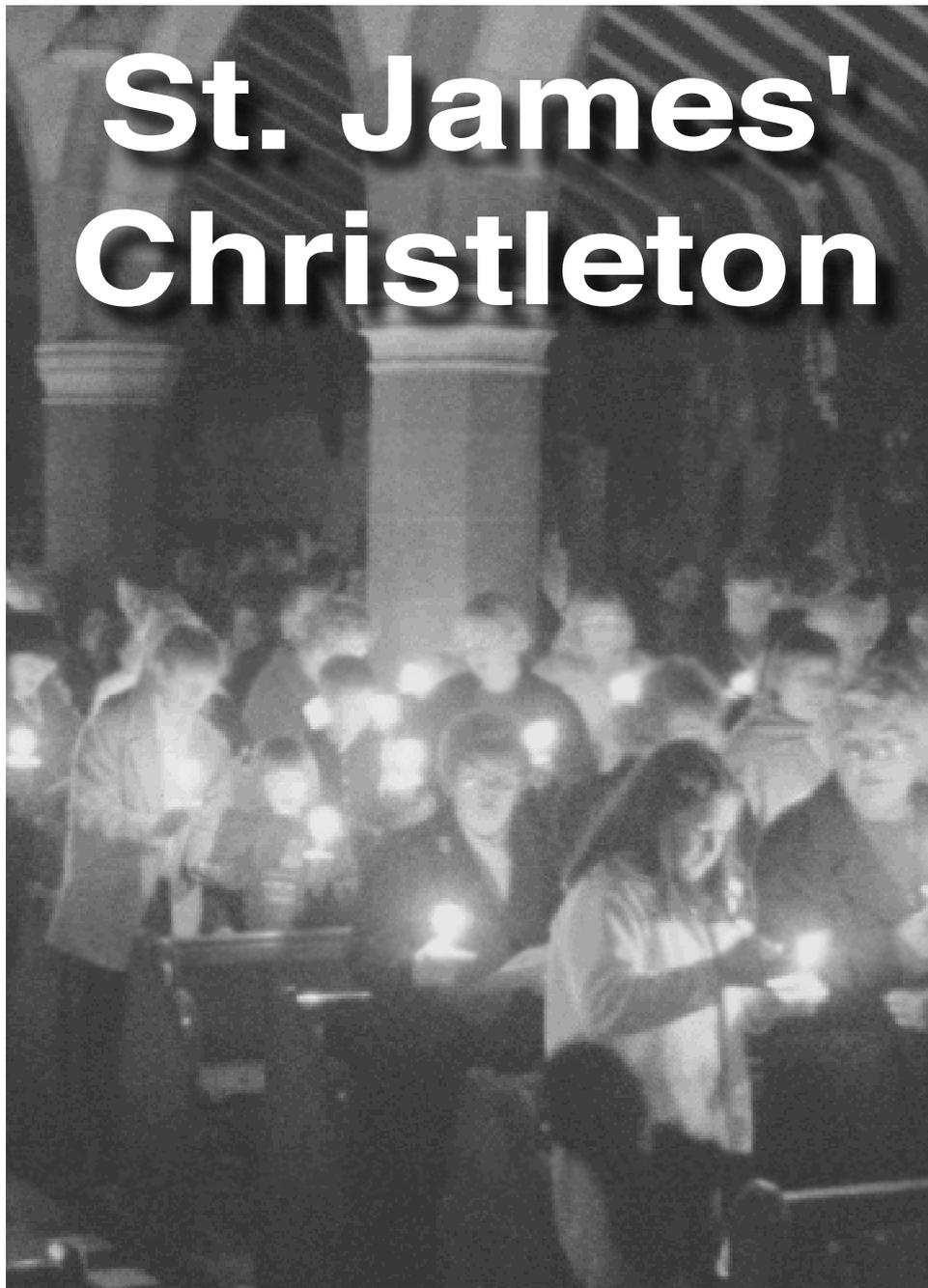


St. James' Christleton



Parish Magazine
JANUARY 2005

30p

Jottings for January

- Sun 2** **The Second Sunday after Christmas**
8.00 am Holy Communion - Order 2
10.45 am Parish Communion - Order 1
6.30 pm Evensong - followed by refreshments
Prayer Link Road: Moor Lane Neighbourhood Link:
Gwen Knight
- Wed 5 10.45 am United Communion - followed by refreshments
Thur 6 9.00 am Holy Communion for Epiphany
- Sun 9** **The First Sunday of Epiphany : The Baptism of Christ**
8.00 am Holy Communion - Order 1
10.45 am UNITED VILLAGE NEW YEAR SERVICE St James
followed by refreshments
4.30 pm CHRISTINGLE at CHRISTLETON
Prayer Link Road: Pepper Street Neighbourhood Link:
Pat Hodges
- Mon 10 2.00 pm Mothers Union - Parish Hall
2.30 pm Standing Committee - Rectory
7.45 pm Pastoral and Outreach Committee - Badgers Close
- Wed 12 10.45 am Holy Communion - followed by refreshments
2.30 pm Parish Visiting Group - White Haven
Thur 13 7.45 pm Faith and Worship Committee - Rectory
Fri 14 NB Last date for contributions for February Parish
Magazine to David Bull (332234). Earlier if possible
please
- Sun 16** **The Second Sunday of Epiphany**
8.00 am Holy Communion - Order 1
10.30 am Sunday School - Parish Hall
10.45 am Parish Communion - Order 1
1.30 pm Parish Ramble Group leaves car park
6.00 pm The Crew Youth Group
6.30 pm Evensong
Prayer Link Road: Plough Lane
Neighbourhood Link: Margaret Renner/Janet Brown/
Jocelyn Platel
- Mon 17 7.45 pm Stewardship Committee - Lady Chapel

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

- Tues 18 9.00 am Church Ramble group leaves car park
7.30 pm United Service Hamilton Street, Methodist Church
- Wed 19 10.45 am Holy Communion - followed by refreshments
12 noon United Prayers - St James
Followed by Churches Together in Christleton committee
- Thurs 20 7.15 pm United Prayers - Methodist Church
- Fri 21 7.15 pm United Prayers - Methodist Church
- Sat 22 11.00 am United Village Coffee Morning - Parish Hall
12 noon United Prayers
- Sun 23 The Third Sunday of Epiphany**
8.00 am Holy Communion - Order 1
10.30 am Sunday School - Parish Hall
10.45 am Matins
6.00 pm The Crew Youth Group – Parish Hall
6.30 pm UNITED SERVICE - Methodist Church NB: No service at St James
- Mon 24 12.00 noon United Prayers - St James
- Tues 25 7.15 pm United Prayers - Methodist Church
7.30 pm “Some Issues in Human Sexuality” - All Saints, Hoole. An informal evening with Chester & Malpas Deaneries listening and sharing our stories.
- Wed 26 10.45 am Holy Communion - followed by refreshments
- Sat 29 Bereavement Support Group ‘Away Day’ - Retreat House
- Sun 30 The Fourth Sunday of Epiphany**
8.00 am Holy Communion - Order 1
10.30 am Sunday School - Parish Hall
10.45 am Matins
6.00 pm The Crew Youth Group - Parish Hall
6.30 pm Evening Communion - Order 1
Prayer Link: Those outside the Parish who worship at St James
Area Secretary: Jean Smeatham
- Mon 31 7.45 pm PCC Meeting - Parish Hall
January, 2005

The Rector's Letter

Dear Friends

Epiphany Skies

A couple of years ago, when Fiona and I managed to see the New year in, in the Lake District, we woke one morning to clear skies, following snow the night before, so we decided to set off to walk the 'Fairfield Horseshoe'. As we climbed I paused at one point to catch my breath, and looked back down to the valley. There was one particular field defined by a shaft of sunlight – it was so clear you could almost touch it and the colours were rich and alive. It immediately put me in mind of R. S. Thomas's poem "The Bright Field", which I include, not so much as a 'Prayer', as a 'Poem of the Month'. As I turned back to continue my upward struggle I thought 'I must capture that', so I reached for my camera and turned back to photograph it. But it had gone. A cloud had completely shut out the shaft of light, which had illuminated it, and so completely that I could not even make out which field I had seen – now they all looked dull and the same. That to me, is something of the meaning of Epiphany. Epiphany: the light shining forth: the revelation. Epiphany is the shining forth of the light who is Christ and whose birth we have so recently celebrated. On the First Sunday of Epiphany we celebrate the Baptism of Christ as the skies opened and the Holy Spirit hovered over him as a voice from Heaven said: "You are my Son, whom I love, with you I am well pleased." Yet turn, and look again and you see a thronging mass of sinful humanity swarming into the muddied waters of the Jordan, seeking cleansing through John's Baptism. You cannot even tell which one is Jesus – he merges into the crowd as he immerses himself into muddied humanity. He is one with God and one with us. Because of Jesus the ordinary is special and all life is holy.

The climb up Fairfield is long and hard, but certainly worth it as it reveals a different world with exhilarating views. But the views come and go at the whim of nature, and there is no guarantee your efforts will be rewarded. At times the cloud was so thick it was difficult to see the way, at others it would clear away so the whole route lay ahead of you like an aerial map. Then the skies would be lit in glorious colours of blues and pinks and reds – Epiphany skies – revealing the full beauty of creation. So John's Baptism was about what we can do by greater effort: Jesus' Baptism is

about what God can do. At New year we need our resolutions to make the effort to climb higher to be in a position to receive what we can never achieve, which is God's gift of himself in Jesus – a vision to transform life.

As we move into this New Year, Epiphany reveals to us the full meaning and significance of the Jesus whose birth we celebrated at Christmas. This Jesus is revealed by the gifts of the Wise Men as King and God and Sacrifice: our King to follow and obey: our God to worship and acknowledge as the true meaning of life and as Sacrifice to save us from our sin and failure and free us for a fuller life. Once the clouds have parted and we have seen that vision, life will never be the same again. Even when the clouds return, we shall know they only obscure the truth that lies behind them that "life is not hurrying on to a receding future, not hankering after an imagined past." So we can live our lives every day of this new year, by that brightness "which seemed as transitory as your youth once, but is the eternity which awaits you."

A very happy New Year to you all.

Poem of the Month: *The Bright Field*

*I have seen the sun break through
to illuminate a small field
for a while, and gone my way
and forgotten it. But that was the pearl
of great price, the one field that had
the treasure in it. I realize now
that I must give all I have
to possess it. Life is not hurrying*

*on to a receding future, nor hankering after
an imagined past. It is the turning
aside like Moses to the miracle
of the lit bush, to a brightness
that seemed as transitory as your youth
once, but is the eternity which awaits you.*

R. S. Thomas

COVER FEATURE OF THE MONTH

Christingle at St James' This year's service on behalf of the Children's Society is to be held at St James' at 4.30pm on Sunday 9th January. The Children's Society is a national charity working with more than 50,000 children and teenagers in England every year. It aims to help children in four key areas; children at risk on the streets, children in trouble with the law, young refugees and disabled children. During 2005, the Society is aiming through its latest campaign "Safe and Sound", to create a "safe place" for the 100,000 children who run away each year. For further information contact Lesley Morgan on 335088, or visit The Children's Society web site; www.the-childrens-society.org.uk



THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY

A letter of thanks from the Children's Society for the £788.33 from the box collection.

"One hundred thousand children run away each year in the UK. When home becomes unbearable, children need a place that is safe. With your generous contribution, we can make this happen. The Children's Society is already reaching out to over 50,000 children every year. With your continued support, we can improve the lives of thousands more through our campaigning work. With our heartfelt thanks once again".

A church is a hospital
for sinners, not a
museum for saints.
anon

APRECIATION

Many moons ago I listened to a sermon, the theme being "Appreciation". As an example, the Rector explained how in those days products always had a slip of paper with a number on it stating who packed the goods. If one had a complaint about the goods, you always had to state this number. Of course, in the vast majority of cases the product would have been packed correctly, but the Rector asked us to think what a pleasant surprise it would be if one day, instead of writing to the packer about a complaint, somebody bothered to write a letter of appreciation to the packer for the job well done.

In a round about way, this is what this article is all about. It's the start of a New Year. I want to thank all the people in this village and the surrounding areas, who go about their daily lives making life happier for all of us. There are so many people, invariably in the background who, year in, year out, put themselves out to accommodate the needs of the rest of us in one way or another. Who ever you are (and only you know), please accept our thanks

January, 2005

for a job well done. You are appreciated.

A happy and contented New Year to everyone.

BRITISH LEGION POPPY DAY APPEAL

I should like to say a very big thank you to everyone from Tarvin Road, Little, Marbury Road, Stamford Court, Broadmead, Cedar Park and all that area for donating to the British Legion Poppy Day appeal. The house-to-house cash collection was £369.00. Thank you.

Mabel Kirk.

MAGAZINE CONTRIBUTION DATES FOR 2005

February	Friday 14 January
March	Friday 11 February
April	Friday 11 March
May	Friday 8 April
June	Friday 13 May
July	Friday 10 June
August	Friday 8 July
September	Friday 12 August
October	Friday 9 September
November	Friday 14 October
December	Friday 11 November
January 2006	Friday 9 December 2005

CMS LINK LETTER from SUSAN GUMBRELL

The West African Senior School Certificate exam results (sat in May) have been on the Internet for about three weeks and we have had reports of some very good results. The full result hasn't been announced yet, which we're not happy about. I wonder how our weaker students did. I hope the maths results are better than last year!

Yes, the Internet and e-mail is available from business centres set up in Onitsha – at a price. Here at school, we have our computer systems with printer and CD-rom, but without a permanent power supply and efficient phone system, e-mail and Internet is a project for the future.

The new refectory is now in use. The tiled floor looks beautiful and the new tables and benches are smart. The only problem is that smoke from the kitchen behind finds its way into the building. The ideal would be gas from cylinders, but until it becomes more cost effective we will have to continue with firewood. We plan to move the kitchen a little

further away from the refectory.

At last week's staff meeting, I had a birth, marriage and death to announce. Mrs Noose, the home management teacher, who is on maternity leave, has had a little girl. Chine, the art teacher, and a good friend, is getting married on 6 November and will become Mrs Onyemaechi. Death is always sad, but this one was a real tragedy. The six year old son of Mrs Ofodum who teaches biology, fell from a second storey balcony and died instantly. We heard about the accident two days after it happened by which time the little boy had been buried in his hometown. Here they don't make much fuss about the funeral of a young person. Old people may be kept in a mortuary for months before a befitting burial can be arranged and paid for. A group of us from school paid a proper condolence visit last week. They have another son and a daughter and a baby is expected in about four months' time – some comfort, but I hope they can soon move from the flat away from the constant reminder of the one who isn't with them anymore.

I often wonder how much you from about Nigeria from the

radio and TV. We recently had a general strike called to protest about the increase of fuel prices. Being a major oil producer the supply, and cost of fuel are constant topics for debate. It is suspected that many of the 'big' men, including politicians, have made their money by 'bunkering' oil. The price of petrol is now about 55 Maira a litre (a little over 20p!). Here in Onitsha we've been paying that for many months, but now that it's become a more widespread price, there was a strike. In Lagos and Abuja they took it far more seriously, but here only the mean market, banks and state schools were closed. In a place where the vast majority of workers are self-employed a general strike has limited effect. The only effect it had on us at school was a slight shortage in cash and a delay in the purchase of yams.

It is said that the only thing constant in life is change. My life is going to change very considerably. After much prayer, thought and discussion, I have decided that I will withdraw from being principal and leave Nigeria at the end of this term. I arrived in 1991, taught maths for six years and will have been principal for

seven years. It is impossible to put down on paper everything I have learnt in these years or what I will miss and although I know it is right to leave, I am still not looking forward to all the good byes. Please pray for me during these last few weeks. I shall be visiting all my link parishes in 2005, and hope to meet you all.

I don't know what my future holds, but God does. Yes, change is constant, but God knows all about it before it happens and I trust that he may know what is best for me. Please pray that I may be strengthened by him, that I will recognise his leading and do his will.

When the minister announced the first hymn, "Ten thousand times ten thousand!" the little boy turned to his father and asked, "Does he want us to work that out?"

SAMARITANS

As Samaritans is the national charity chosen this year by Christleton PCC to benefit from the proceeds of the Christmas Fair, together with Darfur Sudan the international charity and Chester Schools' Christian Worker the local charity, I thought it might be of some interest to hear about the organisation.

Samaritans was started in 1953 in London by a young vicar called Chad Varah who worked in the city parish of St Stephen, Walbrook. Through his work he had seen the range and extent of the distress experienced by people everywhere, every day. During his career he had offered counselling to his parishioners, and he increasingly wanted to do something specific to help people in distress who had no one to turn to. He felt that a confidential emergency service for people in distress who needed spiritual aid was needed and therefore launched "a 999 for the suicidal" service. At the time, suicide was still illegal in the UK and so many people who were in difficult situations and who felt suicidal were unable to talk

to anyone about it, without worrying about the consequences.

In order to supplement his income, Chad wrote and illustrated articles for children's comics so he knew many of the journalists who worked on national newspapers, and in particular it was the Daily Mirror who gave it a name which was quickly adopted by other media and the public when it coined the term, "Telephone Good Samaritans", and although Samaritans is not a religious organisation, the name has stuck and become synonymous with the idea of people being there for others in emotional distress.

The publicity meant that Chad was unable to cope on his own and the newspaper coverage had attracted volunteers as well as clients. Their official duties were to provide tea and coffee and sit with the clients, offering them someone to chat to whilst they waited for their appointment with Chad, but it soon became clear that their role was much more central to the service. Often, the clients would pour out their problems to these volunteers and many felt no need to speak to Chad afterwards, or intimated that it had been helpful to

talk about how they were feeling.

Chad began to understand that the action of speaking to someone they did not know, who would simply listen to what they had to say, could be beneficial for people in distress. Because the volunteers were not known to the clients, they were able to be more honest and open about their feelings and they did not feel judged as they might have been by a professional or someone they knew, while the volunteers, who were not trained at this time, would not interrupt and felt unable to offer advice. Samaritans was able to give people a space where they could potentially find objectivity and perhaps a way forward, through being listened to. The emotional support services offered by Samaritans today is based on these same principles.

In February 1954, Chad officially handed over the task of supporting the callers to the volunteers, and his involvement has continued through the years and 2004 was the 50th anniversary of the official founding of Samaritans. Although Chad was a member of the clergy, and many people who volunteered or set up branches initially were associ-

ated with the church, Samaritans today is not a religious organisation. You do not have to be religious in any way to volunteer or to get in touch. Volunteers do not impose their own religious, political or philosophical beliefs on people who get in touch. The name has biblical connotations that can be confusing, but because it is so well known, it has never been changed.

In 1957 Samaritans was recognised by the Charity Commission as a telephone helpline charity. By 1963 there were 8 Samaritans branches across Great Britain. By 1969 the number of branches had grown to 107 and in 1970, thanks to a donation from the Grocers' Company, a small house was bought in Slough. This became Samaritans first general office and since then numbers have increased to 69 and the general office is now based in Ewell, Surrey where they work closely with each branch to deliver training and development to meet the changing needs of people who use Samaritans service.

Samaritans support is available to all. It is offered to anyone who is in emotional distress

and in need of a listening ear. People call us for many reasons, such as depression, relationship problems, bereavement, stress at home or work, sexuality problems, bullying, loneliness and many others. We make no judgements, issue no lectures, and express no personal views. We hope that people who contact us in deep distress will find the will to continue living, but we believe that everyone has the right to make fundamental decisions about their own life, including the decision to die by suicide. We promise total confidentiality and anonymity.

Samaritans are all volunteers. They are ordinary people who come from all walks of life. They are carefully selected and trained. No formal qualifications are required. Personal qualities such as integrity, compassion and an open mind are more important.

Chester & District Branch is open every minute of every day throughout the year. We are open for visitors from 10 am – 10 pm every day of the year. We can be contacted by telephone 01244.377999, by e-mail or by letter. We are financially self-supporting de-

pending entirely upon voluntary donations and the proceeds from various fund raising activities.

Janet 182

Our local Adult Education Centre and Lifelong learning



Christleton has its own Adult Education Centre in the heart of the village at Christleton High School. It is staffed by a team of experienced tutors who welcome adult learners to a variety of evening courses in the first class accommodation of the new school building.

The Adult Education Centre at Christleton offers a range of opportunities to members of the
Christleton Parish Magazine

community to pursue lifelong learning. The Centre enjoys the school's new building and state of the art equipment. It is open 3 nights of the week with classes to meet local interests, social, professional and leisure needs.

The Centre attracts students from 18 – 91 years old. Courses range from calligraphy to computing, circuit training to creative writing, Indian Cookery to Italian, watercolour painting to woodwork etc.etc.

In the autumn term we ran 24 different classes with 355 adult learners enrolled. The classes can lead to a recognised qualification as an addition to your C.V. or complement your leisure interests.

To mark the New Year this January, in addition to these 24 classes, 6 new courses are planned:

Clueless about Computing
Total Tone
T'ai Chi
Pilates
European Computer Driving Licence
Garden Design

Full details of start dates, enrolment and fees are published in NewsWest – which is distributed free with the free local newspaper – or – you can call in at the Centre – 6.30- 9pm Monday, Tuesday and Thursday – or phone 01244 335610 (daytime) 01244 335843 (evenings)

Do contact us – to enroll – or simply to find out more about the opportunities in your community for lifelong learning – at very reasonable prices!

So – if you want to keep those New Year resolutions to be healthy, wealthy and wise or you'd like to get out and meet more people and have more fun in 2005, please use your local Centre for lifelong learning - you'll be very welcome.

Gwen Cleverly (Christleton Adult Education Centre Head)

Do not squander time,
for it is the stuff of
which life is made.
– Benjamin Franklin



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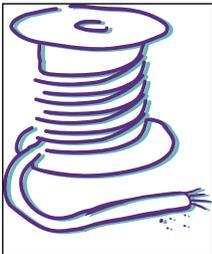
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REMEMBERING AMAR

Amongst our most delightful neighbours in Tarvin was a young Indian Sikh family who lived opposite us for nearly three years before returning to the South of England. When they left, Amar the elder son was 6, Rajan 2. We miss their friendliness and their visiting relatives, especially the colourful saris celebrating birthdays and festivals!

Amar was often in our house and helped me plant bulbs in the adjacent woodland. Intelligent and handsome, he had a teasing smile and a puckish sense of fun. So when his father rang in August to say that Amar, then 10, had been killed in a freak traffic accident in Crete, we were devastated.

We were unable to attend Amar's funeral and it took me a while to resolve how I could best respond in his memory. I was in regular contact with his parents and eventually I asked them how I could find out more about Sikhism. They arranged for me to visit the nearest Sikh temple in Britain, the Sri Guru Singh Sabha in Southall. That a young friend from Dresden

studying in London was able to join me added perspective to a most meaningful occasion.

The vastness of the Temple created a feeling of hallowed peace and quiet in the two big worship halls, punctuated only by the beat of the Indian trio playing quietly in the background and by the worshippers of all ages coming in and out. No seats, just wide swathes of carpet. A huge window in twirling saffron and blue patterns faced the street.

Sikhism professes equality, honesty, morality and compassion. There is only one God and He permeates every person. He is everywhere. Our delightful guide was a recently retired accountant. He related with quiet loyalty his upbringing and education in the Sikh community of Amritsar, close to the Holy Temple. His profound faith in a single God clearly meant so much to him, as did the strong bonds of family life I Southall reaching out to all faiths in the community. On my return I related my experience to members of the Short Course House Group which in the autumn term had been thinking

continued on page 15

Gardening for Wildlife

Part 5



A list of natural predators, that can help you in your garden

Birds like; aphids, caterpillars, grubs, snails, slugs.

Centipedes like; slugs and insects.
Frogs and Toads like; slugs, woodlice, small insects

Beetles like; cutworms, wireworms, woodlice, leatherjackets, slugs..

Hedgehogs like; worms, slugs, snails.

Ornamental shrubs of value to wildlife.

berberis thunbergii; birds eat the berries, provides nest sites.

buddlia davidii; nectar for butterflies(peacock, tortoiseshell, red admiral, comma)

cotoneaster; seeds for birds, nest sites

ribes, flowering currant; spring nectar for bees

hebe; attracts butterflies (as buddlia)

quince; attracts blackbirds & thrushes.

lavender; attracts butterflies, bees; birds also eat seeds in autumn.

mahonia; insects like nectar, birds eat berries,

rosemary; attracts bees, butterflies and hoverflies.

thyme; attracts bees and butterflies.

viburnum; nectar for early insects.

Perennials of value to wildlife

Achillea; attracts hoverflies, seeds are eaten by sparrows.

Aubrietia; an attractive weed that provides early source of nectar

for bees & butterflies.

Chives; flowers attract bees and butterflies.

Comfrey; moth & butterfly caterpillars eat the leaves .

Cranesbill; flowers attract bees, seeds eaten by bullfinches.

Fennel; flowers attract hoverflies, bees, wasps, leaves eaten by caterpillars.

Globe thistle; nectar for bees, seeds for gold and green finches.

Golden rod; nectar for butterflies and other insects.

Ice plant;(sedum) nectar for butterflies (red admiral) & bumble bees.

Michaelmas daisy; nectar for small tortoiseshell, red admiral, comma butterflies etc.

Mullien; attracts moths & insects.

Oriental Poppy; flowers attract bees

Phlox; nectar for hoverflies and moths.

Red Valarian; fantastic source of nectar for bees and butterflies.

Yellow alyssum; nectar for orange wing tip/tortoiseshell, peacock etc

To be continued

David Cummings

continued from page 13

about different faiths and the Christian consideration of them.

Amar had a burgeoning inquisitive mind and I have tried to do just a little to honour it.

JOHN CARRUTHERS

P.S. N.B. The Short Course

House Group will recommence

on January 25th for three

weekly sessions at Bob And

Gwen Knight's house. NEW

MEMBERS WELCOME

January, 2005

www.christleton.org.uk

Letter to God

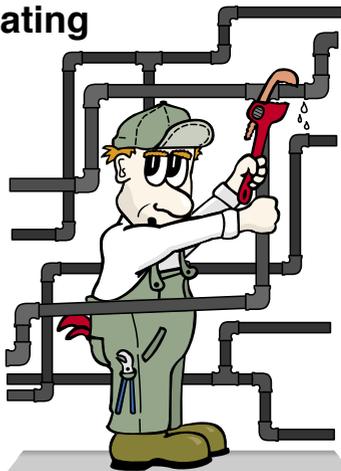
A Sunday School teacher challenged her children to take some time on Sunday afternoon to write a letter to God. They were to bring their letter back the following Sunday. One little boy wrote, "Dear God, We had a good time at church today. Wish you could have been there."

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LOCAL EVENTS DIARY

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Held in the Parish Hall from 10.30 am – 11.45 am each Sunday during term-time, except when Family Service is held at St James. For further details please contact Berenice Hogg, 336779.

CHRISTLETON LADIES GUILD

Held at the Christleton Methodist Church, commencing at 2pm, Tuesdays fortnightly, £1 admission includes refreshments. For further information contact Joan Webb, 375076.
All very welcome.

OPEN HOUSE GROUPS

The Monday Afternoon Group meet on the 4th Monday of the month at the home of Rena Griffiths, 24 Hawthorn Road, Christleton. Contact Margaret Bass (335517) for further information.

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.

CHESTER FLOWER CLUB

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

MAGAZINE CONTRIBUTIONS

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

LOCAL EVENTS DIARY

CHRISTLETON GARDENING CLUB

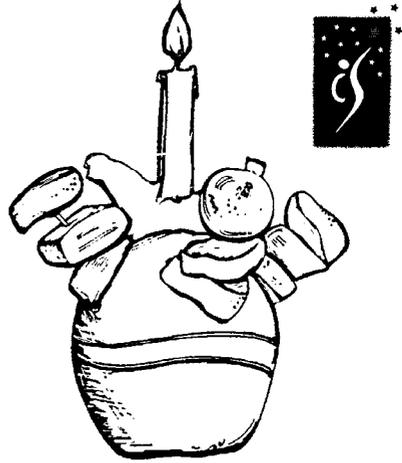
The next meeting will take place on 12 January when Mrs Margaret Sixsmith will speak on "Jewels in the Mountains of Coral"

CHRISTLETON W.I. MONTHLY WHIST DRIVE

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

CHRISTLETON W.I.

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 12th January
New Year's Party



CHRISTINGLE

Join us for a special Christingle celebration – it's the service everyone wants to be part of

On January 9th at 4.30 pm

MAGAZINE DISTRIBUTORS

The February magazine will be available for collection from Church on Sunday 30 January 2005



CHURCH RAMBLE
Sunday afternoon
January 16th.

A circuit of 3 miles maximum around Daresbury village, outside Warrington. Views of countryside, estuary, canal and industrial landscape.

Mainly flat, a little muddy in places. Boots preferable, not essential.

Incorporating a visit to Daresbury church to see the Lewis Carrol memorial windows and the mementos of Alice around the village.

Join the Mad Hatters for a bit of a change!

Meet at 1.30 pm church car park

**PARISH
RAMBLING GROUP.**
Tuesday 18th January 2005

*Wirral; Heswall Dales and
Thurstaston Country Park.*

8miles moderate
Leave Church Car Park at
9.00am.

Pub meal on return.
Leader; David Cummings
Tel.332410

**VILLAGE
UNITED
NEW YEAR SERVICE**

Sunday, 9th January, 10.45am
atr St. James'

Preacher: The Rev. Claire
Heald, Methodist Minister

New Year's Day is every
man's birthday.
- Charles Lamb

CHRISTLETON LOCAL HISTORY GROUP.

At Christleton Primary School.

Wednesday January 26th at 7.30pm
Speaker. Roger Croston.

The letters of Major W G Townsend Currie. Roger an avid explorer and collector, came across a series of letters by Major W G Townsend Currie in a bookshop in Shrewsbury. They outline some of the Major Curries explorations in Tibet during 1904. He was a member of the famous Ince /Townsend/Currie families of Christleton, & Boughton who lived at The Old Hall, Christleton Hall and Boughton Hall between 1603 and the 1940's. He will outline some of the exploits of this military man, almost the last member of what might be termed the Christleton gentry.

MOTHERS' UNION

At our November meeting we were very pleased to welcome Rev John Walsh who came to talk to us about a Centre on the border of Northern Ireland, where people of all denominations could meet. It was a centre for peace, healing and reconciliation and Rev Walsh's talk made us realise that although there are still many problems in Northern Ireland, progress, albeit slow, was being made.

The Mothers' Union handicraft stall was very successful at the Christmas Fair. Thank you to everyone for their time and contributions.

On Monday 13th December we will be having our Advent Quiet Hour in church at 2 pm. Followed by mince pies and tea in the Parish Hall.

Our AGM takes place on Monday 10th January at 2 pm in the Parish Hall and all are welcome.

CHRISTLETON PARISH COUNCIL

At the November meeting of Christleton Parish Council, Councillor Butt reported a number of defects he had found during his month's inspection of the play areas, some of which were already known and were due to be rectified in the round of remedial repairs to start later in November. Other items were to be added on to a supplementary repairs list being compiled by Cllr Gibbs to pass to the contract for action. He congratulated Cllr Ranger on his design of the new Play area checklist which was very comprehensive. A copy of any defects found by councillors' inspections to be handed to the Maintenance Group for implementation. Councillor Gibbs distributed a list of additional works needed at the play areas and confirmed that remedial repairs would start on 28 November. A supplementary list to be forwarded to contractor and price of works obtained, with a suggested commencement date of February 2005.

Additional information to be added to signs at the play areas to indicate where the nearest public telephone is to the play areas – using a telephone handset as a symbol. Capesthorne Road Play Areas does not meet the criteria to be included for the proposed "Dog bylaw". New play-grade woodchip had been spread at the

Little Heath Play Area and a vote of thanks was given to everyone who assisted in its spreading. A letter of thanks to be sent to Mr David Harker, Head Teacher of Christleton Primary School for all his efforts in assisting with the spreading and for organising a team of volunteers.

The installation of two satellite dishes, on A41 and Little Heath Road raised concerns which have been brought to the attention of Chester Planning Department.

The news of Christleton Village being awarded the Best Kept Village award for the fourth year running, together with the Overall Award again for 2004 was met with great delight. The prizes consisted of a cheque for £300, two plaques and a painting of The Pit and Almshouses. The Council gave a vote of thanks to all those who had worked so hard in keeping the Village looking excellent. Particular thanks were given to the village Assistant for all his efforts and to a resident of Quarry Lane who regularly emptied the litterbin and cleaned the bus shelter at the corner of Quarry Lane. The new painting would be displayed in the Methodist Church Hall, alongside the painting of the Pump House, awarded in 2003. The plaque for the Overall Award to go on the Parish Hall. Councillor Partington reported that he had received a phone call from the organisers of the Best Kept Village Awards to say that the large

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sign on the Village Green had to be returned to them in order to be passed on to other area. The oak post could remain if wanted. It was agreed to return the sign and the post to the organisers of the competition.

Contact had been made with schools and the Law College requesting students to be made aware of the increasing amount of litter in the village.

A letter to be sent to Chester City Council to clarify the situation regarding litter/dog fouling bins and to British Waterways requesting the possibility of a dog fouling bin being placed on the canal towpath by The Old Trooper Inn.

A Christleton resident had complained about the current state of the "furniture" and lamppost on Quarry Lane Bridge. These were in need of a coat of paint. Councillor Gibbs would obtain and estimate of the costs of works to be carried out in Spring 2005.

A scheme to provide Christmas Hampers to the elderly residents of The Square, and the Almshouses was outlined by Cllr. Gibbs. This had proved a most welcome scheme in previous years, made possible with generous donations from Christleton High School and MBNA Bank. The contents for the hampers were purchased on the most economical terms and were packaged and distributed by Sixth form pupils

from the High School. Donations for this year's appeal were again being given by the High School and MBNA Bank and a donation of £150 by the Parish Council towards the overall cost was requested. It was unanimously agreed to donate £150 towards the cost, under Section 137 Local Government Act 1972 "Free Resource" and Cllr Gibbs would open a Post Office Bank Account to be known as "Christmas Hamper Account" to place the entire donations received, to pay for the hampers. After discussion and in view of the local Christmas Hamper Appeal it was decided not to contribute towards the Lord Mayor's Christmas Parcel Appeal.

Councillor Crawford reported the contents of a letter received from Chester City Transport Ltd voicing concerns regarding the difficulties their drivers were experiencing when picking up and dropping off pupils at the High School. He also reported that earlier this year an action plan had been put in place to alleviate the problem and a considerable amount of this had been implemented. There was no further action for the Parish Council to take but to be kept informed of the situation.

A notice had been received informing the Parish Council
Christleton Parish Magazine

that the Licence at the Ramada Hotel, Christleton, was being transferred to new applicants.

A letter from a resident was reported by the Clerk regarding the provision of glass re-cycle bags. The Clerk reported that a pilot scheme was being launched with an initial 40,000 bags being provided for glass collection and that the scheme would be extended to the whole of Chester City Council area in the near future.

The Parish Council will meet next on Tuesday 14 December in the Methodist School room at 9 pm. Members of the public are able to attend.

Dates in January

1st The naming of Jesus

It is Matthew and Luke who tell the story of how the angel instructed that Mary's baby was to be named Jesus - a common name meaning 'saviour'. And it is probably no more than a delightful coincidence that the Church recalls the naming of Jesus on 1 January - seven days after 25 December. For in Jewish tradition, the male babies were circumcised and named on their eighth day of life. For early Christians, the name of Jesus held a special significance. In Jewish tradition, names expressed aspects of personality. Jesus' name permeated his ministry, and it does so today: we are baptised in the

name of Jesus (Acts 2:38), we are justified through the name of Jesus (1 Cor 6:11); and God the Father has given Jesus a name above all others (Phil 2:9). All Christian prayer is through 'Jesus Christ our Lord', and it is 'at the name of Jesus' that one day every knee shall bow.

6th - Epiphany

On 6 January we celebrate Epiphany - the visit of the wise men to the baby Jesus. But who were these wise men? No one knows for sure. Matthew calls them 'Magi', and that was the name of an ancient caste of a priestly kind from Persia. It wasn't until the third century that they were they called kings - by a church father, Tertullian. Another church father, Origin, assumed there were three - to correspond with the gifts given. Later Christian interpretation came to understand gold as a symbol of wisdom and wealth, incense as a symbol of worship and sacrifice, and myrrh as a symbol of healing - and even embalming. Certainly Jesus challenged and set aright the way in which the world handled all three of these things. Since the eighth century, the magi have had the names Balthasar, Caspar and Melchior.

NATURE NEWS

“Village Survey really gets things taped”. Extracts from the Liverpool Echo in May 1974. Reporter June Johns. The most detailed map ever made has been produced by the men, women and children of the parish of Christleton, near Chester. For three years, winter and summer, they have combed the fields for wildflowers and butterflies, counted nests and measured every oak tree. Systematically, the eight square miles in the parish was divided into 15 equal squares and drawn up to a scale of 25” to the mile. Every tree and rabbit burrow was marked for posterity. We were fortunate that one of our committee members Dr Anthea Brian, lives there, explained Mrs Barbara Redwood, co organiser of the survey. Children at the village primary school took over the counting and listing of all the wildflowers. One family offered to seek out every stile. A doctor counted rookeries, and schoolgirls did a census of oaks, measuring each girth to estimate its age. “We’ve had a few surprises” said Dr Brian, “For instance out of 3,612 trees, 1,972 are oaks-an immense proportion.

What’s more, they all seem to be about the same age between 120 and 170 years old. Another surprise was the decrease in hedges. When the parish tithe maps were made in 1844 there were 136 miles of hedges. Today only 60 miles remains, a great loss for birds and small animals. Worst of all is the pollution. The number of ponds has decreased from 260 to 150, in just over a century, and those that are left are often used as dumping grounds for rusting refrigerators or barbed wire. Other litter-including old mattresses - disfigure the lanes and hedges. Eighteen different kinds of butterflies have been listed and 44 types of moths. No badger setts or fox earths were found, there were fewer primrose and cowslips than expected, but better road verges now that Cheshire CC has agreed to let the wildflowers go to seed before mowing them. Armed with a detailed portrait of the parish, warts and all, the Cheshire Conservation Trust is putting on an exhibition in the Primary School on May 31st & June 1st. For the first time, people who have lived in the parish all their lives-and newcomers-will be able to see what the century has done to their neighbourhood,

and where it may be heading. But the exhibition will not be the end of it. All the facts and figures will be handed to the Records Office, so that they can be stored for future generations. And lists of trees, flowers and crops will go to the Liverpool Museum Data Bank of flora. "Imagine" said Dr Brain, "If our maps could be brought up to date say once every fifty years! At a glance we'd be able to chart the effect we were having on the local environment. We might even be able to correct our mistakes before it is too late." **I hope to organise a repeat of this survey during the next three years. Full details later**

David Cummings.

The Peace of God

When war did cease upon the earth,
The stars looked out, the heavens rang,
The small Lord Jesus came to birth,
A lilt of peace his Mother sang.
A lilt of peace 'mid snow-clad sheen,
Goodness-peace, forgiveness of sin,
Confession-peace, penitent-clean,
Peace with God and the peace within.
Peace with God and goodwill to men,
The peace of triumph on the Tree,
The rising peace that followed then,
The peace of God for you and me.
The peace of God, lake-waters by,
The peace of God, mist o'er the sea,
The peace of God, ascending high,
The peace of God, unceasingly.

- From Poems of the Western Highlanders

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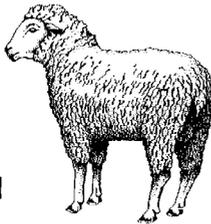


LIKE SHEEP

There are quite a few sheep in the Bible, in fact they are mentioned over 500 times! They were kept for their meat and wool, their skins were made into clothing and tents, and even their horns were used a musical instruments.

Sheep were an important part of everyday life and Jesus used everyday things in his stories to help people understand. One time, Jesus

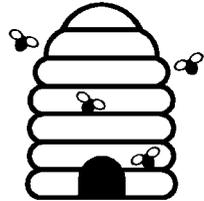
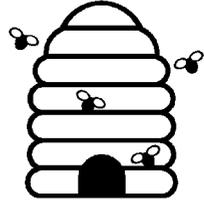
explained just how important children are and he said 'If a shepherd has a hundred sheep and one is lost, doesn't he leave the 99 and go and look for the lost sheep?' And you can bet that all the people listening to Jesus were nodding their heads and saying, 'Yes, that's what we would do!' You can read this story, or parable, in Matthew's Gospel, chapter 18, verses 10 to 14.



A WHOLE LOT OF?

A group of sheep are called a flock: do you know what to call a whole lot of...

1. lions?
2. gulls?
3. stairs?
4. bees?
5. grapes?
6. asteroids?
7. actors?
8. fish?
9. lorries?
10. kangaroos?



(Answers at the bottom of the page)



Where do sheep go on holiday?

The Baahaamas!

What keeps sheep warm in winter?

Central bleating!



Answers:
 1. a pride 2. a colony 3. a flight 4. a swarm 5. a bunch 6. a belt 7. a cast 8. a school 9. a convoy 10. a mob

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.

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NATIONAL CHILDBIRTH TRUST (N.C.T.) OPEN HOUSE GROUP

Informal coffee mornings are held locally offering support to mums-to-be and families with young children (whether members or not) in a friendly, informal way. Please contact your local organiser Debbie Tel. 332103 for further details.

CHRISTLETON LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

Books for Sale

Christleton 2000 years of History.

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CHRISTLETON UNDER-FIVES COMMUNITY PLAYGROUP

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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.

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Parish Registers for November 2004

Baptisms

7th William Matthew Tidnam son of Matthew & Judith Tidnam
Northcote, Malvern Road, Surbiton, Surrey.

28th Alfie Jack Baker son of Mark & Karen Baker
9 Boughton Hall Avenue, Boughton Hall, Chester.

“

We welcome you to the Lords Family”

The Funeral Service

4th Frederick William Jackson “Pandora” Brown Heath Road,
Christleton.

12th Marie Martin Tarvin Court Nursing Home, Littleton.

12th William Pemberton 24 Brooke Avenue, Upton by Chester.

“Rest eternal grant unto them”

Offertories.

November	Cash	CSE	2004	2003
7th	401.32	790.00	1191.32	825.52
14th	1280.78	695.80	1880.58	1214.97
21st	176.01	526.00	702-01	916.39
28th	196.00	701.00	897-00	644.47
Totals			£ 4,670.91	£ 3,591.35

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