

St. James' Christleton



Parish Magazine
MAY 2005

30p

MAY DAYS

Sun	1		St Philip & St James. The Sixth Sunday of Easter
		8.00 am	Holy Communion - Common Worship Order 2
		10.30 am	Sunday School - Parish Hall
		10.45 am	Parish Communion with Baptisms
		6.00 pm	The Crew Youth Group
		6.30 pm	Evensong - followed by refreshments. Prayer Link Road: The Square Neighbourhood Link: Liz Evans
Wed	4	10.45 am	United Communion - followed by refreshments.
Thur	5		ASCENSION DAY
		7.45 pm	Holy Communion
Sun	8		Sunday After Ascension
		8.00 am	Holy Communion - Order 1
		10.45 am	Christian Aid Family Service - followed by refreshments
		6.30 pm	Evensong Prayer Link Road: Toll Bar Road Neighbourhood Link: Doug and Betty Johnson
Tues	10	8.00 am	Church Ramble Group leaves car park for Conway
Wed	11	10.45 am	Holy Communion - followed by refreshments
Home		11.30 am	Holy Communion at Birch Heath Lodge Nursing
Thur	12		Mothers' Union visit to link branch at New Brighton
Fri	13		NB: Last day for contributions to June magazine, preferably earlier, to David Bull (332234).

Sun	15		WHIT SUNDAY
		8.00 am	Holy Communion - Order 1
		10.30 am	Sunday School - Parish Hall
		10.45 am	Parish Communion with Baptism
		6.00 pm	The Crew Youth Group
		6.30 pm	Evensong
			Prayer Link Road: Village Road Neighbourhood
			Link: Jean Cresswell
			CHRISTIAN AID WEEK
Mon	16	2.30 pm	Parish Visiting Group - White Haven
Wed	18	10.45 am	Holy Communion - followed by refreshments.
Sun	22		TRINITY SUNDAY
		8.00 am	Holy Communion - Order 1
		10.30 am	Sunday School - Parish Hall
		10.45 am	Matins
		6.00 pm	The Crew Youth Group
		6.30 pm	Evening Communion
			Prayer Link Road: Whitchurch Road
			Neighbourhood Link: Janet Milton/Norman
			Goodwin
Mon	23	10.00 am	Churches Together in Christleton Committee
		Away Day	
		7.45 pm	Deanery Synod - Hoole
Wed	25	10.45 am	Holy Communion - followed by refreshments
		7.30 pm	Archdeacon's Visitation
Sun	29		The First Sunday After Trinity
		8.00 am	Holy Communion - Order 1
		10.45 am	Matins
		6.00 pm	The Crew Youth Group
		6.30 pm	Evening Worship
			Prayer Link: Those outside the Parish who
			worship at St James'
			Neighbourhood Link Area Secretary: Janet
			Milton

The Rector's Letter

Dear Friends

Election and Ascension

It may not have escaped your notice that the day chosen for the General Election, Thursday 5 May, is Ascension Day. Election and Ascension: how do they relate to each other? The Election is the day when we, the people, have the opportunity to choose who will govern our country. Ascension is the day when we remember how God affirmed Jesus, through his Ascension to Heaven, as his Son and as our pattern and purpose. The Election is for this country for a maximum of five years: Ascension is for the whole world, for all time and eternity. The Election is about people power: Ascension is about God's power. For anyone who calls themselves Christian, Ascension must mean that for them Jesus Christ is 'King of Kings and Lord of Lords'. Our faith is not about our choice in a 'pick and mix' culture; our faith, as exemplified in Ascension, is about accepting Jesus Christ as God in human form; the blueprint for Creation; the pattern and purpose for life in God's world. That means that the Election, and all else in life, should be informed by, and secondary to, our faith. How we cast our vote on 5 May should be fundamentally affected by our faith. Which party do we believe has the manifesto most likely to further God's Kingdom?


I am not a political person, and this letter is certainly not party political propaganda. I believe that there are politicians of all parties who are genuinely motivated by the highest ideals, and who have become involved in politics precisely because they want to make our world a better place. I believe we should thank God for those who genuinely dedicate themselves to public service. I also believe that the different political parties include Christians, who have made different decisions, but share a common Christian conviction. What I am saying, however, is that each of us should exercise our Christian conscience in deciding how we should cast our vote.

Christian conscience will affect many areas of public life, but to take just one example, May also includes Christian Aid Week (15 – 21). Christian Aid is the Church's own agency to further the Gospel imperative of bringing fullness of life to all people. Ascension is the affirmation that the compassion for people, and the unequivocal demand for social justice, that we witness in Jesus of Nazareth, is affirmed by God as an essential

attribute of his Kingdom. The movement to 'make poverty history', adopted by Christian Aid, challenges political priorities and policies. It is not only correct, but necessary, that the Church as a whole, and ourselves as individual Christians, should challenge and examine the policies and politicians, to determine which we feel has the best policies to further that priority. That political choice should be part of our support for Christian Aid and alongside our giving of money in Christian Aid Week.

So Ascension should certainly inform and affect our choice of how to vote at the Election. But our faith starts with ourselves and we should not look to our elected representatives to excuse us from our own ministry and mission. Ascension should affirm our own confession of Jesus Christ as Lord. But Ascension is followed by Pentecost, which this year is on Sunday 15 May. If Ascension gives us our purpose as Christians, then Pentecost gives us our power. As we hear the familiar story from Acts 2 of how the Holy Spirit came as fire and wind to empower and drive out the first disciples to witness to the Good News of Jesus Christ, so the Holy Spirit still comes to the followers of Jesus today, to give us power and purpose to be his Church, and to help build God's Kingdom. Then again Trinity Sunday (22 May) affirms the fullness of God as our Father above us to guide and direct us; as Jesus the Son alongside us to comfort and teach us; and as the Holy Spirit inside us, to give us the power and conviction to be his people in the world.

Yours sincerely

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

Prayer of the Month:

Martin Caldwell

Almighty God, you are the source of all that we have and are and know. In you lies our hope of justice and peace on earth, and of goodwill among all people. Grant to us, who have the freedom to vote, an understanding of the issues involved in the coming General Election, so that what we believe in our hearts, we may practice in our lives, and what we practice, especially in our voting, may be for the greater good of all and for the honour and glory of your name.

Grant to all those who shall be elected to serve in Parliament the spirit of understanding, of courage and of true service. Grant too that our nation may be wisely governed, the rights of all protected and that all our people may be free to serve and witness to the truth as it is in Jesus Christ, our Ascended Lord, in whose name we pray. Amen
May, 2005

This poem was read by Jessica Abrams as a tribute to her grandfather at his funeral service.

Your smile was like

Your smile was like a harbour or a safe haven for ships that were lost at sea.

Your smile was like a log fire on the darkest, coldest winter's night

Your smile was like a favourite item of clothing or like a duvet, it was like a child's teddy or a favourite blanket

Your smile was like a mummies hug, to a babe that had fallen or hurt itself

Your smile radiated so much warmth; it would have melted a thousand ice bergs in an arctic sea

Your smile shone so brightly, like the brilliance of the sun that's breaking a summers morn

Your smile was like a HOME, it made you feel safe, warm and loved

Your smile became your voice, your manner, your card.

Your smile is imprinted on us all; it was infectious, with no cure

It felt that your smile became your destiny.

Whether it is in hours, days, weeks or even years to come, when you are remembered, your famous smile will radiate across our thoughts and faces.

Your SMILE is your legacy.

CONGRATULATIONS

To Mrs Dandy who was 90 years on 7 April

An informal Bible Study is starting on 3 May and will meet weekly for four weeks. It will be held at White Haven, Little Heath Road, and will be lively, down to earth And illuminating. Do come. Enquiries to Margaret Bass (335517) or Gill Hibbert (336544).

CATHEDRAL LINK

The opening of the Song School took place on Friday 4 March, and it was good to see so many friends, past and present, among them, the former Dean Stephen Smalley and Pam Conway, Katherine and Philip, as well as the oldest chorister, Eric Williams who was a chorister here in 1916. The Duke of Westminster was invited to perform the opening ceremony, but due to snow storms in London was unable to make the journey.

A rose named Salvation...

The Salvation Army has had a rose named after it. Rosa Salvation was first unveiled by BBC Breakfast presenter Natasha Kaplinsky at the Chelsea Flower Show, and appeared in the Salvation Army/Buildbase garden. It was bred by Harkness Roses, and the Salvation Army will receive a percentage of proceeds from sales of the new plant. The money will be used to fund projects in the UK and abroad.

In both quality and profusion of bloom, this new rose is a rising star for the future. Its prettily formed urn-shaped flow-

ers are glowing amber infused with apricot, and they release a rich, fruity perfume. /Salvation/ is an ideal choice for planting out, as well as a delight to cut for indoor decoration.

Flower-bearing is in clusters, usually between 3 and 7 blooms per stem, and repeat blooming is recurrent for as long as the growing season continues. Growth is compact, sturdy and bushy, ideal for general planting in groups, for bedding and for borders. This is an excellent colour to combine among the pinks and blues of summer flower borders. h80cm x w60cm *Price Per Rose: £7.95*

Well dressing in Derbyshire

This ancient custom of 'dressing' wells is only found in or around the borders of Derbyshire. At its simplest, it's the art of decorating spring and wells with pictures made from growing things. No two villages dress their wells in exactly the same way, and dressing a well can take up to seven days of work, with a whole team of people, to achieve. Some villages carry out their preparation in secret, while others invite people to watch as they dress the wells. This month you can go and see: ...

KRAKOW 1959

The film “Schindler’s List” and the recent death of Pope John Paul II have drawn our attention to the beautiful ecclesiastical city of Krakow in southern Poland. Many of the street scenes in that film were not actually shot in Krakow, much of the Pope’s amazing ministry was worldwide and not confined to Europe.

However, the city’s proximity to Auschwitz, the Pope’s childhood home of Wadowice even closer to that concentration camp, and its centrality in the Polish Roman Catholic church’s brave challenges to communism, mark Krakow’s special place in modern history.

I discovered this for myself when I spent a few days there in 1959. What was I doing in Krakow? Much later, I was asked for my contribution to the book “Why Dresden?” to explain my fascination with Eastern Europe.

I wrote:-

“In the 1950’s I was actively involved with Young Quakers and in 1957 I watched with awe as an official group of them challenged the rigid

Iron Curtain by visiting the USSR. That visit made the national press, it was so unusual. Two years later the Society of Friends planned a group exchange with young Roman Catholics in Poland and asked me, a 19 year old student to join them. The extreme contrasts of bitter militarisation as we passed through East Germany, and poverty and great kindness in war torn Poland, firmed up my Christian faith for ever”.

Our 10 Polish partners did not pretend to be born again Christians, even to worship each Sunday, but in 1959 they were growing up in a country where church attendance was officially frowned upon and the challenges of a communism imposed by Moscow daily threatened their freedom. The burgeoning Pope, Karol Wojtyla, had been Bishop of Krakow for one year.

I have special memories: the 2 or 3 of our English group who spoke German sympathetically avoiding use of the language in public (even to Poles who spoke it); dancing in the huge Krakow market square ostensibly to celebrate the 10th Anniversary

of the Communist Republic of Poland; and at our Polish friends request a half-hour Quaker Meeting sitting on the gorgeous slopes of the Tatra Mountains to the south. I can still hear that silence.

Yet when we got back to England we soon discovered that our Polish exchange partners had been prohibited by their state from making the return visit. After 18 months their letters to us slowly dried up did they ever receive ours? Where are the cousins Hanka and Hanka now and Roger their leader? Are they alive? Did they marry and have children? I should love to know.

I still cherish deeply all that Krakow meant to our young Polish friends and to Bishop Karol Wojtyla early on his passage to Rome. The asymmetrical towers of his great Cathedral symbolised then, as they do now, everything about Christian faith that is lasting, outward looking, ecumenical, and politically challenging.

John Carruthers.

Wonders

*Birdsong and wind-song
Dewdrops at dawn,
A carpet of sparkles
Laid out on the lawn.
Petals and pollen
And striped fluffy bees,
Visiting flowers
And blossoms on trees.*

*Starlight and moonlight
Shine from on high,
The splendour of sunrise
That flushes the sky.
Frost on the trellis
All glittering bright,
Feathers of snowflakes
That drift through the night.*

*Rain-clouds and rainbows
And sunflowers of gold,
Poppies of scarlet
That blaze bright and bold.
Our Father gives beauty
In which all can share,
For all of his wonders
Abound everywhere.*

Kathleen Gillum

Nature News

This month has seen the arrival of the first migrants as predicted, with chiff chaffs being heard all over the village. Often the sounds that birds make are the clue to their identity. The chiff chaff with its call, chiff- chaff, chiff- chaff being an obvious one. Another warbler species given its “ sound” name is the loud and raucus Cettis warbler, which makes the sound cettis- cettis- cettis. I heard one last week giving its explosive call from just a few feet away, and yet so secretive I couldn’t see it. Other species can be identified by shape or flight, or habit. The green woodpecker often seen foraging on the ground in the churchyard is known as the ‘yaffler’, a corruption of laughter, as its call resembles a loud laughing noise. The great spotted woodpecker regularly seen and heard around the village can be identified by its “drumming” noise, as it seeks food within tree trunks, or is excavating a nest hole often on a dead branch. This resonant sound can be heard from a long way away, but the colourful plumage of the bird also is easily

identified if you see it. Mainly black & white with bright patches of red on its head and back.

Soon clearings in the forest will be home to the beautiful yellow and green wood warbler, which has the distinctive habit of singing sew- sew- sew on fluttering wings and parachuting down to the ground, as you watch. Similar in some ways to the skylark, which has a similar fluttering habit, but which sings with a longer sweeter note from quite high in the sky. It’s good to see and hear several pairs back over the skies of Hockenhull Platts this spring. It would be even better if we could once again hear the sound over the meadows of the curlew, another species that gets its name from its sound, cur-lew, cur-lew, cur-lew, together with the delightful pewit or lapwing calling pew-it, pew-it , accompanied by the golden plover, a pewit with the most wonderful plumage. It’s many years since we’ve seen them at Hockenhull, and it was very pleasing to come across a group of 25+ birds on a wet meadow near Oxford recently. Incidentally I think the name “lapwing” comes from their habit of flying with flapping wings, a very distinctive

way of spotting them in flight. Finally listen out for the most obvious song of the great tit. It will be the largest of the titmouse family in your garden and has at least nine different songs!! (although according to the Kingfisher Bird Guides it has 57 songs). However its most regular call is tea-cher tea-cher tea-cher which gives the game away as to its identity, and a good one to teach to children, and enable them to identify their first bird song.

David Cummings.

New Farmland Trail at Hockenhull

Look out for the new DEFRA farmland trail at Hockenhull over the fields of Cotton Edmunds Farm. The track is clearly marked starting adjacent to the nature reserve at Hockenhull Platts, and follows the edge of the Poplar plantation north towards Stamford Bridge, before linking up with the road near Cotton Hall Farm. A short road walk then takes you back along Cotton Lane and Hockenhull Lane back to the Platts. It beautifully compliments the already established path to the south which takes you around

the fields of Cotton Farm, with a long stretch on the banks of the Gowy and then a diagonal walk back (NW) to Cotton Farm itself, with a short loop back to Hockenhull Lane. Both walks are clearly marked with good logo signs, and will each take about 45mins to an hour, but good footwear is essential as the ground can be very wet and muddy at times, especially in winter.

David Cummings

In May

In May I go a-walking to
hear the linnet sing,

The blackbird and the
throstle, a-praising God the
King;

It cheers the heart to hear
them, to see the leaves
unfold,

And the meadows scattered
over with buttercups of gold.

Anon

A Place to Visit

Calke Abbey in Derbyshire

In this series I will identify places you might like to visit on days out from Christleton,

the Abbey in our search for history about Christleton, as The Manor of Christleton was once in the ownership of Sir John Harpur of Calke Abbey. I also knew that there had been a major dispute in the 1760's, when a court case at Chester Assizes, was brought by the Harpur Family, to claim taxes



and where possible link a local connection. The first is Calke Abbey a National Trust property in Derbyshire known as a Country House in Decline. It is a treasure house of unique importance, having been rescued for the nation in the 1980's. I had come across

from Robert Townsend from the Old Hall in Christleton who had built a pond for fish at Little Heath* (The Pit) in 1710 and had never paid any money for the use of it to the Lord of the Manor. Another link with Chester is that the church at Calke, was siezed by the Abbot

of Chester in 1129. It is also claimed that Hugh dAvranche and his son Richard, Earls of Chester were founders of the Calke Augustinian Priory. (It was never an abbey) Richard was a young man who inherited vast estates from his father Hugh Lupus (Hugh the Wolf) in Chester & Cheshire, but also included many manors in Derbyshire and Leicestershire. Robert the Baron of Malpas was another "son", and he was given ownership of the Manor of Christleton and St James' Church at the same time. The present day house or mansion, is a four square Baroque design, with a Greek portico and was rebuilt by Sir John Harpur (The Lord of the Manor of Christleton) in 1701-4, on the foundations of a previous Elizabethan building. It is surrounded by a huge area of wooded parkland, a walled garden, and pleasure grounds. However it is the neglect of the house, which makes it such a gem. When the National Trust took it over it was as if a time warp had taken place and

nothing had been moved for years. There was dilapidation everywhere, but the artefacts and possessions of the house were in a unique state and once the decision had been made to save the house, these were catalogued and removed for safety. The repairs that took place made the building sound, and enough of the restoration has taken place to make it a suitable place to visit. Only two rooms were redecorated fully, but all the important family belongings and furniture were put back through the house exactly as they were found, and what is now visible is a veritable treasure house. It is the dramatic rescue of these often unique objects that make it so exciting and very interesting. Sir John Harpur married Catherine Crewe in 1702, and the family later became known as the Harpur-Crewe's with an additional family home in South Cheshire at Crewe Hall. For full details of the opening times see the current National Trust Book of properties to Visit.

David Cummings

Who can preach the sermon?

Have you ever wondered how people 'make it' into our pulpit? Preaching the Word of God is taken seriously in the Church of England's Canon Law. A sermon is to be preached in every parish church at least once each Sunday – unless the Bishop has agreed that there is an exceptional reason for omitting the sermon.

The Church of England is also very clear about the people who can preach these sermons: only those who are ordained or licensed by the Bishop as Readers or lay workers can preach. This is to safeguard our doctrine – our understanding of the Christian faith. Only those who have been approved and trained by the Church can be entrusted with this special responsibility.

There are of course times when it is appropriate for someone else to preach - perhaps a representative of a missionary society or some other church organisation. But even in these circumstances the 'minister having the cure of souls' (usually the Vicar, Rector or priest-in-charge) should ask for the Bishop's agreement. The last part of the Canon about sermons explains why we should take preaching so seriously: 'The preacher shall endeavour with care and sincerity to minister the word of truth, to the glory of God and to the edification of the people.'

The U in JesUs

Before U were thought of or time had begun,
God even stuck U in the name of His Son.

And each time U pray, you'll see it's true
You can't spell out JesUs and not include U

You're a pretty big part of His wonderful name,
For U, He was born; that's why He came.

And His great love for U is the reason He died.
It even takes U to spell crUcified.

Isn't it thrilling and splendidly grand
He rose from the dead, with U in His plan?

The stones split away, the gold trUmpet blew,
and this word resUrrection is spelled with a U.

When JesUs left earth at His upward ascension,
He felt there was one thing He just had to mention.

"Now go into the world and tell them it's true
That the love I have shown is not just for U."

So many great people are spelled with a U,
Don't they have a right to know JesUs too?

It all depends now on what U will do,
He'd like them to know,
But it all starts with U.

Christleton twinned with HOLLYWOOD!

(For one day only)

Saturday 25th June 2005

To be celebrated with a

Village Fete

at the Primary School, 1.30 pm

(Parade leaves village green @ 1 pm)

Fancy Dress Theme:

'My Favourite Film Star'

**(Prizes for best Adults &
Children's costumes)**

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 LADIES GUILD

Held at the Christleton Methodist Church, commencing at 2pm, Tuesdays fortnightly, £1 admission includes refreshments. For further information contact Joan Webb, 335518.

All very welcome.

CHRISTLETON W.I.

The next meeting will take place on 11th May – “The Story of Lace” by Sue Wilson.

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 W.I.

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

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 C h e s t e r 3 4 6 4 9 7 .

MAGAZINE CONTRIBUTIONS

Please ensure all items for inclusion in the **June** edition are sent to the Editor, David Bull, The Old Rectory, Plough Lane, as soon as possible **BEFORE Friday 13th May.**

LOCAL EVENTS DIARY

CHRISTLETON GARDENING CLUB

The next meeting will take place on 9 May when there will be a Cuttings and Plantlets Swap.

looking forward to our April meeting, when David Cummings will be the speaker.

Janet Brown

CHRISTLETON W.I. MONTHLY WHIST DRIVE

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

**Saturday May 21st. 2005,
7.30p.m
Chester Cathedral**

a dramatised performance of

HANDEL: SAUL

Chester Bach Singers and
orchestra

Conductor: Martin Bussey

together with drama students
from University College,
Chester

MOTHERS' UNION

The date of our May meeting is Thursday 12th May, as we have been invited to visit our link partners, New Brighton Mothers' Union. We will be visiting New Brighton in the afternoon. Could members please let us know if they are going, as we need to arrange transport?

At the time of writing we are

Tickets: £18, £16, £14, £9
from Chester Gateway Theatre
Box Office, tel.01244 340392

MAGAZINE DISTRIBUTORS

The June magazine will be available for collection from Church on Sunday 26th June 2005.



**Parish Rambling
(Tuesday) Group.**

Tuesday 10th May

North Wales; Conway RSPB Reserve / Bodnant Garden & Gyfyllog. 8miles moderate. Leave Church Car Park at 8.00am. Meal at Bodnant NT A chance to look around this new reserve along the banks of the R Conway before taking a short drive to Bodnant and view The Gardens in full bloom. Later walk to Gyfyllog, with wonderful views of the river and mountains.



**Evening Ramble followed
by meal
Friday 6th May**

This will be in Warburtons wood, near Kingsley, Frodsham. Spring and weather permitting, it should be a ramble for about an hour round farms lanes and a beautiful bluebell wood, full of evening birdsong. This is a site of special scientific interest, developed by the Cheshire Wildlife Trust. I have booked a pub meal at the Horseshoe Inn, Kingsley. Although flexibility is feasible, it would help to have numbers and perhaps menu choices so please let Liz McClure know Tel: 01244 409414. We meet in the church car park at 6.15pm.

Make a note in your diary

Christleton Village Show

**Is on Saturday 9th. July
In Christleton Parish Hall**

This annual event is the main occasion in the village when the skills and abilities in our village community can be seen and appreciated. As in previous years we've listened to comments made after last years show and made changes to reflect changing interests so there are some new categories as well as the old favourites. Hanging Baskets is once again on the list and anyone in Christleton can join in, and you don't need to be an expert. The theme this year is "SPORT" and the Theme Trophy will go to the exhibit(s) which best portray this. There are a number of items on the schedule which are marked *** signifying the Sport theme. Schedules will be available from Paul Jackson at the Post Office after Easter so get a schedule, choose some categories and start planting, sewing, painting etc. etc. whatever is your thing. It doesn't cost much, is great fun and you could win a trophy – there are lots of them. If you have any queries or if you would like to help on the day (PLEASE) ring any of the committee below.

David or Beryl Cummings - 332410, Janet Brown – 335785. Charles Smeatham – 335209. Margaret Croston – 335955 - Sue Haywood – 01829 741814, Chris Marsland – 335424, June Pearson - 335101, Judith Butt – 335296, Iris Foster, Sue Rees.

DAYS IN MAY

1 May Day

May is the month when the ancient pagans used to get up to all sorts! The Romans held their festival to honour the mother-goddess Maia, goddess of nature and growth. (May is named after her.) The early Celts celebrated the feast of Beltane, in honour of the sun god, Beli.

For centuries in 'Olde England' the people went mad in May. After the hardship of winter, and hunger of early Spring, May was a time of indulgence and unbridled merriment. One Philip Stubbes, writing in 1583, was scandalised: "for what kissing and bussing, what smooching and slabbering one of another, is not practised?"

Henry VIII went 'maying' on many occasions. Then folk would stay out all night in the dark rain-warm thickets, and return in the morning for dancing on the green around the May pole, archery, vaulting, wrestling, and that evening, bonfires.

The Protestant reformers took a strong stand against May Day - and in 1644 May Day was

abolished together. Many May poles came down - only to go up again at the Restoration, when the first May Day of King Charles's reign was "the happiest Mayday that hath been many a year in England", according to Pepys.

May Day to most people today brings vague folk memories of a young Queen of the May decorated with garlands and streamers and flowers, a May Pole to weave, Morris dancing, and the intricacies of well dressing at Tissington in Derbyshire.

May Day is a medley of natural themes such as sunrise, the advent of summer, growth in nature, and - since 1833 - Robert Owen's vision of a millennium in the future, beginning on May Day, when there would be no more poverty, injustice or cruelty, but in harmony and friendship. This is why, in modern times, May Day has become Labour Day, which honours the dignity of workers. And until recently, in communist countries May Day processions were in honour of the achievement of Marxism.

There has never been a Christian content to May Day,

but nevertheless there is the well known 6am service on the top of Magdalen Tower at Oxford where a choir sings in the dawn of May Day.

An old May carol includes the lines:

The life of man is but a span,
it flourishes like a flower
We are here today,
and gone tomorrow
- we are dead within an hour.

There is something of a sadness about it, both in words and tune, as about all purely sensuous joy. For May Day is not Easter, and the joys it has known have always been earth-bound and fleeting.

5 Ascension Day - Forty Days with the Risen Christ

May continues the season of Eastertide, the period of 40 days between Easter and Ascension Day, which falls this year on Thursday, 5 May.

It may seem crazy to call it Eastertide when Easter is clearly over! - but if you look in your diary, you will find the Sundays are numbered Easter 1, Easter 2, and so forth. These are the forty days during which the Risen Christ appeared again and

again to his disciples, following his death and resurrection.

The Gospels give us little of Christ's teachings and deeds during those forty days. Jesus was seen by numerous disciples: on the road to Emmaus, by the Sea of Galilee, in houses, etc. He strengthened and encouraged his disciples, and at last opened their eyes to all that the Scriptures had promised about the Messiah. Jesus also told them that as the Father had sent him, he was now going to send them - to all corners of the earth, as his witnesses.

Eastertide ends with the Ascension of Christ.

15 Pentecost/ Whit Sunday

On Ascension Day the sequence of events that began at Easter was completed. Christ ascended to his Father in heaven, and now it was the turn of the Holy Spirit to come down to earth (the story is found in Acts 2: 1 - 8). Pentecost is the feast on which the Church celebrates the gift of the Holy Spirit. With his enabling power, the Church was soon off to a flying start, an incredibly dramatic expansion in its earliest, formative period.

So no wonder Pentecost Sunday is a major feast in the Christian year. In fact, in many Christian traditions, Pentecost comes second in importance only to Easter itself. Pentecost is sometimes called 'Whitsun' (literally, 'white Sunday') on account of the tradition of the clergy wearing white robes on this day.

The Holy Spirit is of major importance to Christian thought and life. When we read through the book of Acts, we find evidence of his presence everywhere – guiding, encouraging, and empowering the apostles. In more recent times, the rise of the charismatic movement within the worldwide church has led to an increased awareness of the powerful role of the Spirit in each of our Christian lives.

Pentecost falls on the fiftieth day after Easter, when, according to Luke's account, the Holy Spirit descended on the disciples in Jerusalem, who were gathered there on Jesus' instructions. ("Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised.")

Even so, the Holy Spirit's arrival astounded everyone. The

disciples certainly did not expect a sound like a mighty rushing wind from heaven, tongues of fire coming to rest on their heads, and the gift of being able to praise God in languages unknown to them.

Luke's description of Pentecost focuses on the impact of the event on people: the disciples were empowered to preach the gospel, and to break down the barriers of language separating them and their audiences. Theologically, the coming of the Spirit thus occupies a significant role in the scheme of salvation, in that it can be seen as a reversal of the 'tower of Babel' (Genesis 11: 1 –32).

22 Trinity Sunday

Trinity Sunday is the last major feast of the Christian year. It celebrates the Christian doctrine of the Trinity, in which God is understood to be revealed as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Liturgically, the remainder of the year is reckoned in terms as 'Sundays after Trinity' until the cycle resumes again on Advent Sunday.

No one has ever pretended that the doctrine of the Trinity is easy to understand. In

fact, it is unquestionably one of the most perplexing aspects of Christian theology.

The casual reader of the Scriptures will find only two verses in the entire Bible that seem, at first glance, to be capable of a full Trinitarian interpretation: Matthew 28.19 and 2 Corinthians 13.14.

‘Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit...’

‘May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all...’

But of course the doctrine is not based on just these two verses! Instead, its foundations are built on the pattern of divine activity found throughout the Bible, especially the New Testament.

Time after time, New Testament verses link together the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. What emerges is that the Father is revealed in Christ through the Spirit. It seems as if God’s saving presence and power can only be expressed by involving all three elements. (For example, see 1 Corinthians

12: 4 – 6; 2 Corinthians 1: 21; Galatians 4.6; Ephesians 2. 20 –2; 2 Thessalonians 2: 13 – 14; Titus 3. 4 – 6 and 1 Peter 1.2.)

The one who is arguably responsible for the development of distinctive Trinitarian terminology is Tertullian, born about 160 AD, and the first theologian to write in Latin. He invented the word trinity – or trinitas. And such was his influence on Christian theology, that his term became normative within the western church.

Some Christians down the centuries have explained the doctrine of the Trinity by using the simple model of the sun (Father) in the heavens, which has both light coming from it (Jesus) and heat (the Holy Spirit). All one, all one source, but still three.

Some theologians prefer to speak of ‘Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer’ rather than the traditional ‘Father, Son and Holy Spirit’.

24 David of Scotland

If you like Scotland, you’ll appreciate St David of Scotland, who lived c.1085 – 1153.

David became king of Scotland

in 1124, and devoted himself to improving his country. This included a feudal system of land tenure in place of the Celtic tribal one; an Anglo-Norman judicial systems, and the development of towns such as Edinburgh, Berwick and Perth.

Above all, David re-organised the Church in Scotland. Contact with Rome was close, but he opposed Canterbury's primatial claims. David founded several bishoprics, including those of Dunblane and Aberdeen. David was loved for his justice in administration, his accessibility to all, and his intense interest in gardens and orchards and buildings.

He was generous in alms-giving, and a devout Christian. When dying, and ordered to rest by his doctors, he said: "Allow me rather to think about the things of God, so that my soul may be strengthened... when I stand before God's judgement seat, none of you shall answer for me..." David died on 24 May and centuries later his name was inserted in the calendar of the Prayer-book for Scotland. His historical importance is that he founded the Scotland which defied Edward I.

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CHRISTLETON CRICKET CLUB

After promotion to the premier Cheshire County league in 2004, Christleton 1st team begin the new season on 23rd April with a visit to Oulton Park. Despite being without Greg Malkin and Jim Gilson for the early part of their season the players are relishing the prospect of playing against the elite teams in Cheshire.

Maroof Khan will again be a major player, having scored 990 runs and taking 35 wickets in 2005. We also welcome Darron Cruikshank, a promising 19 year old all-rounder from Trinidad,6 who is hoping to make a name for himself in England. Local farmer, Edward Walley has kindly offered part time employment to Darron, a much appreciated gesture by Christleton Cricket club.
May, 2005

The club has made huge progress during the past 5 years. Chairman Gareth Davies and President Jim Partington would welcome any villagers supporting their local team. New seats have been erected to accommodate any new additional spectators!!!

Anyone wishing to play cricket is welcome at Christleton CC. We have entered an Over 40's team in the league this year. Practice takes place on Tuesday evenings. Junior coaching begins on Monday 25th April at 6.30pm with registration on 18th April between 6.30 – 7.30pm We have entered 3 junior teams in the league. Further information from Brian - Tel. 01244 332326

Christleton CC would like to thank the following sponsors of April matches: Gareth Davies, David Cummings & Bill Malkin.

LEPROSY MISSION

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Parish Registers for March 2005

Baptism

6th Tabitha Louise Annison daughter of Glen & Kimberley Annison,
"Chipstead" Whitchurch Road, Christleton.

"We welcome you to the Lords Family"

The Funeral Service

1st Edward Paddock Tarvin Court Nursing Home, Littleton.
10th Patricia Ann Willcocks 16 Cotswold Court, Sandy Lane, Boughton.
15th Brenda Hampton 'Breneric' Littleton Lane, Littleton.
18th Michael Alfred Abrams 'Melrose' Whitchurch Road, Christleton.
21st Sarah Eileen Plant 'Fairmead' 12 The Park, Christleton.
23rd Kenneth Owen Partington 10 Cairdale Ave, Connahs Quay.
(Burial of Ashes)
30th Percy Shakel Birch Heath Lodge Nursing Home, Christleton.
31st Jean Jones 5 Ring Road, Great Boughton.

"Rest eternal grant unto them"

Offertories

March	Cash	CSE	2005	2004
6th	316.28	706.65	1022.93	826.19
13th	329.59	629.00	958.59	874.48
20th	212.60	907.50	1120.10	928.48
27th	535.50	810.70	1346.20	857.89
Totals			£ 4,447.82	£3,487.04

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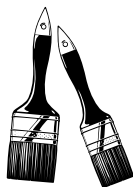
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	10.45 a.m	Parish Communion	1st & 3rd Sundays
		Family Service	2nd Sunday
		Mattins	4th & 5th Sundays
	6.30 p.m	Evensong	1st, 2nd & 3rd Sundays
	Evening Communion	4th Sunday	
	Songs of Praise	5th Sunday	
WEDNESDAYS	10.45 a.m.	Holy Communion	
SAINTS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

WHO'S WHO & WHAT'S WHAT

Rector: **The Rev'd K. Peter Lee, M.A.**
The Rectory, Birch Heath Lane, Christleton 335663

Wardens:	David Mercer, 13 Bridge Drive,	336155
	John Pearson, 2 Badgers Close	335101
Reader Emeritus	John Roberts, Cerisy, Birch Heath Lane	332207
Vergers	David Ellis	336879
Sacristan:	Betty Dunning	335652
Sunday School:	Berenice Hogg	336779
Mother's Union Branch Leader	Margaret Renner	332005
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Treasurer:	Cec Rydings	336483
Stewardship Envelope:	Betty Dunning	335652
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