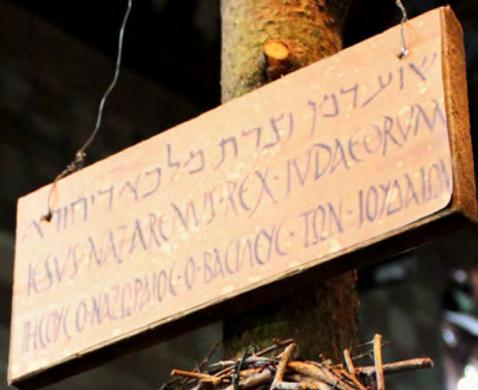


St. James' Christleton



PARISH MAGAZINE

May 2015

www.christleton.org.uk

35p

May Days

Fri	1	6.30 pm	Choir Practice
Sun	3	8.00 am	Holy Communion - followed by Breakfast in the Parish Hall
		10.45 am	Sunday Club - Parish Hall
		10.45 am	Holy Communion - followed by Baptism of Jack James Wood
		6.30 pm	Evening Worship
Wed	6	10.45 am	United Communion - followed by refreshments
Thur	7	12.00 noon	United Prayer Lunch - Methodist church
Fri	8	6.30 pm	Choir practice
Sun	10	8.00 am	Holy Communion
		10.45 am	Morning Prayer
		10.45 am	Sunday Club - Parish Hall
		6.30 pm	Holy Communion
Mon	11	10.30 am	Holy Communion at Tarvin Court Nursing Home
		11.00 am	Holy Communion at Oaklands Nursing Home
		2.00 pm	Mothers Union
Wed	13	10.45 am	Holy Communion - followed by refreshments
		11.30 am	Holy Communion at Birch Heath Lodge Nursing Home
Fri	15	6.30 pm	Choir Practice

NB: Last date for contributions for June Magazine to Janet Milton (325529). You can attach your Word document and e-mail to: christletonmag@hotmail.co.uk or christletonmag@spraff.net

Sat	16	1.00 pm	Wedding - Colin Bourne/Rachel Probert
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Sun	17	8.00 am	Holy Communion
		10.45 am	Holy Communion
		4.00 pm - 6.00pm	Messy Church - Parish Hall
		6.30 pm	Evening Worship
Mon	18	12.00 noon - 12.30 start	Luncheon Club - Parish Hall
Wed	20	10.45 am	Holy Communion - followed by Refreshments
Thur	21	1.00 pm	Wedding - Nicholas Earle/Emma Dunlop
Fri	22	6.30 pm	Choir Practice
Sun	24	8.00 am	Holy Communion
		10.45 am	Morning Prayer
		10.45 am	Sunday Club - Parish Hall
		6.30 pm	Holy Communion
Wed	27	10.45 am	Holy Communion - followed by refreshments
Fri	29	6.30 pm	Choir practice
Sun	31	8.00 am	Holy Communion
		10.45 am	Sunday Club - Parish Hall
		10.45 am	Holy Communion
		10.45 am	Eric and Sandra Read
		6.30 pm	Evening Worship

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Dean's Marina, at Rowton Bridge in the 1970's.

Back bottom

Steam Boat "President" from the Black Country Museum at Dudley passing through the village near Rowton Bridge in 2014.

Message from our Rector



With the General Election on 07 May we are all encouraged by the prospective candidates to carefully consider where we place our cross.

Each party publishes it's manifesto, designed to speak to us and the issues which are important to us, better health care.....lower taxes.....environmental improvements.....

They almost all give us the same message.....and yet, regardless of who wins, waiting times for medical appointments seem to grow longer.....our taxes seem to rise (even stealth taxes are introduced), and more and more environmental campaigners tell us of impending doom.

Be careful with your cross, it is important

Just a few weeks ago, we celebrated the importance of another Cross.....that on which our Lord and Saviour was killed.

That first Palm Sunday may have had an election rally feel to it, as the people anticipated a new leader who would sweep to power and echo in a new way of living. However, by the Friday of that week, a Cross had appeared and the support had disappeared, even the support of those considered His close friends.

The empty Cross of Easter Sunday, reveals just how important the Cross is, and how our lives can be shaped by the contradictions it offers.....a symbol of torture, yet revealing Glory.....a symbol of despair, yet revealing Hope.....a symbol of defeat, yet revealing Victory.

Jesus came with no manifesto, save that he told us " I am the Resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even

though he dies, and whoever lives and believes in me will never die” (John 11:25-26)

Good stable government is important, it allows us to plan for the future, even if the short term future is only for the five year duration of the Parliament, but there is a far greater future which is important to each of us.....Jesus tells us, “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in Heaven where moth and rust do not destroy and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also” (Matthew 6:19-21)

The Cross on our ballot paper is certainly important, it allows us to determine who will govern our country, making important decisions which will affect our immediate future.

But there is a far greater Cross it is life changing and life givingI have come that you may have life, and have it to the full”



Your Servant,
Malcolm.

Bible Verse:

James 1:19-20 “My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires”.

James 2:18 “But someone will say, “You have faith; I have deeds. Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by my deeds”.

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 Secretary, Mrs Lilian Hopley. Telephone Chester: 676683.

MAGAZINE CONTRIBUTIONS

Please ensure all items for inclusion in the **June** edition are sent to Janet Milton (325529), as soon as possible **BEFORE Friday 15th May** or you can e-mail this to: christletonmag@hotmail.co.uk OR christletonmag@spraff.net

MAGAZINE DISTRIBUTORS

The **June** magazine will be available for collection from Church on **Sunday 31th May**.

Nature Notes

A nightingale sings at Woodfields

Advertisements placed in the Chester Newspapers back in the early 1900's invited people from Chester to take a carriage from "The Bars" in Chester (price 2 pence) to listen to the nightingales in the "Woodfields" at Christleton!. This story and the one about the Sunday School Trip to Beeston by Canal Barge were told to me years ago by Cliff Boddy, who many of you will remember with great fondness. He served St James' Church & the Village with great distinction for over 79yrs.

Recently, whilst interviewing members of the Wright Family about Cecil Wright one of the Village Men who died in WWI, we were shown an album of sketches, autographs etc., collected by Amy (Effie) Wright one of his sisters, which had been



given to her by her mother as a Christmas present in 1910. This is a fascinating document in its own right, with lots of doodles, self-portraits, sketches, autographs etc., relating to friends and neighbours who visited during the war. However one picture took my eye in particular as it was a painting of a nightingale.

Effie lived in The Cottage, Quarry Lane, directly opposite the "Woodfields" and I have a hunch that she painted that picture at the time people were visiting the village to hear such a wonderful songbird. Effie's elderly relative to whom we spoke said "he understood that one of the village boys "stole the eggs", but no one ever admitted to it". So at least the story about people coming to Christleton to listen to the nightingales is plausible. There have only been to my knowledge two records since.

In the 1970's the late Pat Gardner who lived with husband Tony

at the Old Pit Farm at Little Heath and was familiar with hearing them when they lived in the south of England, heard one at The Pit. In the 1980's I halted a School Concert at the Primary School when one was heard singing in the tree just outside the School Hall, in order for the performers and audience to hear. The hall doors were wide open, as it was a warm July evening and we were holding our annual end of term Strawberry & Wine celebration. I have listened to nightingales sing many times and their explosive song is so distinctive, it just had to be a nightingale.

There were five Wright brothers in all from The Cottage in Quarry Lane, who served with distinction in the war, Cecil - Cheshire Yeomanry & Kings Shropshire Light Infantry, Gunner Harold -Royal Garrison Artillery, Marshall -Royal Engineers, Noel & Hylton -Royal Air Force. What an amazing record of loyal service to King & Country by one local family. The girls, Frances, Amy (Effie) and Evelyn were also very talented and appeared regularly in village concerts and entertainments during the war years, singing and playing musical instruments. Evelyn went on to marry Brian Hickey, the Rector & Mrs Hickey's son in 1927. The girls are pictured outside their house, before any houses exist in Sandrock and Rowton Bridge Roads.
DC.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

We currently have a small but dedicated team of people who keep St James Church clean and tidy but it would be nice if we could expand that team to enable those people to have the occasional 'day off'.

Would there be anyone out there who has a few hours to spare to help us out? For further details please contact the Verger, John Milton on 01244 325529.

Bible Verse:

James 3:13 "Who is wise and understanding among you? Let them show it by their good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom".

The following was found in a tiny church in Scotland –

“Whether visitor or member here,
Please don't simply disappear.
At service end, we like to stay
To hear what others have to say.
To drink a cup (or two or three)
Of tea or coffee – or juice maybe.
We recognise when time is tight,
It's all too easy to take flight.
But if a moment you can spare,
Please stay with us, so we can share
Your joys and worries, fears and cares,
And in return you'll have our prayers.
When onward you must go, we say
Please do come back another day”.

Any offers to help on the coffee rota, please contact Liz McClure
01244 409414

ST JAMES CHRISTLETON BREAKFAST CLUB

The Breakfast Club meets after 8 o'clock service every first Sunday of the month, and after a slow start the numbers have been quite encouraging, usually between 10 and 15.

Real fresh coffee is served, along with tea, fruit juice, pain au chocolat, croissants, home baked bread and home made preserves. There is no charge, but donations are always welcome. We are currently in the process of purchasing a toaster.

The idea behind the club was to promote fellowship, to speak to someone who you see every week and perhaps never exchange more than a few words with.

The Easter breakfast was attended by 20 people! Fortunately we were able to feed everyone! We even had enough soft boiled eggs and toast soldiers to go round! *Mike and Tina Lightfoot*

A note for your diary

Christleton Village Show 2015

Is on Saturday 11th of July
In Christleton Parish Hall

This year the show theme is An English Country Garden, reflecting the many beautiful gardens in our village. We're also hoping a special effort will be made with Hanging Baskets. It is good to see the Pump House resplendent with flowers each year and we're hoping this example will be followed throughout the village – there's also a trophy to won in the Hanging Basket competition.

Schedules are now 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 (its time to start your Hanging Baskets), '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 good charity, after last year's show we donated to Claire House Children's Hospice; Hospice of the Good Shepherd and North West Air Ambulance. Once again Drakes Hairdressers (see Hayley) 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 of Judith Butts house –Greenmantle, Plough Lane. There will also be a Coffee Morning on 4th July in the Ring O Bells for entries to be made.

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

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

Pentecost

Acts 1:8 “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

-- A lady went to a jeweler to have her watch fixed. He disappeared to the back and soon returned with it running perfectly.

--Surprised, she asked how he could have fixed it so soon. He told her it only needed a new battery.

--Battery? No body said anything about a battery. I've been winding it every morning!”

--A lot of Christians do not realize the inner power of the Holy Spirit to handle things they think they must take into their own hands.

The Holy Spirit's power is available to US TO COMPLETE THE TASK BEFORE US IN THE HARVEST and he wants us to complete the task using his power and not by our own ingenuity You can see from Acts 1:8 that God did not dare ask His people to do His work without giving them the ability to do it.

This is why they were asked to wait in Jerusalem until power from on high descended upon them. The message of Acts 1:8 is simple Apart from the Holy Spirit no-one can preach the Gospel as God wants them to do, but with the Holy Spirit we can make a difference in 1 Cor. 2:4-5 “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 men's wisdom, but on God's power”.

Without the Power of the Holy Spirit the message of the Gospel rest in man's wisdom and the Bible tells us in 2 Tim 3:5 that in the Last days the Church will have a “form of Godliness, but deny the power thereof” This is a way of saying that we Christians will be more enamoured on the external [show] rather than on the internal [empowerment by the Holy Spirit] God forbid. We need to be like The New Testament christians that saw the baptism of the Holy Spirit as the NORMAL experience for empowering believers to preach the Gospel. They knew as we

should understand that without the Holy spirit we won't make much of a difference in this world.

The human body is remarkable because It can maintain a constant temperature of 98.6 degrees no matter what the weather is outside. Whether a man is at the Arctic Circle or the equator, his body temperature is about the same. There is an inner mechanism that makes the difference. For Christians, the Holy Spirit is that inner Mechanism. To help us make a difference in this world

WE NEED THE HOLY SPIRIT BECAUSE WE as christians NEED TO BE TRANSFORMED

Acts 2:1-4 "When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them".

Why WAS THERE A the symbol of fire when the believers received the Holy Spirit?

Fire is the symbol of transformation!

Fire changes whatever it touches.

The Holy Spirit Transform us in so many ways.

The Holy Spirit took a group of fisherman, former prostitutes, ex-religious leaders, tax collectors, and various family members of Jesus and the other disciples and formed them into a united group...we call the church.

Before Pentecost, the disciples were scarred,

They lacked faith,

They did not fully understand God's plan,

After Pentecostal fire fell however,

They were united as never before.

Nothing earlier had welded the early christians into one united force. It took the fire of God's Spirit to do this.

There once was a blacksmith who had two pieces of iron which he wished to weld into one. He took them just as they were, all cold and hard, and put them on the anvil, and began to ham-

mer with all this might, but they were still two pieces, and they would not unite. At last he remembered what he should never have forgotten. He thrust both of them into the fire, took them out red-hot, laid one on the other, and by one or two blows of the hammer they soon became one.

God's Spirit dramatically transforms people's lives
Bring them from all walks of life, And turn them into a united group that can accomplish something. The Christians were birthed in the power of the Holy Spirit and society won't be transformed until the Church is transformed by the power of the Holy Spirit.

As God's Children, we cannot afford to ignore His immediate presence Matthew 3:11 "I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me will come one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not fit to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire".

Acts 2:3 "They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them".

The fire that appeared on the heads of each believer in the upper room has a connection to the Old Testament:

When Moses was dedicating the tabernacle, Leviticus 9:24 "Fire came out from the presence of the Lord and consumed the burnt offering and the fat portions on the altar. And when all the people saw it, they shouted for joy and fell facedown".

And Solomon was Dedicating the temple 2 Chron. 7:1 "When Solomon finished praying, fire came down from heaven and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices, and the glory of the Lord filled the temple". Supernatural fire from the presence of God fell on the sacrifices. This indicated to the people that God had accepted the tabernacle and the Temple as His dwelling place. The proof of his acceptance was the supernatural fire that fell from heaven. The Apostle Paul uses the term temple to indicate that under the New Covenant our bodies are the Temple" of the Holy Spirit 1 Cor. 6:19 "Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own". At Pentecost, the individual believers had tongues of fire over them, Supernatural fire from

heaven ...

Once again God sent His own fire to demonstrate that from now on He would accept the “temple” – the individual as His dwelling place, so that the believer is a “temple” of the Holy Spirit.

The Church - would also, now become the dwelling place of God's Holy Spirit. As the temple of the Holy Spirit 1 Cor. 6:19 tells us that we are not our own any longer. In fact what it is telling us is that we are not alone any longer either John 14:17 the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.

I thank God for the presence of the Holy Spirit in our life. I thank God for that relationship. We know that unless we build and maintain any relationship we can easily have that relationship come to a halt. One New Year's Day, during an annual parade, a beautiful float suddenly sputtered and quit. It was out of gas. The whole parade was held up until someone could get a can of gas. The amusing thing was this float represented the an Oil Company. With its vast oil resources, this oil company's truck was out of gas. Often, Christians neglect their spiritual maintenance, and even though they are “clothed with power” (Luke 24:49)

They find themselves out of gas. In Leviticus 6:12 instructions were given that the fire that fell from God should never be permitted to go out, it was to be attended to constantly and around the clock so it would never go out. So should the fire of the Spirit of God in our lives, it should never be allowed to go out! The Bible says 1 Thes. 5:19 “Do not put out the Spirit's fire”; The people of God that are walking in the Spirit Flowing in His gifts, Cherishing his presence, And stirring up the fire he has placed within us should always be be mindful that the fire do not go out. The only way to keep the fire burning is in Gal 5:22-23.”But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law”. I pray that we should continue to stoke the fire of the Holy Spirit in us through fasting and praying in order, to embody the fruits of the spirit AMEN.

Remain Blessed.

A Person that Soweth Discord

- I) You will know people who sow discord because:-
A) They want people to change, but they go about it the wrong way.
B) They are missing the love for their brethren
- II) They indulge in Gossip and Talebearing
A) Talking about other people.
B) People who engage in such attitude have too much time on their hands and lack purpose.
- III) Thess. 3:11 - 13 “We hear that some among you are idle and disruptive. They are not busy; they are busybodies. Such people we command and urge in the Lord Jesus Christ to settle down and earn the food they eat. And as for you, brothers and sisters, never tire of doing what is good.
I Tim. 5:12-13 - 12 “Having damnation, because they have cast off their first faith. And withal they learn to be idle, wandering about from house to house; and not only idle, but tattlers also and busybodies, speaking things which they ought not”.
C) People like to gossip, to talk about those juicy tidbits - Pr. 18:8 “The words of a gossip are like choice morsels; they go down to the inmost parts”.
- IV) It feeds pride to know that others are worse off than you.
V) But we shouldn't be comparing ourselves with others, but with God's word - II Cor. 10:10 - 18 “I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another in what you say and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly united in mind and thought”.
“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”.
- A) Yes, even Paul had problems with talebearing
B) Talebearing tears down the people being talked about
- VI) If you are comparing yourself to others, you need others to be less than you. You don't feel good comparing yourself to a successful person.
- VII) Talebearing is a cause of strife among brethren - Pr. 26:20-

22 “Without wood a fire goes out; without a gossip a quarrel dies down. As charcoal to embers and as wood to fire, so is a quarrelsome person for kindling strife”.

A) Talebearing is a sin. It is listed among murders and thieves - I Pet. 4:15 “But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or as a thief, or as an evildoer, or as a busy body in other men’s matters”.

VIII) Even when there is nothing wrong, Talebearers will make things up to tear others down.

B) The ungodly digs up evil and sows strife - Pr. 16:27-28 “An ungodly man diggeth up evil: and in his lips there is as a burning fire. A froward man soweth strife: and a whisperer separateth chief friends”.

C. Talk behind others back comes from hatred - Ps. 41:7

D) Whispering is listed in the sins of a decayed society - Rom 1:29

F) God will cut off the slanderer - Ps. 101:5

IX) To continue on the path of gossip and talebearing while knowing God's opinion is foolish - Pr. 10:18

X) We need to put a stop to such behaviour and attitude

A) Put away evil talk - Eph. 4:31, I Pet. 2:1

B) Don't speak evil of a brother - Ja. 4:11

C) Don't speak evil of anyone - Tit. 3:1-2

D) Finally, Keep your minds occupied with the things of God, not man. *Remain Blessed.*

Visual Test

A doctor was performing a complete physical, including the visual acuity test. He placed the patient twenty feet from the chart and began. “Cover your right eye with your hand,” the doctor instructed the patient. The patient read the 20/20 line perfectly. “Now your left.” Again, a flawless read. “Now both,” the doctor requested. There was silence. He couldn't even read the large E on the top line. The doctor turned and discovered the patient doing exactly what he had been asked. He was standing there with both his eyes covered.

Laying down their lives at Pentecost

As you celebrate Pentecost, pause for a moment to ask yourself one question – how is it that you are standing here, as a Christian, on this day in 2015?

It's because somebody told you about Jesus, right? But who told them? We're all links in a chain that stretches back to Pentecost, when Peter emboldened by the Holy Spirit, first told others about the faith. He, and countless others since, paid the ultimate price, so that you might live.

And Christians are still laying down their lives around the world today for their faith. Christians are persecuted under authoritarian states, in communist and post-communist countries, under Hinduism and even under Buddhism.

But today, few face persecution more severe than that suffered by Christians under extreme Islam in the countries which first heard the gospel after Pentecost.

At the first Pentecost, 3,000 devout Jews had gathered in Jerusalem to celebrate the giving of the Law. They returned to their respective nations bearing an even greater gift – the Gospel, which spread like wildfire.

Yet today, 2,000 years later, that Christian presence is dwindling to the point of extinction.

Take Iraq, ancient Mesopotamia and the birthplace of Abraham, where today Christians are being driven from their land by Islamic State. "Are we seeing the end of Christianity?" asks the Vicar of Baghdad, Canon Andrew White. "We have had people massacred, their heads chopped off. It looks as though the end could be very near."

Further north, in Erbil, Chaldean Archbishop Bashar M Warda, ponders the same question.

"Since 2003, half the Christians have left the country," he says.

“The attack has been immense. We were above 1m, now you hardly find 300,000.” He, too, fears the exodus of Christians may be unstoppable.

The one beacon of hope is Iraqi Kurdistan, which has flung open its gates to the persecuted, and claims to be the only region in the Middle East where the Christian population is growing. The Kurds understand persecution. They were gassed by Saddam. And these Kurds who are remembering Christians in their hour of need are Muslims.

May our own memories be not so dulled by the freedoms we take for granted that we fail to remember our persecuted Christian family this Pentecost.

Release International supports persecuted Christians in 30 nations. Release is working with partners in Baghdad to keep the flame of the gospel alive, and in Kurdistan to help refugees – some of whom are coming to faith in Christ.

Cover Picture

The cover photograph is of the cross that was brought in and dressed during the Good Friday morning service at St James. The theme was “Journey’s End” and we heard from Pilate, Herod, a Legal Expert, Simon who carried the cross, members of the crowd and a Roman Centurion who witnessed the crucifixion as they described what happened. The drama was powerful but simple and the cross remained in the dimly lit church after the service.

Bible Verse:

Romans 14:2 “One person’s faith allows them to eat anything, but another, whose faith is weak, eats only vegetables”.

Votewise 2015 - making a difference at the ballot box and beyond

“We are a nation of disaffected voters. The last three elections have seen the lowest turnout in living memory and there’s no indication that 2015 will be any different... With the threat of a hung parliament, a drastic shake-up of the Union... it seems a hopeless time for politics.” So writes Guy Brandon, in his timely new book, *Votewise 2015*, a guide to Christians facing the General Election.

Yet Brandon insists that “as Christians, hopelessness is not something we can afford, much less subscribe to.” And so *Votewise 2015* aims to help Christians consider the main issues from a Christian perspective: the economy, debt and austerity; Europe and immigration; the environment; the NHS; education.

“Taking the trip to the polling station once every five years is not the beginning and end of political engagement – especially for Christians, who are taught to pray ‘Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth, as it is in heaven.’ We are commanded to seek transformation here on earth, not simply to sit back and wait for the Age to Come.

“God did not intend for politicians to bear full responsibility for transforming an imperfect world. That responsibility lies, first and foremost, with Christians.” Brandon says.

So as well as prayer and bottom-up local initiatives, he also encourages Christians to effect change by getting involved in direct engagement with the political process: “lobbying your council, joining a party, becoming a councillor yourself, writing to your MP or visiting one of their surgeries: all the activity that occurs the other four years and 364 days before the next General Election.

Although change can be slow, it is absolutely valid for Christians to seek to change a faulty system, as well as to address its injustices. That’s why we should be voting.”

**Votewise 2015, by Guy Brandon, SPCK/Jubilee Centre, £8.99*

The History File

Four fascinating stories have emerged from our WWI research this month, and two of them confirm stories I've heard told many years ago.

The Chester Observer July 15th 1916. Sunday School Treat

On Tuesday afternoon through the kindness of Mrs Townsend Logan of Christleton Bank ("The Abbotts Well") the children attending Christleton Church Sunday Schools were entertained. A capital tea was served in the Boys' School after which the children adjourned to the beautiful grounds of Christleton Bank, where they indulged in all sorts of games. Sports were also held, the successful competitors getting a handsome present from Mrs Townsend Logan. Before leaving all children were presented with a useful present by their hostess. The teachers present were, Rev & Mrs Hickey, Miss Vera Hickey, Miss Mosford, Miss Morgan, Miss Dutton, Miss Martin, Miss Aspinall and Miss E & Miss Nellie Day.

The Chester Observer June 1917. Wounded Soldiers Entertained.

Through the kindness of Mrs Melchior of "The Laurels" Rowton 100 wounded soldiers from Chester Royal Infirmary, Hoole House, and Hoole Bank Hospitals had a day's outing to Beeston Castle. The party arrived at Christleton Bridge at 10.30am in motors kindly placed at their disposal by several Chester Ladies and Gentlemen. From the bridge they continued up the canal in two barges, provided by the Cheshire Farmers Supply Association Egg Bridge Mills. On reaching Tattenhall, lunch was served. Afterwards they proceeded on their journey and arrived at Bates Mill at 1.20pm. On arrival carriages were provided by Mrs Melchior to convey the patients unable to walk to the castle.

A ramble through the beautiful grounds was enjoyed and the men engaged in old English Games, in which the Matron, Sisters and Nurses joined in. An excellent tea was served at 4.40. The return journey was commenced at 6pm arriving at Christleton Bridge at 8pm, where the patients heartily joined in three

cheers for Mrs Melchior for the excellent treat she had given them, and sang the National Anthem. Messrs Masons Band provided the Music.

Chester Observer July 1918. Sunday School Treat

On 17th July through the kindness of Mr & Mrs Butler –Corn Merchants of Christleton Mill nearly 400 village children, parents and friends were entertained at Beeston Castle. The party was conveyed from Christleton along the canal in two barges. (Mersey Flats, large wide bodied canal boats were used to convey grain between Ellesmere Port and Nantwich, which is why this section of the Chester canal is so wide.) On arrival at Beeston Castle luncheon was served and various amusements and games provided and tea served, before the happy party returned to Christleton.

The picture shows one of the barges being towed by a horse near Trooper Bridge. Butlers Corn Mill is in the background.

Christleton Wednesday Group

JUMBLE SALE
on
Saturday 9 May,
at

**CHRISTLETON PARISH HALL,
11.00 am to 1.00 pm.**

In aid of LIVE!

At New Scene Youth Centre

GROSVENOR MUSEUM SOCIETY

The Society's next lecture meeting will be held
in
the Museum on Tuesday 19 May 2015

The talk entitled "**Horseshoes & Nails
Sharp & Blunt Knives --- High Court Ceremonial**"

will be given by **Rev. David Chesters OBE.**
and will start at 7.30pm.

Visitors are welcome. Members go free
visitors £4; students £2.

Further details from **Ken Holding**
tel : 01244 312689

Prayer at Election Time

Heavenly Father,

We need your wisdom at this Election time. There are so many issues, so many voices clamouring for attention, clamouring for votes, clamouring for power.

Thank you that you give your people a different sort of power, the power of your Holy Spirit, who leads into all truth. Help us Lord to receive your Spirit, to listen to him, so that we make good decisions on Election Day - and every day of our lives. Thank you for the wonderful gift of your Spirit, In Jesus name. Amen.

By Daphne Kitching

Eric and Sandra Read (with Peter and Atiyyah) will be with us in St James on Sunday 31st May at the 10.45 service to give an account of their work in the Philippines and to talk over coffee afterwards.

Eric and Sandra are CMS (Church Mission Society) mission partners working in the Philippines and based on the main southern island of Mindanao.

Their vision is to train and mentor local churches/groups, by using organic farming, workshops and teamwork to develop communication skills in local communities, particularly where there are barriers between different people groups.

We at St James are their Mission link and support them financially and through prayer and encouragement. They would like to meet you (again) and this is a good opportunity to discuss their approach in working in community.

Gwen Knight

Ramblings from the Secretary

The problem is that I'm writing this just after Easter, at least three weeks before anyone will read it. Anything could have happened in the interim, but that's how magazines work.

The Churches Together Lent discussion groups went well with three parallel series of five sessions discussing the situation for Christians in the Middle East today. Did you go along? The weather was unkind for the Palm Sunday Walk of Witness, and there was no donkey (Lucius couldn't make it), and unsurprisingly fewer actually chose to walk in the wet. A bit of a shame and in contrast with the nice sunny pictures on the back of the March magazine taken a couple of years back, complete with a donkey and a visiting Bishop. The traditional procession from the Lych gate into church on Good Friday morning was also rained off, but the drama of "Journey's End" in that service describing

the events leading up to Jesus' crucifixion was powerful. I'm hoping that my photo of the cross brought in to church as part of that drama has made it on to the cover of this magazine. If not, ask me about it.

Anyway that has all passed. Also the Annual Church Meetings. They will have taken place on 26th April and will have given all who came a chance to have their say in the running of the church. A number of vacancies existed on the PCC so if they were not filled at the annual meeting then there's still an opportunity to volunteer your services. I hope you found the Information Packs useful and an insight about what is going on in the name of St James' Church. If you missed out getting one, then let me know (Tel: 336500).

So what of the year ahead? The Church Council (PCC) inevitably has to deal with the mundane tasks of maintaining the building and churchyard, keeping track of the finances, complying with regulations, keeping in touch with the Diocese and the Deanery, managing our employees and volunteers, and much more. An extension of the Churchyard to cope with more burials is needed which involves getting a patch of church land back from the farmer, getting a 'Change of Use' through the local authority, a faculty through the Diocese, and then eventually fencing it off and consecrating it by the Bishop.

Quite a bit of work! And then there's the tower repairs to stonework which involves the temporary removal of a stained glass window. Also perhaps some long discussed improvements to choir stalls. During this coming year it will undoubtedly attend to the spiritual life of this church, and indeed of the community around it via outreach activities. It will liaise with Churches Together, and may organise study groups. The Rector has started a number of working groups to assist the PCC that specialise in certain aspects of the church - 'Pastoral', 'Spirituality and Worship', 'Buildings and Maintenance' and, still to come, a 'Communications' group, and the PCC has to keep track of what they are doing. So plenty going on!

More rambling news soon! *Brian Inall (PCC Secretary)*

Bible Verse:

James 5:12 "Above all, my brothers and sisters, do not swear—not by heaven or by earth or by anything else. All you need to say is a simple "Yes" or "No." Otherwise you will be condemned".

Parish Registers (March)

Confirmation Service

4th April at Chester Cathedral Julie Otway

The Funeral Service

6th Joseph Stanley Owen Morris Crawfords Walk Nursing Home 84yrs

19th Pamela Gape Mayfields Residential Home Ellesmere Port 83yrs

29th Robin Douglas Scott Allan 18 Barley Croft, Great Boughton 63yrs (Burial of cremated remains)

“Grant them eternal rest”

Offertories

March	Cash	C.S.E.	2015	2014
1st	116-25	764-36	880-61	602-90
8th	50-21	384-71	434-92	727-53
15th	105-72	758-72	863-44	536-90
22nd	107-05	1,105-71	1,212-76	681-93
29th	26-88	633-97	660-85	691-65
Totals			£4,052-58	£3,240-91

“Of your own do we give you”

Christian Aid Talk

Thanks to all who supported my talk “Wales Through the Seasons” and the other talks given in the Hall this winter. I am delighted to say we raised £300 for Christian Aid, making a total for the year of £1200 for three different charities. *David*

PARISH CHURCH OF ST JAMES, CHRISTLETON

REGULAR WORSHIP

SUNDAYS:	8.00am:	Holy Communion
	10.45am:	Holy Communion (1st & 3rd & 5th Sundays) 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)

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 (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	325529
	(Janet is your initial contact point for Baptism, Wedding and Appointment requests)	
Other local clergy who may assist:	Rev'd Gill Hibbert	336544
	Rev'd Elizabeth Inall, MA	336500
Churchwardens:	Carl Cumiskey	330028
	Bettie Gilliatt	335645
Deputy Wardens:	Chris Platel	332466
	Keith Smalls	335688
	Alan McAllester	335494
Verger:	John Milton	325529
Pastoral Assistant:	Melanie Efobi	336072
Sacristan:	Betty Dunning	335652
Organist & Choir Master:	Steve Roberts	815277
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:	Berenice Kirwan	336779
Electoral Roll Officer:	Brenda Bailey	335034
Churches Together Representative:	Jan Bowden	335705
Child Protection:	Alistair Holland	332819
Pastoral Worker / Visiting:	Berenice Kirwan	336779
Sunday Club / Messy Church:	Berenice Kirwan	336779
CREW Youth Group:	Mike & Tina Lightfoot	328436
Church Library:	Gwen Knight	336236
Church Flowers:	Olive Hammond	336562
Bellringers:	Ian Braithwaite	300565
Bellringers' Secretary:	Nikki Dromgoole	351124
Parish Hall Bookings:	Clare Holland	332819
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 Distributors:	Jenny Davies, Valmai Griffiths	335884
Magazine Photographs:	David Cummings	332410
Magazine Compiler:	Ike Efobi	336072

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

Shalom!!!



Dean's Marina, at Rowton Bridge in the 1970's.



Steam Boat "President" from the Black Country Museum at Dudley passing through the village near Rowton Bridge in 2014.

Samaritan!

A man was beaten up by the roadside on a road to London. He lay there, half dead and in bad shape. An individual of esteemed Benefice came along, saw him and passed by on the other side. Next, a monk came by but also walked quickly on the other side. Finally, a social worker came along, looked at the man and said "Whoever did this needs help!"

May 2015 @ St. James, Church Christleton