



# St. James'

## PARISH MAGAZINE

www.christleton.org.uk



May 2010

35p

# MAY DAYS

<b>Sun</b>	<b>2</b>		<b>The Fifth Sunday of Easter</b>
		8.00 am	Holy Communion - Order 2
		10.45 am	Parish Communion - Order 1
		10.45 am	Sunday School - Parish Hall
		6.00 pm	The Crew Youth Group - Parish Hall
		6.30 pm	Evensong - followed by refreshments
			Prayer Link Road: Birch Heath Lane Neighbourhood Link: Fiona
Lee			
Wed	5	10.45 am	United Communion - followed by refreshments.
Fri	7	6.30 pm	Choir Practice
			<b>CHRISTIAN AID WEEK</b>
<b>Sun</b>	<b>9</b>		<b>The Sixth Sunday of Easter: Rogation Sunday</b>
		8.00 am	Holy Communion - Order 1
		10.00 am	Opening Prayers at St James before
			<b>BEATING THE BOUNDS</b>
		6.00 pm	The Crew Youth Group - Parish Hall
		6.30 pm	Evensong
			Prayer Link Road: Bridge Drive
			Neighbourhood Link: Margaret Croston
Mon	10	10.45 am	Holy Communion at Tarvin Court Nursing Home
		11.20 am	Holy Communion at Oaklands Nursing Home
		2.00 pm	Mothers' Union - Parish Hall
		6.30 pm	Confirmation Rehearsal
Tues	11	8.00 am	Parish Walking Group
Wed	12	10.45 am	Holy Communion - followed by refreshments
		11.20 am	Holy Communion at Birch Heath Lodge Nursing Home
		7.30 pm	Archdeacon's Visitation - Blacon
Thurs	13	7.45 pm	Holy Communion for <b>ASCENSION DAY</b>
Fri	14	6.30 pm	Choir practice

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

<b>Sun</b>	<b>16</b>		<b>The Sunday after Ascension Day</b>
		8.00 am	Holy Communion - Order 1
		10.45 am	CONFIRMATION AND COMMUNION
		10.45 am	Sunday School - Parish Hall
		6.00 pm	The Crew Youth Group Parish Hall
		6.30 pm	Evensong
			Prayer Link Road: Brown Heath Road and Greenfield Crescent
			Neighbourhood Link: Val Mountcastle
<b>Wed</b>	<b>19</b>	10.45 am	Holy Communion followed by refreshments
<b>Fri</b>	<b>21</b>	6.30 pm	Choir Practice
<b>Sun</b>	<b>23</b>		<b>WHITSUNDAY</b>
		8.00 am	Holy Communion - Order 1
		10.45 am	Parish Communion - Order 1
		10.45 am	Sunday School - Parish Hall
		6.00 pm	The Crew Youth Group - Parish Hall
		6.30 pm	Evensong
			Prayer Link Road: Bush Road
			Neighbourhood Link: Stan Smith
<b>Wed</b>	<b>26</b>	10.45 am	Holy Communion - followed by refreshments
<b>Fri</b>	<b>28</b>	6.30 pm	Choir Practice
<b>Sun</b>	<b>30</b>		<b>TRINITY SUNDAY</b>
		8.00 am	Holy Communion - Order 1
		10.45 am	Matins with Baptisms
		10.45 am	Sunday School - Parish Hall
		6.00 pm	The Crew Youth Group - Parish Hall
		6.30 pm	Evening Communion - Order 1
			Prayer Link: those worshipping at St James from outside the Parish
			Neighbourhood Link Area Secretary: John Carruthers



Dear Friends

## Election

By the time we get to 6 May I suspect we shall all have had more than enough of electioneering, and hearing all the claims and counter-claims from politicians of different persuasions, as to why we should choose them on election day. At the General Election we get to choose who should represent us. But May sees another election of a very different nature. Jesus said to his disciples:- “You did not choose me, I chose you, and appointed you ...” (John 15:16). Ascension Day is just one week later than the election on 13 May. 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 time and for 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 all creation. 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 6 May should be fundamentally affected by our faith, and informed by the priorities of God’s Kingdom.

I am not a political person, and this letter is certainly not party political propaganda! One of the saddest aspects of the ‘expenses scandal’ was that all politicians were tarred with the same brush, whereas I believe that there are still politicians of genuine integrity, across the parties, who have the highest ideals in trying to make society better. I do believe, however, that we should each exercise our Christian conscience in deciding how we should cast our vote. To take just one example, May also includes Christian Aid Week (9-15). Christian Aid is the Churches’ own agency to further the Gospel imperative to bring fullness of life to all people, and I believe the different priority that politicians give to overseas aid and fair trade should be a significant factor in deciding our vote. Incidentally, Sunday 9 May is also Rogation Sunday and as this is 10 years since we Beat the Bounds in the Millennium, we shall be doing so again (see elsewhere in magazine for details). Traditionally prayers were offered for the blessing of the crops on Rogation Sunday so it is

entirely appropriate not only to pray for the blessing of the crops in this Parish but throughout the world. Hence the Beating of the bounds will also be a sponsored walk (for those who so wish) for Christian Aid and will replace our usual Christian Aid Service.

So our faith should certainly inform our vote. But Jesus said "I chose you", and we should not look to politicians, or others, to excuse us from our own ministry and mission. On Sunday 16 May the Bishop of Chester will come to St James to Confirm 11 of our members and Sunday 23 May is Whitsunday when we remember the gift of the Holy Spirit to the first disciples to empower them to be the Church; God's people. As we pray for the gift of the Holy Spirit for those to be Confirmed we also pray, especially within the context of our Growth Action planning as a parish, for the gift of the Holy Spirit for each and all of us as members of God's Church in this Parish. May we be so filled with God's Spirit that we not only receive God's purpose through recognising Jesus Christ as Lord, but also his power to help effect his purposes. Finally on Sunday 30 May we celebrate Trinity Sunday which 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. May promises to be quite a month!

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Peter Lee". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a single 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.*

# Sunday May 9th 2010

## Details of the Route.

The 2010 Beating of the Bounds Ceremony begins at 10.00 with a short service in church. The walk starts after the ceremonial bumping of a child on the Christleton - Littleton Boundary Stone at the base of the church tower. The approximately 10 1/2miles route takes us from St James' to Whitchurch Road and the Christleton - Boughton boundary stones on the A41 and at "The Glass House".(Prayers) The walk continues along the fields to the Christleton- Saughton boundary at Caldly Brook (Prayers,) before crossing more fields to Ridges Farm & Waverton Station. After following the road towards the Rowton- Waverton boundary we cross the A41 again near the old Waverton Post Office. The route then goes across the canal and along Foxes Lane to the Christleton-Waverton Boundary near Capesthorpe Road before crossing Brown Heath Road and taking a track towards Cotton Abbots Farm. (Prayers, refreshment & toilet stop). The route then deviates across the fields towards Hockenhull Platts, before Prayers, refreshment and toilet stop at Cotton Farm. We then proceed to the Roman Bridges on the Cotton Edmunds-Tarvin Boundary. We then head north along the Gowy towards Stamford Mill where further prayers will be given. The route then follows the inner Christleton- Littleton Boundary to avoid crossing the A54 Tarvin Road twice. This route goes along Green Lane, crosses Stamford Lane and along Fir Tree Lane to Littleton. (Prayers) We then walk along Pearl Lane towards Vicars Cross and the Christleton-Boughton boundary, cross the canal and follow the A41 along the Ring Road, and back along Whitchurch road and "The Glass House" for final prayers and refreshment.

If the timings on previous walks can be relied on, the walk should be completed between 6.00 and 6.30pm. A back up car will be available at strategic places on route for people who have to drop out off the walk.

## **Preparations.**

Walkers should be prepared for a tough walk, wear strong footwear/boots and be fully prepared with clothing for any weather conditions. They should take plenty of water/drinks, snacks and food. There will be toilets available at The Crocky Trail, Cotton Farm and The Glass House

We are organising distinctive T & Sweat shirts for the occasion, and hope they will give added visibility.(See separate order form in church) Please note that we have to use public roads and tracks for part of the distance, so please keep to the rules of the road and follow the instructions of the leaders for each section. Parents are asked to keep a very close eye on any small children whilst on these road sections. Dogs are welcome, but must be kept on a lead at all times.

## **Sponsorship**

Although there is no charge for the walk, our aim this year is to try to support the work of Christian Aid by asking walkers to raise as much sponsorship money as possible. Perhaps families rather than individuals could be sponsored where appropriate, and help in this vital work to better the lives of people, not so fortunate as ourselves. Please try to get sponsors to sign to give gift aid as well, as this increases the amount raised by 28p in every pound. A sponsorship form is attached to this letter or available from church. Signing Up

Please sign up for the walk on the form at the back of the church as soon as possible, or ring 332410 to let me know. Please note that last orders for the distinctive T & Sweat Shirts must be made before the 26th April.



T Shirt and Sweat Shirt Logo

## The Beating of the Bounds Ceremony 1953 Parish of Christleton

A solemn Perambulation of the Boundaries of the Ancient Parish of Christleton to mark the Dedication to Almighty God and the service of her people prior to the Coronation of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth the second, was held on Rogation Sunday, the tenth of May, in the year of our Lord Nineteen hundred and fifty three.

The Dignitaries.

Rev Arthur Alyn Guest Williams, Rev G Alexander Maquiban  
Dr Arnold Brown William Griffiths, John Day, John Welsby,  
Dennis Roberts,

William Weeks, Frank Poston, John Kirk, Robert Hinde, Ann  
Bateman

Mary Partington, Richard Morgan, Frederick Clabrough,  
Gordon McClellan,

Cyril West, Kenneth Walley, Marion Kershaw, John  
Swinerton, Thomas Solloway

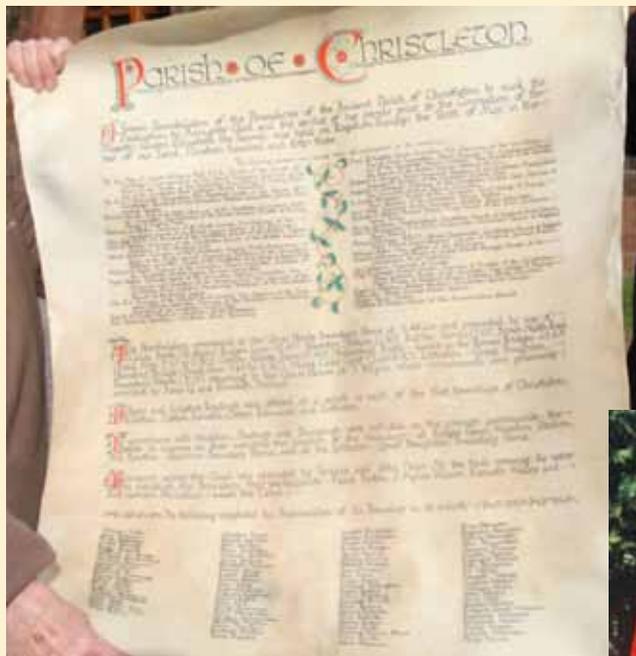
William Astle, Charles Cullimore, Joy Cullimore, Hugh  
Granger Frank Chapman, Nellie Day, Joseph Jones, Clifford  
Boddy

The Perambulation commenced at the Glass House Boundary Stone at 11.48am and proceeded by way of the Caldly Brook (12.18pm) Ridges Lane(12.45) Waverton Station (1.30) Rubber Works(2.0) Brown Heath Road (Break) Cotton Abbots Farm(2.40) Hockenhull Platts-(3.20) Stamford Bridge(Break) Vicars Cross Golf club (4.50) Littleton Great Boughton Boundary Stone(5.15) returning to the Glass House at 5.50pm where refreshments were generously provided by Ames & Elisabeth Hellicar

Prayers and Scripture Readings were offered at a point in each of the five townships. Christleton, Rowton, Cotton Abbots, Cotton Edmunds, and Littleton.



Alfred Crewe, Ethel Crewe, Roger Croom. Arthur Davenport, Audrey Davenport, John Day, John Dean Snr, John Dean, John Eaton, Christine Evans, Robert Garside, Bert Gordon, Brian Griffiths, William Griffiths, Ames Hellicar, Elisabeth Hellicar, Donald Hinde, Robert Hinde, Sydney Horne, Tony Jones, Reginald Jones, Marion Kershaw, Eileen Kidd, John Kirk, Dennis Lawrence, Beryl Macquiban, Gordon Macquiban, Geoffrey Martin, Mary Martyn, Richard Martyn, Ellen Mayers, Annette McLellan, Gordon McLellan, Joseph Mellor, Richard Morgan, David Morris, Gillian Morris, Edward Moseley, Jean Moseley, Eric Owen, Allan Parry, William Partington, Frank Poston, Allan Pridding, Kenneth Robert, Beryl Reeves, Dennis Roberts, Tony Roberts, Pamela Roden, James Scott, Barbara Ollerenshaw, Colin Smith, Alice Stephens, Elma Steventon, Reginald Steventon, Sydney Steventon, John Swinnerton, Maurice Thomas, Martin Thomas, Reginald Thomas, Peter Thompson, Ivy Walley, Kenneth Walley, Andrew Watson, William Weeks, John Welsby, Cyril West, Sandra Wheeler, Richard Guest Williams, Raymond Williams, Elizabeth Wilson, Myles Wilson, Kenneth Woolam, Philip Wynne.



\*This is the text from Cliff Boddy's beautiful calf skin record of the event, now kept for safety in the church safe, but is featured on the cover of this magazine.



Cliff Boddy

# St Werburgh's Chapel

## Mount Barker, Western Australia

We were travelling to Freemantle from a place called Denmark on the south coast of Western Australia. Near the town of Mount Barker we had noticed a small dot on the map marking a St Werburgh's Chapel. We decided to turn down the dusty red dirt road leading to the chapel and after five or six kilometres we arrived. Occasionally we had passed several turns off leading presumably to other farms, but otherwise there was no sign of habitation.

### St. Werburgh's Chapel



### MOUNT BARKER WESTERN AUSTRALIA

The chapel stands on a small mound with a stand of eucalyptus trees and a few jarrah. As far as one could see the land was burnt brown by the summer sun, a few sheep and crows were the only signs of life. The chapel was built with the help of local artisans, by the landowner, George Edward Egerton-Warburton, who had arrived in the port of Albany in 1836, then a young lieutenant of the 51st Regiment. In 1872 he had received £550 from his brother, the squire of Arley, Cheshire for the purpose, (or the Rector of Northwich, the record is not clear, though they may have been one and the same). The ironwork was made in the family forge and the font had been the family mortar. The floors are wooden. Today an iron-

corrugated roof replaces the original local sheoak and jarrah.

Our thoughts turned to that pioneering family from Cheshire who had cleared the land in this lonely place to create their farm and then to go on to build a centre for the isolated Christian community. The little cemetery beside the church is a vivid history of the Egerton-Warburton family who still live close by. Indeed the present churchwarden is Gray Egerton-Warburton.

It is easy to be thought too fanciful about this special place. The loneliness and desolation of the brown fields of summer hides in the vastness of the Australian landscape, an unseen but vibrant community. There will be hundreds of other churches dedicated to St. Werburgh around the world, but we were not alone in being moved by this place. There were few entries in the visitors' book, but someone had written, "this is a place where you can meet God". God at work could be felt all around. The burnt landscape we were assured would, with the coming of the winter rain, soon become green and the wild flowers would blossom. This of course, we have not seen, but accepted in faith just like the approaching Easter resurrection.

I was encouraged to tell this story at the Saturday evening Easter Vigil held at St James. The Rector made the lovely comment that very shortly in Australia they would be rising to celebrate Easter soon after most of us had gone to bed. It brought to mind a verse from the following well known hymn.

*"The sun that bids us rest is waking  
our brethren 'neath the western sky,  
and hour by hour fresh lips are making  
thy wondrous doings heard on high".*

A service of Holy Communion is held in this Chapel on the fourth Sunday in the month. We shall look with fresh eyes at the Egerton memorial window in Chester Cathedral.

Perhaps you might like to think for a moment of those pioneering families who have spread the Gospel throughout the world and say a prayer for them and for all those who carry on the work today.

*Jan and David Bowden*

(Apologies for any factual errors)

Note this date in your diary

# Christleton Village Show 2010

Is on Saturday  
10th. July



## In Christleton Parish Hall

This year the show theme will be **Memories** and we believe this should inspire lots of ideas to be displayed/portrayed in the many categories.

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

Once again it would be a great boost to the appearance of the Village if people could make an effort to have hanging baskets and containers at the front of their houses and businesses – why not enter the Hanging Basket section of the Show – there are a number of trophies for the category winners.

Once again there will be a Show Coffee Afternoon at the Village Hall the weekend before the Show on Saturday 3rd July from 2-00 to 4-00 when entry forms and payments will be collected.

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

David or Beryl Cummings - 332410, Janet Brown – 335785  
Charles Smeatham – 335209. Margaret Croston – 335955  
Sue Haywood – 01829 741814, Chris Marsland – 335424,  
June Pearson - 335101, Judith Butt – 335296, Sue and Lewis Rees;  
Christine Abrahams; Iris Foster; Edward Elliot;  
Sarah Donald; Jean Williams

# NATURE NOTES

David  
Cummings

One of the first summer visitors to the village arrived in the middle March with the sighting of a beautiful Brimstone butterfly flying along the canal. These yellow creatures resemble a large leaf and might easily be missed except for their bright colour. A week later the first tortoiseshell butterfly was seen in the same area. It's possible that this creature overwintered, and was coming out from hibernation, but the brimstone was so bright that it almost certainly was newly emerged. Another arrival was a chiff chaff announcing its presence by singing merrily from a tree top in the churchyard on Palm Sunday. These tiny birds camouflage well against foliage but can easily



be recognised by the distinctive “chiff chaff, chiff chaff” call. Members of St James’ Walking Group heard and saw several delightful curlew on their March walk to Shuttlingsloe (The Cheshire Matterhorn) on the moors above Macclesfield Forest. These

beautiful long beaked waders again have a very distinctive fluty call, which clearly describes their name “cur-lew, cur-lew”. They typically breed on heath or moorland and were once common around the village especially at Hockenhull Platts, but sadly are now a rarity. Brian Beach reported that the first swallow arrived in his barn on Brown Heath Farm on April 3rd. This is quite an early date, but explained by a run of southerly winds over this period. These warm winds help to blow them along on their journeys from southern Africa where they overwintered. It's incredible that these tiny creatures weighing so little can sustain such long journeys across mountains, oceans and deserts and yet arrive in the same place that they were



born, the following year, sometimes a journey repeated many times in their lifetime.

Our contrary pair of swans have this year ignored the purpose built nest site provided for them, and decided that they know best and have built a nest in a really precarious position along the edge of Little Heath Road. This site has dangers everywhere we look, from both human and animal predators, and with the possibility of flooding, as they have built their nest on one of the storm drain outlets, using reeds planted by the Pit Group as a soakaway for oil, petrol and other road pollutants. Despite suggestions of “Why don’t you move them” from several people, this is nature and several eggs have already been laid as I write. Being able to see them close up is a bonus as the cob is the swan currently “egg sitting” and will only swap with the pen when all the clutch of eggs have been laid. (One egg every two days with an average of 7eggs) The incubation period is then a further 34days, when only the pen has the ability to provide heat to the eggs and enable them to develop into cygnets. We will be putting up a temporary barrier to prevent immediate danger to the nest site from the roadside, and ask people to watch from a discrete distance especially when the pen is sitting tight on the nest, as the cob can become very aggressive if he thinks there is any danger to her. Many thanks for your co operation.

# 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

## ST JAMES WALKING GROUP

**\*\*May 11th 2010**

Moel Y Gwr & Llanarmon yn Yal.  
Rating Moderate + 6 1/2 miles.  
A mountain walk along part of Offas's Dyke adjacent to the one done from the "Three Pigeons" in 09.  
Pub Lunch.  
Depart Church Car Park at 8.00am  
**\*\*Please note change of date.**

(Belated) Happy Birthday to **Nancy Sarrington** who was 90 on 13th April

## CHRISTLETON W.I.

Meets on the second Wednesday of the month at 7.15 pm in the Parish Hall  
Next Meeting  
**12th May**  
**GARDEN EVENING**  
ALL WELCOME

## CHESTER FLOWER CLUB

Meetings are held in Christleton Parish Hall on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 1.30 pm. Details of any events can be obtained from the Secretary, Trish Pollard

## CONGRATULATIONS



To **Eric Davies** on his 90th birthday on 27 May from all his family and friends.

# CHRISTLETON

YOUR village    YOUR community    Have YOUR say

---

Information meetings about the proposals for a Parish Plan for Christleton are being held at

**Christleton Primary School on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> May**  
**A Drop-In Session**

between 3.00pm & 4.30pm

to chat, view displays and put forward your ideas for the plan

**A Presentation**

at 7.00pm

to find out more about parish planning and let us hear your opinions

All ages are welcome. There will be light refreshments.

---

**YOUR** Opinions and **YOUR** Input are Crucial

The last few editions of this magazine have contained short articles about parish planning and why it is so important that we get together to create a parish plan for Christleton. The meetings advertised above are being held to encourage interest, answer questions and make a formal decision on whether or not to go ahead. The next step will be to set up a Steering Group to take the process forward and apply for grant aid from Cheshire Community Action (consult their website [www.cheshireaction.org.uk](http://www.cheshireaction.org.uk) for further information and examples of other plans). The Steering Group will make arrangements to consult residents on what they want to see happen (or not happen!) in our community, decide how this can be achieved and produce a formal document that will include a realistic action plan. The Parish Council are supporting the creation of a parish plan but it is important to note that it is a separate and independent initiative which will need the support, ideas and skills of as many parishioners as possible. A countywide survey done in 2008 indicated that some of the major benefits of parish plans were enhanced community spirit, improved communication, increased volunteering, more formal needs identification, completed community projects and better relationships between the community, the Parish Council and the Local Authority. For us, a parish plan has the potential to make Christleton a stronger community, preserving what we want to keep, changing what needs changing and bringing in new beneficial initiatives – please show your support for this initiative.

Oueries to Sue Mallows ([suemallows@hotmail.com](mailto:suemallows@hotmail.com). 01244 335527)

# Romania Visit

**A**s part of being in the 6th Form at Bishops High School we are given the opportunity to travel to Romania as part of a group to complete some charity work working in the gypsy camps. After a successful interview, held in October 2009, myself and 12 other pupils started the daunting task of raising £12,000! The team was supported by “Teams 4U” and in particular by Dave Cooke who thought up the idea of the “Christmas Shoe Box Appeal.”

Lots of fund-raising events were arranged, including numerous cake sales within school, a music concert night, a huge raffle, chocolate tombola's, non-uniform days and a really successful “Learn to Jive” night held here in Christleton. I know that we would not have managed to collect all the money that we needed without the fantastic support that we were given from the school, and in particular Mr Jones, and our parents, brothers and sisters.

On the 20th March this year we all met at the airport at 6am full of excitement for our adventures! After a very long journey of 11 hours and travelling through 4 countries we arrived in our hotel in Oradea in Romania very tired, so after a quick supper we went to bed!

The next morning, we met up with the family that were going to be our interpreters for the time that we were in Romania. His name was “Nica.” We chose to go to church with him and his family, the service lasted three hours and we couldn't understand a word of it as it was all in Romanian! However Nica explained that “ISUS” meant Jesus and “AMIN” meant Amen.

In the afternoon we travelled in a very tatty minibus to a gypsy village at Urvind which was about twenty minutes away from where we were staying. This village was going to be where we would be spending a majority of our time over the next week. As we entered the village camp we saw crowds of young children awaiting our arrival. As we approached, the children were chasing our minibus until we stopped and they were then surrounding us, waving and giggling, full of excitement looking forward to the activities that

we had planned to do with the children. As we got off the minibus the young children, full of trust, just slipped their hands into ours and led us to their school for our meeting point. The children were continually smiling, wanting to play games, and be the centre of our attention. The children loved having their photographs taken, continually saying, “Facham Posa”, (which means take my picture), and seeing their images on the cameras digital screen.

The housing conditions that the families lived in really shocked me. There was a constant stream of raw sewage running through the camp and there were dead rotting animal carcasses abandoned nearby. The family that I visited were living in the equivalent of what we would consider to be a garden shed. This was home to eight people, seven of whom were children. It was very humbling to see how the people coped with having to little but were also so happy. It made me think of how lucky we are and how so often we take things for granted or moan about things when things are not always going the way that we want them to.

During our time in the gypsy camp at Urvind, we spent several days and lots of time was spent playing with the children who appeared to be thriving on all the attention we were able to give them. Some of the children's favourite activities included face painting, the girls enjoyed having their nails painted (which was a thing that had never happened for them before), teaching them some English songs, performing a Christian based drama as well as other craft activities. The boys also enjoyed having a football game. The children were able to teach us some Romanian songs with hand clapping actions.

We also made a visit to a village called Dumbrava, where we visited an Old Peoples Home. The residents there had been abandoned by their families and were being supported by the charity “Teams 4 U”. I was totally unprepared for the conditions that I was met with there. There were up to five residents squashed into a bedroom. The residents were so happy to see us. We were able to give all the residents gifts of chocolate, toiletries and items of clothing. One elderly lady told us through an interpreter that she would like a skirt, when one was found she cried and kissed our hands. Our small gestures seemed so minor and inadequate for the amount of gratitude and thanks shown to us. A further visit was made to a group of women in

their twenties who had been abandoned by their families and had had to rely on prostitution to gain an income. The women had been found and rehoused in a flat together and were starting, with the support of the charity, to turn their lives around. Whilst we were visiting them they chose to sing for us, it was amazing to hear their beautiful voices singing in harmonies with such emotion.

As the time came to leave Romania we all had to say goodbye to the children that we had come to know during our time in the camps. It was so hard to say goodbye and I wanted to sneak some of the children home in my suitcase! I will never forget pulling away from the camp in a village called Tinca where a little girl who had befriended me was blowing kisses to me and was running faster and faster trying to keep up with the minibus as it gained speed. Once she was out of sight I was able to see the hearts that she had traced on the minibus windows.

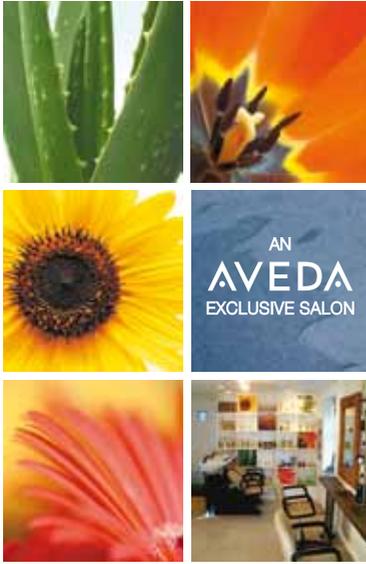


I will never know whether what we did whilst in Romania will have been a lasting influence on the children and the older people that we were so lucky to have met, but my time in Romania has influenced me. I am truly appreciative of all the people that support me and appreciate more the material things I have around me. It was a truly life changing experience.

I am planning to visit Mexico in August with local Guiding Members and can't wait to get my travelling shoes on again.

*Hannah Ewins*  
Member of the Crew

# Hairdressing **N**icholas **h**arvey



Colour and Cutting  
Specialists

For prices, opening hours and  
information email  
[info@nicholas-harvey.com](mailto:info@nicholas-harvey.com)  
[www.nicholas-harvey.com](http://www.nicholas-harvey.com)



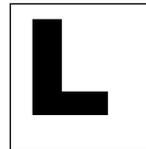
## Lawn master

the lawn treatment service

Feed & Weed Programme  
Moss Control  
Scarification  
Free No Obligation Quote  
Prices from  
£13 / Application

Visit Our Website  
[www.lawnmaster.co.uk](http://www.lawnmaster.co.uk)

01948 820420



## Christleton Driving School

Quality tuition from friendly, expert instructors. (Department of Transport Licensed)  
Modern dual control cars  
Nervous drivers encouraged

**All at lower cost!**

Tel: 01244 335184

# HMS ALBION

Alf  
Croston

In the April magazine Margaret reported on our attendance at the Reception held on HMS Albion on 9 March when the ship was moored at Liverpool landing stage and that I had been invited to sail on her to Devenport Naval Base near Plymouth the following weekend.

HMS Albion has the honour of the Freedom of Chester and on the Thursday before sailing, the ship's company and attached Royal Marines headed by the Royal Marines' band, marched through Chester exercising their right to do so with flag flying and bayonets fixed. They attended a service at Chester Cathedral when the Bishop of Chester dedicated and presented a new Ship's Bell. This was followed by a march past the saluting base and a civic reception.

And so – to Saturday morning – when groups from various organisations affiliated to the ship, boarded at 8.30 am for a safety briefing prior to her slipping her mooring – one soon gets into the swing of using naval expressions! – at 10.00 am with a River Mersey pilot on board. Having guided us down river he left us as we neared the bar lightship and we were on our way.

We had been promised a busy time on this goodwill journey and so it proved. Split up into small groups we had a four-hour tour up and down steep stairs into most parts of the ship, including the inspection of landing craft, tracked vehicles and recovery equipment. All this can be quickly unloaded by the Royal Marines from the rear of the ship. The tour continued on Sunday, with a break for a Church Service, and included a visit to the kitchens where the head chef told us that the daily set allowance is £2.20 a head and has to cover three full meals. We then visited the nerve centre from which the diesel/electric engines are computer controlled.

Later, we witnessed a “man overboard” exercise when a boat was launched to rescue a dummy body. HMS Manchester, a

destroyer, escorted us for a time and later moved away to carry out gunnery practice. An RAF Air Sea Rescue helicopter came to inspect us and later also one from HMS Manchester. A further exercise entailed a landing craft being lowered to take a party of Royal Marines ashore.

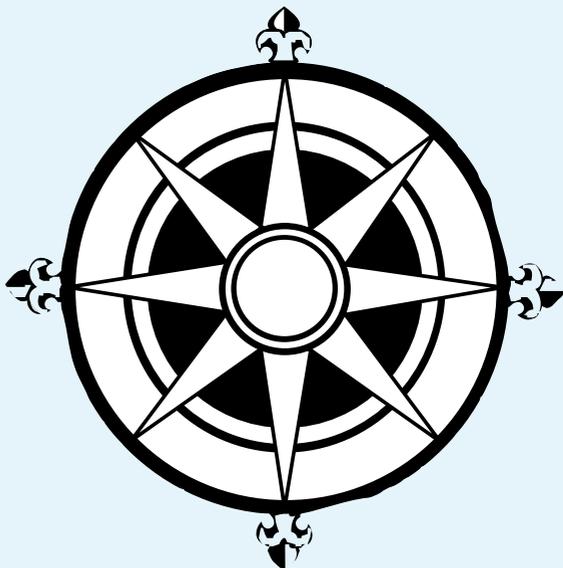
Finally, on Sunday evening, a pilot came aboard and we were shepherded into our berth at Devenport by three tugs. Our adventure was over. We had enjoyed calm seas but the previous week the ship had been taking part in exercises off the Norwegian coast in icy and blizzard conditions. Members of the crew were full of admiration for those who had sailed on Russian convoys during the war on ships with open bridges, primitive conditions and the continual threat of German submarine attacks. Now there is the comfort of a control room with the latest in computer equipment, particularly impressive at night. Even more impressive was the fact that the ship was being steered by 16-year-old cadets from all three services – an experience that they will remember all their lives.

The crew themselves were all young, highly trained and eager to explain their roles in what is a very technical environment.

HMS ALBION (Albion is another name for England) is the seventh of that name, following a distinguished line of predecessors. At 18,500 tonnes she is one of the largest naval ships, only superseded by aircraft carriers. She is manned by 350 crew and the same number of Royal Marines and in emergency can accommodate a further 300 troops sleeping on the floor in the mess hall.

All in all, an instructive and impressive experience.

*Alf Croston*



### **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 **June edition** are sent to Janet Milton (335469), as soon as possible **BEFORE Friday 14th May** or you can e-mail this to christletonmag@hotmail.co.uk

## **MAGAZINE DISTRIBUTORS**

The **June** magazine will be available for collection from Church on **Sunday 30th May**

## **Some perks of getting old**

*There is nothing left to learn the hard way.*

*Things you buy now won't wear out.*

*You can eat supper at 4 pm.*

*You get into heated arguments about pension plans.*

*You can sing along with lift music.*

*Your eyes won't get much worse.*

*Your secrets are safe with your friends - because they can't remember them either.*

## **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 March 2010

## The Funeral Service

- 7th Hilda Lewis 9 Hawthorn Road, Christleton, Chester (Burial of Ashes)  
8th Elizabeth Patricia Stephanie Mycock "Oakland" Brown Heath Road  
12th Olive Enis Dawson 70 The Pearlings, Pearl Lane, Vicars Cross  
18th John Williamson 60 Greenfield Road, Waverton  
18th Gladys Garner 1 Hawthorn Road, Christleton  
24th Peter Joseph Valentine 46 Greenfield Cres, Waverton (Burial of Ashes)  
31st Graham Cleverly Pritchard Birch Heath Lodge Nursing Home

*"Grant them eternal rest."*

## Offertories

<b>March</b>	<b>Cash</b>	<b>CSE</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2009</b>
7th	149-51	719-00	868-51	1,106-71
14th	231-20	510-00	741-20	872-93
21st	113-65	759-50	902-15	840-56
28th	175-74	741-90	912-64	1,159-90
Totals.			£3,424-50	£ 3,980-10

*"Of your own do we give you"*

