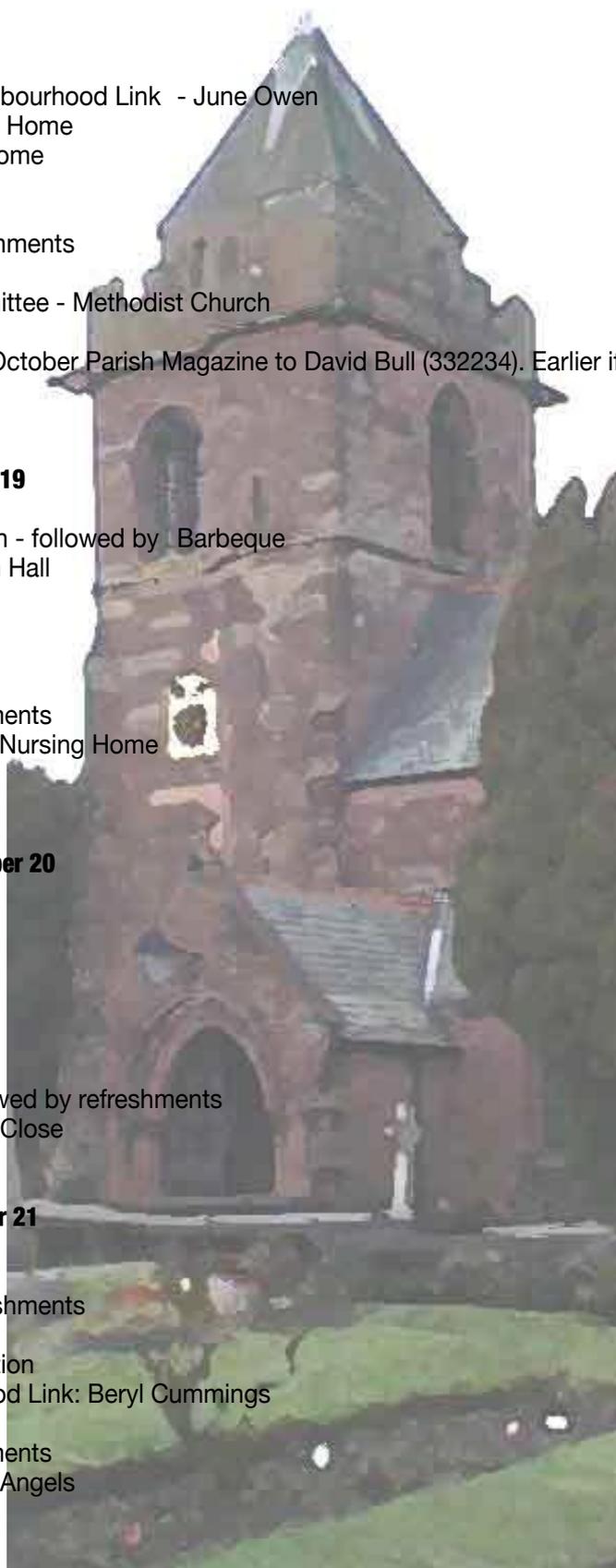


St. James' Christleton



Starting in September

Fri	2	6.30 pm	Choir Practice restarts
Sun	4		The Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity - Proper 18
		8.00 am	Holy Communion - Order 2
		10.45 am	Parish Communion - Order 1
		6.30 pm	Evensong - followed by refreshments
			Prayer Link Road - Claypits Lane Neighbourhood Link - June Owen
Mon	5	10.45 am	Holy Communion - Tarvin Court Nursing Home
		11.20 am	Holy Communion - Oaklands Nursing Home
		2.30 pm	PCC Standing Committee - Rectory
		7.45 pm	Faith and Worship Committee - Rectory
Wed	7	10.45 am	United Communion - followed by refreshments
		7.45 pm	Youth Leaders Meeting - Lady Chapel
Thur	8	2.00 pm	Churches Together in Christleton Committee - Methodist Church
Fri	9	6.30 pm	Choir Practice
			NB Last date for any contributions for October Parish Magazine to David Bull (332234). Earlier if possible please.
Sun	11		The Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity - Proper 19
		8.00 am	Holy Communion - Order 1
		10.45 am	Annual Family Rededication Communion - followed by Barbeque
		6.00 pm	The Crew Youth Group Restarts - Parish Hall
		6.30 pm	Evensong
			Prayer Link Road: Cotton Abbots
Mon	12	2.00 pm	Mothers Union - Parish Hall
		7.45 pm	Stewardship Committee - Lady Chapel
Wed	14	10.45 am	Holy Communion - followed by refreshments
		11.30 am	Holy Communion at Birch Heath Lodge Nursing Home
Thur	15	7.30 pm	Deanery Eucharist - Huntington
Fri	16	6.30 pm	Choir Practice
Sun	18		The Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity - Proper 20
		8.00 am	Holy Communion - Order 1
		10.30 am	Sunday School - Parish Hall
		10.45 am	Parish Communion - Order 1
		12.00 noon	Holy Baptism
		6.00 pm	The Crew Youth Group - Parish Hall
		6.30 pm	Evensong
			Prayer Link Road: Cotton Edmunds
Wed	21	10.45 am	Holy Communion for St Matthew - followed by refreshments
		7.45 pm	Bereavement Support Group - Badgers Close
Fri	23	6.30 pm	Choir Practice
Sun	25		The Eighteenth Sunday After Trinity - Proper 21
		8.00 am	Holy Communion - Order 1
		10.30 am	Sunday School - Parish Hall
		10.45 am	Matins with Baptism - followed by refreshments
		6.00 pm	The Crew Youth Group - Parish Hall
		6.30 pm	Evening Communion with Healing Intention
			Prayer Link: Croft Close Neighbourhood Link: Beryl Cummings
Mon	26	7.45 pm	PCC Meeting - Parish Hall
We	28	10.45 am	Holy Communion - followed by refreshments
Thurs	29	9.00 am	Holy Communion for St Michael and All Angels



St James Church Opens Sunday Afternoons.

The Church will be open on Sunday afternoons in September from 12.00 noon to 6.00 pm.

Why not –

Come and take time to look around and learn a little about the beautiful place in which we worship. Bring a friend who might enjoy a chance to see inside. Perhaps just sit and pray or meditate quietly.

Please help by spending a few hours on duty to enable us to allow access with security, the rota is at the back of Church.

David Bowden

co-chair, Pastoral and Outreach Committee.

Parish Registers for July 2005

Baptism

- 3rd Miles Alexander Joseph Minchin son of
Phillip & Caroline Minchin Fir Tree Cottage, Stapleford, Tarporley.
- 24th Luke Andrew Sturgess son of
Phillip Sturgess & Dawn Wendy Cothier 18 Greystone Rd, Christleton.

"We welcome you to the Lords Family"

The Marriage Service.

- 16th James Norman Charles Crane & Louise Conner
8 Churton Street, Chester.
- 16th Thomas Francis Holloway & Katrina Trigg
46 Quarry Lane, Christleton.
- 30th Christopher Edward Lightfoot & Tamara Murphy
26 Goodwood Close, Chester.

"Those who God has joined together, let not man divide"

The Funeral Service.

- 1st George Beresford Edwards, Dorney House, Bridge Mount Road,
Sunningdale (Burial of Ashes)
- 4th Jessie Moors, Birch Heath Lodge Nursing Home, Christleton.
- 4th Rosemary Ann Jones, 7 Chapel Cottages, Moor Lane, Waverton.
- 7th & (Burial of Ashes)
- 7th Marion Cooper Ross, 9 Moorcroft Avenue, Great Boughton.
- 8th Eileen Davies, 45 Toll Bar Road, Christleton. (Interment only)
- 18th Brian Ivor Davies, 83 Springfields, Mickle Trafford.

"Rest eternal grant unto them"

Offeratories.

July	Cash	CSE	2005	2004
3rd	384.36	599.00	983.36	820.64
10th	344.92	697.50	1042.42	994.37
17th	264.62	642.00	906.62	718.40
24th	214.53	666.50	881.03	716.60
31st	178.50	613.50	791.50	749.76

THE RECTOR'S LETTER

Dear Friends

The Challenge of Change

Having recently 'celebrated' my sixtieth birthday, and become a Grandfather for the first time, I find that change has become a challenge! As I look back over 36 years of Ordained Ministry, I recognise change, not only in the patterns and expectations of ministry, but in the whole structures and fashions of society – we have to relate to a very different world.

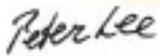
As we come to another new season in the life of our Church, and to our Annual Rededication Service on 11 September, we need to accept the challenge of change. How can we best relate as a Church to every section of society? What changes do we need to make in the patterns and approach of our mission and worship? These are questions I believe we need to face honestly, and with an open mind; ready to accept the suggestions and answers we receive. For example, how do we face the challenge of a society which is no longer in tune with regular Sunday worship? We may well regret that commercial and leisure opportunities mean that worship is often 'crowded out' of Sunday's timetable, but can we seek other, or extra, opportunities to worship? How do we introduce the possibility of faith, and the practice of worship to a secular society, where it is often not so much a question of people rejecting Christianity, as never having experienced it.

I am sure there are many helpful and positive ways in which we can meet the challenge of change in the Church. But we equally need to recognise that there are certain attributes of our faith, which we cannot change, and should not abandon as Christians. In a culture which elevates 'self' and 'choice' to self-evident precedence, we need to respond to the ministry and mission of Jesus Christ, who came amongst us, not to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many. Jesus talked about losing 'self' in order to find ourself, and to take up our cross daily and follow him. Where change in our society is in basic conflict with Christ's teaching, we have to be ready to meet the challenge and not change. It has been said that there is too much of a tourism approach to faith today – that people visit it as an interlude, or diversion, before returning to their self centred sufficiency. The Christian faith is not 'tourism' but a pilgrimage, where, having started on the journey, we persevere through good times and bad, easy and difficult, towards a destination which we shall only finally attain in eternity.

Our Annual Rededication Communion will be an opportunity for us to come together as Christ's Church to rededicate our lives corporately, as well as individually, to his mission in this Parish and throughout the world. There are so many aspects of our Church life where we need the commitment of individuals to work together to meet the challenge of change. In faith and Worship this involves those who lead and support our worship, including the Choir; our work with children and young people which we all need to encourage; and opportunities for all to grow in faith. Under Pastoral and Outreach, we have our involvement in, and concern for, the world-wide Church, social and fellowship events, visiting and caring groups. We also have the Stewardship of the financial and material resources, entrusted to us, for God's work. In all this we ask, and seek, people's ideas, involvement and dedication, to help us together to be more effective in our mission and ministry. Incidentally, if there are any adults interested in finding out more about their faith, with a view to being Confirmed, there will be a first 'get-together' on Monday 19 September at 7.45 pm in the Lady Chapel in Church.

I hope as many as possible will take the opportunity to rededicate our lives as Christ's Church in this Parish at the service on 11 September, and join in fellowship at the Barbecue afterwards. This will also be a chance to share all the things that are done in our name, and together to respond to the challenge of change.

Yours sincerely



Prayer of the Month: A Prayer for the Parish

*Disturb us Lord, when we are too well pleased with ourselves,
When our dreams have come true because we dreamed too little,
When we arrive safely because we sailed too close to the shore.*

*Disturb us Lord, when with the abundance of things we possess,
We have lost our thirst for the waters of life;
Having fallen in love with life, we have ceased to dream of eternity,
And in our efforts to build a new earth, we have allowed our vision of the new Heaven to dim.*

*Disturb us Lord, to dare more boldly,
To venture on wider seas, where storms will show your mastery;
Where losing sight of land, we shall find the stars.
We ask you to push back the horizons of our hopes,
and to push us in the future in strength, courage, hope and love.*

This we ask in the name of our Captain, who is Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (St James's Church, New York City 1995)

PARISH CHURCH OF ST. JAMES, CHRISTLETON

SUNDAYS	8.00 a.m.	Holy Communion
	10.45 a.m.	Parish Communion 1st & 3rd Sundays
		Family Service 2nd Sunday
		Mattins 4th & 5th Sundays
	6.30 p.m.	Evensong 1st, 2nd & 3rd
Sundays		Evening Communion 4th Sunday
		Songs of Praise 5th Sunday
WEDNESDAYS	10.45 a.m.	Holy Communion
SAINTS	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion

WHO'S WHO & WHAT'S WHAT

Rector:	The Rev'd Canon K. Peter Lee, M.A. The Rectory, Birch Heath Lane, Christleton 335663	
Wardens:	David Mercer, 13 Bridge Drive 336155 Lois Dickinson 8 Old Mill Court, Mill Lane Upton 378320	
Reader Emeritus	John Roberts, Cerisy, Birch Heath Lane 332207	
Verger	David Ellis 336879	
Sacristan:	Betty Dunning 335652	
Sunday School:	Berenice Hogg 336779	
Mother's Union Branch Leader	Margaret Renner 332005	
Organist & Musical Director:	Steve Roberts 815277	
P. C. C. Secretary:	Margaret Croston 335955	
Treasurer:	Cec Rydings 336483	
Stewardship Envelope:	Betty Dunning 335652	
Gift Aid Secretary	Martin Wheeler 336644	
Bellringers	Ian Braithwaite 300565	
Bellringer Vice Captains	Michael Phillips 01829 771357 Ian Crossan 332280	
Parish Hall Booking	David Mercer 336155	
C. M. S. Secretary	Janet Brown 335785	
Children's Society Sec.	Lesley Morgan 335088	
Visiting Group:	Gill Hibbert. 336544	
Library	Margaret Bass 335517	
Church Flowers	Olive Hammond 336562	
Magazine Editor	David Bull 332234	
Magazine Compiler	Richard Nicholson 336004	
Magazine Distributor	Margaret Dromgoole 341406	
Neighbourhood Link Co-Ordinator	Janet Bowden 335705	
Parish Resource Person for Child Protection	Susan Alexander 335077	

BAPTISMS, WEDDINGS & APPOINTMENTS
BY ARRANGEMENT WITH THE RECTOR 335663

In memory of all those who perished on 9/11/01, the passengers and the pilots on the United Air and AA flights, the workers in the World Trade Centre and the Pentagon, and all the innocent bystanders. Our prayers go out to the friends and families of the deceased.

IF I KNEW

If I knew it would be the last time
that I'd see you fall asleep
I would tuck you in more tightly
and pray the Lord, your soul to keep.

If I knew it would be the last time
that I see you walk out the door,
I would give you a hug and kiss
and call you back for one more.

If I knew it would be the last time
I'd hear your voice lifted up in praise,
I would video tape each action and word,
so I could play them back day after day.

If I knew it would be the last time,
I could spare an extra minute
to stop and say "I love you,"
instead of assuming you would KNOW I do.

If I knew it would be last time
I would be there to share you day,
Well I'm sure you'll have so many more,
so I can let just this one slip away.

For surely there's always tomorrow
to make up for an oversight,
and we always get a second chance
to make everything just right.

There will always be another day
to say "I love you,"
And certainly there's another chance
to say "Anything I can do?"

But just in case I might be wrong,
and today is all I get,
I'd like to say how much I love you
and I hope we never forget.

Tomorrow is not promised to anyone,
young or old alike,
And today may be the last chance
you get to hold your loved one tight.

So if you're waiting for tomorrow,
why not do it today?
For if tomorrow never comes,
you'll surely regret the day.

That you didn't take that extra time
for a smile, a hug, or a kiss
and you were too busy to grant someone,
what turned out to be their one last wish.

So hold your loved ones close today,
and whisper in their ear,
Tell them how much you love them
and that you'll always hold them dear.

Take time to say "I'm sorry,"
"Please forgive me," "Thank you," or "It's okay."
And if tomorrow never comes,
You'll have no regrets about today.

JOHN SELLERS EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION, CHRISTLETON

This ancient trust was founded on 23 December 1779 for the education of poor children in Christleton and Littleton. It was originally to provide instruction in reading, English, writing, arithmetic and for spinning, sewing and knitting.

The primary source of income is from the rent of a field in Plough Lane. It is the intention of the present trustees (comprising the Rector, Clerk, A County Council representative, two Parish Councillors) to try and increase the capital and use the interest to provide the grants. Further donations or legacies, which could be used to increase the level of grants paid out, would be very much appreciated.

This year's money has been given to the Primary School and to the High School, but applications are encouraged from individuals in exceptional circumstances who would like to apply in confidence.

Any individual or group wishing to be considered for a grant should apply to the Clerk, in writing, before November.

M Croston (Clerk) tel 335955
Rookery Nook, 5 Bridge Drive
Christleton
Chester CH3 6AW

MARATHON MILESTONE 40/70 Team

It has long been Liz Evans' son Tim's ambition to run the New York City Marathon in his 40th year – 2005. Realising that his mother would reach 70 in the same year he has persuaded her to join him in November of this year. As some of you may know Liz is also a runner but she has never run more than a Half Marathon so she has had to take a deep breath and start some serious training.

With the help and encouragement of husband David's active coaching and stop watch, and Tim's long distance advice, she is putting in the miles round the lines and along the canal.

To give a little back for their 110 years of good health they are going to run as a sponsored team. Liz's mother was totally deaf and she is very much aware of the impact of sensory impairment so they have decided to run for SENSE. This is the national organisation offering support to deaf/blind people and their families. Liz and Tim have paid their own fares and will be staying with son/brother, Mark in New York so all the money they raise will go directory to the Charity.

If you would like to support them in this endeavour there is a sponsor form at the back of the church or you can contact Liz on 01244-335468.

LOCAL EVENTS DIARY

CHRISTLETON W.I. MONTHLY WHIST DRIVE

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

The next meeting will take place on **12 September** – Gardeners' Question Time. Mr Graham Shilabeer, Mr Derek Jones – Reaseheath, Mrs Ann Harrison – Reaseheath. Non members welcome – please bring questions and gardening problems. This the 1st meeting of the new season – new members welcome £10 per year.

RHOS MALE VOICE CHOIR

will be performing at St. James' Church in aid of Hope House Childrens' Respite Hospice on Saturday 1st. October 2005 commencing at 7.00pm. Tickets £8.00 each are obtainable from Fred Davies on 01244 322912 or Hope House Appeals Office on 01691671671."

ANNUAL REDEDICATION COMMUNION SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 11TH

A barbecue will be held to celebrate the "oneness" of our Church family following this important service in the church's year. If you do not enjoy barbecues please join us and bring your own picnic, perhaps enough to share with others. If wet we will be in the Parish Hall! Details to follow.

David Bowden & Chris Platel – co-chairmen, Pastoral & Outreach Committee.

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.

RAMBLING GROUP SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 18TH CHURTON

This is a very pretty and mostly level walk around Churton village and by the riverside lodges on the Dee. The distance is 3.5 to 5 miles, with 2 options here depending on attendance, preference and weather. Easy walking, but if recent rain it could be a little muddy.

CHRISTLETON LADIES GUILD

Held at the Christleton Methodist Church, commencing at 2pm, Tuesdays fortnightly, £1 admission includes refreshments. For further information contact Joan Webb, 335518.
All very welcome.

ADVANCE NOTICE RETAIL THERAPY NIGHT

Will be here again in the Parish Hall on Wednesday 2 November.

ST.JAMES CHURCH CHRISTMAS FAIR CHARITIES 2005

As you will be aware it is the custom to hold a Christmas Fair to raise monies for charity. We have been able each year to donate sizeable gifts to an International, National and Local charity. The Pastoral and Outreach committee have with difficulty, due to the huge number of deserving causes, chosen three charities to be the beneficiaries for this year. These will be made known in the early autumn when the PCC have approved the choices.

For many years we have held a "New to You" sale in September which thanks to the efforts of many helpers, raised funds to help and supplement the Christmas Fair. There has been a growing feeling amongst those who have assisted that the return has not matched the efforts of those involved. Last year a car boot sale was held, but the effort of the enthusiastic sales teams was largely washed away by the inclement weather.

This year we would like to place the fund raising efforts right in the middle of the parish community! We are looking for fund raising entrepreneurs with ideas and with the help of friends, to raise monies prior to the Christmas Fair. Already a Retail Therapy evening has been arranged for the ladies. Men any ideas for competitive events? Any profits from the Barbecue that will follow the Annual Corporate Communion on September 11th will be donated. A young and seniors' fun evening is planned to start the effort for 2006. Would you be prepared to invite friends for a meal or a social evening and charge them a small sum to go to the charities? However you do it the main wish is to promote charitable giving and have fun at the same time!

If you want to help or have ideas, please ring - 335705 or 332466

David Bowden & Chris Platel - joint chairmen,
Pastoral & Outreach Committee

CONGRATULATIONS

To Doris Blake who celebrates her 90th birthday on 25 September.



Lifelong Learning at Christleton Adult and Community Education Centre

September 2005 sees the start of the new year of adult education classes at the Christleton Centre. Last September saw the opening of the Centre in the new state of the art accommodation at the High School with an increased range of classes on offer. The experience of learning a new skill or developing an existing interest with the guidance of excellent tutors and the companionship of likeminded colleagues was shared in more than 2000 learning hours at the Centre.

Some well known Christleton faces have been spotted – twirling on the Latin American dance floor, concentrating with a calligraphy pen in hand, perfecting a new garden design, practising for the next Spanish holiday or pounding the gym floor. Students may be 19 or 91 but they share an enthusiasm for lifelong learning. The opportunity to complement your leisure interests, find a new interest, add a recognised qualification to your CV – and to have fun – is yours locally and at a reasonable cost.

This September, the programme of courses expands again with 45 different classes available. Popular courses are on offer as last year – Bridge, Yachtmaster, Watercolour, Yoga alongside new challenges – Buying Property Abroad, Almost Vegetarian Cookery, Introduction to the Internet, Crafts for Christmas, Living with a Teenager ... and many more. The local free newspaper has distributed NewsWest, the college brochure, containing information on all courses. Details, including dates and times, can also be found on the website www.christletonhigh.co.uk follow links to community or phone West Cheshire College for details and enrolment-01244 670600 or phone me at the Centre termtime 6.30-9.30 01244 335843

– or come along - you'll be very welcome.

Gwen Cleverly

(Christleton Adult Education Centre Head)

CATHEDRAL LINK

The new Precentor, Christopher Hamphries, wife Barbara and family moved to Chester last month. He was installed during the course of Choral evensong on 17 July.

WHO RUNS THE CATHEDRAL?

The answer comes in four roles – leader, manager, decider and visitor. First, Leader. In the post of Dean, the Cathedral has a spiritual leader, giving direction to the life of the Cathedral community. He makes significant links between the Cathedral and the diocese, the local community and the life of the nation in its various institutions. Making all these links is time consuming and necessarily takes the Dean away from the Cathedral a great deal.

Second, Manager. In the Administrator, the Cathedral has a day to day business manager who oversees the work of all the staff and departments. The Administrator is responsible for the implementation of all matters legal, financial, fabric and entrepreneurial. He also supervises the Cathedral Estate, and its development. He often deals with complaints and represents the Cathedral to the media and press.

Third, Decider. Here is the surprise for many! The key decisions are policy ones, rather than day to day management ones. These key decisions are made not by the Dean, and not by the Administrator, but by the Cathedral Chapter. The Chapter consists of a mixture of Cathedral Cannons, Bishop's nominees, and elected lay people. It's important to realise that the Chapter governs the Cathedral, but does not manage the Cathedral!

Fourth, Visitor. The Visitor has a more remote overseeing role, but may intervene (or be called in) if there are significant problems with the governance or management of the Cathedral. Bishop Peter is the Cathedral's Visitor. Although the Cathedral is the Bishop's seat, he normally takes no direct role in policy-making decisions or management issues.

THE BENEDICTINE WEEKEND

Over the weekend 9 – 11 September, a residential Benedictine weekend will be taking place in the Retreat House; this is the first of what is hoped will be regular events and it is being run as a joint venture between the Retreat House and the Cathedral. Although not intended as a recreation of medieval monasticism, the weekend will be structured around a monastic timetable. There will be talks about the Benedictine life from Father Colin Battell, Prior of St Benedict's Monastery, Preston, and opportunity for private meditation and workshops on plainsong, chant and illuminated manuscript writing. Meals will be taken in silence while readings are given, and everyone will be expected to help in the preparation and serving of meals as well as other

manual work. There will also be a tour of the building, looking at how the monks actually used the building and the visitors will be attending a number of services in the Cathedral as well as the Retreat House Chapel – including the office of the day at 2.00 am on Sunday morning! There are no remaining places for this first weekend, but we hope to run similar events in the future.

SAINTS' WINDOWS IN THE CLOISTERS

St Bernard developed the Cistercian order and looked after Alpine Travellers. He built a guesthouse in the Alps on the two St Bernard passes. The dog was bred specifically to rescue travellers injured by bandits or accidents and buried in snowdrifts. He is the Patron Saint of Climbers and the window which is to the left of the entrance into the Garth is known as the Mallory window. It was dedicated to George Mallory and Sandy Irvine who died on Everest in

HOME AGAIN

Heather Rees is home again after her time in Lesotho. Fortunately all went well, though at times she found things frustrating. Two major issues were AIDS and alcoholism, both major problems in Lesotho. Although there are groups offering AIDS education, the subject is still quite "hush hush" among the locals.

On the last Sunday at Li'rahoeleng she and her friends Judith and David were invited to lead a service. Judith preached the sermon, David took the Youth Group and Heather the Sunday School. That Sunday was a "giving" service which meant that the tithing aspect of the service was extended to about two hours. Heather says it was hilarious to see a live chicken being taken to the altar table and an announcement that a cow had been donated to the church. The church in Lesotho is in desperate need of revival. Although about 97% of the population would say they are Christians and church attendance is very high, she says there is a real need for sound Biblical teaching – very few people know the Lord personally and this is especially true among the leaders of the church. Please pray for a much needed revival. It was a valuable opportunity to stay with the Basutho families, who made them feel part of the family and their generosity and gratitude was humbling.

Heather wishes to say a huge THANK YOU to all who have supported her and prayed for her during her time in Lesotho.

(also see the article on page 6 of the July magazine).

THANK YOU

John Carruthers, Gill, Fiona and Andrew warmly thank friends at St James and in the village for their kind greetings and support during Marjorie's hospitalisation at Walton. They have nothing but praise for the professionalism, guidance and openness of the doctors and nurses there.

NATURE NOTES



surprise has been the first breeding record there of a spotted flycatcher. These very distinctive birds, slightly bigger and greyer than a robin, with a beautiful speckled chest, and long flicking tail, used to breed regularly in the village. In the 1970's & early 80's they could almost always be seen near Old Pit Farm, in St James' Churchyard, and at Christleton High School. One pair regularly nested in a drainpipe outside Mr George's study window. He was delighted to see the pair return each year, and to see them feed with their characteristic flight pattern of

The flowering plants along the canal are just beautiful at present. Top of the list is the arrowhead, which has a pretty white flower with a mauve centre, surrounded by huge arrow shaped leaves. There are also flowering rushes, with a spectacular floret of pink flowers on a tall red stem, and branched burr reeds with their fuzzy white flowers and spiky green seed heads. The tall purple loose strife, a very good imitation of an orchid, is also prolific, together with the beautiful almond smelling meadowsweet. Rosebay willow herb, another purple plant, sometimes known as old man's beard is also flowering, as is the poisonous yellow ragwort. On the cleaner sections of water, floating white water crow foot plants are plentiful, and attract tiny blue tailed, and colourful blue & black banded aragon damselflies. The beautiful golden brown dragonfly, "aesna grandis" zig zags its way over the water, seemingly coming to inspect the casual visitor to the towpath. Whilst canoeing on the canal I've noticed that several pairs of swallows have taken to build their nests and rear their young under redundant bridges, whilst new motorway bridges with corrugated concrete ledges seem to be the ideal home for tiny pipistrelle bats. Our swans & cygnets were caught and ringed at the end of July, and were found to be very healthy. They have been ringed with green darvic rings as CL 25,26,27,28 and 29. There are three male cygnets weighing 7.1, 6.7 and 7.5kg, and two females weighing 6.7 & 6.8 kg. The pen (C175) weighed 8.5 kg, and the cob has been re-ringed as CL30, is 11.5kg. Among birds seen recently are a male Hobby, a small but distinctive bird of prey, slightly bigger than a swift with similarly shaped scimitar wings, which was seen hunting over the meadows at Hockenhull Platts. Whilst the white throat's, blackcaps and other warblers have done well this year, the biggest



Janet Brown

Congratulations to Janet who swept the board in the Produce Section of the prestigious Nantwich & South Cheshire Show at Dorfold Park, at the end of July. Janet won six individual classes, was placed in several others, and was overall Champion of the Produce Class.

COMPETITION

JIM & THE SCARECROW

The best of the entries to date are:

"I don't see why I should have my photograph taken with a ridiculous looking thing like this, even if he is President of Christleton Cricket Club"

O'K, a fiver says, it is W G's cap!

What do you mean, Jack Straw is a relative!

Stop worrying, they were talking about "The Ashes"

Who said anything about having a haircut!

Jim " Can't get the phone at the moment-"talking cricket" with a scarecrow on the Village Green!!"

Scary- I must be doing a good job here, I haven't seen a crow.

Jim- You are just wasting your time here. Can't you see what it says on the sign. This is the best kept village, and it holds the Golden Community Award, crows don't come near here.



Well Jim, a day in the field's knocked the stuffing out of me. What do you fancy for tea- a beefy square cut, or a fine leg?

The result will appear in next months magazine.

CONGRATULATIONS

Readers may recall the smiling Dorothea Spaniel who sang alto with the Church Choir for two weeks in July 2000, also appearing at (very) short notice as an Austrian princess in a Family Service!

On 16 July Dorothea married Dirk in the village church of Lohmen east of Dresden. John Carruthers read in the Service, as did Maria Fiedler from Fulda who "exchanged" with Lindsay Morley from Littleton and the High School in 1990/91.



Phil & Pat Hodges

Congratulations to Phil & Pat, who celebrated their Golden Wedding at the end of July.

Happy 40th Birthday to Penny Ralfs on
7 September

With lots of love from
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Did W G Grace Play in Christleton!!

I first heard this story back in the 1970's, told to me by my good friend, Frank Poston. I know some of you will say that Frank was a good "storyteller", and that he was having me on, but the story is a distinct possibility. The facts; Canon Lionel Garnett was born in 1843, at Wyreside in Lancashire, the son of a wealthy landowner, and was friendly with Albert Hornby, born 1847 in nearby Blackburn, also from a well to do Lancashire family. In English cricket records, Lionel Garnett is recorded as a First Class cricketer, playing in Middlesex, probably during his time as house master at Eaton, and whilst training for the ministry. We know that he was good enough to dominate the game in Christleton for many years as both batsman and bowler. His friend Albert Hornby, was captain of Lancashire for 20 years and played for them over 33 years, as well as three times for England. (Monkey) Hornby was a small man, who made up for his lack of size with enormous enthusiasm. He not only played cricket, but was outside half for the

English Rugby team, ran in the cross country team, and boxed for England for good measure. I think that the key to his friendship with Lionel Garnett is that they met at University, and that Hornby lived at Church Minshull near Nantwich. In fact he is buried at nearby Acton Church, where his grave can be identified by the sculpture of marble stumps and a cricket ball. A relative, William Garnett also lived in Nantwich, and he too, was a first class cricketer. Canon Garnett came to Christleton in 1869, and probably founded the Cricket Club soon afterwards. Albert Hornby played his best cricket for Lancashire between 1870 and 1880. Lancashire started to play regular fixtures with Gloucester beginning on 25th July 1878, and did so for at least the next ten years at Old Trafford. I have learned that WG Grace the Gloucestershire Captain often stayed with Hornby in Nantwich, on route to Old Trafford, so it is perfectly

feasible for him to have come to Christleton during these matches. In those days county teams did not play every other county, and there was more time between matches. Travel was inevitably by rail. WG would have been thirty years of age at the time of the first Gloucestershire match at Old Trafford, in fact it's recorded that his most significant act as a doctor, was to treat a Lancashire fielder who impaled himself on the boundary fence at the match. He was of course one of the greatest cricketers who ever lived, scoring 54,000 runs including 126 centuries and taking 2,809 wickets as well as 876 catches and 5 stumpings. I am continuing to search old newspapers for possible evidence, but the 1878 match co- incided with the anniversary of the rebuilding of St James' Church. Hornby was playing for Lancashire, the Chronicle reports that he was missing from the Crewe team who were playing the Australian Tourists!! on the same day. The 1879 match took place at a time when Rector Garnett was preaching at Chester Cathedral, and in 1880 a terrible storm caused havoc in Chester, Cheshire & North Wales. So no clues or evidence from these matches. The strongest evidence against the story is that WG was from a medical family in Stroud,

Gloucestershire. When I discussed the story with Mr Rae Cullimore, he told me that his family were also in the medical profession in Stroud, and were great friends of the Grace family. He found it very surprising, that no one from his family, living in Christleton, ever mentioned that the great man came to play here. They surely would have met up with him. It would have been great news for us if he had. So the case isn't proved either way. Where now for more evidence?. Old editions of The Chronicle are the most obvious, looking for details of matches, or any writing about his visit, but it was a much wider publication in those days, and the microfiche copies are difficult to read. However I shall press on and try and find a solution to this fascinating story.

David Cummings



GLENTHORNE 2005

RAMBLING FELLOWSHIP WEEKEND

25 parishioners – or attached – joined together in our visit to Grasmere one weekend in June. We stayed at the Quaker Guest house “Glenthorne”, a wonderful peaceful retreat amongst the trees on Easedale Road. This is a very well appointed licensed guest house, serving 3 course meals with menu choices. The best feature is the wonderful ambience, but the lovely lawns, trees and home-made cakes for afternoon tea in the garden also were much appreciated. As we had several people with us who had not been before, on the Friday evening other than favourite readings, prayers etc to share, we took part in a “getting to know each other” exercise of explaining and drawing the emotional “hats” we wear in different parts of our lives, what they meant to us and how we felt about them. Whether this helped to have a greater understanding of each remains to be seen, but it cause

much hilarity and yet serious discussion about our faith somehow came in as well. We had, of course, prizes for the best drawing and the best explanation. Saturday was suitably cloudy bright, ideal for walking. Those less active made a foray into Grasmere and environs, and the rest of us – I think 22 - headed over the stile and up past Wordsworth’s house, Allan Bank to the west of Grasmere. We were especially delighted to be joined by Peter and Fiona who had made an early start from Chester and joined our ramble for the day. We scaled the middling heights of Lang Howe with views of the Langdales, Silver

Howe with views over Grasmere and Rydal Water and Windermere for our lunch break, and descended over Dow Bank with views of Elterwater and Lochrigg Tarn. To keep 22 people together was no mean feat but we only began to split up as the ice cream shops beckoned! Fellowship, rambling, picnics and icecreams made for a great day and fortunately we were home in time for our afternoon tea to gather our strength for the evening. After an second beautiful evening meal, we again shared thoughts, reading and experience of faith.

Our exercise for this evening again helped us to gain more insight into each other’s lives and experience - “What time is it in your life? It’s too late for... It’s too soon for... It’s the right time for...” We much enjoyed ourselves yet again but Liz has decided not to set up as a “Life coach” after all as it’s all very stressful for the facilitator!! Back to general practice, I think. Sunday dawned a little less clement, and a few more decided to do their own thing and wander around Grasmere in the rain! The brave set off for Alcock Tarn, a steep but not too long climb on the east of Grasmere. Once at the top, we rested with views of Wast Water, Windermere, Grasmere, Rydal and even Morecambe Bay so we were well rewarded for our efforts. We slid down the grassy and muddy path to take shelter from heavy rain under the trees while we ate our picnic lunches. Clearly time to get back into dry clothes after a visit to the gingerbread shop and a few other essentials. We tried a brief “post-mortem” while we waited for latecomers before setting out on our way home. Was it as good as last time? Should we do it differently? Should we miss a year? Have we “done” Glenthorne?



Very many thanks to everyone for so much friendship, fellowship and fun – but especially to Ron, to David and Jan Bowden, and to Alison for all their support. Our interim solution is to provisionally book October 21/22, 2006, for an Autumnal Glenthorne break. This will be discussed at PCC – please consider whether you would like to do it again, or if we do go, to join us for the first time.

Liz McClure

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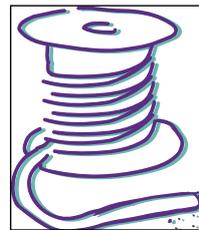
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