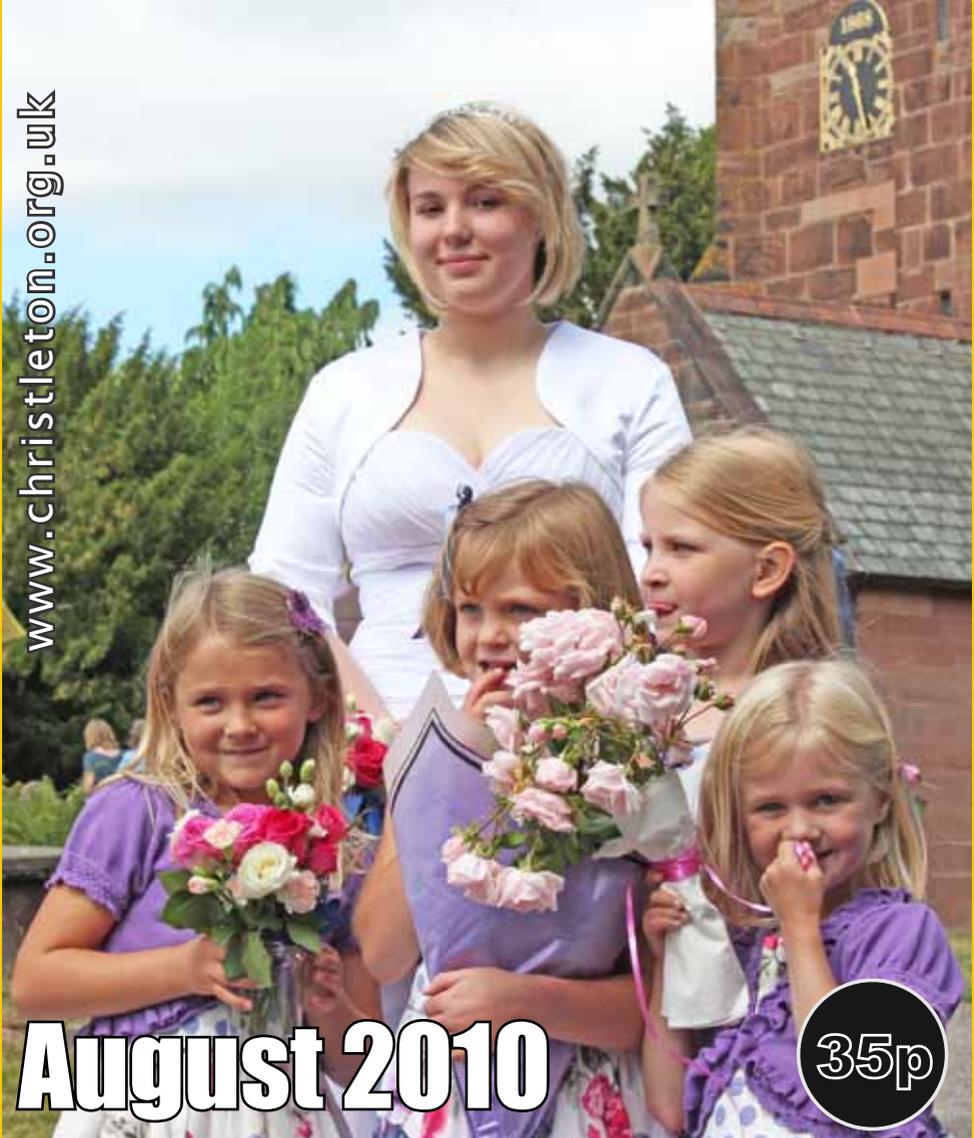


# St. James'

## PARISH MAGAZINE

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



**August 2010**

**35p**



**Sun 15**

**The Blessed Virgin Mary**

8.00 am Holy Communion (Order 1)  
10.45 am Parish Communion (Order 1)  
12 noon Holy Baptism  
6.30 pm Evensong  
Prayer Link Road: Haslin Crescent  
Neighbourhood Link: Ann Smith

Wed 18 10.45 am Holy Communion - followed by refreshments

**Sun 22**

**The Twelfth Sunday after Trinity: Proper 16**

8.00 am Holy Communion (Order 1)  
10.45 am Matins  
6.30 pm Evening Communion  
Prayer Link Road: Hawthorn Road  
Neighbourhood Link: Jayne Roscoe

Wed 25 10.45 am Holy Communion - followed by refreshment

**Sun 29**

**The Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity: Proper 17**

8.00 am Holy Communion (Order 1)  
10.45 am Matins  
6.30 pm Evening Worship  
Prayer Link: Those worshipping at St James from  
outside the Parish  
Neighbourhood Link Area Secretary: Christine  
Abrams

***Front Cover:***

The Rose Queen - Natasha Beach with four members of her retinue  
Christleton in Bloom Family Flower Service 11th July, 2010

Dear Friends

### **Nunc Dimittis**

I have always loved singing Nunc Dimittis at Evensong. When I was 11 I went to a boarding school less than a mile from Heswall Rectory where we lived. On Sunday evenings we would sing Nunc Dimittis in the school Chapel and I could hear the bells of St Peter's where my father would be taking Evensong. It is difficult to be sure about memories going back that far, but I think that it is from then that I developed the awareness of the sense of acceptance that Nunc Dimittis conveys (though I might not have expressed it in quite that way then!). I knew that we were all singing it and that gave a sense of being joined, or linked, through worship. Years later, when I was at Theological College, I remember flicking through the pages of a road atlas and wondering which page we would end up on! 3 possibilities from Sheffield, Yeovil and Enfield did not work out for the most random and minor reasons before we actually went to Stoke Poges, as I mentioned in my June letter. Fast forward again and coming here to Christleton again rested on apparently random moments and coincidences which could have gone either way. And now, at some stage during August, we shall move from Christleton to Tattenhall, and that choice again has depended on apparently random circumstances. It has been said that you never see God face to face, but only his footsteps after he has passed. I wonder if it is for you, as it is for me, that as you look back over your life you see a pattern and purpose that was difficult to discern at the time. It is as we do that, that we perhaps begin to trace God's footprints through our life.

It was as he took the infant Jesus in his arms that Simeon uttered the words of Nunc Dimittis. He had spent a lifetime of faithfully waiting on God in the Temple and praying for the 'consolation of Israel'. It had been revealed to him that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Christ. A seemingly random coincidence meant that he was in the Temple as Mary and Joseph brought Jesus there to be presented according to the custom of the law. In taking Jesus in his arms Simeon knew his life's vision had

been fulfilled so now he could finally let go and 'depart in peace'. The poet Keats referred to a 'negative capability' by which he meant the ability to accept. Throughout our lives there are many things that we can and should do and much depends on our action. But there are other things we cannot or should not do and even more depends on our ability to accept what is done to us. The Christian faith has more to do with what we receive than what we achieve. John Baillie said that 'life is a long lesson in humility' and perhaps it is as we get older that we learn the lesson of acceptance. Keats may have referred to this as a 'negative capability' but its effect is very positive. It is the ability to accept life for what it is: to do what we can and then recognise that all of life is in God's hands. If we can look back and give thanks for all the blessings we know and have known in life we may come to accept that as God has been with us in the past, so he is with us now in the present and will go forward with us into the future: that nothing happens without his knowing and that we are never without his love, his care and his peace. So we may come to know the peace of God which passes all understanding which the world can neither give, nor take away.

I am writing this letter before my last Sunday at St James, but I would like to thank the Parish for all the support and affection you have given to Fiona and me in the 18 years we have been here, and to ask God's blessing for you all in the future. We have enjoyed our time here and will treasure many happy memories so this comes with our best wishes to you all.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Peter Lee". Below the signature is a horizontal line.

**Prayer of the Month:      Nunc Dimittis**

*Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace: according to thy word.  
For mine eyes have seen: thy salvation,  
Which thou hast prepared: before the face of all people;  
To be a light to lighten the Gentiles: and to be the glory of thy people Israel.  
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son: and to the Holy Spirit;  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: world without end.  
Amen.*

## Congratulations to Nigel Seddon

who completed Chester's first marathon on 31st May raising £2,800 for the Hospice of the Good Shepherd. Nigel started running only last year and did the half marathon last May. When it was announced that Chester's first marathon would start and finish at the rugby club, he knew it was a sign. He writes; I had been meaning to



do a marathon since seeing the end of the Philadelphia marathon in 1995 and since the rugby club is only 400 metres from my house, I knew this was the one for me. Additionally, the chosen charity was the hospice and my mother spent her final days there so there was a double incentive! The race route was a little dull. It involved running the length of

the greenway from Guilden Sutton to Shotton and then turning round and coming back. Unfortunately spectators were only allowed at the drinks stops (every 2 ½ miles) so much of the course was unsupported which was a shame. During the race, I struggled to get into a rhythm for the first 4 miles but then settled into a good steady pace. I felt really alive and relaxed for the rest of the first half. When I turned back the realisation that there was still 13 miles to go was a low point but I settled back into a decent pace and it was only at 22 miles I really started

to struggle. The last 4 miles were hard work and my legs cramped up during the last part of the race. However, I was determined to get under 4 hours and managed to complete the course in 3:55:59. It was harder than expected and the picture best describes how I felt at the end. On behalf of the Hospice of the Good Shepherd, a huge 'thank you' to all of you who sponsored me. Nigel.

PS. Charlotte, Nigel's daughter completed the Chester half marathon in the middle of May with Charlotte Gillies also of Christleton, in a brilliant time of 2:05. They raised £250 for their chosen charities.

## **Congratulations from their friends in the village**

to Dr Rachel Platel who recently received her doctorate from Imperial College London. Also to Doctor Anna Nillsen formerly of Littleton, who studied at Birmingham University and graduated as an MD in July. Both young ladies were pupils at Christleton High School.

## **Congratulations also to Christleton High School**

Sixth former Becky Newmarsh who showed great initiative in putting on her wellies, and diverting traffic around the flooding at the bottom of Village Road. This was after the deluge in the middle of June when over two inches of rain (55mm) fell in just over



an hour re creating the old village pond which was once there. This storm was so local that areas of the village had no rain at all!

# Christleton Village Show 2010

## The Trophy Winners

Best Exhibitor- .....	Edward Elliott
Best Exhibit- .....	Richard Bennett
Rose Bowl- .....	Janet Milton
Wine/Drink.- .....	Janet Milton
Produce. ....	Gillian Brackenbury
Baking.....	Sally Ann Harris
Fruit & Vegetables .....	Jim Ferns
Hospital Floral .....	Ann Parfremment
Best Plant .....	Ann Parfremment
Floral art .....	Angela Haswell
Art Local Scene .....	Pam Evans
Children's Overall .....	Isobel Bowman
Most successful Flowers. ....	Edward Elliott
Craft Award.....	Richard Bennett
Best 3 exhibits in Art.....	Rosemary Boothroyd
Best Photo in Show .....	Fay Morgan
Best Exhibit by a child. ....	Louisa de Winter
Best Hanging Basket.....	David Williams
Best Group Hanging Basket .....	Edward Elliott
Best Premises Basket .....	Christleton Village Stores
Theme Shield .....	Peggy Wolfe
Millennium Trophy .....	Judith Butt
Best Newcomer .....	Ronnie Herd
Chairman's Jubilee Award .....	Michele Boyd
Jim Siddall Award. ....	Simon Gelder



## Young Peoples Class Winners

Pre School & Up to 7Yrs.

Jessica Mills, Christina Mills, Bella Valencia, Charlie Flood, Luke Sturgess

## Up to 11yrs.

Isobel Bowman, Tess Bowman, Louise Kiely, Grace Parry, Rebecca Bower, Rebecca Day

## 12-18yrs.

Louis de Winter



# THE HISTORY FILE

David  
Cummings

The Baptistry Window by Gibbs illustrated here is the earliest piece of stained glass found at St James. It is also a hidden gem for reasons I will explain. This window dates from around 1870, and is said to be based on the likeness of members of the Lace Family who commissioned it. The window is situated in the present choir vestry under the tower so it largely remains hidden from view from the congregation. It would have been overlooking the font in normal circumstances, but when the font was moved to its present position in the 1980's it disappeared from view so to speak. It is also interesting in that it occupies a space that was once part of a west doorway to St James which existed from earlier times and which was still there in 1835 when drawn by a Chester artist T Bailey. When the glaziers were recently installing the new polycarbonate sheets to protect the windows they discovered that the lights in this window were not symmetrical as they clearly had been fitted into an existing space, and didn't quite fit. The window itself is a classical example of a Victorian stained glass window, and has wonderful highlights. Next time you are in church, just look through the choir vestry door and see this beautiful window. The section of the window shown on the cover is the central section showing Jesus with a child in his arms, clearly linking it to the Baptism ceremony. Recent research on the internet reveals a very interesting link with William Butterfield, so I guess we now know the link that I've been looking for, and that the date of this window is likely to be after 1876 when William Butterfield began his work in Christleton. The death of Gibbs in 1886 is clearly the reason for Butterfield turning to Charles Earner Kemp for the rest of the stained glass windows at St James.

Alexander Gibbs (c. 1831–1886) Alexander was one of three sons of Isaac Alexander Gibbs (1802-51) who became stained-glass designers. The family firm was established c.1848, but split 1855. Alexander Gibbs' own company was still functioning as late as 1915. Among his major commissions was the west window of St Mary Magdalene, Taunton (1862)

and that for All Saints, Margaret Street (1877). He was a close collaborator



of William Butterfield, whose favourite stained glass designer he became about 1860 after a quarrel with John Hardman Powell over a design for Rugby School Chapel. The earliest commission Butterfield seems to have entrusted to Gibbs was c.1860, St John's, Newbury, Berks., now destroyed. Martin Harrison described some of his 1860s windows for Butterfield as "mosaic-like" which "often combined superbly with the tiles, mosaics and variegated brick and stonework of Butterfield's interiors" On his own, however,

Harrison says he showed 'little sensitivity to...architectural setting' and rarely rose 'above the mediocre in design'. The conclusion must be that Butterfield provided him with specific guidelines. Gibbs' work showed little sign of evolution, and only ten years after his windows for Butterfield's Keble College, Oxford Chapel were installed, they were criticised by members of the Century Guild of Artists – the heralds of the Arts & Crafts Movement. Ref; University of Wales Lampeter; *Imaging the Bible in Wales*.

## Retirement of Peter and Fiona Lee- Thank you

Dear Church members and friends of St. James,

We are writing to thank you all for your contribution to the retirement gifts for Peter and Fiona. We have been moved by the response we have received and the large number of letters and cheques sent to us.

We will write in the September Parish Magazine about the details of the Interregnum Period and keep everyone informed on future developments.

Thank you all.

Yours sincerely,

John Pearson      Keith Smalls  
*Churchwardens*

## CONGRATULATIONS

*Happy belated 90th birthday greetings to Jessie Stacey on 16 July*

*Ruby Wedding Anniversary greetings to Dave & Jean Cresswell on 15 August*

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## Phone a friend?

How often do you use a phone book? For the past 130 years it has helped us find all manner of local services, not to mention a choice of tens of thousands of people living in our area.

But its days may now be numbered. Disposing of out-of-date phone books and unwanted copies left on doorsteps are costing councils more than £7m a year. They make up thousands of tons of paper dumped in landfill every year.

The average phone book weighs 3lb. In Britain, the most common name in the phone book is Smith, but worldwide it is Wang, with 92.8m entries – mostly in China. Bill Gates, the Microsoft founder, has predicted that in the USA, no one under 50 will use the phone book within five years.

# DUNNING

**N**o! Not Betty, but The DUPPLIN CROSS in St Serf's Church in the village of Dunning in Scotland, Perthshire.

St Serf's is no longer the Parish Church, since 1972, and the cross has been installed there to preserve it. The site is supposedly where the saint slew a dragon that had been terrorising the villages. Parts of the church are 800 years old, with an original Romanesque tower and clock.

The cross once stood on a hillside overlooking the palace of Fort Eviot, three miles from Dunning. The carvings commemorate King Constantine, Mac Fergusa (789-820) in whose reign the Kingdoms of the Picts and Scots began to merge. The rider carved on the front depicts the King, with a large head and moustache to show his authority. There are hunting dogs, and the biblical King David strumming his harp – “Give praise to Lord on the Harp” (Psalm 33 v.2). On the back of the cross a naked figure and his dog are carved along with abstract and animal designs and also six doves. When Constantine was King of the Picts, for the last ten years of his reign, he was the first King to rule the Scots in Argyll. The cross is the only complete example to survive from early Pictland, carved from local sandstone and standing three metres high.

When we arrived, a “Historic Scotland” guide was enjoying the sunshine by the gate. We had him to ourselves. He was very enthusiastic and gave a comprehensive illustration of the cross's history and traced out with his finger the carvings on all four sides.

Not too far away is Drummond Castle and its astounding formal gardens, approached down a mile long avenue of beech trees that were planted in the late 18th century. They are reminiscent of the Chateaux of the Loire gardens at Villandry. Many steps lead down into them; white marble statues of Roman gods, animals and cherubs, add to the scene and one can see the copper beech tree planted by Queen Victoria in 1842. It has grown a bit since then. The gardens are in the care of three full-time and six part-time gardeners and are a tribute to their care.

*A & M Croston*



# 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,

**Janet Milton 01244 335469**

Please telephone between 10.00am and 8.00pm  
Monday to Saturday

## Christleton Web Site

You can have your banner advert in the Business Directory at

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

Just £22.00 plus vat for a whole year

Linking to your own web site

visit <http://www.christleton.org.uk/christleton/info/rates.html>  
for details

# NATURE NOTES

David  
Cummings

**M**y nature notes start with news of an exciting find, of seeing an otter on the River Gowy. I had been searching for a newly reported swans nest on the Gowy near Guilden Sutton early on the 16th June, and had walked a good section of river bank. On finding the pen on the nest but seeing that the nest had been affected by flood damage, I walked around looking for the cob. As I looked back towards the nest the unmistakable form of an otter swan across the river about



fifty metres away. I had a clear view for about five seconds before it disappeared into the reeds. A holt was recently constructed in the area by the Cheshire Wildlife Trust, so this is a really good sign, and shows the river is a suitable habitat or these delightful creatures. Let's hope that they drive away the released American mink that have, and are causing, so much damage to our indigenous wildlife. I had even more excitement before the end of the month, when on a jet boat out of St David's in Pembrokeshire, I saw a Minke whale, together with Rissos and common dolphins and harbour porpoises. We were on a boat exploring the offshore Welsh Islands, and were excited to find that the seabird populations have exploded in the last few years. There are said to be 100,000 gannets nesting on Grassholm, and the sight of these huge creamy white birds wheeling in the sky

was a fantastic spectacle. There were large groups of Manx shearwaters feeding on the sea, together with huge numbers of puffins, guillemots and razorbills. A visit to Skomer later in the week confirmed this growth in numbers, as there was massive evidence of birds nesting on stack rocks and on ground that I had never seen occupied on previous visits over a forty year period. The key to this growth in bird population and the sighting of more and more cetaceans in the area, is the influx of more plankton coming from the direction of the Gulf of Mexico. This nutritious



“soup” around the sea areas of Pembrokeshire and Cardigan Bay is also providing the right conditions for fish to breed, which together with the plankton provides the food source for tens of thousands of sea birds, seals,

dolphins, sunfish, leather back turtles and even whales. The Minke whale we saw was relatively small, being only 10metres (30ft) or so long, but still weighed over 9tonnes, and is a species of whale known to be curious and will approach boats. Unfortunately our sighting was over far too quickly, and as we had already been out at sea for over 3hours our boat had to return to the harbour rather than persue the whale further. Nevertheless it was an exciting moment, to have seen a whale in Welsh waters.



# WHAT'S ON THIS MONTH

## SUNDAY SCHOOL

Held in the Parish Hall from 10.45 am – 12.00 noon each Sunday during term-time, except when Family Service is held at St James. For further details please contact

Berenice Hogg, 336779.

## CHRISTLETON METHODIST CHURCH

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

## ADVANCE NOTICE

Churches Together in Christleton are arranging an Away Day on Thursday October 21st, from 9.30am - 5.30pm. This will be to a place of religious significance and interest, set in glorious countryside, and will include lunch. The cost will be approx. £15, and we shall travel by coach. More details later, but do put this date in your diary - it should be a lovely day out. Watch this space!

*J.Bowden*

## CHRISTLETON W.I.

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

No Meeting in August

## CHESTER FLOWER CLUB

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



## VILLAGE TEAS

Sunday Afternoons until the end of September at the Methodist Hall  
*Do join us and enjoy the delicious home made cakes and friendly chat.*

## CHRISTLETON MONTHLY WHIST

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

***Open to All.***

*Required: Ladies and Gentlemen to join this friendly monthly event*

## **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.

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## **MAGAZINE** **CONTRIBUTIONS**

Please ensure all items for inclusion in the **September** edition are sent to Janet Milton (335469), as soon as possible **BEFORE Friday 13th August** or you can e-mail this to  
[christletonmag@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:christletonmag@hotmail.co.uk)

## **Sky at night**

The scientific theory I like best is that the rings of Saturn are composed entirely of lost airline luggage.

## **Staying power**

## **MAGAZINE DISTRIBUTORS**

The **September** magazine will be available for collection from Church on **Sunday 29th August**

Hospital patients' comment about the new curate: "He can stay longer in an hour than most people do in a week."

## **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](mailto:christletonmag@hotmail.co.uk)

# Parish Registers for June 2010

## Holy Baptism

- 20th William Edward Mallon son of Andrew & Clare Mallon  
16 Marbury Road, Vicars Cross,  
20th Guy Andrew St John Williams son of  
Mark & Anne St John Williams,  
5 Little Mere Little Heath Road, Christleton  
27th Annabelle Ava Horton Leigh daughter of Carl & Samantha Horton  
Leigh, 1 Bush Road, Christleton

*"We welcome you into the Lord's Family"*

## The Funeral Service

- 7th John Alfred Vincent Dunning 22 Fraser Court, Handbridge  
9th John Alfred Vincent Dunning (Burial of Ashes)  
28th Kathleen Rose Mills The Willows Nursing Home, Nevin Road,  
Blacon. (Burial of Ashes)

*"Grant them eternal rest"*

## Offertories

June	Cash	CSE	2010	2009
6th	87-05	898-00	985-05	860-08
13th	119-30	443-90	563-20	926-75
20th	266-23	759-00	1,025-23	895-80
27th	131-27	636-00	767-27	850-70
Totals			£ 3,340-75	£3,533-33

*"Of your own do we give you"*

## PARISH CHURCH OF ST. JAMES, CHRISTLETON

<b>SUNDAYS</b>	8.00 a.m.	Holy Communion	
	10.45 a.m.	Parish Communion	1st & 3rd Sundays
		Family Service	2nd Sunday
		Mattins	4th & 5th Sundays
	6.30 p.m.	Evensong	1st, 2nd & 3rd Sundays
Evening Communion		4th Sunday	
Songs of Praise		5th Sunday	
<b>WEDNESDAYS</b>	10.45 a.m.	Holy Communion	
<b>SAINT'S DAYS</b>	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion	

## WHO'S WHO & WHAT'S WHAT

<b>Rector:</b>	<b>Vacancy</b>	
<b>Churchwardens:</b>	John Pearson .....	335101
	Keith Smalls .....	335688
<b>Reader</b>	Wayne Morris .....	01978 263389
<b>Verger</b>	David Ellis .....	336879
<b>Sacristan:</b>	Betty Dunning.....	335652
Sunday School:	Berenice Hogg.....	336779
Mother's Union Branch Leader	Janet Brown ... ..	335785
Organist & Musical Director:	Steve Roberts .....	815277
P. C. C. Secretary:	Brenda Bailey .....	335034
P. C. C. Treasurer:	David Mercer .....	336155
Stewardship Envelope:	Betty Dunning.....	335652
Gift Aid Secretary	Nigel Seddon.....	335588
Bellringers	Ian Braithwaite .....	300565
Bellringer Vice Captains	Ian Crossan.....	332280
Parish Hall Booking	Janet Milton .....	335469
C. M. S. Secretary	Janet Brown .....	335785
Children's Society Sec.	Lesley Morgan .....	335088
Visiting Group:	Berenice Hogg .....	336779
Library	Lois Dickinson .....	378320
Church Flowers	Olive Hammond.....	336562
Magazine Editor	David Bull .....	332234
Magazine Compiler	Richard Nicholson .....	336004
Magazine Distributors	Jenny Davies and Valmai Griffiths.....	335884
Neighbourhood Link Co-Ordinator	Janet Bowden .....	335705
Parish Resource		
Person for Child Protection	Alastair Holland .....	332819

**BAPTISMS, WEDDINGS & APPOINTMENTS  
BY ARRANGEMENT WITH THE CHURCHWARDENS**