

St. James' Christleton



Parish Magazine
April 2006

30p

APPOINTMENTS IN APRIL

Sun	2		Passion Sunday
		8.00 am	Holy Communion - Order 2
		10.30 am	Sunday School - Parish Hall
		10.45 am	Parish Communion - Order 1
		6.00 pm	The Crew Youth Group - Parish Hall
		6.30 pm	Evensong with Comeback in Lent Sermon Series - followed by refreshments
			Prayer Link Road: The Park
			Neighbourhood Link: Margaret Kingston
Mon	3	10.45 am	Holy Communion at Tarvin Court Nursing Home
		11.30 am	Holy Communion at Oaklands Nursing Home
		6.30 pm	Confirmation Group - Lady Chapel
		7.45 pm	Annual Parochial Church Meeting - Parish Hall
Wed	5	10.45 am	United Communion - followed by refreshments
		7.45 pm	United Reflective Worship for Lent :
			Stations of the Cross - St James
Fri	7	6.30 pm	Choir Practice

Sun	9		PALM SUNDAY
		8.00 am	Holy Communion - Order 1
		10.45 am	Family Service
		6.00 pm	The Crew Youth Group
		6.30 pm	Passiontide Devotion : Stainer's 'Crucifixion'
			Prayer Link Road: The Square
			Neighbourhood Link: Liz Evans
Mon	10	2.00 pm	Holy Week Meditation
		7.45 pm	Night Prayers and Meditation
Tues	11	7.45 pm	Night Prayers and Meditation
Wed	12	10.45 am	Holy Communion - followed by refreshments
		11.30 am	Holy Communion at Birch Heath Lodge Nursing Home
		7.45 pm	Night Prayers and Meditation

MAUNDY THURSDAY

7.45 pm United Communion - St. James

GOOD FRIDAY

10.45 am Family Service - followed by refreshments

2.00 pm One Hour Devotion

7.30 pm United Service for Churches Together

led by Churches Together in Christleton – Cathedral

NB: Last date for contributions for May Parish Magazine, preferably earlier, to David Bull (332234)

HOLY SATURDAY

		6.30 pm	Easter Vigil
Sun	16		EASTER DAY
		8.00 am	Holy Communion - Order 2
		10.45 am	Family Communion - Order 1
		6.30 pm	Festal Evensong (Prayer Book)
			Prayer Link Road: Toll Bar Road
			Neighbourhood Link: Doug and Betty Johnson
Wed	19	10.45 am	Holy Communion followed by refreshments
Fri	21	6.30 pm	Choir Practice

Sun	23		The Second Sunday of Easter
		8.00 am	Holy Communion - Order 1
		10.30 am	Sunday School - Parish Hall
		10.45 am	Matins with Baptism - followed by refreshments
		6.00 pm	The Crew Youth Group
		6.30 pm	Evening Communion
			Prayer Link Road: Village Road
			Neighbourhood Link: Jean Cresswell
Mon	24	6.30 pm	Confirmation Group - Lady Chapel
Tues	25	9.00 am	Holy Communion for St Mark
Wed	26	10.45 am	Holy Communion - followed by refreshments.
		6.30 pm	United Supper with Easter Worship & AGM of Churches
			Together in Christleton - Methodist Church
Fri	28	6.30 pm	Choir Practice
Sat	29	7.00 pm	David Cummings Talk for Christian Aid - Parish Hall

Sun	30		The Third Sunday of Easter
		8.00 am	Holy Communion - Order 1
		10.30 am	Sunday School - Parish Hall
		10.45 am	Matins
		6.30 pm	Evening Worship
			Prayer Link:
			Those worshipping at St James from outside the Parish
			Neighbourhood Link Area Secretary: Jean Smeatham



PALM SUNDAY PROCESSION
The Return of Lucius the Donkey!
Sunday 9 April

Lucius, who came on Christmas Eve for Carols Round the Tree, is returning to visit us on Palm Sunday 9 April. Those who wish to, should assemble at the start of the Footpath from Littleton (Pearl Lane) at 10.30 am. We shall process through the fields to St James to commemorate the Triumphal Entry of Jesus into Jerusalem on a donkey on Palm Sunday, and Palm Crosses/branches will be given out. Those who do not wish to do the walk can be in the Churchyard to welcome us when we arrive. We shall then go into Church for our Family Service.

The Easter Cross at St. James', Christleton

The Rector's Letter

Dear Friends

THE FOOLISHNESS OF GOD

*“ ... the foolishness of God is wiser than man's wisdom,
and the weakness of God is stronger than man's strength.”*
(1 Corinthians 1:25)

I grew up in a large Victorian Rectory in Heswall – so big we were only able to inhabit – still less heat – parts of it. My mother's father came to live with us after my grandmother died. He came from County Durham, where he had been Headteacher of a village school. His own parents had died when he was a young boy so he had been brought up by relatives, and had never had an easy life. Looking back, it must have been very difficult for him coming to live with us, but I was never aware of that. He was a craftsman in wood, and he helped in whatever way he could. He corrected the drafts of my father's Rector's Letters with schoolmaster's precision. On the night he died we gathered in his room as a family. Afterwards I remember looking out of the window, at night, across the Dee Estuary to the lights along the Welsh coast. I was still a young teenager, but was conscious of an overwhelming sense of peace, and of a soul leaving the body to return to its maker. It is an experience which has stayed with me over the years as an assurance of our Resurrection faith.

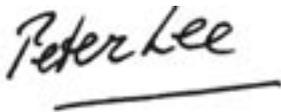
As we come once more to follow Jesus on his journey to Jerusalem, it is a way the world would regard as defeat and humiliation. Betrayed and denied by his friends, vilified and abused by his enemies, Jesus was progressively stripped of dignity and support, till he was eventually put to death as a common criminal, in lonely suffering on the cross. Yet this was, and is, the 'foolishness of God which is wiser than man's wisdom, and the weakness of God which is stronger than man's strength'. In his book "The Stature of Waiting", Canon Vanstone pointed out that Jesus strides through the Gospels teaching, healing, feeding and uplifting. Then, at one point in the Garden of Gethsemane, when Jesus was handed over, every verb referring to him changes from active to passive: instead of 'doing' he is 'done to'. Yet this is the supreme act of sacrificial love – to allow himself to be handed over and to accept all that was done to him without bitterness or resentment. He was able still to love and he could forgive, and pray for, those who crucified him. The Cross; the greatest symbol of defeat the world has ever known; became the symbol of its greatest victory. This is the weakness of God which is stronger than the world's strength. It was because Jesus, at every point, did not retaliate. or seek to justify himself, but allowed himself to be handed over and was able to go on loving to the end, that his physical death became the gateway to the Resurrection. This

was the revelation of the God who is love, and whose love never fails or comes to an end. The Resurrection is God's 'yes' to Jesus' life and self-giving love, and the inevitable consequence of the Cross.

As we go through the events of Holy Week and Easter, it is possible to do so in such a way that we absorb its truth and reality in our life. We, each and all, have our own lesser experiences of the cost of loving. If we are true to ourselves, and live open to the consequences of love, without resentment or bitterness, and without retaliation in self-interest, we shall experience a 'weakness which is stronger than man's strength. It is something of this which I saw in my grandfather, and was verified in my experience after he died: an experience which has continued to encourage and reassure me over the years.

I invite us, each and all, so to follow Jesus' path from Palm Sunday through Good Friday to Easter Day, that we may receive from him something of his self-giving love, which brings us through the night of doubt and sorrow to the dawn of resurrection. Then we shall know for ourselves that "the foolishness of God is wiser than man's wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than man's strength." A happy Easter to you all.

Yours sincerely



Peter Lee

Prayer of the Month:

Jan Sutch Pickard

*God of all creation –
who cannot be contained by our boundaries or our definitions –
light from beyond galaxies, sea without a farther shore;
you are present in every distinct place, in every moment of history.
You are here and now.
Help us to understand that those from whom we are separated in life
by distance, by sea and land;
those from whom we are separated
by difference, by prejudice, by language, by lack of communication;
and that those from whom we are separated in death,
by its long silence, its aching absence –
are each in your presence;
that beyond our horizons,
beyond our boundaries,
beyond our understanding,
they are in your embrace. Amen.*



PLEASE WILL YOU HELP?

**House-to-house collection
14 – 20 May 2006**

Once again an appeal for volunteers to help with the house-to-house collection for Christian Aid.

We rely very much on those who kindly help year after year, without them we would not be sending £3000 to Christian Aid each May. However, we always need new/extra volunteers, as some collectors will be away during that week, others may feel they are not able to help this year because of ill health or other reasons.

So we need YOU!

The more volunteers we have the fewer houses each will have to cover. Please ring me (335663).

Fiona Lee

HOSPICE OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD WAVERTON/CHRISTLETON SUPPORT GROUP

The Support group is always happy to welcome new faces to its meetings. These are held bi-monthly to discuss and plan fund-raising events and they are very informal - no committee!

In the twenty-plus years since the forming of the Group a considerable amount of money has been raised to support this very worthy cause.

Anyone interested please contact Margaret Nell tel.336685 or Margaret Renner tel.332005,

MOTHERS UNION

Mothers Union held their AGM on Monday 13 February where it was reported that we had enjoyed a good year with some splendid speakers and lovely outings.

Our Meeting in April will be in Church on Monday 10th when we will be holding our Holy Week Meditation. All are welcome.

Janet Brown

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN CHRISTLETON

You are warmly invited to a
Simple Lunch
At the Methodist Church
On Saturday 8th April
12 noon – 1.30 pm
Donations to Christian Aid.

Former Littleton Resident

May I through your magazine, pass all good wishes to the many friends who remember me – Mrs Betty West. I lived in Sandfield, Tarvin Road, Littleton for 57 years and now with the passage of time have moved to Bexhill-on-Sea to be near my daughter, Susan. Thank you for the friendships and fellowships over the years. I miss Chester, but am able to still look to pastures new. I enjoy receiving the St James Parish Magazine each month and reading all your news. Thank you to Joan Webb and Dot Sproston from the Methodist Ladies Guild. The Methodist Home where I live is well run and we keep some independence. Easter Greetings to you all
Betty West

CHESTER EPILEPSY SUPPORT GROUP

The Chester Epilepsy Support Group is having a sales table at the United Charities Fair event to raise funds on Saturday 22 April to be held at the Northgate Arena. Please call in and support us between 10am – 4pm.

Our Group holds a meeting in the Wesley Methodist Church Hall, St John Street, Chester on the Third Tuesday of each month from 7.30 to 9.30 pm – all welcome.

Jenny Ralfs – 30 Haslin Crescent. Tel – 335693

CHRISTLETON WEDNESDAY GROUP

We wish to thank everyone who supported our fund-raising events during 2005.

At our Spring Lunch on 22 March we were able to present a cheque for £2500 to the Multiple Sclerosis Support Centre in Saltney.

Thank you all for making this possible.

CATHEDRAL LINK

Saints' Windows in the Cloisters

St Perpetua, also known as Vivia Perpetua. Lay-woman born to a noble pagan family. Martyred with her maid, friend, and fellow convert Saint Feleccitas. Died mauled by wild beasts and beheaded 7 March 203 at Carthage, North Africa.

Taken from a story of the death of the martyrs at Carthage:

The day of the martyrs' victory dawned. They marched from their cells into the amphitheatre, as if into heaven, with cheerful looks and graceful bearing. If they trembled it was for joy and not for fear. Perpetua was the first to be thrown down, and she fell prostrate. She got up and, seeing that Felicity was prostrate, went over and reached out her hand to her and lifted her up. Both stood up together. Rousing herself as if from sleep (so deeply had she been in spiritual ecstasy), she began to look around. To everyone's amazement she said "when are we going to be led to the beasts?" When she heard that it had already happened she did not at first believe

it until she saw the marks of violence on her body and her clothing.

The people, however, had demanded that the martyrs be led to the middle of the amphitheatre. They wanted to see the sword thrust into the bodies of the victims, so that their eyes might share in the slaughter. Without being asked they went where the people wanted them to go; but first they kissed one another, to complete their witness with the customary kiss of peace. Bravest and happiest martyrs! You were called and chosen for the glory and our Lord Jesus Christ.

Patronage: cattle; martyrs
Saints Day: 7 March

The Friends of Chester Cathedral

PLANT SALE

Friday 28 and Saturday 29 April

Put a note in your diary
Start making jars of
marmalade, jams and pickles
Sow some extra seeds

LOOK AT ME

No, not at me but an invitation to look at the self-portraits in the London Portrait Gallery recently. I came across this quite by chance and found it riveting. Over a recent period of six months, and indeed for many years now, the National Portrait Gallery has worked in partnership with a diverse range of organisations. Groups including young travellers, those in care, homeless people, those with mental health issues, young people outside formal education and those seeking asylum. Look at Me was developed in partnership with Dr Barnados, St Martin in the Fields, Look Ahead Housing and Care, Montacute House (National Trust), and national museums of Scotland, Sunderland and Liverpool.

A young gypsy traveller from Scotland wrote that he was honoured to be included; it was unusual because travellers are often ignored and don't get listened to. Participants were asked to create self-portraits through painting, drawing, sculpture, sound, photographs or poetry.

Visitors were able to use hands-on facilities – there were distorting

mirrors, a drawing area, a word wall and heat sensitive wallpaper where one could make a hand imprint, also videos to be watched. All in all it was an excellent exhibition.

Margaret Croston

Calls for Easter synchronization

New calls have been made for the worldwide Church to mark Easter on the same day, and promote Christian unity in the process. "Especially for churches in Muslim countries, it is a scandal if Christians cannot celebrate together," Cardinal Walter Kasper, president of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, said. Easter is celebrated most years on two different days, one by most Protestants and Roman Catholics, and the other by most Orthodox Churches. The different dates stem in part from disagreement over reform of the calendar by Pope Gregory XIII in the 16th century.

Everything in the modern home is controlled by switches except the children.

You really have insomnia if you can't sleep when it's time to get up.



Belated congratulations to Stan and Lil Edge who celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary on 3rd March. They married at St James Church in Christleton at 2pm in 1956 and still live in the parish at Littleton Lane. Our love and best wishes to them both on this special occasion.'

Sunday trading is back centre stage

A crucial few weeks lie ahead for the Keep Sunday Special Campaign and a plethora of other organisations and individuals who are determined to fight off the threat of more shopping hours on a Sunday.

The campaign has called upon a group of eminent politicians to examine the effect that weekend working is having on community and family life. The Parliamentary panel will meet over a period of weeks and will take evidence from an assortment of witnesses from children and family organisations, trade unions, retailers, religious groups and consumer groups.

The new threat to what remains of the family weekend comes from an alliance of major retailers calling themselves 'Deregulate.' Members, including Tesco, Ikea, B&Q and Asda, want the Government to lift all restrictions on large-shop trading on a Sunday. They are seeking to convince the Department of Trade and Industry that the demand comes from

consumers hungry to spend even more than they already do on Sunday shopping spree.

Heading the panel will be Labour's Lord Anderson, together with Ann Widdecombe, Gary Streeter, Andy Reed and Colin Breed. Their task will be to report by Easter to meet a tight Government deadline.

One of the first things they will be asked to examine is the huge discrepancy between poll results issued by the big stores and the NOP commissioned by KSS which demonstrated that 72 per cent of those interviewed would prefer to have a regular shared day off with their family and friends rather than have more time to shop on a Sunday.

This result does not stand alone. Usdaw, the shopworkers union with many members in Tesco stores, produced a similar NOP poll result. A survey of 500 shop staff found that 62% came under pressure to work St. James' Christleton Parish Magazine

on Sundays and only 11% have had the confidence to use their legal right to opt-out of Sunday working.

The attitude of many back-benchers in the House of Commons has raised hopes that Parliament will not on this occasion go for an extension. Nearly 180 MPs, among them many Labour members, have signed an Early Day Motion opposing any extension to Sunday trading.

There are many other concerns for the Panel to consider. Promises made in the 90s to pay shopworkers premium rates on a Sundays have been largely disregarded; ancillary workers serving the supermarkets have had to work harder for less compensation and probably the most serious of all effects has been on communities which have lost their local shops.

In villages all over Britain the elderly, the handicapped and those without transport have found a valuable social link has been cut off when their local shop closes down.

Campaign Manager of Keep Sunday Special, John Alexander, says it is essential to re-engage the interest of the churches right across Britain. 'Already many practising Christians have been denied the opportunity to worship on a Sunday and with even three extra hours of trading on a Sunday many more will find the opportunity to attend their local church will be even more limited.

"If Christians in particular and other faiths in general, are discriminated

against in order to privilege the minority that actively want to shop and trade on a Sunday, the Government will be putting the clock back so far as non-discrimination is concerned."

More information from Keep Sunday Special website: www.keepsundayspecial.net

What are those pests in your house?

Spring is here, and soon you may find the odd insect wandering into your house. That's okay, because you can easily send it back outside again.

But what happens if you come upon a colony of unwanted guests in the kitchen cupboard or loft? How do you know if they are easy to eradicate, or something that requires the services of a professional?

The British Pest Control Association has republished its 'A-Z of Pests in Your Home', which helps householders identify over 100 of the most common pests, from flies to moths, lice, ants, wasps, mice, rats and beetles.

The booklet will warn you of the damage your pests may do (which could give you a sleepless night!), but even better, offers advice on the best means of controlling the problem.

Copies of 'An A-Z of Pests in Your Home', are available for £4.95 including postage and packaging from the BPCA, 1 Gleneagles House, Vernon Gate, Derby DE1 1UP. Tel: 0870 609 2687 Fax: 01332 295904 Email: enquiry@bpcanet.org.uk

Nature Notes

Following my news in previous notes, of the Christleton Pit cygnet found ill at Southport Marine Lake, I now have heard that two other cygnets have appeared at Chasewater Lake in Staffordshire, and Cavendish Dock, Barrow in Furness. By the time you read this note, the nest will have been built for the current pair, with the prospects of more cygnets in May. The Tuesday walking group had a very enjoyable and interesting walk along the Menai Straits recently, and saw some wonderful flocks of wading birds, particularly impressive with a strong tide coming down the straits. Starting from the car park on the promenade at Llanfairfechan, we walked the coastal path along Traeth Laven sands, towards Bangor, visiting several nature reserves created among the estuary fields, mud flats, and cockle strewn shoreline. Small groups of turnstone, ringed plover, sandpiper and sanderling were accompanied by huge numbers of lapwing, redshank, curlew, snipe, knot and oystercatcher. The noise was quite incredible as these birds took off in their thousands, with shimmering patterns of small parties of some of these waders dipping, darting and diving across the water, as they moved from feeding point to resting place. The evocative sound

of the curlew is now rarely heard around our village, but we not only heard the calls throughout the day, but saw upwards of an estimated two thousand in great groups along the shore. Many other large groups, such as the oystercatchers were sitting tightly bunched, facing into the strong wind, and protecting themselves from predators as a group. The sight of thousands of lapwing flapping, wheeling and turning in the air, brought memories of the time when these also could be seen in great clouds around the Cheshire Countryside. We also saw a beautiful white egret feeding along the shore, together with several immature mute swans. Ducks were also plentiful with large numbers of shelduck, teal, wigeon, pochard, pintail and goldeneye, with a lovely group of mergansers feeding in the bay. Almost all these creatures are now in their finest plumage waiting to attract a mate for the breeding season. Another welcome sound was that the wonderful trill and reeling call of the skylark, announcing from high above our heads that it was ready to find a mate, appropriate enough really on St Valentine's Day.

David Cummings

From the Archives.

Christleton War Memorial Restoration

A great misfortune befell our War Memorial on November 23rd 1928. A violent gale broke its shaft, which in its fall damaged the Churchyard wall.

A representative Committee was formed to consider the best steps to be taken for repairing the damage. (Legal Opinion showed that no claim could be made upon the firm originally employed). The Committee invited Mr. H Beswick, as their Architect, to prepare alternative designs for the restoration, and at a General Meeting of Subscribers the design depicted on the cover of this leaflet, was accepted, with the estimate for its erection by Messrs. Clegg, of Chester.

This design not only provided for the Restoration on simpler lines and at a slightly lower elevation than the original, but also provides a direct approach, which will make it more easy of access to the village.

About £200 will be required, and it is felt that the most satisfactory way to meet the cost is by voluntary subscription, and you are earnestly invited to help in the same spirit which prompted the erection of the original Memorial.

All Subscriptions, will be gratefully received by the authorised collectors, and by Mr Edward Porritt, and will be acknowledged in the Paris Magazine.

It is hoped that the work will be completed by St James' Day July 25th 1929, and dedicated on the following Sunday.

DC

Haircut

A minister, known for his lengthy sermons, noticed a man get up and leave during the middle of his message. The man returned just before the conclusion of the service. Afterwards the clergyman asked the man where he had gone. "I went to get a haircut," was the reply. "But," said the minister, "why didn't you do that before the service?"

"Because," the gentleman said, "I didn't need one then."



Christleton Parish Hall

available for Meetings, Parties, Functions etc, occasional or regular use.

The Hall has wheelchair access and specially adapted facilities.

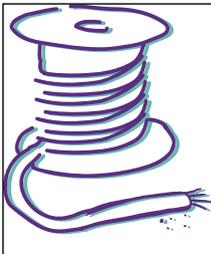
Please contact the Booking Secretary,

David Mercer 336155

Please telephone between 10.00am and 8.00pm
Monday to Saturday

RAY WATTS

Qualified Electrician
Semi Retired



Showers

Domestic Repairs

Security Lighting

Extra and Replacement

Lighting

FOR FREE ESTIMATE

Telephone 335829

PETER GRIME

**Established
19 years**



SPECIALIST IN TIMBER FENCNG
AND GATES • LANDSCAPING
DRAINAGE PROBLEMS • STONE
WALLS • LAYING OF FLAGS
• BUILDING OF HA-HA WALLS
• PREPARING & LAYING OF DRIVES
• GARDEN MAINTENANCE
**EXCELLENT WORKMAN-
SHIP**

**All the above at Reason-
able Rates**

Telephone 01244 336661
COTTON HALL FARM, COT-
TON EDMUNDS, CHESTER

Saints' Days in April

21 Anselm (1033 – 1109)

Anselm is a good saint to remember next time someone asks you to prove that there is a God. His brilliant and original Proslogion, written 1077-8, sets out the 'ontological' proof for God's existence. Nearly ten centuries later, it is still studied by theological students as one of the great philosophical 'proofs' of God's existence. Anselm was born at Aosta, the son of a spendthrift Lombard nobleman, whom Anselm detested. In time he decided to become a Benedictine monk, and joined Lanfranc's famous monastery at Bec (c. 1060). He became prior, then abbot. He was loved by his monks, appreciated for his sensitivity and intuitiveness. He remained friends also with Lanfranc, who had gone on to be Archbishop of Canterbury. After his death, Anselm reluctantly agreed to accept the job. Archbishops did not have press offices in those days, but Anselm made his views on Church-versus-King known all the same, and they did not please the king. William Rufus exiled him in 1097 and King Henry I exiled him in 1103. Anselm was utterly committed to what he saw as the cause of God and the Church, and had no time for temporal politics. Peace between archbishop and monarch was not achieved until 1106. Anselm spent the rest of his life in

England. His theological stance of 'Faith seeking understanding' and the mind at faith's service were the keys to his life and teaching.

23 St George's Day d circa 300 AD

The Saint of an English Army before he was Patron Saint of England, St George may have been a soldier, but he was no Englishman. He was an officer in the Roman army under Diocletian, who refused to abandon his faith during the Terror, and was martyred at Lydda in Palestine about the year 300 AD - supposedly 23 April. Over the years St George became the example of a Christian fighting-man, a powerful helper against evil powers affecting individual lives. He was the soldier-hero of the Middle Ages, of whom remarkable deeds were reported. In the Golden Legend of the 13th century, Jacobus de Voragine gave St George a handsome write-up. The story runs thus: One day, St George rode up to the heathen city of Sylene in Lybia, where he found the citizens in great distress. A neighbouring dragon had forced them to surrender two sheep each day for its dinner, and when the sheep gave out, two of their children; and now they were about to sacrifice the King's daughter, dressed as if for her wedding. St George encountered the little party by a stagnant lake, where the dragon lived, and persuaded the sobbing Princess to tell him

why she was so miserable. At that moment the dragon appeared, looking inexpressibly revolting. The Saint charged, and drove his spear into the gaping mouth. To everyone's amazement, he tumbled the monster over and over. Then St George borrowed the Princess' girdle, tied it round the dragon's neck, and persuaded her to lead it back to Sylene herself. The sight of her approaching with the befuddled dragon on its makeshift lead emptied the town. When the inhabitants timidly crept back, St George promised to behead the dragon if they would all believe in Jesus Christ and be baptised. It was a most effective form of evangelism, for everybody said 'yes' at once. So 15,000 people were baptised, and four carts were commissioned to remove the dragon's body. St George thus became a symbol of the war against evil, and is usually portrayed trampling the dragon of sin under his horse's hoofs. The Crusaders had a vision of him helping them against the Saracens at Antioch, during the first Crusade, and so brought the story of St George back with them from Palestine. Presently England put herself under the protection of the Saint. His day was a declared a holiday in 1222. A red cross on a white field is the flag of St George.

25 Mark (d c.74)

Mark, the son of Mary, whose home in Jerusalem became a place of rest for Jesus and his 12 apostles, is considered the traditional author of the second gospel. He is also usually identified as the young man, described in Mark 14.51, who followed Christ after his arrest and then escaped capture by leaving his clothes behind. Papias, in 130, said that in later years Mark became Peter's interpreter. If so, then this close friendship would have been how Mark gathered so much information about Jesus' life. Peter referred to him affectionately as his 'son'. Mark was also a companion to Paul on his journeys. When Paul was held captive at Rome, Mark was with him, helping him. Mark's Gospel, most likely written in Italy, perhaps in Rome, is the earliest account we have of the life of Jesus. Early in the 9th century Mark's body was brought to Venice, whose patron he became, and there it has remained to this day. The symbol of Mark as an evangelist, the lion, is much in evidence at Venice.

An atheist is a man without any invisible means of support.
John Buchan

There is one single fact that one may oppose to all the wit and argument of infidelity; namely that no man ever repented of being a Christian on his death-bed.
Hannah More

SERMON NOTEBOOK

“Location, Location, Location”
Golgotha: Matthew 27: 32-56

All of the gospels agree that Jesus’ crucifixion took place at Golgotha (The Place of the Skull), situated just outside the western wall of Jerusalem. While possibly referring to the shape of the hill, its name reminds us that this was primarily a place of execution. Despite being a place of horrific death, it also speaks of a unique turning point in history. The place where accident and design converged. From one perspective the cross can be interpreted as the tragic martyrdom of an innocent man. After a travesty of a trial Jesus was crucified as a common criminal. However, Jesus repeatedly warned his followers that all of this would take place. As the true ‘King of the Jews’ (37), God’s saving purpose and love lay behind his death. * Spend time considering what this truth means for you personally? The place where evil and good clashed. The darkness over the land (45) reveals a cosmic battle taking place in this event between good and evil. As Jesus took our sin upon himself (cf 1 Peter 2:24), he was separated from his Father (46). The tearing of the Temple curtain into two (51) shows how Jesus secured access for all into God’s presence. * Where do we need to receive

Christ’s forgiveness in our lives? The place where defeat and victory coincided. To many witnesses Jesus’ life appeared to end in utter, abject failure. However, the centurion saw something different: ‘Surely he was the Son of God’ (54). The breaking open of the tombs (anticipating the resurrection), affirms Jesus’ victory over sin, death and Satan. * In what areas are we feeling defeated in our spiritual lives? ‘God made a show of the powers of evil and darkness and at Calvary he put them to rout.’ (James Stewart).

It often shows a fine command of language to say nothing. Anon

God still comes where he can find someone quiet enough to listen and alone enough to heed. G B Duncan

Courage is grace under pressure. Ernest Hemingway
No one loves the man whom he fears. Aristotle

My definition of a free society is a society where it is safe to be unpopular. Adlai E Stevenson
Defeat is for those who acknowledge it.

The real problem concerning your leisure is how to keep other people from using it.

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 GARDENING CLUB

The next meeting will take place on **10 April** with a talk on Roses by Mr Tony Hallows.

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. The next meeting will be on **12 April** - "Easter Crafts"

CHRISTLETON W.I. MONTHLY WHIST DRIVE

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

MAGAZINE DISTRIBUTORS

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

LOCAL EVENTS DIARY

Christleton Local History Group

Weds. 26th April 7.30pm.
Llangollen to Ellesmere Port
by Canoe.
The history & wildlife of the
Shropshire Union Canal.
Speaker: David Cummings

GROSVENOR MUSEUM SOCIETY LECTURES

Thursday, APRIL 6th

Jeremy Cragg
The saving of Erddig Hall...the house of
the Yorke family.

Monday, MAY 8th

Dan Garner
The Chester Amphitheatre Project.....
discoveries from recent excavations.

All meetings take place in the Grosvenor
Museum Lecture Theatre, at 7.30pm

Entrance : Members free.

Non-members, suggested donation : £4

Details of membership from
Ken Holding (312689)

Charity Talk & Supper for Christian Aid

At 7.00pm

Saturday

29th April 2006.

The Parish Hall

David & Beryl Cummings

Present

Reef and Rain Forest

A fully illustrated talk about the Great
Barrier Reef, ancient Rainforests,
& the wildlife and scenery,
of the Gold Coast of Australia.

Tickets are £6

These will be available in
April, and includes a glass
of wine and light supper.
T i c k e t s f r o m

David Cummings 332410, &
Christleton Post Office

MAGAZINE CONTRIBUTIONS

Please ensure all items for inclusion in the **May** edition are
sent to the Editor, David Bull, The Old Rectory, Plough Lane,
as soon as possible **BEFORE Friday 14th April**

You can e-mail this to

christletonmag@hotmail.co.uk

CHRISTLETON RAMBLING GROUPS



St James' Tuesday Rambling Group.

Tuesday 25th April

The Lake District; Keswick.

Combining trip by Lake Steamer & walk around Derwentwater.

8miles [moderate] Picnic needed.

Depart Church Car Park at 7.30am

Higher Wych and Lower Wych Ramble Sunday April 9th, 2006

This short walk near (just under 3 miles) follows the Wych burn near Malpas along the Wales /Shropshire border This is a very unspoilt bit of countryside said to have badgers, lots of birds and is very beautiful, if a little damp in places! We last did this in the autumn 18 months ago and the main reason to revisit it is to see the birds and flowers and foliage which should be lovely in Spring.

Meet in Church car park at 2.00pm

Further information – Liz McClure 409414

CHESTER FLOWER CLUB

Meetings are held in Christleton Parish Hall on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 1.30pm. Details of any events can be obtained from the Secretary, Mrs Edna Ellis telephone Chester 346497.

CHOCOLATE AT EASTER

Chocolate. Just a mention of the word can trigger off all kinds of emotions: craving, greed, passion. Few foods have the ability to get such a hold on people. As you buy your Easter eggs and bunnies and whatever else this month, here are some of the facts of chocolate: Where does chocolate come from? Chocolate is made from the seeds of the tropical cacao tree, *theobroma cacao*. The Greek word 'theobroma' means literally 'food of the gods'. The Cacao Tree is found in Latin America, where temperatures are between 25 and 28 degrees. Who first discovered it? The Aztecs. The cacao beans were used to prepare a hot, frothy beverage with stimulant and restorative properties, something like hot chocolate. Who was (probably) the first chocoholic?



The Emperor Montezuma. He drank 50 goblets a day of the frothy drink. Who used chocolate as currency? The Aztecs. 100 cacao beans would buy a slave; 12 cacao beans bought the services of a courtesan, etc. When did chocolate as we know it today begin? Surprisingly, not until 1879. That year Rodolphe Lindt had the inspired idea of triglyceride cocoa butter. The cocoa butter in chocolate contains

saturated fat, but a normal level of consumption doesn't have any bad effects. At what point does a chocolate lover become a chocoholic? It is generally considered to be when a person feels impelled to consume 12 or more 60 gram bars of chocolate per week. Chocolate contains its own cannabinoid (a chemical that prolongs pleasurable

sensations) and when you eat chocolate, there is an increased blood flow in areas of the brain, which are also activated by addictive drugs such as cocaine. But scientists agree that occasional over-indulging will cause no long-term problems... except perhaps around your waistline!

The Cross Road

*He chose.
He chose the crossroad.
Darkness, desertion and desolation
Pierced him like the thorns on his
chosen way.
In his broken, bleeding body,
Through the heat and dust and
mockery,
Through the heaving crowds of
feeble men
He stumbled with his death tree.
Up, up, up the steep and cruel
high road
To the skull place of the outcast
Where the cross road had its end.
In the nailing and the piercing,
In the searing suffocation,
In the bearing of the whole world's
filth
His cross road set me free.*

Daphne Kitching

The way

*When Jesus bowed his head,
And dying took our place,
The veil was rent, a way was
found
To that pure home of grace.*

John Elias

Wounds

*O Saviour Christ, thou too are
man;
Thou hast been troubled, tempted,
tried;
Thy kind but searching glance can
scan
The very wounds that shame
would hide.*

Henry Twells

Amazing

*Were the whole realm of nature
mine,
That were an offering far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all.*

Isaac Watts

April Rain

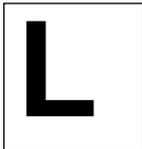
*It isn't raining rain to me,
It's raining daffodils;
In every dimpled drop I see
Wild flowers on the hills.
The clouds of grey engulf the day
And overwhelm the town –
It isn't raining rain to me,
It's raining roses down.*

Robert Loveman

Churches make neighbourhoods 'a better place to live'

More than eight out of 10 people in a Britain go into a church or place of worship each year and six in 10 believe a place of worship makes their neighbourhood a better place to live, according to the recent findings of an Opinion Research Business attitude survey. The results back up similar findings in 2003.

The survey, sponsored by the Archbishops' Council and English Heritage, also found that six in ten people believe that places of worship should be more actively involved in the local community, and more accessible



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

to the local community.

"These responses show that churches, far from being museum pieces, are living breathing communities reaching out to churchgoers and non-churchgoers, central to their neighbourhoods and making possible much needed and welcomed local facilities of all kinds," said the Rt Rev Richard Chartres, Bishop of London and chair of the Church Heritage Forum.

The Church of England maintains almost half the Grade 1 listed buildings in England, spending £120 million a year on church repairs. The state, through English Heritage and the Heritage Lottery Fund, provides £26 million for repairs to listed church buildings and cathedrals.

The Bishop said: "This research clearly supports the Church's call for more state funding for the maintenance of not merely the country's architectural heritage but a central plank of its social cohesion."



...between you and me, it's the only way I can remember my PIN number!

POSITIVELY BROWNIES



The Positive Concert by the 1st Christleton Brownies raised £150. for the B-positive appeal at Christleton Parish Hall on 13th March.

Easter Story Biscuits

Prep. Time: 20 minutes

Total Time: 1 day

Ingredients:

- * 1 cup pecan nuts
- * 1 tsp. vinegar
- * 3 egg whites
- * 1 pinch salt
- * 1 cup sugar
- * large plastic bag
- * wooden spoon
- * tape
- * Bible

Instructions:

1. Preheat oven to 300°F.
2. Place pecans in the plastic bag and let the children beat them with the wooden spoon to break into small pieces. Explain that after Jesus was arrested he was beaten by the Roman soldiers. Read John 19:1-3.
3. Let each child smell the vinegar. Put 1 tsp. vinegar into mixing bowl. Explain that when Jesus was thirsty on the cross he was given vinegar to drink. Read John 19:28-30.
4. Add egg whites to vinegar. Eggs represent life. Explain that Jesus gave his life to give us life. Read John 10:10-11.
5. Sprinkle a little salt into each child's hand. Let them taste it and brush the rest into the bowl. Explain that this represents the salty tears shed by Jesus' followers, and the bitterness of our own sin. Read Luke 23:27.
So far the ingredients are not very appetizing...
6. Add 1 cup sugar. Explain that the sweetest part of the story is that Jesus died because he loves us. He wants us to know and belong to him. Read Ps. 34:8

and John 3:16.

7. Beat with a mixer on high speed until stiff peaks are formed. Explain that the color white represents the purity in God's eyes of those whose sins have been cleansed by Jesus. Read Isaiah 1:18 and John 3:1-3.
8. Fold in broken nuts.
9. Drop by teaspoons onto non-stick baking parchment-covered baking sheet. Explain that each mound represents the rocky tomb where Jesus' body was laid. Read Matthew 27:57-60.
10. Put the baking sheet in the oven, close the door and turn the oven OFF.
11. Give each child a piece of tape and seal the oven door. Explain that Jesus' tomb was sealed. Read Matthew 27:65-66.
12. GO TO BED! Explain that they may feel sad to leave them in the oven overnight. Jesus' followers felt despair when the tomb was sealed. Read John 16:20 and 22.
13. On Easter morning, open the oven and give everyone a cookie. Notice the cracked surface and take a bite. The cookies are hollow! On the first Easter Jesus' followers were amazed to find the tomb open and empty. Read Matthew 28:1-9.

Solutions

Across

1 Pledge 4 Pipes 8 Psalm 9 Broiled 10 Absolve 11 Heel 12 Rob 14 Edge 15 Eden
18 Lot 21 Ears 23 Rejoice 25 Tabitha 26 Maker 27 Eliab 28 Animal

Down

1 Poplar 2 Elapsed 3 Gamaliel 4 Poor 5 Pulse 6 Saddle 7 Abner 13 Benjamin
16 Eliakim 17 Gentle 19 Troas 20 Petrel 22 Rabbi 24

CHRISTLETON CRICKET CLUB



The new season starts on 22nd April with the 1st team away at Nantwich. Hopes are high with new captain, Jim Gillson, expecting to better last year's excellent third place. Maroof Khan, who is captain of the Cheshire County League representative team, will be playing again and Daron Cruikshank is returning from Trinidad after playing at Queen's Park Oval, the home of Brian Lara and Dwain Bravo. Unfortunately our friendly rivals, Boughton Hall were relegated last season so we are the only premier league team in Chester.

It is hoped that locals will support our village cricket team. The bar will be open from 5.30pm on Saturdays and Chairman Gareth Davies welcomes all visitors to the excellent facilities at Little Heath.

A number of new players have joined the club which will give strength in depth. The second X1 and third X1 should benefit. Our Over 40's team are already oiling

their joints and taking daily Philosan! Net practice has begun and anyone wishing to join can contact 01244 332326 for information

We have three junior teams playing in leagues this season. Junior coaching, from 7yrs upwards, takes place on Mondays and Fridays. For information regarding juniors contact Richard Morgan – Jones 01244 332104

Work on the ground is already in progress. It is hoped Jim Partington awakes from hibernation in the next few weeks to give the benefit of his grounds experience.

A Sportman's Evening was held on the 24th March with guest speaker David Graveney, Chairman of the England Selectors.

Please note that Christleton Sports Club is available for parties and other functions
Contact 332326 or 332982



EASTER SYMBOLS

At Easter it is all bunnies, eggs and flowers in the shops. Why are they symbols of Easter?



One of the oldest spring symbols in the world is the egg - it promises new life as in spring,

fluffy yellow chicks are hatched from eggs.

The hare was a symbol of the moon and is connected with Easter because the date of Easter depends upon the full moon. Over time, the hare became a rabbit because rabbits are more numerous!



The lamb represents Jesus and links his death to that of the lamb sacrificed on the first Passover. Jesus is called "the Lamb of God."



Lilies are used to decorate churches. The large, white flowers remind us of the new life that comes through the resurrection of Jesus.



EASTER WORDSEARCH

All the words hidden in this word-search are spring and Easter - can you find them all?

D C A G M Y N N U B
 A D H A R E T U L I
 F U B I N A G P O P
 F C M I C R S G Y M
 O K A Y R K S S E O
 D P L N E D R A G S
 I I C R O C U S A S
 L L B G N I R P S O
 B U F L O W E R D L
 U T D U O L C D U B

BIRD BLOSSOM BUD
 BUNNY CHICK CLOUD
 CROCUS DAFFODIL DUCK
 EGG FLOWER GARDEN
 GRASS HARE LAMB LILY
 SPRING TULIP



Who tells chicken jokes?

Comedihens.



How do baby hens dance?

Chick to chick.

Why does the chicken go to the theatre?

For hentertainment.

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.

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 February 2006

Baptism

- 12th Lewis Raymond Basford son of Raymond Basford & Wendy Clark
"Lynden", Rowton Lane, Rowton.
- 19th Jeremy Peter Lee son of Nicholas & Rowena Lee
Maple Cottage, 1 Cleaveland Road, Surbiton, Surrey.

"We welcome you into the Lords Family"

The Funeral Service

- 16th Phyllis Williams, Arran Court, 190 Princes Road, Ellesmere Port.
- 16th Edward Masheter, 14 The Park, Christleton
- 17th Edward Masheter (Burial of Ashes)

"Rest Eternal grant unto them"

Offertories

February	Cash	CSE	2006	2005
5th	162.02	590.50	752.52	951.14
12th	335.73	755.00	1,090.73	949.15
19th	186.53	499.50	686.03	698.27
26th	173.65	792.00	965.65	790.61
			£3,494.93	£3,389.17

"Of your own do we give you"

SHOPPING & SERVICE GUIDE

ROCK HOUSE DENTAL PRACTICE

Village Road, Christleton

Pamela Benson

B.D.S.

Damian Murphy

B.D.S.

and hygienists

- All treatments available adapted for the disabled
- Special interest in cosmetic and preventative dentistry



 01244 332162



JOHN GRIFFITHS

PAINTER & DECORATOR

Interior & Exterior Work Undertaken

30 Years Experience

For A Free Estimate Call 01352 756796



JOINTS & POINTS

PHYSIOTHERAPY : ACUPUNCTURE : SPORT INJURY CLINIC :
CHIROPODY : CONTINENCE CLINIC : COMPLEMENTARY THERAPY

David Lloyd Leisure, Cheshire Oaks and Bebington, Wirral

Appointments 0151 645 3534

Advertising - contact: Ann Smith, Tel: 332434

e-mail: ann.smith10@virgin.net

Readers.... Please remember to support our magazine advertisers and mention where you have read their name/

White Walls
Village Road

Bed & Breakfast

In the Heart of the Village

Ensuite central heating

Colour TV

Tea & coffee making facilities

Full English breakfast

Please call

Brian & Hilary

Or drop in for coffee

Tel / fax: 01244 336033

E-mail

hilary-devenport@supanet.com

A J Meredith Ltd

Painters and Decorators

Lansdowne, Roadside,
Christleton, Chester

Tel: (01244) 335454

Mobile: 07778777145



Established 75 years

Richard
Nicholson

Just hundreds
of old maps
and prints at

www.antiquemaps.com

Stoneydale
Pepper Street
Christleton
Chester
CH3 7AG

Tel: 01244 336004

Fax 01244 336138

e-mail

richard@antiquemaps.com



A Beautiful Range of
Fireplaces by

F. J. Proud & Sons

- VICTORIAN CAST & MARBLE & WOODEN SURROUNDS
- LIVING FLAME GAS FIRES IN NATURAL WOOD OR LPG
- MULTIFUEL & GAS STOVES
- BRASSWARE & ACCESORIES
- COMPLETE FITTING SERVICE •

CALOR GAS SHOP

OPEN 6 DAYS

8.30am - 5.30pm

Contact

CHESTER
01244 325506

27/29 Christleton Road
Chester, CH3 5UF

