



# St. James'

## Christleton

PARISH MAGAZINE

April 2016

[www.christleton.org.uk](http://www.christleton.org.uk)

# Appointments in April

## Easter 2

Sun	3	8.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP) - followed by Breakfast in the Parish Hall
		10.45 am	Holy Communion (CW) - followed by Refreshments in Parish Hall
		6.30 pm	Evening Worship Crew Meeting
Mon	4	10.45 am	Holy Communion at Oaklands Nursing Home
		11.20 am	Holy Communion at Tarvin Count Nursing Home
		2.00 pm	Mothers' Union - Parish Hall
Wed	6	10.45 am	United Holy Communion (BCP) - followed by refreshments
		11.30 am	Holy Communion at Birch Heath Lodge Nursing Home
		6.00 pm	Choir Practice
Fri	8	<b>NB: Last date for contributions for May Parish Magazine. Please e-mail to the editor at <a href="mailto:christletonmag@gmail.com">christletonmag@gmail.com</a> Any non-computerised contributions to Janet Milton (325529).</b>	

## Easter 3

Sun	10	8.00 am	Holy Communion (CW)
		10.45 am	Morning Worship - followed by Refreshments in Parish Hall
		6.30 pm	Holy Communion (CW)
Wed	13	10.45 am	Holy Communion (BCP) - followed by Refreshments
		6.00 pm	Choir Practice

Sat 16 3.00 pm Wedding - Nathan and Rachel

#### **Easter 4**

Sun 17 8.00 am Holy Communion (CW)  
10.45 am Holy Communion (CW) - followed by Refreshments in Parish Hall  
4.00 pm - 6.00 pm Messy Church - Parish Hall  
6.30 pm Evening Worship

Mon 18 12.00 for 12.30 start Luncheon Club -Parish Hall

Wed 20 10.45 am Holy Communion (BCP) - followed by refreshments

#### **Easter 5**

Sun 24 8.00 am Holy Communion (CW)  
10.45 am Sunday Club - Parish Hall  
10.45 am Morning Worship - followed by refreshments in church.  
11.45 am A Short Meeting of the Parishioners followed by Annual Parochial General Meeting in Church. All St James church members are invited to attend.  
6.30 pm Holy Communion (CW)

Mon 25 - Thur 28 Parish Retreat to the Northumbrian Community

Wed 27 10.45 am Holy Communion - followed by refreshments

### **A foolish message:**

'For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.' (1 Cor 1:18). The heart of the Gospel does not focus on clever ideas, but on the Cross of Jesus Christ. This message of foolishness and weakness is both God's wisdom and power for our lives!

# Message from our Rector



For many of us these are worrying times. However hard we try to put anxious thoughts “on the back burner”, the financial crisis looms as a constant concern for those who wonder if the place they have put their investments is secure, or if their pension fund is safe, or if they’ll ever be able to sell that house they have had on the market for months.

Weathering the storms of life seems to be something most of us have to do at some time, whether they be financial insecurities, or personal grief and tragedy. Often our suffering seems unfair and I have known many who have asked me why bad things happen to good people, if I believe in a loving God.

I do not know the answer to that question. Its probably the first one I’d like to put to God, when I meet him face to face. (although I suspect he might want to challenge me about a few more important things first.) What I do know, however, is that my faith has never been based on the assumption that life will be plain sailing. I, like many of you, have known really dark times and found it difficult to see even a flicker of light in the darkness.

So my faith as a Christian is not based on the premise that “if you are on God’s side, everything will be Ok”, but rather on the knowledge that God is there in all the darkest places we might find ourselves. This is the God who, in his son, suffered humiliation, rejection, betrayal and death, in order to show us his love. Remember that beautiful bit of the prologue to St John’s gospel which is read at every traditional carol service and at the midnight Christmas service at “St James” each year. It reads “the light shines in the darkness and the darkness did not overcome it”

For many of us, God shows his love for us through the love of others. Others speak of a sense that however low they sink, there are the

everlasting arms underneath before they fall into eternal blackness. We might do well to look back over the dark times in our lives and see how we have been enabled to survive them.

The story of Jesus calming the storm on Galilee is more than a factual account. It has eternal significance and perhaps particular meaning for those of you who are feeling tossed about, for whatever reason, as you read this magazine. The storm will still. God fully understands when we get anxious, or angry, or cry out to him in sheer desperation. The psalmist did it. The disciples did it, Even Jesus did it with those memorable words, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”

But perhaps, in all the clamour of the tempest, we might just manage to hear the message of hope ..... after all, there is both death AND resurrection in our Christian story.

Thank God!

Your faithful servant,  
Malcolm



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## **Front Cover**

A Taize Cross illuminating St James for the Lent talk led by Tina Lightfoot in March 2016. It was made by P.C.C. Secretary Brian Inall.

## **Back Cover**

Top - Crocus on the Village Green, Christleton

Bottom - Butlers Mill on the canal at Christleton

# WHAT'S ON THIS MONTH

## SUNDAY CLUB

Held in the Parish Hall from 10.45 am – 11.45 am each Sunday during term-time, except when Family Service is held at St James.

For further details please contact Berenice Kirwan, 336779.

## CHRISTLETON METHODIST CHURCH

We meet for Informal Prayers and a Simple Lunch on the first Thursday of each month at 12 noon. All welcome. There is no charge for the lunch but a donation to cover costs would be appreciated.

## CHRISTLETON W. I.

Meets on the second Wednesday of the month at 7.15 pm in the Parish Hall. Further details may be obtained from the Secretary, Miss Ida Rogers, Chester 350060.



## 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 Club Secretary - 01745 856126.

## MAGAZINE CONTRIBUTIONS

Please ensure that all items for inclusion in the **May** edition are sent to **christletonmag@gmail.com** or , if you do not have access to e mail, please give or send them to Janet Milton(325529), as soon as possible **BEFORE Friday April 8th**

## MAGAZINE DISTRIBUTORS

The **March** magazine will be available for collection from Church on **Sunday 28th March**.

## RSPB CHESTER GROUP

Meetings are held in Christleton Parish Hall, usually on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm. Occasional field trips. Details from Norman on 01244 335670 or [www.rspb.org.uk/groups/chester](http://www.rspb.org.uk/groups/chester)

# The History File

## Robert Andrew Scott Macfie (1868-1935) Part 1

One of the most extraordinary stories that has emerged from our WWI research has been that of Robert Andrew Scott Macfie whose family lived at Rowton Hall. His parents John William and Helen Wahab Macfie are buried at St James'. He had nine siblings; Janet Cowan, Caroline Easton, Charles Wahab, Helen Charlotte, John William, Mary, Letitia Stuart, Alison Bland, and Marion Sheila Scott Macfie. It was his sister Sheila who was most active in the village during WWI, helping to organise groups of ladies at Rowton, to make medical items, such as bandages, dressings, clothing and materials for use in local hospitals and the troops on the battlefield.

Robert was educated at Cambridge, Edinburgh and Gottingen Universities and was a member of a prominent sugar refining family in Liverpool, which his family had operated since 1788.

He was clearly a very interesting character, and we learn so much about him from National Archives, through his writings, and from stories gleaned on the internet.



It seems that he spent a short time abroad serving in the army, but returned to Liverpool to become one of the first members of the distinguished University Club. His association with the University Club brought him into contact with a group of brilliant scholars, several of whom were keen Gypsologists. Robert became fascinated by the lives these Roma/Gypsies lived, and in 1907, John Sampson and David MacRitchie persuaded Robert to revive the Gypsy Lore Society, which had been defunct for 14 years. The letter books held by the Gypsy Lore Society show the commitment and persuasive talent for friendship that Robert brought to the cause, and he remained the inspiration and

driving force behind the research and published material of the Society until his death in 1935.

He became one of England's leading authorities on Roma/Gypsies and their language, recording vast quantities of dialect, folk tales and songs from various groups he met in Britain, including the Lovari or "German" Gypsies who visited England in 1906, and the "Coppersmith Gypsies" who came to the country in 1911, and stayed in the Liverpool area. Robert wrote an account in "Gypsy Coppersmiths in Liverpool and Birkenhead" in 1913, and he became godfather to one of the children, born in the drill hall in Birkenhead.

In the summer of 1913 he travelled to Bulgaria in the company of a band of Gypsy Horse dealers, an adventure he wrote up as "With Gypsies in Bulgaria". He was a volunteer pre war, and at the outbreak of war joined the Liverpool Scottish, a Battalion of the Kings Liverpool Regiment. He enrolled as a Private but soon rose to the rank of Regimental Quarter Master Sergeant. In January 1917 he was awarded the D.C.M.

Robert Andrew Scott Macfie was seen to be ideal officer material, but he rejected many offers of a commission. He was a prolific letter writer, and there is a large collection of letters written to family and friends during the war, many held in the Liverpool Scottish Museum, and it's reported that he also has an archive at the Imperial War Museum. I have read several articles about Robert's war service and there is a poignant section about Robert in the book "Bravest of Hearts" by Hal Giblin.

In one letter after the terrible events of the Battle of Hooge, which nearly annihilated the Liverpool Scottish, he wrote to a friend "don't imagine that we are gloomy. Perhaps we should be. As a matter of fact the remnant is very fit, singing, talking and joking as if there was nothing melancholy or even serious in the whole world. In the midst of death we are in life"

In 1918 he wrote to a friend "I'm rather lonely now. All my friends are

either dead or invalided home and I don't take to their conscript successors. We lost again very heavily in Cambrai counter- attack. Now there are only 72 of us to wear the 1914 Star ribbon out of more than 1800 who came out in France in 1914".

The following is an extract from a letter home written to his brother giving his thoughts on the war. "all probability, dead. The want of preparation, the vague orders, the ignorance of the objective & geography, the absurd haste, and in general the horrid bungling were scandalous. After two years of war it seems that our higher commanders are still without common sense. In any well regulated organisation a divisional commander would be shot for incompetence- here another regiment is ordered to attempt the same task in the same muddling way. It was worse than Hooge, much worse- and it is still going on!".

DC

Ref. The book "Bravest of Hearts" by Hal Giblin.

Next month we see the ingenious side of Robert as he writes a recipe book for Army Cooks, and creates a Beer Garden away from the trenches to "keep the men amused" at the Somme. DC.

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## **\*Charity Talk for St James' Christian Aid Appeal 2016\***

Christleton Parish Hall

**David & Beryl Cummings presents**

A Norwegian Adventure. (To the land of the Midnight Sun)

**Saturday April 16th at 7.00pm**

**Tickets; £6 adults; Young people free.**

Refreshments; Emma's Special Cakes/tea/coffee/soft drinks  
Raffle.

# **An IMPORTANT note for your diary**

## **Christleton Village Show 2016**

**Is on Saturday 9th. July**

**In Christleton Parish Hall**

Christleton Village show is open to all residents in the Parish of Christleton – Christleton; Littleton; Rowton; Cotton Abbotts; and Cotton Edmunds as well as the many who have links to the parish through the schools and churches etc and ex villages who have moved to surrounding villages like Guilden Sutton, Barrow, Waverton etc.

The 2016 Schedules should now be available from Christleton Village Stores the Ring O Bells as well as St James Parish Church, Christleton Methodist Church and committee members.

As usual there are new categories to choose from as well familiar ones so there is great choice to start planting, 'crafting', sewing, painting etc. It doesn't cost much, is great fun and there are lots of trophies to win. You will also be helping with a worthy cause. After expenses all remaining proceeds are given to charity

Once again Linda at Drakes Hairdressers has agreed to be a collecting point for completed Entry forms, making getting your forms in on time so much easier. This is in addition to the Entry form collection point at Judith Butts house –Greenmantle, Plough Lane. There will also be a Coffee Morning on 2nd July in the Ring O Bells for entries to be made. We are appealing this year for help to Set Up the show on Friday at 4-00 and dismantle after 4-00 on Saturday Evening. This usually takes about 11/2 hours. PLEASE contact any of the committee if you can spend even part of the time helping .

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

Chris Marsland – 335424, David or Beryl Cummings - 332410, Janet Brown – 335785. Charles Smeatham – 335209. Margaret Croston – 335955, Sue Haywood – 01829 741814, June Pearson - 335101, Judith Butt – 335296, Sue and Lewis Rees; Christine Abrams -335562, Edward Elliot - 336659; Sarah Donald, Jim Ferns and Claire Gelder.

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**APPEAL FOR FUNDS FOR A  
NEW HEATING SYSTEM  
at  
ST JAMES' CHURCH**

Our Central Heating System at St James is nearly 30 years old and coming to the end of its working life. We need to install a new Boiler and Heating System as soon as we are able to raise £10,000 in the next few months towards the cost.

Are you able to help us with a donation towards the cost?  
Any contribution will be welcome and should be sent directly to the Treasurers:

Brian and Loraine Lewis  
51 Parkfield Road  
Broughton  
CH4 OSE

Any cheques should be addressed to:  
**“Christleton Parochial Church Council”**.  
Thank you for your continued support to St James.

*John Pearson*

## The top 10 Bible stories: no. 8: David and Goliath

### Five Smooth Stones !

This month's Must Know Story, about Goliath's defeat by David (1 Samuel 17), is one of the best known in the Bible. Goliath was nine feet tall, dressed in bronze armour and carrying a sword and spear. However, David was a young shepherd, whose only weapon was a sling and five smooth stones. We won't face somebody like Goliath, but will face other giants in our lives (fear, insecurity, loneliness, failure etc). What five stones can help overcome the giants that we face?

- **Courage:** David was unafraid of Goliath, 'Let no one lose heart on account of this Philistine; your servant will go and fight him.' (32). We need courage to face the giants in our lives.
- **Confidence:** David's experience as a shepherd gave him confidence in facing Goliath. 'The Lord who rescued me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear will rescue me from the hand of this Philistine.' (37). We also can be confident in God's help to overcome our problems.
- **Preparation:** 'Then he took his staff in his hand, chose five smooth stones from the stream, put them in the pouch of his shepherd's bag and, with his sling in his hand, approached the Philistine.' (40). Like David, are we using the gifts and experience that God has given us in the fight?
- **Trust:** David didn't trust in his own abilities, 'You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the Lord Almighty' (45) Will we put our trust in God alone?
- **Victory:** 'for the battle is the Lord's' (47). When we turn our battles over to God, He will give us victory!

'That little stone took Goliath by surprise; such a thing had never entered his head before!!'

Good likeness

## **THE WAY I SEE IT : Stop the world, I want to get off**

At my age you start marveling at the pace of change. It only seems yesterday that we started getting money from holes in the wall. Then it was dotcom, and emails, mobile phones and 'going online'. Now it's smart-phones, internet shopping and digital books. As one habitual feature of my adult life disappears after another, I start to wonder what will eventually be left.

So I try to imagine a world without things: without the daily newspaper or printed magazines; without clothes shops or banks; without cricket (baseball has taken over the 'franchise') or football (NFL has won the hearts of the young generation). Evensong is distant history, and so is radio. Even TV is only used by the very old, everyone else 'streams' their programmes online from all over the world. No one reads paper books, though they are stored somewhere in academic libraries. Oh, and what were coins, banknotes and cheques?.

If you think any of those things can't possibly happen, just reflect (if you're old enough) on the world of fifty years ago: black and white television, gramophones, tape recorders, Woolworths, bookshops on every high street, a nightly 'epilogue' on the BBC, and five million readers a day for the Sun. It wasn't better (actually, a lot was worse), but it was massively different. Only God is changeless, the same 'yesterday, today and for ever'. Change is an inescapable element of human life. It's just that it's got so fast! Could someone please slow it down a bit?

## **Prayer for every day after Easter**

Living, Almighty God, Thank you that by your Spirit living in me, made possible by the life, death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus, you give me all I need. Like Peter, you forgive and re-commission me. Like Thomas, you meet me in ways tailor-made for me. Lord, thank you for the daily personal "nudges" that assure me of your reality, your presence in my life, just when I need so much to know you are here. Thank you that we are Easter People every day, because of Jesus, and in His name we pray. Amen. By Daphne Kitching

## *A Spotlight on*

*a member of St James' congregation:*

*Live: Broughton*

*Nationality: English*

*Originally from: Christleton*

*Occupation: Forces REME*

*For 23 years*

*Airbus for 25 1/2*



*Family: Wife Lorraine, Daughter Melanie, Son in law Terry. Son Mark and Daughter in law Claire  
Grandson Kieron 3 years old*

*Interests: Anything that needs fixing especially Cars and Planes.*

*Local Sports and Social Club*

*Supporting Lorraine with her dance classes and the monthly function we put on.*



*Favourite Quotation: 'Yes Dear'!!*

*Things that may surprise the reader:*

*Choir boy and Bell ringer at St James years ago*

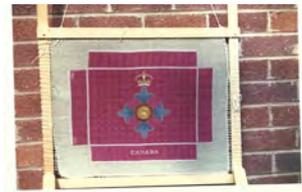


# The Hassock

In February 1972 my Daughter Suzanne having had her appendix removed was off school for three weeks convalescing and had nothing to do. I saw an advert in the Lady Magazine “ Wanted 400 seamstresses to make Hassocks for St Paul’s Cathedral O B E Chapel. Instructions, canvas and wool to be provided, choose which Commonwealth you would like to commemorate in the main panel.”

As Suzanne was by then a keen needle woman I showed it to her and said ‘What do you think?’ Her reply was ‘What’s a hassock?’ having explained, I answered the advert and soon received all the material promised. The Hassock was to be completed in 6 months quite a challenge. It was finished in time and she was interviewed about it on Radio Merseyside

On Wednesday 22nd of November 1972 we were invited to the Dedication Service in the O.B.E. Chapel. Black Rod who was acting as Usher, spoke to us and established that Suzanne was the youngest participant, the oldest was 93. 200 of the 400 Hassocks were worked on by W.I. members. I wonder if the Hassock is still there and did Margaret and Alf kneel on them recently?



Suzanne has continued to develop her skill completing more and more intricate designs as well as working in other mediums, she has recently completed a knitted patchwork quilt. and is now a dentist in Wrexham.

Jean Williams

## New YouTube videos explain Book of Common Prayer

A brand new series of eight free half-hour videos has been produced by the Prayer Book Society to guide clergy unfamiliar with The Book of Common Prayer when required to conduct its most popular services. The films also will assist wedding planners, undertakers and others advising those arranging marriages and funerals.

The new videos have been produced in two formats: in one they include a spoken commentary explaining to clergy and ordinands the practicalities of conducting the services; the alternative format has no commentary, allowing viewers to concentrate on the wording used in Prayer Book services. They are Holy Communion, Morning Prayer (or Mattins) and Evening Prayer (or Evensong) as well as baptism, marriage and funeral services.

More details at: [www.pbs.org.uk](http://www.pbs.org.uk)

## **Christians in India face more pressure**

Two members of the ruling BJP in India plan to introduce a Private Member's Bill proposing a national ban on conversions from Hinduism, in response to a census showing the percentage of Hindus in India has dropped below 80 per cent.

Tarun Vijay, an MP from Uttarakhand state, has reportedly said that his Bill in the Upper House would advocate a ten-year jail sentence for any 'person found engaged in the act of conversion'. The MP in the Lower House, Yogi Adityanath, is head priest at a prominent Hindu temple.

Christians in India, and especially pastors in some rural areas, remain under pressure. Pastor Ajmer Singh Damor of Shalom Church in Fatiguda, Madhya Pradesh, was beaten unconscious and left badly injured when Hindu extremists raided a prayer meeting last month. His wife, Runita, and another church member were also beaten. At least 19 Christians in the state were arrested last month in three separate incidents where extremists attacked or threatened Christians. Contact: [info@releaseinternational.org](mailto:info@releaseinternational.org)

## **Who helps our young 'carers'?**

Schools and local authorities are failing to provide potentially thousands of young carers with the early support they need, and instead wait to act when their problems reach crisis point.

So says The Children's Society, in its recent report: 'There's nobody is there - no one who can actually help?' The research looked at the experiences of 45 young carers aged nine to 24 from the North West, West Midlands, South West and South East of England. In some cases, it was only when they suffered problems with their own physical or mental health that they were offered any support, and even then it was often inconsistent and inadequate.

The latest Census put the number of young carers in the UK at 166,000, but this is believed to be just the tip of the iceberg. Young carers can be at high risk for developing mental health issues, educational underachievement, bullying and social isolation. Yet there is no such thing as a typical young carer – and those interviewed for the research rejected the 'hero' label often given to them by society.

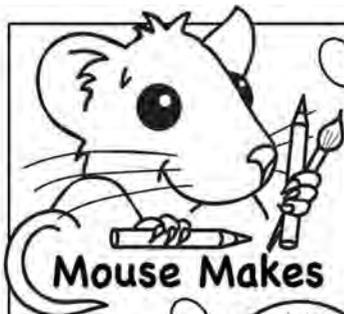
Details at: <http://www.childrenssociety.org.uk/news-and-blogs/press-releases/lack-of-early-support-is-putting-thousands-of-young-carers-at-risk>

## **Fill a Jar**

During the year ask people to save their smaller sized jars (with lids) and to fill these jars with a variety of things, e.g. cotton wool balls, paper clips, sweets, elastic bands (this year Loom Bands were very popular with the children), crayons. Then decorate the lids of the full jars with bows to make them look attractive. You can then use them as a jam jar tombola stall.

## **Pop the Balloon**

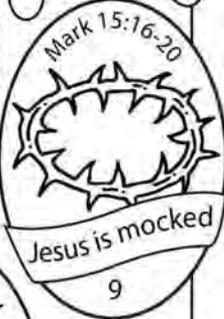
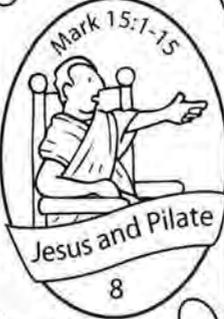
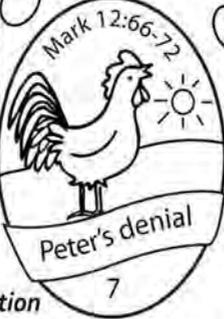
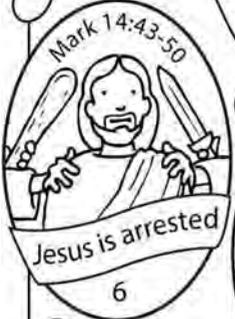
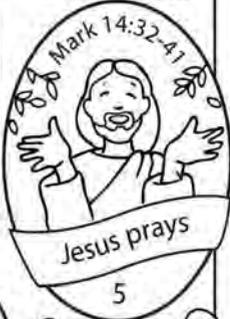
This one needs some organisation beforehand, and some space for the balloons, or extras on standby somewhere close at hand. Pop a piece of paper with a prize on it (some small, and a few large, plus some 'better luck next time' ones) inside a balloon before blowing it up. Blow up the balloons and get people to pop them. Kids love this one, but you'll need someone who doesn't mind balloons going 'pop' to run this stall, or provide them with ear-plugs.



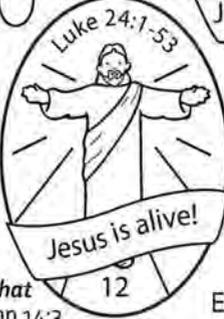
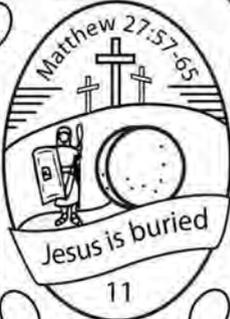
Each big egg tells a part of the Easter story. Colour them in then look up the bible verses.



### Easter Story Eggs



Jesus said:  
"I am the resurrection and the life"  
John 11:25

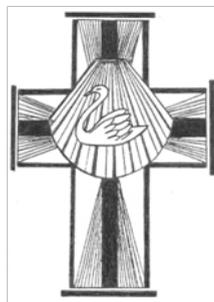


Jesus said:  
"I will come and get you so that you can always be with me" John 14:3

Cut out the big eggs. Glue onto card and use them for a bible story Easter egg hunt.



# **The Parish of St James, Christleton**



## **Parish Retreat**

**25th –28th April 2016**

**at**

**'Nethersprings' Felton, Northumbria  
and  
including a daytrip to Holy Island**

There may be a couple of places available on this retreat. If you would like to come with us or want more information please let me know ASAP

Elizabeth Inall

☎ 336500



# RSPB Chester Group March Events

## RSPB Chester Group April Events

Wed 20 April 7.00-7.30pm: AGM, 7.30pm talk: “Inspired by Birds” by Peter Holden, MBE, the man who invented the Big Garden Birdwatch.

Christleton Parish Hall. £2 for group members, £3 for visitors (refreshments included).



**Sun 10 April:** Field trip - Lake Vyrnwy Trip leader Roger, phone 01829 782237

**Sat 7 May:** Field trip - Conwy Valley Trip leader Peter, phone 01352 716886

It is vital to call the trip leader a few days before, to check final details. Stout footwear and sensible clothing essential. Water and a packed lunch advisable. Car sharing encouraged. Newcomers and beginners welcome.

For earlier information or more details, phone 01244 335670 or see our website [www.rspb.org.uk/groups/chester](http://www.rspb.org.uk/groups/chester) or Facebook page [www.facebook.com/RSPBchester](http://www.facebook.com/RSPBchester)

## Christleton Gardening Club

The next meeting will be on Monday 11 April at 7.30 pm in the Methodist Church Schoolroom.

Bill Warrell from the National Trust will talk about ‘Bodnant – past, present and future’.

Visitors welcome.

# **Christleton Wednesday Group**

Jumble Sale in aid of Claire House Hospice  
At Christleton Parish Hall

**Saturday 23 April 11am – 1 pm**

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## **Churches Together in Christleton**

AGM

**Wednesday 4 May at 7.30 pm**

Methodist Schoolroom

**Speaker: Mr David Maidment OBE  
Founder of 'Railway Children'**

Devotions    Short Report    Refreshments

**ALL WELCOME**

Railway Children is an international charity and was launched in 1995. It helps vulnerable children who live alone on the streets in the UK, India and East Africa and is this year's chosen charity for the proceeds from the 'Summer Teas'.

Please come along on 4th May and learn about the invaluable work carried out by this Cheshire based organisation.

# High Days and Holy Days for April

## 1 April - All Fools' Day

In years gone by, the rules surrounding April Fool were this: between midnight and noon on 1 April, everyone is 'fair game' to be made a fool of. It is the morning of the practical joke. But the aim is not just to discomfort the victim: he must be tricked into taking action himself, sent on a 'fool's errand'.

And so children would be sent to the dairy for a pint of dove's milk, or to the bookseller for *The Life of Eve's Mother*. Practical jokes on a bigger scale were played: in 1860 a vast number of people received an official looking invitation to the Tower of London that read: 'Admit the Bearer and Friends to view the Annual Ceremony of Washing the White Lions.' Precisely the same trick had been played in 1698.

Then, on the stroke of noon, tradition decrees, April Fools is finished. If anyone attempts devilry thereafter, even while the clock is still striking, it recoils on his own head. A child would then race through the sing-song formula: 'April-Fool-Day's-past-and-gone-you're-the-fool-and-I-am-none!'

## 4 April - Lady Day - the Annunciation

This beautiful event (Luke 1:26-38) took place in Nazareth, when Mary is already betrothed to Joseph. The Archangel Gabriel comes to Mary, greets her as highly favoured, tells her not to be afraid, that she will bear a son Jesus, and that her elderly cousin Elizabeth is already pregnant (with John the Baptist).

The church calendar is never quite as neat as some would like it. To celebrate the Annunciation on 25 March does indeed place the conception of Jesus exactly nine months from his birth on 25 December, but the latter part of March almost inevitably falls during Lent. But the birth and death of Jesus are intrinsically linked - he was born to die, and thus

fulfil God's purposes.

The Annunciation is a significant date in the Christian calendar - it is one of the most frequent depicted in Christian art. Gabriel's gracious strength and Mary's humble dignity have inspired many artists. Certainly Mary's response to the angel has for centuries been an example of good faith in practice - humility, enquiry of God, and trusting acceptance in His will for her life.

## **21 April - Anselm - the man who proved there is a God**

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 in 1033, 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 Lanfranc's 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 April - St George - our patron saint who isn't English by David Winter

It's perhaps typical of the English that they should have a patron saint who isn't English, about whom next to nothing is known for sure, and who may not have existed at all. That didn't stop him being patriotically invoked in many battles, notably at Agincourt and in the Crusades, and of course it is his cross that adorns the flags of English football fans to this day.

It's most likely that he was a soldier, a Christian who was martyred for his faith somewhere in Palestine, possibly at Lydda, in the early fourth century. At some point in the early centuries of the Church he became associated with wider military concerns, being regarded as the patron saint of the Byzantine armies. There is no doubt that he was held as an example of the 'godly soldier', one who served Christ as bravely and truly as he served his king and country.

The story of George and the dragon is of much later date and no one seems to know where it comes from. By the middle ages, when George was being honoured in stained glass, the dragon had become an invaluable and invariable visual element, so that for most people the two are inseparable. Pub signs have a lot to answer for here: 'The George and Dragon'.

However, it's probably more profitable to concentrate on his role as a man who witnessed to his faith in the difficult setting of military service, and in the end was martyred for his faithfulness to Christ.

The idea of the 'Christian soldier' was, of course, much loved by the Victorian hymn-writers - 'Onward, Christian soldiers!' The soldier needs discipline. The heart of his commitment is to obedience. The battle cannot be avoided nor the enemy appeased. He marches and fights alongside others, and he is loyal to his comrades. In the end, if the battle is won, he receives the garlands of victory, the final reward of those who overcome evil.

St George's Day presents a challenge and an opportunity. The challenge is to distance the message of his life from the militarism and triumphalism that can easily attach itself to anything connected to soldiers and fighting. The opportunity is to celebrate the ideal of the 'Christian soldier' - one who submits to discipline, sets out to obey God truly, does not avoid the inevitable battle with all that is unjust, wrong and hateful in our world, and marches alongside others fighting the same noble cause. Discipline, obedience, courage, fellowship and loyalty - they're not the most popular virtues today, but that doesn't mean that they don't deserve our gratitude and admiration.

## 29 Mark - disciple, apostle, writer of the second gospel

Mark, 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. Mark died about 74 AD.

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.

## HOLY WEEK

Holy Week is the week before Easter Day; it starts with Palm Sunday which is on

20th March this year. Palm Sunday is when Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey. The Thursday of Holy Week is called Maundy Thursday which is named for the words that Jesus used at his last meal with his disciples, what we call now the Last Super. The



Latin words are 'Madatum novum davobis - a New Commandment I give you'. Do you know what that commandment is?

You can read the whole account in St. John's gospel, Chapter 13. Then comes Good Friday - a lot of people can't see why a day commemorates the trial and crucifixion of Jesus could be called 'good'. It was a black day but Christians know that without what happened that Friday there would be no Easter. Without the death of our Lord there would have been no empty tomb on Easter day and no glorious Resurrection.



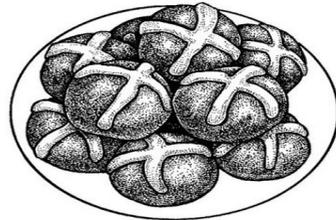
## HOT CROSS BUNS

One of the pleasures of Easter is eating Hot Cross Buns. Like most things they cost more now than they did in this old rhyme....

Hot Cross Buns,  
Hot Cross Buns,  
One a Penny, two a Penny,  
Hot Cross Buns.

If you have no daughters,  
Give them to your sons,  
One a Penny, two a Penny,  
Hot Cross Buns.

If you have some time to spare, see how many words you can make from the letters HOT CROSS BUNS. Words of at least 3 letters, no plurals, proper names or foreign words.



**What do you get when you pour boiling water down a rabbit hole?**  
A Hot Cross Bunny.

**Why couldn't the Rabbit fly home for Easter?.**  
He didn't have the hare fare.

# Parish Registers

## Holy Baptism

- 07 Feb 2016 Clara Sophia Brierley Lynn daughter of Dr William Richard Drury Lynn and Dr Emma Louise Brierley Lynn (5 Kentish Lane, Brookmans Park, Hatfield, Herts)
- 21 Feb 2016 Luke Harvey Roberts son of Alan Wyn Roberts and Janey Culshaw (2 Croft Close, Rowton)

## Funerals

- 07 Jan 2016 Catherine Rebecca McGarva (Orchard Manor Nursing Home, Acres Lane, Upton)
- 31 Jan 2016 Catherine Rebecca McGarva (Orchard Manor Home, Acres, Upton) Interment of Cremated Remains
- 11 Feb 2016 Helen Dougherty Graves (10 Kinnerton Way, Backford)
- 19 Feb 2016 Roderick Hugh Maciver (Rod) Alexander (The Gables, Little Heath Road, Christleton)
- 26 Feb 2016 Kathleen Fuller (Oaklands Nursing Home, Tarvin Road, Littleton)

### **A foolish community:**

‘But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong.’ (1:27). The church in Corinth consisted of slaves, rather than the rich and successful. God calls the weak and vulnerable to follow Him, in order to shame those who think they don’t need God.

### **A foolish ministry:**

‘My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit’s power, so that your faith might not rest on human wisdom, but on God’s power.’ (2:4,5). Paul’s ministry didn’t rest on human wisdom, but on the power of the Holy Spirit. For us, this power is often displayed when we are at our weakest!

## PARISH CHURCH OF ST JAMES, CHRISTLETON

### REGULAR WORSHIP

SUNDAYS:	8.00am:	Holy Communion
	10.45am:	Holy Communion (1st & 3rd & 5th Sun days) Morning Worship - a less formal service for all (2nd Sunday) Morning Prayer / Mattins (4th Sunday)
	6.30pm:	Evening Prayer / Evensong (1st Sunday) Holy Communion (2nd & 4th Sundays) Evening Prayer / Evensong (BCP) (3rd Sunday) Evening services on a 5th Sunday vary - see notices.

WEDNESDAYS:	10.45am:	Holy Communion (BCP) (United service on 1st Wednesday)
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Special services take place at festivals and at other times, and other variations occur, so please check the diary at the front of this magazine, also the church notices and the Christleton website. A 'United' service is where Churches Together in Christleton congregations come together.

'Book of Common Prayer' (BCP) services use the older traditional language, other services are 'Common Worship' using modern language.

Children are welcome at all of our services. Sunday Club, Messy Church and the Crew Youth Group also available for younger members. There is a good organist at St James and a robed choir sings at many of the services.

Refreshments are generally served after the 10.45am Sunday service in the Parish Hall across the road, and are also served in the church after the 10.45am Wednesday services. Once a month on the 1st Sunday breakfast is served in the Parish Hall from about 8.45am. These give splendid opportunities for fellowship and you are invited to join in.

## WHO'S WHO & CONTACT NUMBERS

Rector:	Rev'd Malcolm Cowan, B.Th. The Rectory, Birch Heath Lane, Christleton, CH3 7AP jandmcowan@gmail.com (The Rector's day off each week is normally Friday)	335663
Curate:	Rev'd Barbara King, B.Ed. 17 Cathcart Green, Guilden Sutton, CH3 7SR	300756
Administration:	Janet Milton (Janet is your initial contact point for Baptism, Wedding and Appointment requests)	325529
Other local clergy who may assist:	Rev'd Gill Hibbert Rev'd Elizabeth Inall, MA	336544 336500
Churchwardens:	Carl Cumiskey Bettie Gilliatt	330028 335645
Deputy Wardens:	Chris Platel Keith Smalls	332466 335688
Verger:	John Milton	325529
Sacristan:	Betty Dunning	335652
Organist:	Bob Owens	01928 724088
PCC Secretary:	Brian Inall	336500
PCC Treasurer:	Brian & Lorraine Lewis	534323
Gift Aid Secretary:	Nigel Seddon	335588
Planned Giving Envelopes:	Betty Dunning	335652
Deanery Synod Representative:	Berence Kirwan	336779
Electoral Roll Officer:	Brenda Bailey	335034
Churches Together Representative:	Jan Bowden	335705
Parish Safeguarding Co-ordinator:	The Rector	335663
Pastoral Worker / Visiting:	Berence Kirwan	336779
Sunday Club / Messy Church:	Berence Kirwan	336779
CREW Youth Group:	Mike & Tina Lightfoot	328436
Church Library:	Valmai Griffiths	335884
Church Flowers:	Olive Hammond	336562
Bellringers:	Nikki Dromgoole	351124
Bellringers' Secretary:	Nikki Dromgoole	351124
Parish Hall Bookings:		
Children's Society Sec:	Lesley Morgan	335088
Church Missionary Society Sec:	Janet Brown	335785
Mothers' Union Branch Leader:	Janet Brown	335785
Magazine Editor:	David Bull	332234
Assisting Magazine Editor:	Huw Morgan	335088
Magazine Adverts	Ann Smith	332434
Magazine Distributors:	Jenny Davies, Valmai Griffiths	335884

(Phone numbers have Chester code: 01244 unless stated otherwise)



Crocus on the Village Green, Christleton



Butlers Mill on the canal at Christleton

### **Reception**

Two television aerials met one day and fell madly in love with each other. Eventually they decided to get married and booked the local Church. Apparently the service was not up to much but the reception was excellent!

*April 2016 @ St. James, Church Christleton*