

St. James'

PARISH MAGAZINE

February 2012

www.christleton.org.uk

35p

Features in February

Wed	1	10.45 am	United Communion - followed by refreshments
Fri	3	6.30 pm	Choir Practice
Sun	5	8.00 am	Holy Communion
		10.45 am	Holy Communion
		10.45 am	Sunday School
		6.30 pm	Evensong
			<i>Prayer Link Road: Greystone Road & Ring Road</i>
			<i>Neighbourhood Link: Lynda Disley</i>
Mon	6	10.45 am	Holy Communion at Oaklands Nursing Home
		11.20 am	Holy Communion at Tarvin Court Nursing Home
Tues	7	7.00 pm	House Group at Bob & Gwen Knight's 'Restoring Hope - Pursuing Certainty'
Wed	8	10.45 am	Holy Communion - followed by refreshments
		11.30 am	Holy Communion at Birch Heath Lodge Nursing Home
Fri	10	6.30 pm	Choir Practice

**N.B. Last date for contributions for March Parish Magazine.
Please e-mail to the editor at christletonmag@hotmail.co.uk.
Any non-computerised contributions to Janet Milton (335469) as early as possible please."**

Sun	12	8.00 am	Holy Communion
		10.45 am	All Age Service - followed by refreshments
		6.30 pm	Holy Communion
			Prayer Link Road: Grove Gardens
			Neighbourhood Link: John Carruthers

Mon	13	2.00 pm	Mother's Union
Tues	14	7.00 pm	House Group at Bob & Gwen Knight's 'Restoring Hope - Pursuing Certainty'
Wed	15	10.45 am	Holy Communion - followed by refreshments
Fri	17	6.30 pm	Choir Practice
Sun	19	8.00 am 10.45 am 10.45 am 6.30 pm	Holy Communion Parish Communion Sunday School - Parish Hall Evensong (BCP) Prayer Link Road: Haslin Crescent Neighbourhood Link: Ann Smith
Tues	21	7.00 pm	House Group at Bob & Gwen Night's 'Restoring Hope - Pursuing Certainty'
Wed	22	10.45 am	Holy Communion - followed by refreshments
Fri	24	6.30 pm	Choir Practice
Sun	26	8.00 am 10.45 am 10.45 am 6.00 pm 6.30 pm	Holy Communion Morning Prayer - followed by refreshments Sunday School - Parish Hall Crew Youth Group - Pre Lent Chocolate Feast Holy Communion Prayer Link Road: Hawthorn Road Neighbourhood Link: Jayne Roscoe
Wed	29	10.45 am	Holy Communion - followed by refreshments

Front cover:

Village Snow Scene taken in 1976 at the new Primary School

Message from our Rector

One of the most time consuming and frustrating tasks at home is sorting out the “junk drawer”. Every home has one; it’s that drawer where we place all those items which will come in useful one day. We cannot throw them away, because the minute we do, will be the minute we need them.

However, every now and again we need to have a good sort out, simply to keep it in order. The time to sort the drawer out is usually when we are looking for something specific and, search as we might, it cannot be found. It’s at times like this when those famous words are uttered in sheer frustration, “I’m going to sort this out once and for all”.

Then, everything gets thrown away, except for a few “basic necessities” like curtain hooks, elastic bands, shoe laces.....

And do these words sound familiar, “From now on, this place must be kept tidy”

Within a few weeks however, things are worse than ever!

It reminds me of the warning given by Jesus in Saint Matthew’s Gospel (12:43-45) about the evil spirit who comes out of a man, and seeks a place to rest. Unable to find a place, the evil spirit returns to find everything clean and put in order, and the evil spirit brings with it seven other spirits more wicked than the first, so that the final condition of the man is worse than it was initially.

It also makes me wonder about our hearts and lives. This month we begin to observe Lent , that time of prayer, preparation and penance. That time of spring cleaning our hearts and our lives, and yet if we closely and honestly examine ourselves, we may find that we are as bad as

ever, criticising others, rather than praying for them, seeing the worst of people, instead of the good, blaming others when things aren't right, instead of doing something about it ourselves, !!!!!!! and what of our prayer lives and daily study of the Bible, has that slipped also ?

It is for this reason that we must continually come before God, confessing our sins, and seeking his guidance in our lives.

God knows us better than we know ourselves, in one sense that may sound quite scary, everyone we meet will hear our wonderful words, but God knows the content of our hearts, but it is also extremely liberating, we can tell God just how awful we feel, how challenging some people are, without having to paint on a smile and pretend everything is wonderful. God understands our frailty and weakness, He sees how, despite our very best efforts, our lives and our hearts become full of those things which separate us from God.

Yet, God is always there, encouraging and supporting us, and helping us to “Spring clean” our hearts and our lives.

We realise how hard and how often we must attend to the cleaning of our homes, if we are to keep them from gathering unwanted rubbish. A quick polish and vacuum may clean superficially, but in reality, we know the truth.

In respect of our Spiritual lives and our relationship with God, is a “Spring clean” once a year and the occasional polish and vacuum sufficient?



Your faithful servant

Malcolm

The Crew Youth Group
St James' Church
Pre-Lent Chocolate Party
26th Feb 2012
6pm - 7.45pm Parish Hall



On Feb 26th, the Crew will be exploring the Lenten tradition of 'giving up' before creating a chocolate fountain and other chocolate delights.

As we doubt our ability to consume a whole chocolate fountain without assistance, we would be pleased if anyone would like to join us from @7pm to share in our indulgence before the Lenten fast begins

If you would like to join the Crew please contact Tina Lightfoot (tina.lightfoot@googlemail.com) for a registration form and ask your parent or guardian to sign it.

Please return it to Tina or Malcolm.



Nature Notes.

What a difference a year makes. At this time last year we were shivering from the snow & ice and severe cold weather, wildlife was coming into gardens desperate for food and the plants seemed limp and lifeless. In early January 2012 we already have daffodils, daisies and roses flowering in the garden. Robins, song thrushes and blackbirds are singing their spring songs, blue and great tits are flying around with nest material, great spotted woodpeckers are drumming furiously, and the countryside in general seems to be coming alive much earlier than usual. I'm sure we will have a cold snap to slow this down, but the relatively warm days of the last few months have certainly got the natural world confused.

Last weekend I witnessed the sight of a traffic island in Surrey completely covered in daffodils and there are reports of them flowering as far north as Aberdeen. This unusual warm spell combined with welcome 4" of rain in December has meant that the Pit is filling slowly at last, and last years annual village rainfall reached the dizzy heights of 20inches, still well short of the last five years average of about 35".

I guess no one really knows what future rainfall/weather patterns will be, and 2011 might just have been a one off, but it is a warning that "global warming" whatever that implies might be changing the weather patterns in a way in which we have not experienced before.



At the Pit three cormorants are regularly trying to catch our small fish often in the company of a grey heron. A beautiful kingfisher has been seen regularly along the canal, and a green woodpecker heard yaffling in Littleton. I also managed to capture a flock of lapwings flying over the field at the back of the Law College,

a welcome sight when numbers inland seem to be far less than twenty or so years ago when they were very common in and around the village. You can however still see big flocks in coastal areas such as the Dee Estuary near Thurstaston, or on



Traeth Lavan sands and accompanying Nature Reserves along the Menai Straits. Both areas are great places to watch wildlife in close up especially in the two hours before and after high tides and have good access from the Thursaston Visitor Centre, and the promenade at Llanfairfechan respectively. Wildlife enthusiasts will also welcome the opening of a new RSPB Reserve and Visitor Centre at Burton Mere on Wirral, access from the Burton to Puddington Road in Burton Village, another exciting local reserve for birdwatchers in particular. DC



Country Market

Congratulations to The Ring O Bells for the introduction of the Christleton Country Market, an event which takes place each month on their Car Park. The first two Markets held before Christmas were a great success and it is planned to continue these markets throughout 2012. The next three dates will be Saturday's 11th February, 10th March and 14th April. The quality of the food on display was excellent, and we think the Market is well worth the visit if you haven't already discovered it.



**House Group
at
Bob & Gwen Knight's
(Tel. 336236)**

**For 7 Tuesdays:
(sometimes Wednesdays by agreement)**

10th Jan. – 21st Feb. 2012 (inc.)

Start 7:00 for 7:30 pm

'Restoring Hope - Pursuing Certainty'

Christleton Local History Group Meeting

Wednesday 22nd February

7.30pm at The Primary School

Speaker. Jim McCready

A Hop Along SKIPS Lane

This is the unique history of a small village lane, which tells the story of the people who lived there, and how some businesses which started in the lane, became nationally important.

All Welcome.

Compassion

**What a lovely thing it is –
A heart that's warm and kind,
One filled with compassion
That soothes the troubled mind.
A heart that's all forgiving
And always understands,
One who goes the second mile
And never makes demands.
Many hearts grow cold and hard
From knocks upon life's way,
And others lack compassion
In the world today.
Always trim your lamp of love
And keep the flame alight –
For the heart filled with compassion
Is precious in God's sight.**

By Kathleen Gillum

"WE DON'T DO BRAVERY HERE!"

These words were spoken to me by a young male blond nurse, as I refused painkillers on my (again) emergency trip to the Countess. This second visit was a result of my operation before Christmas, this time entailing pleurisy and a suspected clot on the lung.

I write this from my hospital bed (2 January 2012), and would like to thank so many friends for their good wishes, telephone enquiries, cards, plants, and for delicious "meals on wheels". Everyone has been so kind and supportive even though I messed up the holiday period, having been in here since Boxing Day.

Best wishes to all for a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Margaret Croston

Churches Together in Christleton

*To plan Village Teas in the
summer months & draw up rota*

*Coffee Morning
at Methodist Church
Thursday 8 March at 10.30 am*

Do come and join us again

Churches Together in Christleton

Lent Lunch (inc homemade soup)

Thursday 1 March 12 noon – 1.30 pm

Methodist Schoolroom

ALL WELCOME

Proceeds to Christian Aid

LENT



Christleton Parish Hall

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

The Hall has wheelchair access
and specially adapted facilities.

For bookings please contact Parish Hall Manager

Clare Holland

**Telephone 332819 (before 8pm please)
email christletonhall@btinternet.com**

RESTORING HOPE – SEIZING THE MOMENT: Ideas on Healthy Churches

St James' House-group is a group of people who are committed to studying topics regarding faith, or of some spiritual nature, in relation to our understanding of the Bible. Issues are dealt with in a small group situation – currently around ten members from three different churches – which allows fun and flexibility.

This helps wide-ranging, and often deep, discussions to take place in an atmosphere of trust and fellowship – aided by plenty of tea, coffee, cake and biscuits! The “house-group” approach was felt to be a potentially excellent way of including everyone in the consideration of questions of faith and how Christians should live.

Over the past few years we have covered topics such as :

- Books of the Bible and their themes: *The story of Ruth; Daniel (Spiritual Living in a Secular World); The Gospels (Tradition, Rebellion, Promise ...)*
- Hot Topics: *Genesis, Darwin and Dawkins; Anger; Dimensions of World Religions: Spirituality and so on.*

Currently, the group has been grappling with the issue of Healthy Churches, using *The Healthy Churches' Handbook* by Robert Warren, 2004, (HCH) as a guide. Another important guide in our study and discussions were selected passages from the New Testament. These readings helped exercise our minds and focus on Jesus' teachings and the development of the early church that flowed from his life and death.

But what is health? Health in this context is ... *Salvation ie wholeness, balance and harmony with God and all creation. A Healthy Church is one which has been touched and energised by the presence of God, so that it reflects something of the wholeness made possible through the knowledge of God as revealed by the Holy Spirit* (HCH). Health, our New Testament sources teach us, is how well the love of Jesus is shown in our daily or communal life.

Healthy Churches are very likely to grow in numbers – but are not focussed on this. They have seven common characteristics or marks, which are signposts rather than a toolset or “how to do it” manual. Only the first two are mentioned here: the first is *Energised by Faith* and the second *Outward-looking Focus*. Everything seems to flow from these two.

Energised (or tired!) by Faith – Energy can come from:

- The need for the sheer survival of our church
- Having an excellent choir
- Preserving our historic building
- Keeping “our” group in control
- The desire to keep things just as they are
- And so on ...



Well does it? Should it? ... or should it come only from a desire to serve God and one another and help other people to grow in and share their faith. Health is the result of a *long* journey of discipleship and discovery. A *long-term commitment* to develop the quality (holiness?) and vitality of the church is the key to health (HCH paraphrased).

... and anyway:

- What is a Church? – let alone a *healthy* church!
- How can we make room for change?
- Should there be significant change or just some additions to what we already have?
- Should it be “Evolutionary” or “Revolutionary”?
- How do we avoid “throwing the baby out with the bathwater”?
- Are we a club, a religious organisation or a community?

“Congregations do not generally operate as Christian communities. They are, instead, gatherings of individuals” ... “We commonly think of the Christian life from an individualistic, or at best an organisational, perspective, but rarely from a communal one” (HCH).

A big question for St James’ is, “Where are we?” The House-group has had a “go” at trying to understand what the seven marks are and what they imply. Discussions in a friendly group atmosphere have helped us to address, though not necessarily totally resolve, these issues. If you wish to comment on or discuss the issues raised, or indeed any related issues, please contact:

Bob Knight 336236 or Chris Platel 332466

Alternatively, why not write your own article on some aspect of spirituality/ church life which you regard as important? The sharing of everyone’s real views and feelings about our faith is perhaps a really valuable input and “energising” process.

History File

Little Heath Pit. Part 1

Following the interest in my article about the monster fish last month I'd like to explain some of the earliest information we have about Little Heath Pit. The origins of the pit at Little Heath date back to at least 1711 when Gerard Townsend, a Merchant of Chester (Ironmonger), who had purchased the Old Hall, built "a pond for fish", enlarging a pond on land belonging to the then Lord of the Manor, Sir Henry Harpur of Calke Abbey in Derbyshire. Evidence for this comes from a case at Chester Assizes in 1772 when Robert Townsend, Gerard's son and heir was prosecuted for not paying tax to the Lord of the Manor of Christleton for the pond on his land, for over 50 years. The case involving "a pond for fish" at Little Heath was a very long drawn out affair, but it appears that Robert Townsend won the argument in court. The pond was on an area of land, even then described as "common land", land that the people of Christleton had a right to use for grazing and watering their animals, a place to roam freely.

The Geology.

The area around Little Heath was the source of a number of minerals suitable for extraction, and used in many ways in village life. The village of Christleton is built on top of beds of Old Red Sandstone rock dating from about 300 million years ago, and there are several places in the village where this sandstone can be seen.

The main quarry in Quarry Lane which was at its deepest adjacent to the canal provided a large amount of good workable sandstone, useful for both walls and building stone for houses, many of which are still standing today. When the excavation of the A55 extension was taking place near the Rugby club at Littleton, the hard sandstone rock was found to be covered by sand, to the depth of almost 50 metres. The centre of Christleton is in effect, built on an island



of sandstone projecting above a “sea” of clay and soft sand which is very deep in many places. During the last great ice age, glaciers covered the area and brought with them thousands of tons of boulder clay and debris of volcanic rocks from the Lake District and North Wales. The Cheshire Plain itself was carved out by these glaciers and evidence of this can be seen from any high point overlooking the area.

Most farmland in and around Christleton contains some evidence of the deposits of both clay and these erratic rocks, and one such granite boulder has been left at the side of the Pit near Old Pits Farm for people to see. Hundreds of marl pits still remain in the Parish as evidence of where the clay was best for marling. Although we have lost many of these pits in the last fifty



years, Christleton can still be described as the pond capital of Cheshire from the density of the ponds that remain. In the 1980's, a borehole survey of the Pit was carried out by Geoff Clifton from Gifford & Partners. This showed that the depth of clay at the pit varies from a few centimetres to many metres. The ground typically appears to be 1m of fill (silt and clay) over a thin lens of sand, below which is 1m of clay, and below that 75cm of dry sand all lying on top of the sandstone bedrock. In another core hole we find that just over 3m down there is evidence of gravel which would have been ideal for road making by the local Highways Committee, which in the 1800's was the responsibility of the village

itself. DC



N.B. Please note that a fully illustrated version of this story can be found on the website www.christleton.org.uk . Just click onto Village and then Christleton Pit.

WHAT'S ON THIS MONTH

SUNDAY SCHOOL

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. Wednesday February 8th
KNICKERS - Janet Blake



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 Lilian Hopley telephone Chester 676683.

MAGAZINE CONTRIBUTIONS

Please ensure all items for inclusion in the March edition are sent to Janet Milton (335469), as soon as possible BEFORE Friday 10 February or you can e-mail this to christletonmag@hotmail.co.uk

MAGAZINE DISTRIBUTORS

The February magazine will be available for collection from Church on Sunday 29 January

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 the 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 and large print weekly notice sheets

Easy to follow Communion Service

Books for Children

Access for wheelchairs

Please ask any of the Church wardens or Sidesmen if you need assistance in anyway

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 01244 336586 for further details.

MOBILE LIBRARY VAN SERVICE

The van calls weekly: alternate Thursdays & Fridays in Quarry Lane 3.15 pm – 6.0 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

Parish Registers

Holy Baptism.

4th Jacob Cayden Edge
son of Jonathan & Nicola Edge
24, Bridge Drive, Christleton

"We welcome you into the Lord's Family"

The Funeral Service

6th Ann Wilkinson Kings Court Nursing Home
Age 79yrs
14th Madeline Snow 75 Oldfield Drove, Vicars Cross
Age 94yrs
15th Stan Thwaite 7 Barley Croft, Great Boughton
Age 83yrs
28th Dorothy Smith Oaklands Nursing Home, Tarvin Road,
Age 80yrs
29th Sonia Harvey 8 The Anchorage, Waverton
Age 53yrs

"Grant them eternal rest"

Offertories.

December	Cash	CSE	2011	2010
4 th	123-90	630-20	754-10	579-80
11 th	575-50	198-69	774-19	917-67
18 th	341-71	551-50	893-21	844-94
25 th	1,312-11	785-00	2,097-11	523-00
Totals.			£ 4,518-61	£ 2,865-41

"Of your own do we give you"

PARISH CHURCH OF ST. JAMES, CHRISTLETON

SUNDAYS 8.00 am Holy Communion
10.45 am Morning Worship
6.30 pm Evening Worship

WEDNESDAYS 10.45 am Holy Communion

SAINTS' DAYS As announced

WHO'S WHO & WHAT'S WHAT

Rector: The Rev'd. Malcolm Cowan, B.Th

**The Rectory,
Birch Heath Lane,
Christleton
01244 335663**

All baptisms, weddings and appointments by arrangement with Janet Milton 335469

Churchwardens:	John Pearson	335101
	Keith Smalls	335688
Deputy Wardens:	Lois Dickinson	
	Alan McAllester	
Reader:	Wayne Morris	01978 263389
Verge:	John Milton	335469
Sacristan:	Betty Dunning	335652
Pastoral Worker:	Berenice Kirwan	336779
Sunday School:	Berenice Kirwan	336779
Mothers' Union Branch Leader:	Janet Brown	335785
Organist & Musical Director:	Steve Roberts	815277
P. C. C. Secretary:	Brenda Bailey	335034
P. C. C. Treasurer:	Carl Cumiskey	330028
Stewardship Envelope:	Betty Dunning	335652
Gift Aid Secretary:	Nigel Seddon	335588
Bellringers:	Ian Braithwaite	300565
Bellringers Secretary:	Nikki Dromgoole	351124
Parish Hall Booking:	Clare Holland	332819
C. M. S. Secretary:	Janet Brown	335785
Children's Society Sec:	Lesley Morgan	335088
Visiting Group:	Berenice Kirwan	336779
Library:	Gwen Knight	336236
Church Flowers:	Olive Hammond	336562
Magazine Editor:	David Bull	332234
Magazine Compiler:	Julie Coxall	336062
Magazine Distributors:	Jenny Davies and Valmai Griffiths	335884
Neighbourhood Link Co-ordinator	Janet Bowden	335705
Parish Resource		
Person for Child Protection:	Alastair Holland	332819