensong
			Prayer Link Road: Church Walks and The Paddock
			Neighbourhood Link: Judith Edwards
Mon	14	2.00 pm	Mothers' Union
Wed	16	10.45 am	Holy Communion - followed by refreshments
Thur	17	7.45 pm	Preparation for Healing Service - The Lady Chapel
Fri	18	6.30 pm	Choir Practice
Sat	19	1.00 pm	Wedding

Sun	20		The Fifteenth Sunday After Trinity: Proper 20
		8.00 am	Holy Communion - Order 1
		10.45 am	Sunday School - Parish Hall
		10.45 am	Parish Communion with Baptism - Order 1
		6.00 pm	The Crew Youth Group - Parish Hall
		6.30 pm	Evensong
			Prayer Link: Cotton Edmunds and Cotton Abbots
			Neighbourhood Link: Ellen Frost
Mon	21	9.00 am	Holy Communion for St Matthew
Wed	23	10.45 am	Holy Communion - followed by refreshments
		2.00 pm	Toddlers, Parents and Grandparents - Parish Hall
		7.45 pm	PCC MEETING - Parish Hall
Thur	24	2.00 pm	Parish Visiting Group - The Rectory
		7.30 pm	Deanery Eucharist
Fri	25	6.30 pm	Choir Practice

Sun	27		The Sixteenth Sunday After Trinity: Proper 21
			BACK TO CHURCH SUNDAY
		8.00 am	Holy Communion - Order 1
		10.45 am	Sunday School - Parish Hall
		10.45 am	Morning Worship - followed by refreshments
		6.00 pm	The Crew Youth Group - Parish Hall
		6.30 pm	Evening Communion - Order 1
			Prayer Link: Croft Close
			Neighbourhood Link: Beryl Cummings
Tue	29	9.00 am	Holy Communion for St Michael and All Angels
Wed	30	10.45 am	Holy Communion - followed by refreshments

Dear Friends

Thank God!

What a difference it makes if we start by thanking God for all we have! I suppose it's the old 'glass half empty and glass half full' syndrome, but it certainly makes for a happier, more attractive life, if we start by thanking God for what we have, rather than complaining about what we do not have.

I hope that our special Rededication Service on Sunday 13 September will be a chance for us all to thank God for all his gifts to us personally and as a Church. We look forward to welcoming the Bishop of Chester to lead us in that Service. It comes at the start of a new season as we look forward and rededicate ourselves for all we shall be doing. But I think that rightly starts by firstly thanking God for all we have, and have been able to do, in his name. The Service will, in some ways, be a launch of our Growth Action Planning, which is being taken up through the Diocese. But that should firstly recognise all we have been planning and doing over the last few years. The list is very long, but we need to recognise and thank God, for example, for the successful completion of the restoration programme for the Church building, for the establishment and growth of the Crew Youth Group, for all the 'special' services which have inspired us and brought us together, such as the Flower Service in July, and also for the recent completion of the car park renewal with improved lighting. A number of other projects are already in the 'pipe-line'. Hopefully our 'welcome pack leaflets' will soon be available to help people feel at home at St James and find information. Then, recognising the importance of first impressions, we have been improving the porch area and we shall soon have new signage to welcome people to St James. The Parish Hall has been greatly improved and is of real benefit to the whole community. There are also longer term projects to protect our stained glass windows and improve the area of Cremation plots in front of the Church. All of these are thanks to much hard work and dedication from all those involved, and all those who have supported in any way. Another 'thanksgiving' at our Rededication will be to celebrate 40 years in the Choir by Sid Hardy. As we thank Sid we also thank God for all the ways so many people are able to express their faith within the life of the Church.

So this is the background against which we come together on 13 September to rededicate ourselves in the life of the Church, for the next year. Growth Action Planning is not necessarily about doing more and more, but to concentrate on

priorities effectively. That might involve recognising that some of the things we are doing are not an effective use of time, and should give way to new priorities. We hope that as many people as possible will feed in the information to help us determine priorities, and our first task will be to devise how best to enable that. What do you think would most help us to be more effective in our shared ministry and mission at St James?

September also brings another 'Back to Church Sunday' (B2CS), which is on 27th. Building on the 'Open Church' initiative we have established on Sundays through the Summer months, this is just an informal opportunity to welcome everyone to worship on that day, and, perhaps, for people to invite a friend to come with them. September is a good time to make a fresh start, and rediscover the importance of regular worship as a pattern to our lives. The 8.00 am Communion will be the usual said Service which lasts about 30 minutes. The 10.45 am Service will follow a familiar traditional pattern, but in a slightly less 'formal' way and with well known hymns. The 6.30 pm Evening Communion will have more modern hymns and hopefully also welcome those more recently Confirmed. So this is your invitation! Please come and join us.

We have so much to thank God for, so let's use this September to celebrate all the gifts he has given us, as we come together to rededicate our lives in the mission he has entrusted to us.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Peter Lee". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above a short horizontal line.

Prayer of the Month: 'Rising Prayer' by David Adam

*Thanks be to the Father
I arise today
He gives me light
He guides my way*

*Thanks be to the Saviour
I arise today
He gives me love
He hears me pray*

*Thanks be to the Spirit
I arise today
He gives me life
With me to stay. Amen.*

Congratulations

from everyone in the village to Les George OBE 90yrs old on September 25th. Les is still an inspiration to everyone who ever attended or had any connection with Christleton School since its opening in 1958. We wish him many happy returns on his special birthday. Also, to Sid Hardy a member of St James' Choir for over 40years who celebrates

his 80th Birthday on September 14th. Congratulations Sid from the Choir and all your friends in the church and village.



Cover Picture

The Village Green with “Jim’s Oak”, a new young oak tree planted by the Parish Council in memory of Jim Partington “Mr Christleton” who died in 2008. Jim was one of the great characters of the village, and it is appropriate that the tree stands outside the family butcher’s shop, and alongside the “Best Kept Village Sign” a competition which both he and his mother Mary before him did so much to promote.



**Congratulations and very
best wishes to**

Gillian Brackenbury

on the occasion of her 70th birthday
on 17 September.

Love from all her family and
friends.

The Artist

The famous animal and landscape artist William Huggins, was born in Liverpool on 13th May 1820. After studying at the Mechanics Institute, where he won a prize at the age of 15 for paintings of historical subjects, he turned to the drawing of animals for which, today he is best remembered. His knowledge of these was gained from the large number of pets he kept at home, from visits to zoological gardens and on more than one occasion he followed Wombwells Menagerie, a travelling animal circus, around England.

In 1847 he became an Associate of the Liverpool Academy, and a member in 1850. He also exhibited at the Royal Academy between 1842 and 1875. Apart from his pictures of lions, horses, donkeys and poultry, Huggins also continued to paint historical and religious subjects which contained animals. These included “Daniel in the Lion’s Den”, “Una and the Lion”, Disobedient Prophet” and other portraits and landscapes. Many of his landscapes were painted around Chester or on Wirral. He developed a very individual technique, painting with pale transparent colours on a white background.

In 1861 he moved to Chester, and in 1876 he took a house over a stream in Betws y Coed which possibly caused him health problems in later life, as he developed rheumatism and arthritis. It was in 1880 after the death of his wife that he moved back to Chester, to Rock House an elegant Georgian Town House in Christleton where he lived with his brother Samuel an Architect, and sister Hannah. By this time he was suffering so much that he only painted and drew when he felt

Rock House an elegant Georgian Town House in Christleton



well enough. He never ventured far from the village, but lived quietly and modestly as he had always done. It's said in some reports that he was an eccentric individual, and that he preferred the company of animals to people. It's also recorded that he hated travelling in tunnels, and would get off the train before Liverpool and walk the rest of his way home! I like to think of him as a very compassionate man, who recorded meticulously the subjects he was drawing or painting, and there are some wonderful sensitive drawings and paintings in the collection of his work kept in the Walker Art Gallery in Liverpool, the Grosvenor Museum in Chester or in local collections in Christleton. Some of his drawings of lions for example have a definite feline quality, where he appears to capture their cat like movements seen in their natural wild state.

In 1883 his condition worsened and his doctor diagnosed consumption. During the early part of the winter he grew steadily weaker and died on 25th February 1884 at the age of sixty three at Rock House. All his life he had hankered after recognition as a history painter in the grand style, following

on as he was from another famous Liverpool artist George Stubbs, but this he never attained. His brother once remarked that "The chief characteristic throughout his career was his looking at nature alone" The entry in the Dictionary of National Biography stresses the worth of his animal painting and his talents as a draughtsman and colourist. For many years after his death, however, even the popularity of his animal pictures seemed to decline. It was only through the reawakening of interest in Victorian paintings in the 1960's that he became well known nationally and given him the recognition he deserved. His work then became very collectable in 1968 when Jackie Kennedy, wife of the late American President John Kennedy, purchased one of his paintings. Until then his paintings sold for between £115 and £630, but then took off dramatically, and it's said that there were many attics and landings in Liverpool being searched in case they had a "Huggins".

When Samuel died in January 1885, Rock House was sold to the Mosford Family, who set up a Butchers Shop adjacent to the house, built of shiny red Ruabon brick, a fashionable brick developed by the Grosvenor Estate and manufactured at Ruabon. His sister Hannah lived for a further nine years at a small terraced house 82 Tarvin Road, Vicars Cross. All three are buried in the church yard at St James, in a grave to the right of the sun dial walking towards the church from the Lych Gate. The epitaph on William's tombstone, said to have been composed himself reads 'A just and compassionate man who would neither tread on a worm nor cringe to an emperor'. He seems to have been a man of great socialist principles, and we were fortunate to have him living in our village.

David Cummings 2009

Ref.

Christleton History of a Cheshire Village 1979

Christleton 2000yrs of History

Mr D Jones of Liverpool.

"The Observer" Supplement 1964

John Sellers Educational Foundation Christleton

This ancient Trust was set up on 23 December 1779 by John Sellers and local worthies for the education of poor children in Christleton and Littleton. It was originally to provide instruction in reading, English, writing, arithmetic, and for spinning, sewing and/or other manual work. In 1805 it was extended by deed to include the children of Rowton. The original Minute Book is still in use.

The main source of income is from the rent of a field in Plough Lane. The present trustees comprise the Rector, Clerk, a representative from Cheshire West & Chester, and two Christleton Parish Councillors. It is their intention to try and increase the capital and use the interest to provide grants. Further donations or legacies, which could be used to increase the level of grants paid out, would be very much appreciated.

This year the Primary School and the High School have been given money but applications are encouraged from individuals in exceptional circumstances who would like to apply in confidence.

Applications for grants from individuals or groups wishing to be considered should apply in writing before November to the Clerk, Mrs M Croston, 5 Bridge Drive, Christleton, CH3 6AW.

Flora and fauna of the Swiss Alps

Last month we had the opportunity of taking several superb walks through flower filled alpine pastures in the Swiss Alps near the village of Anzere. At this altitude (4,000 up to 7,500ft) many flowers have just emerged from their covering of winter ice and snow, and with the longer daylight hours and the warmth of the late spring and early summer sunshine are just about at their best. Common and tubular gentians with their distinctive blue colours were easy to spot, as were the bright yellow globe flowers, a tall variety of the buttercup family. One meadow was filled with rare white St Bruno lilies, and we also saw the new red buds of a martagon lilly. Another welcome sight was that of several varieties of both yellow and white anemones, together with blue snowbells, devils and sheep's bit scabious, mountain pinks, squill and many forms of bellflowers and hair



bells. Orchids were common, the majority being early purple, common spotted and marsh, but we also saw a stand of pink fragrant orchids some as tall as 1.5 metres high, and examples of creamy white lesser butterfly, man, and green coloured frog orchids. There were also pale flowered yellow orchids, cream heleborines and several tall spindly twayblades. Another member of our group spotted a rare vanilla orchid on these



flower rich slopes. Several of the upper pastures at around 7,000ft were reported to have clumps of flowering edelweiss and rare red and yellow mountain tulips. The lower slopes contained large tracts of sweet smelling yellow broom, purple lavender, specimens of tall spectacular yellow gentian and the bees favourite yellow stemmed great mullien. There were also several clumps of pink alpenrose, a very pretty alpine rhododendron. Such spectacular floral scenery was put into context, when we saw many of these steep sloping meadows being cut down by farmers with old fashioned hand scythes, or small electronic cutters, simply to provide fodder

for their animals, much as our local farmers cut hay for their cattle. The area was also excellent for spotting birds, and a pair of magnificent golden eagles soared high above the skyline, circling and calling to each other above the high crags where they had their eyrie, which overlooked the beautiful flower meadows. They were accompanied in the sky by ravens, chough, buzzard, bearded vultures, black kites, kestrels and peregrine falcons, though not all at the same time! Whilst the woods below contained cuckoo, nutcracker, black & great spotted woodpecker, rock thrush, crossbill, pied wheatear, black redstart, willow and crested tits, We were also lucky enough to see two black squirrels and many mountain marmots, but missed out on seeing any





An Evening with Peter Ashburner & Nick Hall

Wednesday 21 October at 7.30 pm



Christleton Parish Hall

Tickets £7

Some of you will remember the “Evening with Adam Partridge” held approximately 2 years ago which was a great success and raised a lot of money for the St James’s Christmas charities.

Adam has now moved on but we are fortunate that both Peter Ashburner and Nick Hall from Marshalls Antiques in Knutsford are happy to come along to talk about their auctioneering and TV experiences. They are also happy to talk about items that people bring along and where appropriate give valuation advice.

So, to refresh your memories the idea is that people will bring along their favourite antique or collectable, whatever that may be, and the experts will discuss them. There is no limit on the number of items you bring. It could be a piece of silver, porcelain, a picture, a book, it really doesn’t matter.

Put the date in your diary now so that you won’t be disappointed. Tickets will be available in September from me (telephone 335469) and last time there was a waiting list so apply early. As before, all the profits will go to St James’s Christmas Fair charities.

Janet Milton

ON

Brief Encounters

We all treasure those moments when we have met someone briefly, but never again. Perhaps the fellow customer in Boots appeared on television, maybe the woman who picked up our dropped keys was a well known singer. More likely our brief acquaintances were as ordinary as us, and if later they became famous we would never know.

Now and again these slots of acquaintance jog our memory; mention in the news of a particular country, some words in a hymn, a conversation. There in our mind flashes that chance encounter, often many years previously, yet clear and meaningful.

In my youth, three mint pound notes fluttered past me in Enston Road and landed on the pavement. Amidst the bustle of London traffic, I spied a policeman and offered him the cash. "Keep it young man, it's more bother than it's worth. It's very honest of you to bring it to me". Maybe he became a chief constable.

Shortly after that, I was watching cricket at Taunton and walked in front of the sight screen as a fast bowler ran up to bowl to Cyril Washbrook of Lancashire and England. Distracted and angry, Washbrook stood aside, held his bat in the air and made it loudly clear to me and the whole ground that I should not be

John
Carruthers

there. I never repeated the error!

More pleasantly, many of us cherish the memory of a fellow pupil or student who overcame their disability in whatever form. A mischievous younger student at college coped with the awkward steps at the entrance with increasing difficulty and needed our help. But Stephen Hawking could not wait to race off on his sticks or later in a wheelchair. His academic genius in astrophysics, philosophy and other disciplines have done him quite well in his subsequent career at Cambridge and worldwide.

Many years later I was on a flight to Munich and my neighbour told me that she had just completed a degree in English at Manchester University. She had never left her native China before and realistically did not expect to come to England again. Anticipating her 8 hour onward flight to Beijing, she told me that she still had a further 2 hour internal flight to her family home. An only child, her parents were awaiting her arrival with excitement.

Three days later, a ferocious earthquake caused unspeakable damage in central China. In the coming weeks I glanced at a map of Asia several times and prayed that her final flight did not take the valued daughter as far as that region. I shall never know.

Perhaps another article should reflect on the effect WE have on people that we only meet for a very short time and not again. Will they remember our few words as helpful, kind, and constructive or was our intended Christian consideration misunderstood, even unhelpful?

A convinced Methodist, my student farther was hiking round the Scottish Highlands with a friend. One Sunday they turned round a street corner in their shorts to be confronted by a dour Scotsman dressed in black on the way to worship. "Remember the Sabbath", he shouted, rolling both 'r's'. They had no reply.

WHAT'S ON

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

CHRISTLETON WEDNESDAY GROUP

CHARITY CHRISTMAS CARD SALE

Come & buy all your cards direct
from the local & national charities
on

**Saturday 17th October,
Christleton Parish Hall,
10.00 am – 12.00 noon.**

Coffee / tea & biscuits included in
£1 admission.

Also cakes, toys & books for sale.

CHRISTLETON W.I.

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

Next Meeting

9th September, 2009

SCHERENSCHNITTE

Rina Tillenger

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,
Trish Pollard

Telephone: 01829751140

CHRISTLETON W.I. MONTHLY WHIST

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

All welcome

ST JAMES WALKING GROUP

Tuesday September 26th
Marbury & Wiley Moor.

A seven mile walk in South Chesh-
ire.(Canal and Farmland).

Pub Lunch.

**Depart Church Car Park at
8.00am.**

THIS MONTH

CHRISTLETON LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

Wednesday September 27th

7.30pm

at the Primary School
in Quarry Lane

A short AGM followed by a talk.

*Crete and the Minoan
Civilisation.*

David Cummings

Admission £2.50

includes nibble and soft drinks.



Parents ~ Toddlers ~ Grandparents !

You are invited to the
Parish hall in Christleton
on **Wednesday 23rd September**
at **2.00 p.m.**

We will have a short time with
story/songs/activity
for pre – school children, followed
by tea/coffee & cake
and soft drinks for children.

St. James Church

For further information telephone
Berenice 01244 336779

MOTHERS' UNION FLOWER QUIZ

*“What do you know
about Flowers”?*

1st Prize £50

Copies of Quiz (£1)

Available at the back
of St James' Church

GROSVENOR MUSEUM SOCIETY : LECTURES

Thursday 10th September

Michael Murphy

The Big Shop : the History of
Browns of Chester, Kendal Milne,
Fortnum & Mason and others.

Monday 5th October

Andrew Davies

The Sublime and the Ridiculous : A

Look at Victorian Painting

All meetings are in the Grosvenor
Museum Lecture Theatre, Chester,
and start at 7.30pm.

Members free; non-members, sug-
gested donation £4, students £2.

Membership details from Ken
Holding, Tel. 312689.

27 September BACK TO CHURCH SUNDAY

Churchgoers across the Church of England are set personally to invite up to half a million people to services on Back to Church Sunday, 27 September 2009, making the event one of the largest co-ordinated evangelism events shared across the Church in recent history. Every one of the Church's 44 dioceses are taking part in the initiative this year, by encouraging churchgoers to invite someone they know who used to attend church to come back on a particular Sunday. Churches will focus on extending an even warmer welcome than usual on the day, supported by

Don't wait for six strong men to take you to church.

This church is prayer-conditioned.

The soul is a never-ending sigh after God. Theodore Christlieb

God excludes none if they do not exclude themselves. William Guthrie

The Christian is a God-explorer. Tom Wells

Christleton W.I.



15 July

Christleton W.I. was represented by two pairs of bowlers - Jean Nield/Brenda Roscoe and Rosina Williams/Diane Garner at the Winnington Bowls Tournament. Jean and Brenda took second place in the competition overall and our other pair followed closely. Well done ladies.

24 and 31 July

Members enjoyed canal boat trips to Beeston

14 August

Members shared with other villagers a coach trip to Shrewsbury Flower Show

As Michaelmas daisies come in to flower and we look forward to celebrating the feast of St Michael, this is the first in a series of four articles about angels. This was the subject of our Advent meditations last year and was inspired by a book called Angels, written by Jane Williams

Angels: Myths and legends, dreams or reality?

I feel Angels are somewhat neglected by us mere mortals. As we grow as Christians and learn about our faith, I'm not sure how much we learn about Angels or even how they fit into our lives, if at all. It is true that we celebrate Michael and all angels at Michaelmas, As a child this was a major festival for me, partly because Mum and Dad spent their early years together at St Michaels Coppenhall and hence Michaelmas was always their patronal festival. I must have heard many sermons on Angels and their relevance in our lives, but I confess, I can't really remember any with great clarity. Mention Angels today and you get an impression that people are thinking 'you don't really believe in Angels do you? Almost as if they were no different from fairies or even Father Christmas (I hope I'm not shattering anyone's illusions about the existence of either fairies or santa!). The popular idea of angels is that they are sweet and good and kind, an image of perfection which we hold up to children and indeed to adults. Something to aim at rather than beings that exist. We may comment on a particularly sweet little girl that she has an 'angelic' face or a well behaved child as being a 'little angel'. There is also a hope that Angels will attend to all our needs and anyone behaving in an angelic way would be the perfect companion. This is echoed in a popular song, somewhat before my time which goes:

'you may not be an angel, for angels are so few but until one comes along, I'll string along with you'

Not an ideal basis, I would suggest, for a lasting relationship! If we look at the angels in the bible, however, rather than

sweet cherubic beings, we are faced with beings that are strong, awesome, authoritative and distinctly terrifying. It isn't just that their appearance is frightening, which it clearly is, but some of their actions can seem distinctly unpalatable, from dislocating Jacob's hip and wreaking destruction on Sodom to killing 185,000 Assyrian soldiers.

During the course of the next 3 editions of the magazine, I will look at how encountering angels affected people both in the old and new testament and I hope it will provide enlightenment as to the purpose of angels and maybe even open up our hearts and minds so that we too may encounter angels and allow them to show us Gods purpose for us.

First though, some facts and figures:

The word Angel comes from the Greek word *aggelos* meaning messenger. But to only consider Angels as messengers is rather like saying your Rector only works on a Sunday.

In the course of researching this topic, I came across a job description for Angels which is extensive.

But whether it be guiding, providing, protecting, delivering, strengthening, answering, caring, revealing and predominantly worshipping, all their tasks are designed to serve God

St Michael, or the Archangel Michael along with Gabriel are perhaps the best known of all the Angels in Heaven. But Thomas Aquinas, who, incidentally was known as the Angelic doctor because of his extensive writings on angels, describes 9 orders of angels in 3 groups: the highest hierarchy being next to God, Seraphim, Cherubim and Thrones: the middle hierarchy involved in government, Dominations, Virtues and Powers and the third hierarchy involved in work, Principalities, Archangels and Angels. Now I haven't studied the works of Thomas Aquinas, and I have no idea how accurate he is, I, along with the rest of us will just have to wait until my time on earth is over before the full glory of God and his heavens is revealed to me.

But Angels are mentioned at least 108 times in the Old Testament and 165 times in the New Testament so there is ample information in scripture to



allow us to build a foundation for our knowledge of angelic beings.

So when do angels appear in the bible and for what purpose? Jane Williams in her book suggests that Angelic activity is particularly frenetic when God is doing something new, something that might make people feel insecure or threatened. When God calls Abraham, when Jesus is born, when the first Christians start to preach – at all these times God is doing something that will change human understanding of what God is like. That is always a frightening thing. People get very attached to their concept of God, and like to know that they are doing what God wants them to do. The promise to Abraham is a shift in the religious perspective of the time. God promises to be Abraham's God, but not just in the way that any tribal god might be said to belong to one people. God calls Abraham to take responsibility for the way in which all people will come to know God. Abraham is to be a picture of what a relationship between God and people should be like.

In Jesus, God does something even more extraordinary. He comes to live and die as a human being. It ought not to be possible – part of the definition of being God is exactly that God is NOT human. But God is refusing to wait until his people come to him. Instead, he is going out to meet them and bring them home to himself. As we say in our post communion prayer:

‘ when we were still far off, you met us in your Son and brought us home’

The first Christians have to tell the world that this is what God is really like.

So, at the time of Abraham, of Jesus and of the first Church, angels redouble their activity to help people to trust that these shifts really are the work of God.

When the final conflict comes, the time of ultimate choice between God and evil, angels are everywhere, making it plain what God wants. As the distance between heaven and earth closes, as the life of the earth draws to an end, the angelic realm becomes clearer and clearer. They have been God's messengers but when time ends, humans and angels will be able to be in God's presence together.

Both in the old and new testament, whenever angels are encountered things happen.

If this is how angels operate in the bible, perhaps it is how angels also operate today. Angels do not appear simply to comfort and encourage and warn but to move us on, to help us to make some imaginative leap or overcome some mental hurdle that is preventing us from seeing what the world might be like and what our own role in it might be.

Angelic activity is exciting but definitely not for the faint hearted.

Over the course of the next 3 articles I will look in more depth at some of the encounters people in the bible have had with angels but I finish this article with the collect for Michael and All Angels:

Everlasting God,

You have ordained and constituted the ministries of angels and mortals in a wonderful order:

*Grant that as your holy angels always serve you in heaven,
so, at your command,*

they may help and defend us on earth;

Through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,

Who is alive and reigns with you,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit

one God, now and for ever.



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 **October** edition are sent to Janet Milton (335469), as soon as possible **BEFORE Friday 11th September** or you can e-mail this to
christletonmag@hotmail.co.uk

MAGAZINE DISTRIBUTORS

The **October** magazine will be available for collection from Church on **Sunday 27th September**

September means back to school time....

Anyone who stops learning is old, whether at twenty or eighty.

Education is what is left over when you subtract what you have forgotten from what you have learned.

A mixture of misery and education is highly explosive. Herbert Samuel

Human history becomes more and more a race between education and catastrophe. H.G. Wells

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 July 2009

Holy Baptism

- 5th Petra Lorna Margaret Hamilton daughter of
Stewart & Leah Hamilton 15 Portree Drive, Holmes Chapel.
- 5th Freddie William Parkin,
son of James & Claire Parkin 4 Newton Terrace, Newton Lane, Newton by
Tattenhall.
- 19th Isabel Violet Handley
daughter of Robert Handley & Sarah Little Manor Farm, White Lane,
Christleton.
- 19th Max Anthony Brian Jones
son of Daniel Jones and Emily Baker 9 Gerrards Ave, Gt Boughton.

"We welcome you into the Lord's Family"

The Wedding Service

- 25th Kenneth Michael Green & Sonia Elizabeth Harvey
8 The Anchorage, Waverton
- 31st Joseph Neil Woodhouse & Suzanne Marie Kilfoyle
18 Blackthorn Close, Huntingdon.

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

The Funeral Service

- 2nd Beryl Jean Edwards Greenfields, Rough Hill, Marlston cum Lache.
- 30th Leslie Faulder 42 Belgrave Road, Great Boughton.

"Grant them eternal rest"

Offertories.

April	Cash	CSE	2009	2008
5th	340-60	590-00	920-68	752-46
12th	350-98629-70	980-68	918-50	
19th	244-88	661-50	906-38	1,048-24
26th	131-79	550-00	681-79	723-85
Totals			£3,489-53	£3,443-05

"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: **The Rev'd Canon K. Peter Lee, M.A.**
The Rectory, Birch Heath Lane, Christleton335663

Churchwardens:	John Pearson	335101
	Keith Smalls	335688
Reader	Wayne Morris	01978 263389
Reader Emeritus	John Roberts	332207
Verger	David Ellis	336879
Sacristan:	Betty Dunning	335652

Sunday School:	Berenice Hogg.....	336779
Mother's Union Branch Leader	Janet Brown	335785
Organist & Musical Director:	Steve Roberts	815277
P. C. C. Secretary:	Brenda Bailey	335034
P. C. C. Treasurer:	David Mercer	336155
Stewardship Envelope:	Betty Dunning.....	335652
Gift Aid Secretary	Nigel Seddon	335588
Bellringers	Ian Braithwaite	300565
Bellringer Vice Captains	Ian Crossan	332280
Parish Hall Booking	David Mercer	336155
C. M. S. Secretary	Janet Brown	335785
Children's Society Sec.	Lesley Morgan	335088
Visiting Group:	Gill Hibbert.....	336544
Library	Lois Dickinson	378320
Church Flowers	Olive Hammond.....	336562
Magazine Editor	David Bull.....	332234
Magazine Compiler	Richard Nicholson	336004
Magazine Distributors	Jenny Davies and Valmai Griffiths	335884
Neighbourhood Link Co-Ordinator	Janet Bowden.....	335705
Parish Resource		
Person for Child Protection	Susan Alexander	335077



BAPTISMS, WEDDINGS & APPOINTMENTS
BY ARRANGEMENT WITH THE RECTOR 335663

