

St. James'

PARISH MAGAZINE



September 2011

www.christleton.org.uk

35p

Starting in September

Fri	2	6.30 pm	Choir Practice
Sun	4	8.00 am	Holy Communion - Order 2 - Rev Gill Hibbert
		10.45 am	Holy Communion - Order 1 - Revd Canon Peris Williams & Dr W Morris
		12.00 noon	Holy Baptism - Harrison Stanley Dougherty-Graves Revd Canon Peris Williams
		6.30 pm	Evensong – Dr W Morris - followed by refreshments Prayer Link Road: Skips Lane Neighbourhood Link: Pt Hawkes
Mon	5	10.45 am	Holy Communion at Oaklands Nursing Home
		11.20 am	Holy Communion at Tarvin Court
Wed	7	10.45 am	Holy Communion - followed by refreshments
Fri	9	1.30 pm	Wedding - Jordan Emery and Katie Rothwell
		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.uk			
Sat	10		Historic Churches Preservation Trust Bike Ride
Sun	11	8.00 am	Holy Communion - Order 1
		10.45 am	Family Communion and Rededication Service – followed by refreshments
		12.00 – 4.00 pm	A “Bring and Take away ” See Parish Magazine
		6.30 pm	Evensong Prayer Link Road: Tarvin Road & Brickfield Lane Neighbourhood Link: Roger Bellamy, Nigel Seddon, Huw Morgan, John Carruthers

Mon 12	2.00 pm	Mothers' Union - Parish Hall
Wed 14	10.45 am	Holy Communion - followed by refreshments
Wed 14	10.45 am	Holy Communion - followed by refreshments
	11.20 am	Holy Communion at Birch Heath Lodge Nursing Home
	7.30 pm	Pastoral & Outreach - Toll Bar Road
Fri 16	2.0 pm	Wedding - David John Dance & Aimee Cowell
	6.30 pm	Choir Practice
Sat 17	7.30 pm	Ceilidh – Dancing to “Two Left Feet” in Parish Hall – see details in Magazine
Sun 18	8.00 am	Holy Communion - Order 1
	10.45 am	Sunday School - Parish Hall
	10.45 am	Holy Communion with Baptism – Fynnley Joseph Davies and Anya Samantha Bentham
	6.30 pm	Evensong Prayer Link: The Park Neighbourhood Link: Margaret Kingston
Mon 19	7.30 pm	PCC - Parish Hall
Wed 21	10.45 am	Holy Communion - followed by refreshments
Fri 23	6.30 pm	Choir Practice
Sun 25	8.00 am	Holy Communion - Order 1
	10.45 am	Sunday School - Parish Hall
	10.45 am	Matins - Followed by refreshments
	2.0 pm	Wedding - Roger Peacock and Anna Nilssen
	6.30 pm	Evening Communion Prayer Link: The Square Neighbourhood Link Liz Evans
Wed 28	10.45 am	Holy Communion - followed by refreshments

Letter from Our Rector

We have been truly blessed over the past few weeks here at St James. It has been our privilege and our pleasure to be part of so many weddings. One particular statement from the preface to the marriage service began to resonate with me **“Marriage is a sign of unity and loyalty, which all should uphold and honour, it enriches society and strengthens community”**

The recent civil disorder in many major towns and cities caused by a minority of people was truly awful to watch on our television screens, the deaths of three young men trying to protect their community, the destruction of livelihoods (in one case a furniture business which had traded for over 140 years) and the wanton vandalism of rioters and looters.

Such actions can decimate communities, it can cause people to want to leave and never return.....or it can galvanise communities, it can stir communities into action.

The social network sites, used by those intent on causing damage and destruction was now being used by those who wanted to stand up for their communities.....and the call went out

Before long many people male and female, young and old, all turned out and began to sweep away the broken glass. I heard one lady on the television remark, **“They can shatter our windows, but they will not shatter our community”**.

It would have been so easy for those who engaged in the cleaning up operation, to stay indoors, to say, “It’s not my responsibility” but community is the responsibility of all and the actions of those who engaged in the clean up after the devastation, certainly enriched society and strengthened community.

Saint Francis of Assisi is credited with the following”**Preach the Gospel in all places.....and where necessary.....use words**”

Actions speak so much louder than words, and the actions of those who sought to enrich community over the past weeks by their stoic actions is a lesson to each of us.

As a Christian community we to have a responsibility to the wider community and our words and more importantly our actions speak volumes.

The week of prayer for Christian unity this year focussed on one significant passage from the Acts of the Apostles; (Chapter 2 vv42-47)

They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favour of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

What a vision of community

Your faithful servant

Malcolm

Christian Aid Campaign and Supporters Day

There will be a Christian Aid Campaign and Supporters Day in Manchester on October 1st. This is a great opportunity to attend an event to find out more about Christian Aid, the goals, the campaigning and have discussions about the best ways to achieve the eradication of poverty. The afternoon will consist of workshops at Manchester Methodist Central Hall followed by a service at Manchester Cathedral, which leads into a procession and a vigil outside the houses of parliament.

On Saturday 1st October, the eve of the Conservative Party Conference, supporters from around the UK will be joining Christian Aid, Cafod and Tearfund in Manchester for a day of learning, campaigning and worship on the issues of climate change and global poverty.

Speakers from around the world will come together to discuss global issues with a focus on the damaging effects of climate change on the world's poorest communities. They will include former president of the South African Council of Churches, activist and theologian, Prof. Tinyiko Maluleke, who will speak on how the global church and Christians can lead action on climate change.

After the speakers and a special ecumenical service in the Anglican Cathedral, attendees will form a procession to the conference centre, where the Conservative Party Conference will be taking place, and will hold a candlelit vigil to pray for the government not to forget the world's poor during its conference.

By taking a stand in Manchester on this day, organisers and supporters hope to remind the Conservatives of David Cameron's promise to be the 'greenest government ever'. The world's poorest and most vulnerable people are already suffering the impacts of climate change and are being hit first and hardest, despite doing the least to cause the problem. Now is the time to reflect on what the government has achieved so far, but also to remind them of their pledge and encourage them to do more to help these communities.

If you would like to join the 'Bearing Witness' event, or you would like further information, you can register at www.christianaid.org.uk/bearingwitness or call on 0207 523 2158.

People in the News

Successes at the Nantwich Show

Congratulations to Janet Brown, Edward Elliott, Gillian Brackenbury & Ben Williams for their successful and prize winning entries at the Nantwich Show at the end of July.

Thank you



Fund raising walk from Chirk to Prestatyn along Offa's Dyke Path / Llwybr Clawdd Offa

Jenny Davies and Valmai Griffiths would like to thank all who donated money in aid of The Multiple Sclerosis Society.

Not all 'Sponsor Money' has been paid yet, but over £400 has been raised so far.

We were very grateful for the support given.

Diolch yn fawr.

A Sincere Thank You

I would like to say a sincere thank you to the Sunday Morning Service congregation of St James Church for making me welcome and feel part of the family of St James, at a time in my life when I needed your spiritual support and friendship. I now worship at a church nearer my home enabling me to attend on a regular basis.

I will always remember your understanding Rector Peter, and all your friendly faces.

May your church continue to make new comers feel at home as quickly as you made me.

Anna Patterson
August 2011

DIAMOND WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Belated congratulations to Len and Vera Vickers on their Diamond Wedding Anniversary on 8 August last.

Very best wishes to you both.

Harold's Special Birthday

Congratulations to Harold Winlo on his 90th birthday on September 13. Harold and Sheila have been faithful pillars of the church for over 30 years, attending Wednesday and Sunday services each week. All of us at St James wish them both well on Harold's special birthday.

TEA PARTY AT JUNE BROCKLESBY'S

It is with regret that June Brocklesby's name was incorrectly spelt in last month's magazine.

David
Cummings

One of the success stories this warm summer has been the emergence of a larger number than usual of butterflies, damselflies & dragonflies.

I've seen more than ever and at times have seen clouds of these delightful insects feeding and in flight. Close up photography of such insects is always difficult, but with some understanding of their feeding habits and much patience, I've been able to get very close as seen below



with the examples of the male & female banded aragon damselflies featured below. Our swans have lost another cygnet since last month, with just three surviving as I write. However this year has been an excellent breeding season



for barn owls and a week or so ago, Alistair McCreary & his team from the Broxton Barn Owl Group ringed four healthy young barn owls from a nest site close to the village. They

were all a good weight and it is likely that these beautiful youngsters two males & two females will be flying about at dusk in the near future, and are so well developed that they should now be able to cope hunting for their own food even if the weather becomes wetter. The adults were roosting up at another site and were not present in the nest

when the ringing took place. A close up view of the wing enabled me to see the very fine shaped outer wing feathers that enable these birds to hunt so silently. They are sometimes known as ghost owls as they drift silently over meadows at dusk. The structure of their facial disc with eyes shaped like small radio dishes enables them to have fantastic vision, and although their ears are very small they also have exceptional hearing. These young barn owls gave us very good clues as to their whereabouts by hissing loudly each night from their nest site, a very distinctive sound. The species has done pretty well in Cheshire this summer with 116 chicks being found at 52 nest sites. The weather does play an important part with the highest number of 165 being recorded in 2007, and the least in 2006 with just 14 young when the weather was very wet.



Whilst the young barn owls were being ringed, two Little Owls were spotted at almost the same village site, and are also thought to have several young. These small owls, 8-9 inches tall and quite round in stature are diurnal and can often be seen during the daytime, on trees or hedgerows but because of their excellent camouflage are more likely to be heard rather than seen. I haven't heard of any tawny owls being seen

feeding young yet, but several reports of their calls being heard come in most months from areas all around the parish.



The Village Show Part 2

In last month's article I wrote about the founding of the show, and the important part it played in village life during Victorian & Edwardian Times. This was almost entirely down to the Rector The Rev. Canon Lionel Garnett. He was clearly the founder and inspiration of the Village Show and so many other things in village life. During his time as Rector between 1868 and 1911, he was a truly inspirational leader of the parish. He was a Christian with a mission to lead the village to greater things, not only improving the spiritual life of the village, but providing a new church, new schools, a Men's Institute, "a brass band to occupy the young men", and sporting facilities, so that the village could field teams in football, rugby and cricket. He had the vision, and the financial backing of Lucy Ann Ince from Christleton Hall, and other members of the community. To enable the parishioners to be part of the fundraising, he instigated both the Village Fete to provide funds for the rebuilding of the church, and the Village Show to provide funds for the building and running costs of the Boys, (now the Parish Hall) and the Girls and Infant Schools. (The five houses at Smithy Court) In addition to all his varied sporting interests he was evidently a keen gardener and a horticultural expert as his obituary shows.

"Canon Garnett had a quiet, reserved personality, and was one of the best types of country parson, who, with something of the tastes of a country squire, can enter into rural life with an insight of one to whom the mysteries and joys of gardens are an open book". He was an original member of the Paxton Society, and was a regular exhibitor at its shows. The exhibits staged by Canon Garnett were always looked upon as being the result of a skilful cultivator and in the Class A, which is open to those employing professional gardener's, he was always a prominent prize winner. The Rector was an authority on hardy fruits, but he was equally at home with hardy herbaceous flowers. As an ardent a rose grower and an all round horticulturist, he could point with pride to the rectory gardens wonderful richness of colour, and perfection of form in flowers and fruit, and the rectory garden became a place of parish joy. He was a respected judge at many of the shows in the Chester District, and in the

neighbourhood for miles around, especially at chrysanthemum, rose or fruit shows and was an expert on all matters touching the art of flower or fruit growing”*.

Following the death of the Rector in 1911, in the week that the Titanic went down in the Atlantic, the work of promoting the show was taken over by a local committee, and the details of this are shown below in the style of Agricultural Show that is described here.

Agricultural Shows

The 1913 show was a show of Cheese, Brood Mares, Foals, Horse Leaping (Show Jumping) and Turnouts (Horse drawn carriages), and again seems to have been extremely well organised. This is described as an annual show for the whole district, open to residents of Christleton, Great Barrow, Guilden Sutton, Trafford, Picton, Upton, Wervin, Croughton, Plemstall, Tarvin, Stapleford, Hargrave, Huxley, Handley, Waverton, Saughton, Tattenhall, Huntington, Aldford, Hoole and Newton. The President was J W Macfie Esq.J.P. of Rowton Hall. The Hon. Secretary Mr JH Salmon of Rowton, and the vet Mr Jas Storrar MRCVS. The Committee included Mr Beech, Sam Earlam (Headteacher) Mr Heywood, Mr Lunt, Col Logan Mr Witter, and many other well known local families. The new Rector Rev GMV Hickey gave permission for it to be held on the Rectory Field on Wednesday 20th August and he continued to support the show during his incumbency.

In the minutes for the 1914 Show we find Mr E Porritt became President, Mr Charles Cullimore Vice President, Capt Currie Chairman of the Committee, with Mr Salmon



as Secretary and Treasurer. Mr Porritt gave four additional prizes for the Best Kept Cottage Gardens and Allotments worth 1st 1. 2nd 15/- 3rd 12/6d and 4th 10/-

This agricultural show clearly was the highlight of the village summer, and over the years was held on other sites in the village including fields on Birch Heath Lane, and Hunters Field between Littleton Old Hall and Christleton Pit. A glass slide from 1911 shows a huge marquee on the fields, and this was erected to display flowers, produce and cheese. Many of these village activities ceased because of the two World Wars, and it's only in the late 1940's that the Agricultural Shows were revived. *Ref. Chester Chronicle.

Basilicas, bee-eaters and bumps on the bonce – an extended stay in Italy.

We visited the wildest unspoilt part of Italy we have ever found – Citta san Angelo, in Abruzzo, the province on the Adriatic coast east of Rome. 5 of us, or mostly 4, lived in a converted tower in an Agriturismo, very comfortable but wild in surroundings. Dawn over the sea in the distance every morning at 5.45 woke us early – in time for nightingales singing in the valley, deer with big ears in the morning mist, and swifts screaming round the tower, like teenage hooligans on motor bikes both night and morning.

Our experience was enriched by redstarts nesting in the tower, and Ron spent many a quiet peaceful hour drinking coffee and watching the pair feeding the young. Liz and her brother James, however, went potty trying to photograph them showing their distinctive red tail feathers!

Buzzards wheeled over the valley, stonechat perched on the top of the pine trees, and we definitely had tree sparrows all around. About 5 hoopoe were seen but the stress of photography only allowed for a record of 2 on camera. How upsetting to hear they were round the farmyard eating crumbs after a party on the day we escaped to the mountains.

The orchids of the mountain range, and other spring flowers were a joy to behold, and from a temperature later of 34 degrees we dropped to 4 degrees in the mountains with snow on the roadside. I am sure I saw a nutcracker though there was debate on this and we also saw ravens over the crags of the Gran Sasso d'Italia. After discovering a couple of hypothermic octogenarians I felt I had better return to the lowlands!

In between cappuccinos, birdwatching and brushing up our flora botannica, we visited mediaeval hilltop towns and their churches, finding many beautiful peaceful places. We noticed too the division in society on Sundays, half going to join the dark clothed church groups and half congregating outside the supermarkets open on Sundays! One enormous Basilica, a previous monastery, provided a once in a lifetime experience where Liz sang alone in its nave “Glory be to God the Father” and wondered how she came to have such a powerful voice!! (purely an acoustic effect).

Ron had an unfortunate fall on the morning of our return home ending up in hospital for another 2 weeks. This was the down side, but it allowed Liz to stay in her beloved Torre Mannella, watching birds every dawn, and having the most peaceful time in her life with absolutely nothing to do except think, worry, draw sketches and write the odd poem! Clearly time for plenty of meditation as to what really mattered in life. Hospital visiting improved our Italian no end and arguing with the doctors and professor became almost second nature. The tales from the other wives of the circumstances of their husbands' falls, and their families problems kept us both going!

The experience of a “Victorian” hospital with added CT scanning facilities was an eye opener and we are glad to return to the NHS where hot water for washing and showers are the norm! As is sharing the management plan with the patients!
The primary purpose of this missive is to thank the many people from home, church and RSPB who supported us, especially me so very well by telephone and text messaging.

The other purpose is to publicise this fantastic area of Italy to visit, and the welcome from our hosts, Lea and Onello Rupi, of Torre Mannella who could not have been more helpful and supportive in our circumstances – info@torremannella.com.

Liz and Ron McClure

A Very Special Eileen

Our good wishes to with Eileen Quin who has moved to a home near Gresford.

Eileen has been a regular member of St James both on Sundays and until latterly on Wednesday mornings for very many years.

She is a lady of talents, especially known for her paintings and miniatures for which she has won many trophies in the Christleton Annual Shows in past years. She is a member of the Society of Limners.



The Society was founded in 1986 to promote and encourage the practice of miniature painting and calligraphy to a high standard.

Joan Kidd and Netta Dew have been to see Eileen and she appears to have settled in very happily. If anyone wishes to make contact with her they can contact her daughter – Maggie – on 01978.852707.

Margaret Crostont

Eileen's Miniature of The Manor House, Christleton

SITUATION VACANT

Applications are invited for the position of Verger at St James Parish Church, Christleton. Any person interested should contact the Rector, the Reverend Malcolm Cowan (01244 335663), for further details about the position. An outline Job Description is given below. We hope to make the appointment in mid-October.

JOB DESCRIPTION

Title: Verger

Name of Holder(s):

Responsible to: The Rector of St James Parish Church, Christleton

Main Purpose of Job: To assist the Rector in preparation and support of all services.

Main Responsibilities:

Sunday: In agreement with the Rector open the church if required and assist in preparing for any communion service

Weekly: Tidy up the church including cleaning the carpet areas and stone floors as required

Ensure church waste is put into the waste bins each week

Ensure that notice boards are up to date

Attend funerals and toll the bell

Attend marriage ceremonies

Relevant Education/Qualifications/Skills:

Flexible in approach to all tasks, the Verger should be village-linked and be a person of integrity.

Terms and Conditions:

All fees for weddings, marriages and funerals are paid (currently at £60 for each service)

Out of pocket expenses including car mileage are reimbursed

Tax and NI obligations, if any, are the responsibility of the job holder.

Signed:

Holder: Date

Responsible to: Date

ON REASSURANCE

The older among us have had plenty of years to clock up moments or even longer periods of anxiety or doubt. Indeed we mostly forget the lesser downturns in our life or how they were ultimately resolved. Even the bigger downs seem less disastrous when we look back years later. Did we feel fearful or anxious at the time, sad or depressed, confused or muddled, angry or bitter? Maybe a bit of everything. What and who helped us out of it?

Those of us who attend church may be among the lucky ones. Even if we only worship and reflect in the building for an hour each week, we are blessed with the opportunity there to centre down prayerfully and in stillness, to have a good sing, and hopefully to feel reassured and supported by the ministry, the readings and the prayers. People whom we welcome in church for baptisms, weddings, funerals, and other special services may get these feelings the stronger just because they attend church less regularly. That is a very important part of our witness as a worshipping congregation.

So often it is the cheerful remark at refreshments afterwards or just on the church path that has sent us home enriched, happy and supported.

Christians believe that even in our fragility we can humbly ask God to release us from fear, to reassure our anxieties, and to point us in an onward direction when our worries slowly disappear and become part of our past. But we know that God will not do it for us anymore than our maths teacher can sit that dreaded maths exam on our behalf. We have to make our own effort. That will take time, sometimes quite a long time.

Fundamental to Christianity (and to certain other faiths) is the concept that there is something of God in every person, something of potential goodness. For me that inner light, as Quakers call it, is in everyone whether they attend church or not, whether they profess to follow Jesus Christ, Mohammed, someone else or no-one.

It embraces all people even those who may seem to us unattractive, boring, or lacking character. They are all God's children with a kernel of love in their hearts as much as anyone.

If we have been in a bit of a mess in the past, who reassured us and helped us to get out of it? Perhaps it was a teacher or a priest, perhaps it was a parent or an uncle, perhaps a young friend. Sometimes a third-party, a person with no connection with our family or previous experience, turns up trumps. My university tutor only knew me for 3 years of my life but he kindly reassured me in so many respects, not just in academic life.

As I have got older, I am lucky to have many friends much younger than myself, providing a fresh and positive reassuring attitude with the perspective of many years ahead of them. Some of them can still run around on a tennis court or sprint up hills which I find more difficult these days. Yet we older people have that longer experience of life (only by chance) and it is our responsibility to use that perspective to encourage and support others. We can be at the end of the phone, free to be visited or to visit, and ready to rejoice with each other in the blessings of life and to sympathise and encourage one another when adverse circumstances arise.

John Carruthers

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 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 GARDENING CLUB

The Gardening Club resumes its
programme on

Monday 12 September.

Jane Allison will be talking on
HERBACEOUS BORDERS.

Meetings are held at Christleton Methodist
Hall at 7.30p.m

New members welcome - £10 per year

HOUSE GROUP Bob & Gwen Knight's

(Tel. 336236)

For 7 Tuesdays:

4th October – 15th November 2011

Start 7:00 for 7:30 pm

'Restoring Hope: Seizing the Moment'

CHRISTLETON W.I.

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

Next Meeting

14th September

Mold W.I. Choir

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, Lillian Hopley
Tel: 01244 676683

GROSVENOR MUSEUM SOCIETY

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

Wednesday, 21st SEPTEMBER : "The
Gladstone Family : People and Places".
Speaker : Elizabeth Davey.

Wednesday, 12th OCTOBER :
"Sir Thomas Egerton, Keeper of the
Queen's Conscience".
Speaker : Bernard Dennis.

Entrance : Members free; guests and
non-members welcome, suggested
donation £4.

Membership details from Ken Holding,
Tel. 012444 312689
email, k.holding@sky.com"

WHAT'S ON THIS MONTH

CHRISTLETON

Local History Group
Wednesday 21st September
at 7.30pm

The Primary School in Quarry

The Treasures of the Tomb of Tutankhamen **Speaker. David Cummings**

The material for this talk was photographed at the recent display of all the artefacts from the tomb at the Museum of Museum's in Manchester, where magnificent replicas of every item found in the tomb were on display, part of a major international touring exhibition

Admission £2.50
including light refreshments.

All welcome.

Music at St James'

(Provisional date for a fund raising Concert)

Saturday 31st October 2011.

7.30pm at

Christleton High School
Dee & Alyn Gilbert & Sullivan
Society
Songs from the Shows
Details next month.

CHRISTLETON

WEDNESDAY GROUP
CHARITY CHRISTMAS CARDS AND
GIFT SALE

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

Saturday 8th October,
at Christleton Parish Hall,
10.00 am to 12.00 noon

Free admission
Coffee / Tea & Biscuits available

Also
Cakes, Books CDs & DVDs
forsale

A "Bring and Take away " **September 11th**

12.00 – 4.00 pm

On green outside St. James'

...swap a plant ...swap a book
bring a cake...

or any small item
and give a donation please
to support this event in aid of
East Africa Crisis Appeal

Refreshments
Proceeds to D.E.C.

**Churches Together in
Christleton
Autumn Lecture**

What the Manchester Quakers
did for the Jews during the last
war – the Missing Chapter
A talk by Dr Peter Kurer

**Tuesday October 11th
at 7.30pm in the Parish Hall**

The British Quakers brought Peter, one of a family of nine, out of Austria in 1938 before the Second World War. The Quakers had persuaded the British Government to allow them to organise “Kindertransport”. The Quakers gave individual guarantees, estimated to be £350,000 (£17.5 million at today’s rates) to enable around 6,000 Jews to come to the UK, finding housing and jobs for them.

Peter has worked tirelessly to have this work recognised, by collating survivors’ stories into an academic paper. Historians have supported the work. The Israeli Holocaust Museum Yad Vashem has recognised the value of this work, which has been placed among 130 million documents in the museum. Peter was a distinguished dental surgeon and is well known in Manchester for teaching, lecturing and for his work for the care of the elderly.

Jan Bowden

**Ceilidh
with
Two Left Feet**

**September 17th
7.30 pm in Parish Hall**

Tickets :

£8.00 – single

£16.00 – couple

£25.00 – family

Supper included
Bring your own alcohol.
Tickets available from
September. in church or
from church members.

ALL WELCOME

Contact 01244 336779

HARVEST SUPPER

To be held in the Parish Hall on Saturday 8 October at 7.30 pm
Details to follow.

By George

I first visited Malta six years ago and on that occasion went on an organised day trip to Gozo. At that time the Commonwealth Conference was on in Valletta. I had seen the Queen in the city and believed that Prince Phillip was on Gozo although he was not in our mini bus party of twelve. Since then I have visited Malta every year but had not returned to Gozo until July this year. Gozo is a small island to the north of Malta divided by four miles or so of blue sea punctuated by the even smaller island of Comino.

It was extremely hot so I spent a fair amount of time in the sea cooling off and swimming in the Blue Lagoon on Comino. Fortunately it was a jellyfish free year. I managed to squeeze in a bit of culture as well visiting the cave of the nymph Calypso in Homer's Odyssey. No sign of a nymph now but the crickets were very noisy.

On my last weekend I visited the Festa dedicated to Saint George in Victoria, the capital city of Gozo. On Saturday night the brass band was playing in the square outside Saint George's Basilica. Built in the 1670's it suffered severe damage in the earthquake of 1693. Mounting the flight of wide stone steps I entered the church. Ahead of me down the aisle was a large ornate and extremely impressive bronze and gilded canopy over the high altar. As I wandered around I just marvelled at the sumptuous marble, the carvings and the richly painted dome. And then I saw him. Nestled between two stout pillars which had been covered in red silk damask for the Festa. The very handsome and young patron saint, Saint George, sculpted in wood by Pietru Pawl Azzopardi in 1838. So very lifelike standing on an ornate carved base, a slain dragon lying behind his feet, one arm outstretched the other holding a wreath. His helmeted head tilted as he stared dreamily upwards at the richly painted scenes on the ceiling. Little did I know then of the excitement and fervour he was about to create the next day and the special experience that was to delight me.

I returned to Victoria on Sunday about seven in the evening. The squares, roads and narrow streets were starting to fill with people. The rich red patterned banners strung across from one building to another and the beautifully carved and painted plinths some of which were surmounted by biblical figures now glowed as the sun started to set. Bright street lights made the white shirts of the band members look even whiter and were reflected in their highly polished instruments. The chattering musicians started to move with a purpose as I closely followed them through narrow winding alleys. Emerging into the square the church was ahead of me. A beacon lit by hundreds of electric light bulbs. As I looked up I saw that every vantage point was now occupied. Balconies I had not noticed the day before were now full of people. The church bells were ringing from the two high bell towers surmounted by flag poles flying the parish flag and the flag of Saint George. People were leaning over the balustrades of the bell towers as lone figures behind them swung the two clangers

from side to side. There were sharp outburst of bangs as fireworks somewhere in the city were lit. I started to thread myself through the crowd trying to get as far forward as I could. Behind me the band started to play. The maestro dressed in a shirt, suit and tie. How could he cope with the very warm evening temperature I wondered as he conducted with professional panache. Does he train in a sauna for such conditions I thought. As the band played there was a trickle of confetti as small pieces of coloured paper followed by cut out stars fell from the bell tower and the balconies. My eyes strained towards the entrance where I had noticed some movement. And then surely and slowly, borne by eight sturdy men dressed in white cassocks and rich red capes, Saint George started to appear. There was an acknowledgement from the crowd which enticed him to come further into view and display himself on the top steps. Standing in the crowd were four members of the clergy holding up long high painted poles from which hung large coloured banners marking the path that Saint George would eventually follow. The music was now growing stronger and louder. Vocalists had joined in as the excitement of the moment now started to become more apparent. The confetti grew and grew twinkling against the light blue evening sky. You knew from the pace of the music that the composer already had the conclusion of the piece in mind as above all the sound of the brass rose the magnificent voice of a tenor. The eagerness of the crowd swelled with clapping. The figure of Saint George swayed from side to side as a forest of palm leaves rapidly shuddered and trembled on the steps beneath him. Then came the time when there were no more notes to sing or to play. The composer had succeeded in stirring the soul and the music was replaced with a frenzy of fervent clapping and cheering. My exclamation of "I have never seen or heard anything like that before" was overheard by a tall gentleman in a suit who tapped me on the shoulder and agreeing said that I would never ever again. A small eager Gozitan then butted in to inform me that the gentleman who had just spoken to me was none other than the President of the Band Club. So I just wonder if the words of a very appreciative lone Englishman were repeated in the Band Club that night as no doubt copious amounts of ale were quaffed.



So on 23rd April next year when St. George's flag is either hanging limply or fluttering in a breeze from the flagpole outside St. James's Church in Christleton my thoughts will be for that proud lone figure standing in the Basilica in Victoria on Gozo. Waiting for the third Sunday in July to come so that he may once again enjoy the adulation that will be surely be waiting for him.

Richard Nicholson

September, 2011

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Keep the Home Lights Burning

The team of hardy Christleton Lamppost decorators regrets they are retiring from decorating the lampposts for the Christmas Season. We have been lucky that our existing team, consisting of

**Hilary and Brian Devenport | Ann and Victor Parfremment
Martin Thompson | Paul Anson
Bob Wilcox | Paul Broughton**

have been able to carry out this function of bringing good cheer to the Village without mishap.

Time has moved on and we find ourselves in the midst of 60's and 70's, except for the 3 young men in their first flush of youth, Martin, Paul B and Paul A.

We have enjoyed doing this for the last 10 years, the first being Millenium Eve. We made friends with kind householders who plied us with cups of coffee and tea, and not forgetting our generous benefactors, whose donations have allowed us to extend the decorations to all the lampposts in the village, having only started with the middle cluster. We were also able to renew some of the decorations, which survived snowstorms, hail, gale force winds and finally -14 C last winter. We have been very impressed with the respect shown for the decorations by the village young and old, as they remained intact throughout the Christmas Seasons. We also thank the motorists who took the trouble to stop by to shout praises and thanks.

We invite people who would like to take on the task of maintaining the tradition we have set by taking over the decorating of the Lamp posts to contact us. We will help to "train" you over a glass of wine and a few laughs. Storage of the decorations is also essential. We have carried out this task at our own risk without any insurance, but we took good care of one another especially when ladders were being climbed. It takes us 2 hours to put the decorations up and the same for taking down.

The plus side of this is that after the "Putting Up" day we settle down to a good lunch and on the "Taking Down" day we have another one. We have enjoyed fantastic hospitality from Paul and Ally Anson, Anne and Victor Parfremment, and also Hilary and Brian Devenport. They were spontaneous events brought on by the close friendship of the group.

Hilary and Brian can be contacted on 01244 336033

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 9th 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 25th September**

Your choice

One beautiful Sunday morning, a priest announced to his congregation: "My good people, I have here in my hands three sermons...a £100 sermon that lasts five minutes, a £50 sermon that lasts fifteen minutes, and a £10 sermon that lasts a full hour. "Now, we'll take the collection and see which one I'll deliver."

Parish Registers for July 2010

The Wedding Service

- 2nd Andrew William Sherwood & Miranda Jane Cann
118 Chester Road, Huntington
- 8th Simon George Stewart & Melanie Sarah Carrington
38 Green Lane Estate, Green Lane Deeside
- 28th Daniel Rodney Millington & Anna Charlotte Jones
9 Bromfield Park, Mold
- 30th Alan Catherall & Carly Dawn Matthias
66 Padbury Way, Bolton, Lancs

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

The Funeral Service

- 5th Nancy Catherall, Parklands Nursing Home, Callow Hill, Redditch
89yrs
- 18th Raymond Pells, Plough Lane, Christleton (Burial of Ashes)
- 18th Geoffrey Raynor, 7 Mortlake Crescent, Great Boughton 73yrs

“Grant them eternal rest”

Offertories

July	Cash	CSE	2011	2010
3rd	149-70	535-50	685-20	932-84
10th	176-35	387-50	563-85	907-19
17	64-10	581-10	645-20	1,563-81
24	81-72	587-00	668-92	604-30
31st	303-10	601-50	904-60	
Totals.			£3,467-77	£4,008-14

“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 Malcolm Cowan, B.Th
The Rectory
Birch Heath Lane
Christleton
01244 335663

All baptism & wedding enquiries to Janet Milton 335469

Churchwardens:	John Pearson	335101
	Keith Smalls	335688
Deputy Wardens	Lois Dickinson	
	Alan McAllester	
Reader	Wayne Morris	01978 263389
Sacristan:	Betty Dunning.....	335652
Parish Worker:	Berenice Hogg	336779
Sunday School:	Berenice Hogg.....	336779
Mothers' 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 Secretary	Nikki Dromgoole	351124
C. M. S. Secretary	Janet Brown	335785
Children's Society Sec.	Lesley Morgan	335088
Visiting Group:	Berenice Hogg.....	336779
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Parish Resource		
Person for Child Protection	Alastair Holland	332819