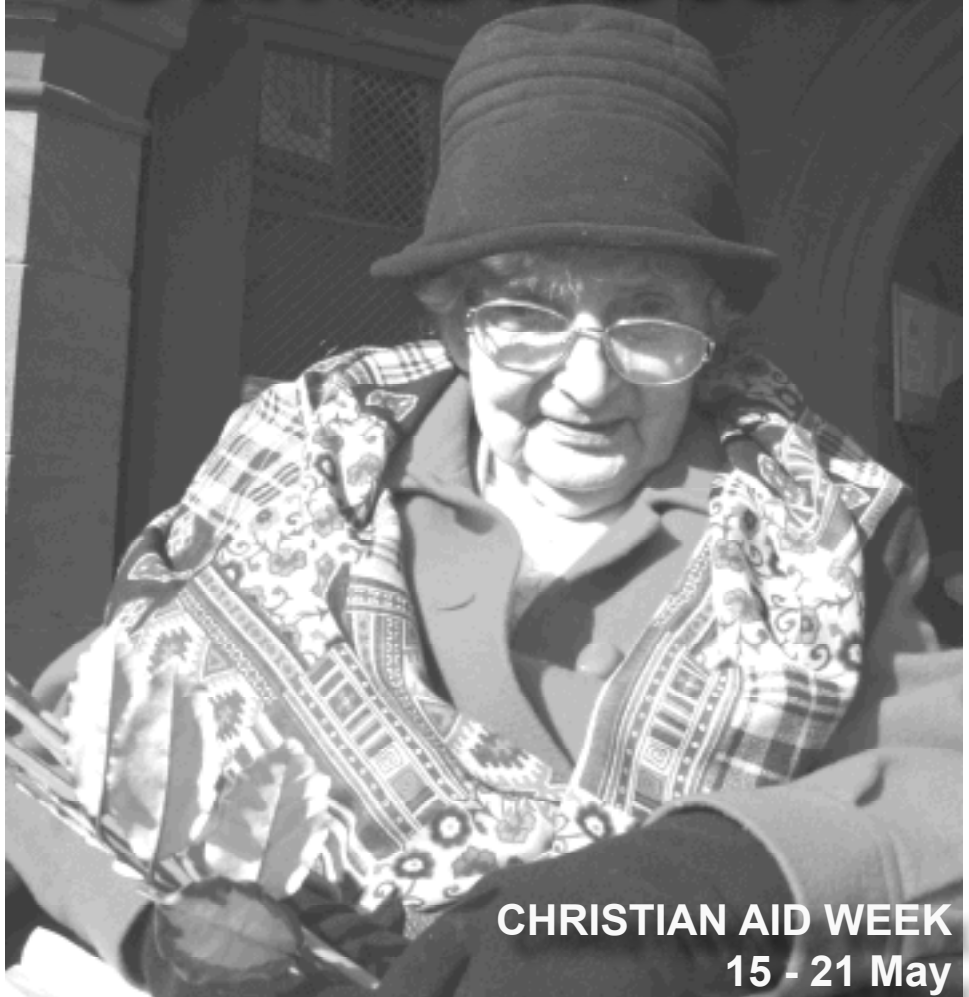


St. James' Christleton



CHRISTIAN AID WEEK
15 - 21 May



Parish Magazine
APRIL 2005

30p

Appointments in April

Sun	3		The Second Sunday of Easter
		8.00 am	Holy Communion - Common Worship - Order 2
		10.45 am	Parish Communion - Common Worship - Order 1
		6.30 pm	Evensong - followed by refreshments
			The Crew Youth Group leave for 3 days at a Christian Centre in Sheffield
			Prayer Link Road: Skips Lane Neighbourhood Link: Pat Hawkes
Mon	4	10.45 am	Holy Communion at Tarvin Court Nursing Home
		11.30 am	Holy Communion at Oaklands Nursing Home
Tues	5	7.45 pm	Short Course House Group - Copthorne, Moor Lane
Wed	6	10.45 am	United Communion followed by refreshments
Fri	8		NB: Last date for contributions for May Parish Magazine, preferably earlier please, to David Bull (332234)
Sun	10		The Third Sunday of Easter
		8.00 am	Holy Communion - Order 1
		10.45 am	Family Service with Baptisms. Followed by refreshments
		2.00 pm	Church Ramble Group leaves car park for Thornton Hough
		6.00 pm	The Crew Youth Group
		6.30 pm	Evensong
			Prayer Link Road: Stamford Lane
			Neighbourhood Link: Julia Carr
Mon	11		Work starts on Restoration Phase 2 : The Tower
		2.00 pm	Mothers Union - Parish Hall
Tues	12	7.45 pm	Short Course House Group - Copthorne, Moor Lane
Wed	13	10.45 am	Holy Communion followed by refreshments
		11.30 am	Holy Communion at Birch Heath Lodge Nursing Home

Sun	17		The Fourth Sunday of Easter
		8.00 am	Holy Communion - Order 1
		10.30 am	Sunday School - Parish Hall
		10.45 am	Parish Communion - Order 1
		6.30 pm	Young People's Service
			Prayer Link Road: Tarvin Road Neighbourhood Link: Janet Jones
Mon Hall	18	7.45 pm	ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING - Parish Followed by Cheese and Wine
Wed	20	10.45 am 6.45 pm	Holy Communion followed by refreshments United Faith Supper - Methodist Church with short AGM of Churches Together in Christleton
Sun	24		The Fifth Sunday of Easter
		8.00 am	Holy Communion - Order 1
		10.30 am	Sunday School - Parish Hall
		10.45 am	Matins followed by refreshments
		6.00 pm	The Crew Youth Group
		6.30 pm	Evening Communion
			Visit of Sue Gumbrell, our link missionary with CMS Prayer Link Road: The Park Neighbourhood Link: Margaret Kingston
Mon	25	9.00 am	Holy Communion for St Mark
Tues	26	7.30 am	Church Ramble Group leaves car park for Lake District
Wed	27	10.45 am	Holy Communion - followed by refreshments.
Thur	28	7.45 pm	Bereavement and Support Group - Tarvin Road
Sat	30	7.00 pm	David Cummings Charity Talk for Christian Aid - Parish Hall

The Rector's Letter

Dear Friends

SPRING FORWARD!

At long last the work on Phase 2 of the Restoration of St James will start on Monday 11 April. Thanks to the generosity of so many people, we were able to close our Appeal at the end of 2003, and the work on Phase 1 was completed. We had applied to English Heritage for a grant towards Phase 2, which is the necessary work on the Tower. Unfortunately it has taken a very long and frustrating time to go through the necessary procedures, and then, working through the architect, put the new contract out for tender. We have obtained a generous grant from English Heritage to go towards the work, and the expenses of preparing the project. This means we can now complete the full programme of works specified as necessary by our architect at the last quinquennial inspection. Our thanks are especially due to David Mercer, who has worked tirelessly to oversee the whole project, and carry out the marathon task of completing all the necessary schedules and applications. The work on the Tower is contracted to take until Friday 17 June. During this time the Tower will be encased in scaffolding and the whole of that area will be a building site, so there will be no access. That will not, of course, include the Church entrance. Because of the obvious health and safety implications, the **bells will not be rung** for the duration of the contract. We are sorry that it has taken so long for this phase to be initiated, which has been largely out of our control. Again we would like to thank everyone for the wonderful response to the Appeal, which has enabled us to complete the project.

Now the restoration work is being completed, we can move forward and look to the future. The Annual Parochial Church Meeting is on Monday 18 April at 7.45 pm in the Parish Hall. A number of important changes come into force this year. From now on we shall only elect 5 new members to the PCC for a 3 year term of office, making a total of 15 elected members. (This replaces the previous system of $7 \times 3 = 21$). We also agreed last year that from this annual meeting, any member who has completed 6 consecutive years on the PCC will not be eligible for nomination in the succeeding year. This is to encourage regular turnover in the membership. This is also a year when we elect 4 new members to the Deanery Synod for 3 years,

and those elected will be 'ex officio' members of the PCC. John Pearson has indicated that he will not be standing for election as Churchwarden again this year. I am sure we all thank John for all his hard work and the experience he has brought to all he has given to the task of Churchwarden in his 3 years of office, and all he has done on the PCC over 9 years.

We do want to encourage new people to become involved in the decisions and outreach of our Church, and I hope you will come to the meeting and encourage others to take part. It is also an opportunity to share in all that we have been doing as a Church over the past year, and to look forward together to new life and growth. We try to keep the meeting fairly 'light' and it is followed by Cheese and Wine, so that we can share fellowship and ideas together in a relaxed atmosphere. It has been good to welcome Andy Putt as our Light Team Project Worker and to see 'The Crew' Youth group become established. Equally, it has been good to welcome Dr Wayne Morris as our new Reader in the Parish, and to benefit from all he has to share with us. So there are many ways in which we can look to April as a time to spring forward as a Church in all the ministry and mission we share in the new life of Christ.

Yours sincerely



Peter Lee

Prayer of the Month: from a prayer by Dick Williams

O risen Christ, whose wounds declare the suffering and victory of God: we thank you for bursting the bonds of death. Look at us now. Look at our bonds. Look at the things which tie us down, which fasten our hands and hobble our feet, which stop us walking in your ways, which stop us from doing your works, which tether us so tightly to the weight of past failures. And as you have burst the bonds of death, so burst these bonds and set us free. Set us free from our pride; set us free from our sin; set us free from our fear; set us free from ourselves. Stand in our midst and let us behold you. Lay on us your hands. Breathe into us your breath. Speak to us, and may your speech be written in the beating of our hearts.

Look at us, Lord ... And may this body which you have bought by your death now be occupied by your resurrection, and filled with your spirit: for your glory – for our peace – for the world – and for yourself. Amen.

April, 2005

COVER PICTURE

Another Christleton Centenarian !.

Congratulations from all in the Parish to Rosie Trigg on reaching this milestone on March 2nd. She celebrated her special day at a party with friends and staff at Birch Heath Lodge. Rosie still regularly attends church on Sunday mornings, accompanied by Jim Hawkes and other members of the congregation who push her wheelchair across the road. A very happy Rosie, was photographed outside church on Mothering Sunday, clutching her bunch of daffodils. She had a huge smile on her face and commented, "I've really cracked it now haven't I"

David Cummings

Christian Aid

VOLUNTEERS PLEASE

**House-to-house collection
15 - 21 May 2005**

We need YOU! I would be glad to hear from anyone willing to join the team of house-to-house collectors during Christian Aid Week so that we can be sure of covering every house in the Parish.

Individual volunteers or in pairs (to 'job share' a road) would be most welcome.

Fiona Lee

CONGRATULATIONS

To Nora Smith, 5 Rake Lane who is 90 years old on 6 April 2005.

The noblest revenge
is to forgive.

Thomas Fuller

THE CREW

St James' Youth Group

Over the last term The Crew have been looking at:

Who is Jesus?
Why did he die?
How can i be shore of my faith?
What and how do i read the bible?
What and how do i pray?

It has been amazing to seen the young people studying about Jesus over the last term. This term we are looking forward to the Retreat which is taking place on the 3-6th April. We are going to a Christian Centre called the Oakes in Sheffield. Please pray for this weekend and the 7 young people who are going.

If you wish to join the Crew please contact Andy Putt on 07815675870. If you join the Crew you can enjoy: Table Tennis, Fooseball, PS1, PS2, dance mates, pool, snooker and badminton.

Thank you agin for your support and prayers.

God Bless

Andy Putt
St James Youth Worker.

MOTHERS UNION MEETING

ON 14 FEBRUARY 2005

Liz Evans was our speaker this month. Liz, who is our Parish Representative to the Deanery Committee for Social Responsibility gave a most interesting talk about her work with people with disabilities who want to join in, and her role in connection with the problems of domestic violence.

Our Lenten Quiet Hour was held in church on Monday 14 March and members took part in the Wave of Prayer in their own homes on Tuesday 15 March.

Our next meeting will be on Monday 11 April when David Cummings will be our speaker.

It is not love that is blind,
but jealousy. *Laurence*
Durrell

Christian Aid Week 15-21 May 2005

Making poverty history: the trade justice campaign

The UK government is committed to making 2005 a year when poverty is on the international agenda. To tackle poverty it must



Christian Aid/Felicia Webb/PPG

Louisa Mahahela, 25, works on a sugar plantation in Maragra, Maputo Province, Mozambique. She is the only member of her family to have a job

'There are many women working at the sugar plantation. Before the sugar factory opened, we were very poor...

Now things are better, we can all earn money and buy food from the markets.'

Louisa Mahahele

Louisa Elias Mahahele works on a sugar plantation in Mozambique, earning enough to feed her family. Her job is one of thousands that have been created since the Mozambique government helped its sugar industry by attracting investment to it. It set the price for imported sugar, most of which comes from rich countries where it is subsidised. This set price means that the locally produced sugar is able to compete with imports.

But Mozambique is an exception. Other poor countries are prevented from helping vulnerable industries and farmers. Rich countries and international institutions that lend poor countries money force governments to accept free-trade policies.

For example, in Ghana, thousands of farmers have been forced to give up farming because they are no longer able to make a living selling their produce. Kofi Eliasa used to be a tomato farmer. He now works 12 hours a day in a quarry, breaking rocks to make gravel. He struggles to earn enough to feed his family

and send his children to school. In exchange for loans, Ghana was forced to open up its markets to international trade and take away the government help given to farmers such as Kofi. This is the same for other poor countries across the world. The result is that millions of people now face an uncertain future as they lose the means to make a living.

Free trade means that governments may not interfere in the market place, and all traders – from rich and poor countries alike – must face each other in open competition. This gives the poorest no chance. To begin to make a decent living for their families they need some help from their government to support their industries – that is they need trade justice, not free trade.

This is why Christian Aid is campaigning for trade justice, not free trade. The campaign is informed by the biblical vision of a just world where the needs of the poorest people are met. To compete in today's global marketplace poor farmers and traders need special help from their governments until they are strong enough to manage without it

To find out more go to
www.caweek.org
or call 08080 006 006.

Christian Aid
We believe in life before death

UK registered charity number 1105851
Company number 5171525
Republic of Ireland charity number CHY 6998

This is how your donation can make a difference this Christian Aid Week

£5. buys five chickens, helping to restore a family's livelihood in Mozambique.

£66 will pay for the internet connection for a computer school for children orphaned by HIV/AIDS in the Democratic Republic of Congo. £11 will buy the network card to access the internet, so students can train in computer programming.

When making your donation don't forget about Gift Aid!

Gift Aid is a government scheme that allows Christian Aid to claim back the tax paid on any donation made by a UK taxpayer. If you are a UK taxpayer then all you need to do is fill in the declaration on the red CAW envelope and your gift is worth 28 per cent more to Christian Aid.

If everyone does this it will raise at least an extra £1 million for the world's poorest communities

£6. maintains one girl at the Bridge School in India for a month, giving her a chance of education that otherwise would not be available.

£112. buys a water tank for a Peruvian village. This means that the villagers can get water without having to walk to the nearest stream which could be over 2 km away



Christian Aid/Kim Naylor

To find out more or make a donation, visit www.caweek.org or call 08080 006 006.

Prays for Christian Aid Week

For our incapacity to feel the sufferings of others,

And our tendency to live comfortably with injustice,

God, forgive us.

For the self-righteousness which denies guilt,

And the self-interest which strangles compassion,

God, forgive us.

For those who live their lives in careless unconcern

Who cry 'Peace, peace' when there is no peace,

We ask your mercy.

For our failings in community, our lack of understanding,

We ask your mercy.

For our lack of forgiveness, openness, sensitivity,

God, forgive us.

For the times we were too eager to be better than others,

When we are too rushed to care,

When we are too tired to bother,

When we don't really listen,

When we are too quick to act from motives other than love,

God, forgive us.

Prayer from Christian Aid partner the Pietermaritzburg Agency for Christian Social Awareness, reproduced in *Pocket Prayers for Peace and Justice* (Church House Publishing, 2004), pp 52-53.



Holy Spirit of God,
light a flame within me,
burning for justice,
glowing with kindness,
shining with hope
for the end of poverty
and the peace of all people
in this ever-turning world. Amen.

(Christian Aid/Peter Graystone)

Christian Aid
We believe in life before death

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Nature News

In March we prepare to say goodbye to our many wintering bird species, field fare, redwing, waxwings, snow buntings, whooper & Beswick swans who migrate north to Scandinavia and the Arctic regions, and we welcome the first migrant arrivals from Africa. Sand martins and wheatears are usually the first to be seen along the Gowy corridor, closely followed by chiff chaff and willow warbler. The main thrust of the migrants into the village doesn't take place until mid to late April –May, and by then the sky should be full of swallows, house martins and swifts. However in recent years these species have declined, and I shall be keeping a close eye on numbers of breeding pairs this summer. Walkers along the canal should soon hear the chiff chaff near Rowton Bridge, and see wagtails and with a bit of luck, the kingfisher. There have been regular sightings of this colourful bird this month between Rowton through to the end of the houses on Waterway in Waverton. Both greater spotted and green woodpeckers have been heard drumming or yaffling respectively,

in and around the area, whilst there are buzzards calling almost every day now. A colony of badgers are creating a real nuisance in several locations in Littleton, and are not making themselves many friends. Look out for them almost anywhere at night, as they emerge from their winter hibernation. In the past it was always reported that badger cubs first appear in March. For the last few years I've seen cubs in January!!

Other species too seem to have changed their breeding times. There are already three pairs of swans sitting on nests in the Chester area, which means that they could have cygnets by early to mid April, rather than the traditional time at the beginning of May. The nest at the Pit will be built about the 14th March, which should mean cygnets around the beginning of May. The water level at The Pit continues to be a concern as we have had a very dry spell since September with only 9 inches of rain in the six month period. When you consider that both Carlisle and Capel Curig had over 6 inches of rain in one night in January you can see that 9 inches isn't going to fill the Pit for long. There have

already been suggestions in the newspapers that areas in the South East are in for a hose pipe ban this next summer, because of the lack of winter rainfall.

David Cummings.

MORE SPICE

From earliest records FRANKINCENSE was needed in the worship of the Roman and Greek gods.

As early as the fifth century BC the aroma of frankincense was known at wedding celebrations. Egyptians knew it well and are thought to have buried a supply of it in royal tombs, but this was one aromatic they didn't use for mummification.

Frankincense is a gum from a tree unique in Arabia (modern Oman). It is said it grows only in a limited, inaccessible location far from centres of civilization. Chinese texts tell romantic tales of its origin in "the depths of the remotest mountain valleys". It was exported by sea and was handled by royal slaves and convicts. When it reached Egyptian factories where it became part of perfumed oils, it

April, 2005

was such that "no security is good enough. A seal is affixed to the workmen's loincloths; they have to wear a mask or hairnet with a close mesh; when they finish work they are strip-searched".

AMBERGRIS

The origin of this is unique. It is a secretion that solidifies in the intestines of the sperm whale. Especially when it has been feeding on cuttlefish. Having been expelled from the whale's body it is washed ashore. Black ambergris, several years old, is highly aromatic. The Chinese paid a high price for it both to early Persian merchants and later to Portuguese. It was a rare luxury, worth its weight in gold. It also served as an incense and it is said that when mixed with frankincense and is being burned, a straight column of clear blue smoke rises high into the air. The smoke will not dissipate and those present could cut the column of smoke with a pair of scissors!

Ambergris is not used any more in food nowadays, but it was once. "Miss Dior" is one of the perfumes in which it is still used.

Margaret Croston.



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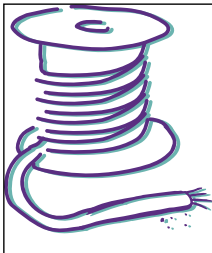
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ONE WAY OF PUTTING IT

A man spent many years as a drunkard and a layabout. But through the Salvation Army, he turned to the Lord and his life gradually changed. At Sunday service he became well known for his prayers – like this one, perhaps a little strange, but full of truth: “Lord, we ain’t what we want to be, we ain’t what we ought to be, and we ain’t what we’re gonna be – but praise Thee, Lord, we ain’t what we used to be!”

SPRING – TIME TO GO ON PILGRIMAGE!

People have been going on pilgrimage for centuries – and often in the Spring, when travel in bygone years was more possible. A pilgrimage can of course be a solitary affair, but it’s far better when shared with others. After all, Christianity is essentially a community faith, requiring individual commitment. Some pilgrimages have a particular destination in mind: a great Cathedral, or Holy mountain. Or we may do as the Celtic monks did, simply wander, with no particular end point in sight. Just happy to journey simply for the ‘love of Christ’. Pilgrimage is simply a physical journey that

April, 2005

somehow or other ‘kick starts’ the inner or spiritual journey. When we go on pilgrimage, we leave everyday routine behind, and set out on a journey with the Lord. Travelling as a small community, telling stories, and exploring places and issues, provides us with a great way to discover more both about ourselves and about our faith. It is a time of new beginnings, a time to rekindle a flickering faith, to discover new purpose and new meaning... so when the time is right, and the road beckons you – don’t hesitate!

A PRAYER OF ST BENEDICT

O gracious and holy Father,
Give us wisdom to perceive You,
Intelligence to understand You,
Diligence to seek You,
Patience to wait for You,
Eyes to behold You,
A Heart to meditate upon You,
And a life to proclaim You,
Through the power of the Spirit
Of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Don’t wait for the Last
Judgement. It takes place
every day.

Albert Camus

ON BOOKS

Like many folk during the 1930's, my parents satisfied their love of books by lining their walls with them. Hardbacks of Somerset Maugham, Evelyn Waugh and the earlier classics mingled with matching series of Penguin paperbacks with their distinctive covers in green and white (crime) and orange and white (fiction). Pelican books edged in Cambridge blue covered the likes of education and medicine.

For many, greater educational opportunities only started to arrive in the 1950's, but even then the wider market for books and magazines was fairly slow to develop. After the second World War people had other priorities such as the purchase of furniture, of cars for the first time, and of more readily available foodstuffs at last clear of rationing or short supply. What a contrast portrayed in today's city bookshops with huge stocks of books on display.

A few years ago there was a poignant scene in a television drama set in my native Cumberland. A teenage girl with few books at home walked into

the dining-room of a retired bank manager. "Bukes!" she exclaimed as she was greeted with a virtual library all round the room; her broad dialect not hiding her new-found love of the written word.

I wish I had been like her. With a highly literary mother (tutored by C S Lewis) and a sister who returned home from school, curled up in a chair and read more books, I was a quiet rebel preferably mucking out the calves on the farm next door. Language, spelling, and grammar excited me, but literature such as Shakespeare and Dickens can confuse me to this day.

Not that I didn't love and respect certain books. I was aware even in the 1950's that a large Bible was often placed in a prominent position like the dining-room table where the habit of father reading a short passage to the whole family before a meal was only just dying out. Although not the eldest of 14 Carruthers cousins, I am the proud curator of our Family Bible. Dated 1870, the five blank pages between the Old and the New Testaments contain family records in neat manuscript; these date back to the marriage of my great-grandparents John and

Elizabeth at Ennerdale Parish Church on 15 November 1842.

Books such as this Bible portray devotion in both its sadness and its joy. I often wonder in prayer why in May 1860 their daughters Elizabeth and Mary died aged 4 and 2 on the 1st and 13th of the month. And why did Sarah born a month later on 12 June die before she was 6? Yet their youngest brother, Thomas, lived until he was 90 and only died in 1955.

With such mysteries personally recorded, this Bible is truly Holy to me. I can even detect from grubby finger-marks not only the frequent examination of these few family pages, but also the most favourite passages read at the meal table on the farm. By this criteria, St Luke and St John were clearly popular!

We cannot read all the books we own at once and some of our most special volumes are safely stored away. But I always think that books are like friends; important to know that we have them. For which we thank God.

John Carruthers.

WE SING

We sing "Onward Christian Soldiers"
But do not volunteer for HIS service.

We sing "O For a Thousand Tongues"
But fail to use the one we have.

We sing "I love to Tell the Story"
But never mention it to others.

We sing "Revive Thy Work O Lord"
But avoid getting involved in it.

We sing "Thy Way Not Mine O Lord"
But make our own plans and then ask the Lord to bless them.

We sing "Take My Life, My Silver, My Gold"
Yet withhold all but our small change.

We should either change our ways or change our hymns. Don't you agree?

(Taken from Healing Hands 52.
Lip Service only) by Jennie Roberts

Take care of your life; and
the Lord will take care of
your death.

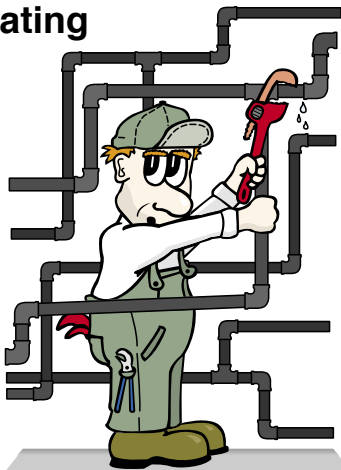
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LOCAL EVENTS DIARY

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.

CHRISTLETON W.I.

The next meeting will take place on 13 April – “Resuscitation” by St John’s Ambulance

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
C h e s t e r 3 4 6 4 9 7 .

MAGAZINE CONTRIBUTIONS

Please ensure all items for inclusion in the **May** edition are sent to the Editor, David Bull, The Old Rectory, Plough Lane, as soon as possible **BEFORE Friday 8 April.**



LOCAL EVENTS DIARY

CHRISTLETON GARDENING CLUB

The next meeting will take place on 11 April when Mr Tom Acton will talk about Arley Hall and Gardens.

CHRISTLETON W.I. MONTHLY WHIST DRIVE

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

CHESTER CATHEDRAL

Annual Plant and Cake Sale is on

29th and 30th April.

CHARITY TALK IN THE PARISH HALL on Saturday 30th April 7.00pm

David Cummings presents The Magic of Swans and Orchids & Wild Flowers The story of wild swans in the UK, and of the swans at Christleton Pit. Also orchids & wild flowers in Europe. Tickets £6, which includes a light supper and a glass of wine. Proceeds for Christian Aid Tickets from David on 332410 or at Christleton Post Office

MAGAZINE DISTRIBUTORS

The May magazine will be available for collection from Church on Sunday 24 April 2005.



PARISH RAMBLING (TUESDAY)GROUP

Tuesday 26th April

Leaders; David Cummings
332410 & Brian Devenport

The Lake District. Ullswater/ daffodils in Spring.

Leave Church Car park at
8.00am.

Lake Steamer from Glen-
rhydding to Howtown. (£4.40)
at 11.10 am (35minutes)
Walk 7 miles across the fells
back to Patterdale and the car
park at Glenrhydding. Views
will be across the lake to-
wards Helvelyn and the high-
er peaks and there should be
wonderful displays of daffodils.

CHRISTLETON LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

At Christleton Primary School
Wednesday April 27th.

7.30pm

Speaker; David Cummings.

**Changes in Agricultural
practices in Cheshire over
the last thirty years as
seen through a study of the
meadows and wetland at
Hockenhull Platts.**

As a member of the Cheshire Wildlife Trust I have been actively involved in the management and study of the habitat and wildlife at Hockenhull for the last thirty years. Although my main interest has been studying the bird life and in carrying out a Common Bird Census, I have been involved in many other aspects of the management of the reserve, and have a fine collection of photographs of the site. In this illustrated talk I will show how agricultural practices have changed sometimes to the detriment, but also to the benefit of our wildlife.

Christleton Parish Magazine



CHURCH RAMBLE

**April 10th 2005
Thornton Hough**

3 mile+ ramble on easy level ground from black and white mock Elizabethan Thornton Hough village to Brimstage country craft centre and return, all around the Lord Leverhulme estate. Stop for tea break on the way should you wish at the Country mouse coffee shop, or visit the childrens animal farm, or fancy craft shops. Reached by 20 min motorway drive up M53. Ron and I saw buzzard, March Hare, emus and other exotics! Meet at church car park 2.0 pm. Queries to Liz McClure 409414

A grace for a meal

O Lord, we thank you for this food we are privileged to eat and we beseech you to help us to speak the right words - that we may not have to eat them later on.

High Days and Holy Days in April

April 3rd

Richard of Chichester

(c1197 – 1253)

Ever wonder where the prayer ... 'May I know thee more clearly, love thee more dearly, and follow thee more nearly, day by day' comes from? Richard of Chichester, a bishop in the 13th century, wrote it.

He began life as Richard de Wych, of Droitwich, the son of a yeoman farmer. But Richard was a studious boy, and after helping his father on the farm for several years, refused an advantageous offer of marriage, and instead made his way to Oxford, and later to Paris and Bologna to study canon law.

In 1235 he returned to Oxford, and was soon appointed Chancellor, where he supported Edmund, Archbishop of Canterbury, in his struggles against King Henry III's misuse of Church funds. After further study to become a priest, Richard was in due course made a Bishop himself. He was greatly loved. He was charitable and accessible, both stern and merciful to sinners,

extraordinarily generous to those stricken by famine, and a brilliant legislator of his diocese. He decreed that the sacraments were to be administered without payment, Mass celebrated in dignified conditions, the clergy to be chaste, to practise residence, and to wear clerical dress. The laity were obliged to attend Mass on Sundays and holy days, and to know by heart the Hail Mary as well as the Lord's Prayer and the Creed.

Richard was also prominent in preaching the Crusade, which he saw as a call to reopen the Holy Land to pilgrims, not as a political expedition. He died at Dover on 3 April 1253. In art, Richard of Chichester is represented with a chalice at his feet, in memory of his having once dropped the chalice at Mass! One ancient English church is dedicated to him.

And, of course, he is author of that famous prayer, now set to popular music, which runs in full: 'Thanks be to thee, my Lord Jesus Christ for all the benefits thou hast given me, for all the pains and insults which thou hast borne for me. O most merciful redeemer, friend and brother,

ABERSOCH – HOLIDAY HOME

IVY COTTAGE

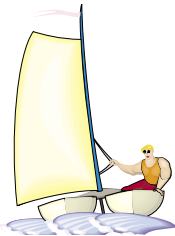
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may I know thee more clearly,
love thee more dearly and follow
thee more nearly, day by day.'

April 23rd
St George's Day
d circa 300 AD

The Saint of an English Army before he was Patron Saint of England, St George may have been a soldier, but he was no Englishman. He was an officer in the Roman army under Diocletian, who refused to abandon his faith during the Terror, and was martyred at Lydda in Palestine about the year 300 AD - supposedly 23 April. Over the years St George became the example of a Christian fighting-man, a powerful helper against evil powers affecting individual lives. He was the soldier-hero of the Middle Ages, of whom remarkable deeds were reported.

In the Golden Legend of the 13th century, Jacobus de Voragine gave St George a handsome write-up. The story runs thus:

One day, St George rode up to the heathen city of Sylene in Lybia, where he found the citizens in great distress. A neighbouring dragon had forced them to

surrender two sheep each day for its dinner, and when the sheep gave out, two of their children; and now they were about to sacrifice the King's daughter, dressed as if for her wedding. St George encountered the little party by a stagnant lake, where the dragon lived, and persuaded the sobbing Princess to tell him why she was so miserable. At that moment the dragon appeared, looking inexpressibly revolting. The Saint charged, and drove his spear into the gaping mouth. To everyone's amazement, he tumbled the monster over and over. Then St George borrowed the Princess' girdle, tied it round the dragon's neck, and persuaded her to lead it back to Sylene herself. The sight of her approaching with the befuddled dragon on its makeshift lead emptied the town. When the inhabitants timidly crept back, St George promised to behead the dragon if they would all believe in Jesus Christ and be baptised.

It was a most effective form of evangelism, for everybody said 'yes' at once. So 15,000 people were baptised, and four carts were commissioned to remove the dragon's body. St George thus became a symbol

of the war against evil, and is usually portrayed trampling the dragon of sin under his horse's hoofs. The Crusaders had a vision of him helping them against the Saracens at Antioch, during the first Crusade, and so brought the story of St George back with them from Palestine. Presently England put herself under the protection of the Saint. His day was declared a holiday in 1222. A red cross on a white field is the flag of St George.

April 25th **Mark (d circa 74)**

Mark, the son of Mary, whose home in Jerusalem became a place of rest for Jesus and his 12 apostles, is considered the traditional author of the second gospel. He is also usually identified as the young man, described in Mark 14.51, who followed Christ after his arrest and then escaped capture by leaving his clothes behind.

Papias, in 130, said that in later years Mark became Peter's interpreter. If so, then this close friendship would have been how Mark gathered so much information about Jesus' life. Peter referred to him affectionately as his 'son'.

April, 2005

Mark was also a companion to Paul on his journeys. When Paul was held captive at Rome, Mark was with him, helping him. Mark's Gospel, most likely written in Italy, perhaps in Rome, is the earliest account we have of the life of Jesus. Early in the 9th century Mark's body was brought to Venice, whose patron he became, and there it has remained to this day. The symbol of Mark as an evangelist, the lion, is much in evidence at Venice.

An after-Easter prayer

Don't leave our Lord amidst the lilies
Within a hallowed sphere
Don't praise him only in his temple
In Easter hymn and prayer...
Keep him beside you through
The business of ordinary days,
In the common place encounters
Along the humdrum ways.
Our Master told us very simply
What He would have us do....
He taught us: "Love one another
Even as I love you."

Elsie Campbell



THE FRAUEN KIRCHE IN DRESDEN

Part 4

60th Anniversaries

February 13 was the 60th anniversary of the fire-bombing of Dresden and I was privileged to represent the British Dresden Trust at events in the city on that day. In the full glare of TV and radio, I laid flowers on behalf of the people of the United Kingdom at the Cenotaph in the wooded cemetery where all the ashes and remains of the 30,000 are interred. Our Ambassador laid a wreath alongside on behalf of the Government. A truly reflective morning.

Back in the city centre the completed Frauenkirche gleamed splendidly in the winter sunshine. Passers-by, tourists, journalists and cameramen paused in awe.

60 may be an arbitrary number to a mathematician, but there has been a special poignancy about

the moving D-Day ceremonies on the Normandy beaches last summer and the 60th anniversary of the relief of the concentration camp at Auschwitz and reminders of the horrible suffering in the Holocaust. In August we shall ponder on Hiroshima.

Just how on earth did a Europe with such a rich cultural and religious heritage ever allow cruel death on such a scale? In the ten years since the 50th anniversaries of D-Day, Auschwitz and Dresden more written testimonies from survivors have been discovered or made afresh, all enhanced by advances in video recording. Especially in Germany and in Britain there has been diligent concern to teach young people about these events in a positive and forward-looking way. The shock for me is that in 1945 I was 5 years old and enjoying all the innocence's of childhood while Europe tore itself apart. I was hardly aware of it.

60 years on will be the last time that many survivors will be alive or well enough to attend anniversary events. A friend who was a nurse on the D-Day landings was in Normandy last summer. Marie told me of

her enormous admiration for the elderly servicemen who attended events there, many by then extremely infirm. Having made that final effort, a number of the veterans have since died.

So what of Dresden? Is the restored Frauenkirche succeeding as a symbol of harmony and peace? Will the moving events of February 13 signify for the future that peace in God which knows no enmity or violence? Will the neo-Nazi demonstrators so heavily policed out of the city centre that day retreat towards a sanguine right-wing viewpoint? Their reasoning may be far from ours but grief at deaths in Dresden is something that many of us share with them, if not the bitter anger.

We pray that the thousands of white roses worn in our lapels and the dozens of candles lit in the streets of Dresden on the anniversary evening, will be symbols of lasting peace, forgiveness, and bridge-building. We pray for Stephen Fritz, the first Pastor of the 'new' Frauenkirche, and the work of all the churches in Dresden. May God truly be with them in their mission.

John Carruthers.

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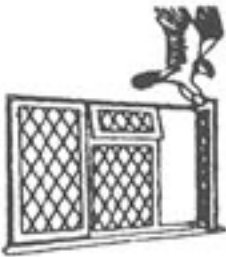
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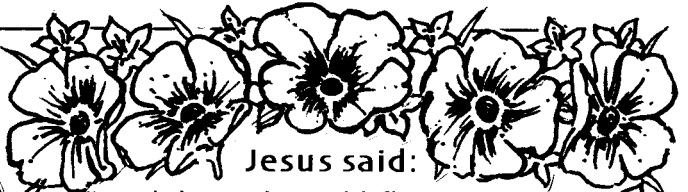
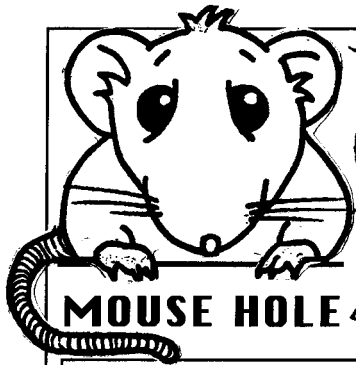
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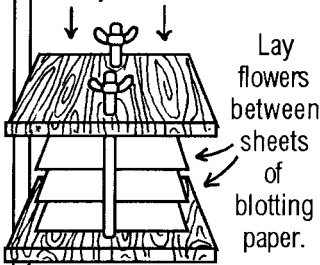


Jesus said:

"Look how the wild flowers grow: they do not work or make clothes for themselves. But I tell you that not even King Solomon with all his wealth had clothes as beautiful as one of these flowers."

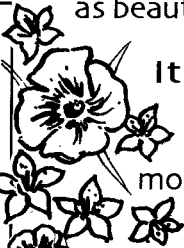
MOUSE HOLE

Preserve flowers and leaves by drying them in a flower press. Here is a simple one you can make



Lay flowers between sheets of blotting paper.

Press together between two plywood squares screwed together with wing nuts and bolts. Leave for several weeks until fully dried.



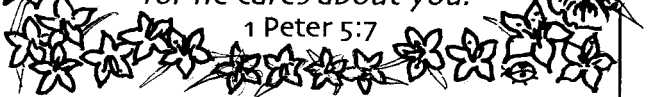
It is God who clothes the wild grass...

Won't he be all the more sure to clothe you?"

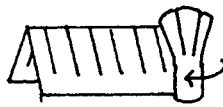
If God takes so much care with a flower how much more does he care for his people?

"Cast all your anxieties on him, for he cares about you."

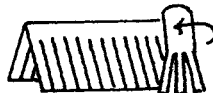
1 Peter 5:7



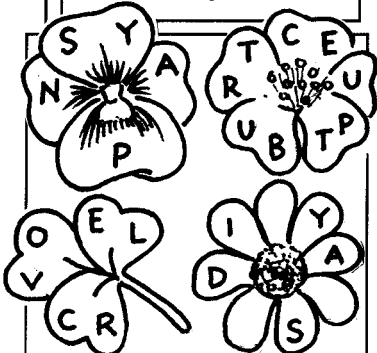
Make paper flowers using rectangles of tissue or thin paper, here are two different flowers to try:



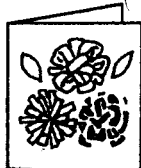
Cut down along the folded edge about 1cm apart. Roll up and stick.



Cut up along the edge 5mm apart. Roll up and stick.



Re-arrange the letters and



Glue the flower heads onto a card or attach to thin straws or sticks to make a posy.



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.

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Parish Registers for February 2005

Baptism

27th Eleanor Carys Bowdler daughter of Gareth & Catherine Bowdler
52 Quarry Lane, Christleton.

"We welcome you to the Lords Family"

The Funeral Service.

4th Emily Florence Mary Lowe "The Nook" 2 Manor Drive Great Boughton.
4th Kenneth Leigh Powell Watergate House, Crawfords Walk. (Burial of Ashes)
9th Ronald Vincent Ashley 23 Littleton Lane, Littleton.
19th John Beatty 69 Whitchurch Road, Boughton. (Burial of Ashes)
21st Audrey May Shone Inglenook 6 Brown Heath Road, Christleton.
25th Audrey May Shone (Burial of Ashes)

"Rest eternal grant unto them"

Offertories.

February	Cash	CSE	2005	2004
6th	252.64	698.50	951.14	817.10
13th	198.65	750.50	949.65	850.04
20th	132.77	565.50	698.27	868.37
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Totals			£ 3,389.67	£3,274.42

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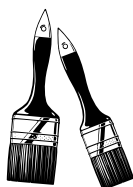
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