

St. James'

PARISH MAGAZINE

www.christleton.org.uk



December 2010

35p

Countdown to Christmas

Wed 1 10.45 am United Communion - Revd Gill Hibbert - followed by refreshments

Fri 3 6.30 pm Choir Practice

NB: Last date for contribution to January Parish Magazine to Janet Milton (335469). Earlier if possible. You can attach your Word Document and e-mail to: christletonmag@hotmail.co.uk

Sun 5 8.00 am Holy Communion - Order 2 - Revd Canon Chris Samuels

10.45 am Holy Communion - Order 1 - Revd Canon Chris Samuels

10.45 am Sunday School - Parish Hall

12.00 noon Baptism of Benjamin Harry Ruston

The Crew Youth Group Christmas Outing

6.30 pm Evensong - Dr Wayne Morris - followed by refreshment

Prayer Link Road: Tarvin Road & Brickfield Lane

Neighbourhood Link: Roger Bellamy, Nigel Seddon, Huw Morgan

Mon 6 10.45 am Holy Communion at Tarvin Court Nursing Home

11.20 am Holy Communion at Oaklands Nursing Home

Wed 8 10.45 am Holy Communion - Revd Gill Hibbert - followed by refreshments

11.30 am Holy Communion at Birch Heath Lodge Nursing Home

7.00 pm GAP Prayer Meeting at Gill Hibbert's house - all invited & welcome

Fri 10 6.30 pm Choir Practice

Sun 12 8.00 am Holy Communion - Revd Brian Harris - Order 1

10.45 am Family 'Toy' Service - Dr Wayne Morris - followed by refreshments

You are invited to bring wrapped Christmas gifts of toys (labelled with the appropriate age and sex) to be given to less fortunate children in the Chester area

6.00 pm The Crew Youth Group Christmas Party with mini Crew - Parish Hall

6.30 pm Evensong - Dr Wayne Morris

Prayer Link: The Park

Neighbourhood Link: Margaret Kingston

- Mon 13 2.00 pm Mothers' Union - Parish Hall
- Wed 15 10.45 am Holy Communion - Revd Canon Peris Williams
followed by refreshments
- Thur 16 2.00 pm Primary School Christmas Carol Service
7.00 pm Primary School Christmas Carol Service
- Fri 17 6.30 pm Choir Practice
- Sun 19 8.00 am Holy Communion - Revd Dr Mark Hart - Order 1**
10.45 am Holy Communion - Revd Canon Peris Williams
10.45 am Sunday School Christmas Party - Parish Hall
6.30 pm **FESTIVAL OF CAROLS AND CEREMONY OF LIGHT –**
Revd Canon Peris Williams
Prayer Link Road: The Square
Neighbourhood Link: Liz Evans
- Wed 22 10.45 am Holy Communion - Revd Brian Harris - followed by refreshments
- Fri 24 CHRISTMAS EVE**
7.00 pm Carols round the Tree - Revd Canon Peris Williams
11.30 pm Midnight Communion - Bishop of Chester the Rt Rev Dr Peter Forster
- Sat 25 CHRISTMAS DAY**
8.00 am Holy Communion - Revd Canon Chris Samuels
10.45 am Christmas Family Service - Revd Canon Peris Williams & Dr Wayne Morris
- Sun 26 10.45 am Holy Communion - The Revd Gill Hibbert**
Prayer Link: Toll Bar Road
Neighbourhood Link: Valmai Griffiths



Cover Design

Thanks to Phil Hodges for his excellent cover for the December Magazine. His drawing illustrates the nativity scene from one of our Charles Kempe Windows in the south aisle.

See page 21 for a list of Christmas Services at St. James' Church

The Bishop`s Christmas Letter to St. James

As I write, the post of Rector of Christleton has been advertised, and we hope that a new priest will be selected during December. However, it is more important to find the right person, rather than rush a decision, so I and your parish representatives will concentrate on getting the appointment right.

It's a poignant time for a parish, after a long and fruitful ministry, as you await your new priest. Christmas, too, has an intrinsic poignancy about it. Why is this?

At its heart, Christmas is about who we are: transient and fragile creatures of flesh and blood, destined one day to die, but equally those amongst whom the King of the Universe chose to be born. Christmas is about the birth of God – and therefore about our birth.

When we watch a Nativity Play, we see children taking the places of the original shepherds and wise men, as well as the central players of Jesus, Mary, Joseph and the attendant angels and animals. We too, of any and every age, are invited to take our place in the Christmas story, carried along to Bethlehem. Above all, we have our place in the manger because, in Jesus, God takes our life, our flesh and blood, our mortality, into his eternally rich life.

This is the promise and hope, and joy, of Christmas. This is the bright light which shines in the darkness, and especially in the darkness of our lives. That is why Christmas can magnify and sharpen our emotions, and yet also transform these into a new light, the light of God's love, which is Jesus Christ.

Christmas often brings back memories, of times long past, of formative events in our lives. As the splendid carol puts it: 'the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight'. Christmas can be an especially difficult time for those who have lost close relatives or friends, or faced family difficulties, over the past year. Do look out for anyone struggling with these issues.

We also look beyond Christmas to the New Year – and the institution of a new Rector!

I am looking forward to being with you at your Midnight Communion – and to the institution of a new Rector in the New Year.

I wish everyone connected with the parish every blessing for your celebration of Christmas.

+ Peter

Growth Action Planning

The GAP process is an initiative of Bishops Peter and Keith.

The primary aim of Growth Action Planning is to help each church in the Diocese to focus on what God longs for it to be in 5 years time. It is their hope that the GAP process should encourage the whole local church to engage in this process.

One year ago, members of the congregation came to together to discuss what we did well at St James and which areas needed our attention. At the end of the morning we had decided to focus on 3 areas for the first year of the GAP process.

These were

To increase opportunities for spiritual growth

To enhance our worship

To be a more welcoming church

It was our hope that by focussing our prayers, resources and energies into these 3 areas we might facilitate growth in our spiritual lives and growth in our congregation.

One year on, this is a summary of what we have done:

Spiritual growth: It was felt that in order to support the GAP process as a whole, a prayer group should be formed to ensure that all our actions were underpinned by prayer. This has commenced and meets regularly. Everyone is welcome to attend either regularly or on an Ad Hoc basis. A questionnaire has been given to all members of the congregation in an effort to understand what the needs were for individuals in relation to spiritual growth. To back this up, some members of the GAP project group have spoken to people face to face and this is an on-going process. Coming from the questionnaires and interviews a house group has commenced and it is hoped that these will continue on a regular basis. More people to lead these groups, however, are needed

Enhancing worship: it was felt

that worship which is at the centre of our faith should be more accessible to people of all ages and at all stages of their Christian journey. A number of initiatives were suggested to facilitate this;

Congregational psalters are now available and there has been some congregational practice to enable us all to get more out of our worship through music

Communion cubes and books for children are now available to make the Eucharist more accessible for young families.

The Crew now attend and participate in the evening communion service. The Sunday school are joining us once a month at the end of our Parish Communion to receive a blessing at the altar and to share with us what they have done in Sunday school

Welcome: whilst it was felt that we are quite good at welcoming people, we know there is room for improvement. A number of initiatives had already begun before the GAP process e.g. the welcome cards and the new notice boards. Moving on from that, we have welcomed some new people to the role of 'sides-person', including some younger members of our congregation. In November we held an evening social event for all sides-persons giving us a chance to get to know one another better and share ideas on how we can be more welcoming and integrate new members to worship at St James.

Have you noticed a difference? What do you think of it so far? What ideas have you got for the future?

It is vital that everyone feels involved in our vision for the future.

To help us with feedback and gives us suggestions on how we should move forward into year 2 there will be a box at the back of church. Alternatively you could discuss this with the Church Wardens or other members of the PCC

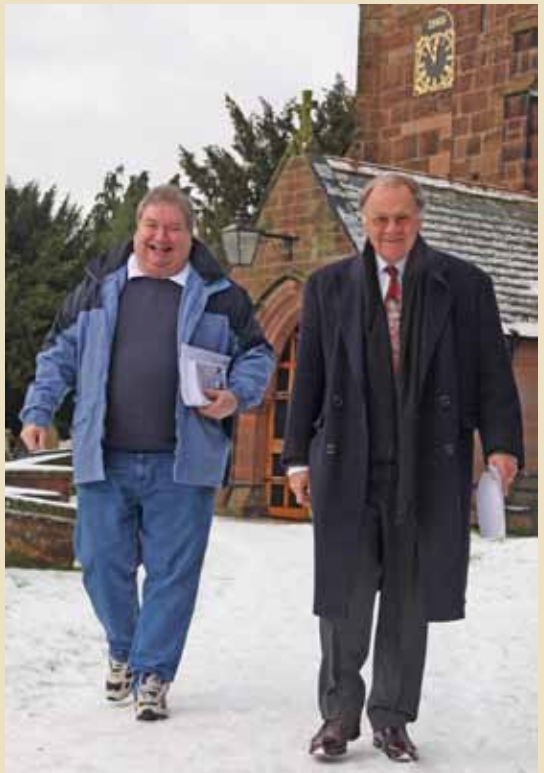
Finally we would ask you that you remember the GAP process in your prayers. Below is the GAP prayer which you may like to use as part of your daily prayer:

*Lord Jesus Christ, you command and inspire
your church to make disciples:
May our church become a joyful and vibrant
Community of welcome, worship and service,
Spreading hope to those around us
And attracting others to the fire of your love;
May your spirit be at work through our Growth Action Planning.
Helping us to catch a vision for your church
And to serve you faithfully,
To your glory and honour.
Amen*

Gill Hibbert, Berenice Hogg and Tina Lightfoot

Keith Smalls & John Pearson Churchwardens

A special thank you at this time must go to Keith & John for all the additional work they are undertaking on behalf of the Parish during the Interegnum. They are in fact responsible for everything that happens during this period, co ordinating so many things that are involved in the smooth running of the church, and doing this in conjunction with the Wayne, Perris, Gill, visiting clergy, and all the leaders of various church groups. The huge responsibility for the selection of the new Rector also falls on their shoulders, working in conjunction with the Bishop. Thanks also to the many other key people in the efficient running of church affairs at this time, including Janet Milton, David Ellis, Betty Dunning, Berenice Hogg, Steve Roberts and others who face increased workloads during this period. Thank you to all who are involved in continuing the work of the Parish during this time of Interegnum.



The Fleet Family Thanks

The Church at St James' was recently delighted to receive a most generous donation from the Fleet Family to be used in memory of their parents Ronald and Hazel Fleet. Their gift has enabled us to purchase and install a polycarbonate covering for the protection of our stained glass windows. In my view many churches have lost the glory of their windows by having to use metal grills as their protection. However this generous gift from the Fleet Family enables all our windows to be seen at their best, with enhanced light coming through this new protective layer. As I have said on many previous occasions, St James' has one of the finest collections of stained glass by the Victorian glass artist Charles E Kempe, which enhances our church building and provides stories through the illustration of events from biblical times. The new window protection, was dedicated by Dr Wayne Morris before our Harvest Service on October 10th in the presence of Chris & Jeff Fleet and their sister Janet Palmer.



NATURE NOTES

David
Cummings



What a glorious Autumn we've had this year. I don't think I've ever seen such glorious colours in and around the village. Everywhere you look there has been a myriad of golden colours, and there have been some wonderful photographic opportunities. The Village Green with Jim's oak standing out looking towards the church has been particularly beautiful. There are huge numbers of berries and fruits in the hedgerows, and our first winter visitors arriving from Scandinavia early in October, the redwings, tucked in voraciously to these. Nuthatches have also been very vociferous and I'm told that there have been family parties in some gardens around the canal. Pied and grey wagtails have also been in good numbers, with as many



as twenty being counted on the High School field. A kingfisher has also appeared regularly on posts around Rowton Bridge, posing and posturing for watchers. Further along the canal at Rowton we've had the unusual sight and sound of ravens regularly flying over. Their sound is unmistakable and they are easily the largest member of the crow family. Usually a bird of mountains and moorlands, they have nested on the Cathedral in Chester in recent times, and a pair nest on the crags at Beeston Castle, but these regular sightings suggest that they might have a breeding site much nearer. The swans and cygnets are still together at different times of the day, but the cygnets are now much more independent and are being encouraged to break away from the strong family bond. I can also report that the wintering flock of wild swans from Iceland, Greenland and Russia have begun arriving on the Dee Marshes, much earlier than usual. I counted two groups of 55 and 25 last Saturday 6th Nov on the Inner and Outer marshes respectively. This possibly indicates that the weather is already much colder than normal in their breeding grounds, and together with the early arrival of large numbers of waxwings as reported on Autumn Watch suggests we might also be in for some cold spells this winter.

Stop Press.

David & Mary Prince saw two rare Scandinavian Waxwings in Christleton on Thursday 11th November. So keep your eyes open for more of these exciting visitors.



Redwing

Jim Partington Memorial Talk 2010

Thank you to all who supported the evening on Pembrokeshire in the Parish Hall on October 16th when £400 was raised towards the refurbishment of children's play area at The King George VI Playing Fields in the village.

Newstead Brass

Members of Newstead Brass, an award winning Championship Band from Nottingham gave an excellent concert at St James' on Saturday October 23rd to a large audience. The



concert gave the band enroute to a National Competition at Prestatyn, an ideal warm up for the following day's event. The thirty strong group of men and women led by Duncan Beckley gave rousing performances of brass band music from swing to blues, with a liberal sprinkling of music from well known films and shows. During their varied programme three members of the band gave wonderfully sensitive interpretations of solo items with cornet, soprano cornet and Euphonium. However all members of the band performed superbly, and had the audience and church rocking to pieces like Don't Stop me Now or Pirates of the Caribbean. This thoroughly enjoyable evening raised £525 towards the refurbishment of the Choir stalls area of the church. DC

Cake Sales for the Leprosy Mission.

Vera Wood thanks everyone for their contribution to the Cake Stall held to raise money to feed students studying in India to aid the work of the Leprosy Mission. The sales of cakes on the day together with a donation from Betty Dunning from other tea funds at church raised £128 for the work of the Mission.

Cake Sales for new Toilets!

The Crew Youth Group at St James' have begun supporting an enterprise to provide good clean sanitation for disadvantaged people in Africa, in a unique way. The project inspired by the work of Cord and Tearfund, aims to improve the lot of people in the war torn country of Burundi, and in this case of the Giharo Commune of Rutana Province. The aim is to twin your own toilet at home, work or school with a latrine in Burundi. It costs £60 to construct one latrine, which will serve six people and in the past year 870 latrines have been built to serve 5,220 people. You can easily see how such a simple scheme, which takes such little effort from us, can provide instant reward for people in need and give them good clean safe sanitation. Congratulations to Catriona and The Crew who in just one fund raising effort raised the marvellous sum of £72.34

Village Teas

You will be interested to hear that the grand sum of £917. 54 was taken during the four months June – September last. After expenses were deducted cheques were sent to the Chile earthquake appeal for £184.46 and to Haiti earthquake/floods appeal for £553. 36.

At the recent meeting of Churches Together in Christleton it was felt that the extra burden of a cholera outbreak in Haiti warranted a 25/75 split of the money rather than a 50/50 divide. Cheques were sent on 11 November 2010.

Thank you to everyone who participated in this Village function and we shall meet again on 10 March next year to prepare for the summer opening again. We shall look forward to seeing you all then.

Ann Collier Janet Milton Sheila Roberts



Christleton Parish Hall

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

**The Hall has wheelchair access
and specially adapted facilities.**

Please contact the Booking Secretary,

Janet Milton 01244 335469

**Please telephone between 10.00am and 8.00pm
Monday to Saturday**

VACANCY!

Computer literate? – Your Magazine needs you!

An opportunity has arisen for someone willing to take over the role of magazine compiler. The major qualifications for this rewarding volunteer work are adequate/good computer skills, coupled with a suitable computer – as well as a flair for “publishing”.

For the last 14 years we have been extremely privileged to have the unstinting and expert services of Richard Nicholson to compile the Parish Magazine. Richard took us from the steam-age of a hand-stuck layout to the professional world of desk-top publishing.

Richard uses the computer program “Adobe Indesign” (available for MAC or PC) to set the layout of St James’ Parish Magazine. After 14 x 12 magazines, Richard unsurprisingly feels the need to pass on the baton to a new compiler as soon as possible.

Richard has kindly offered to give whatever guidance or tuition is needed to enable the new compiler to take over. If you would like to consider this rare opportunity to join our magazine team, please do not hesitate to contact Richard (336004) directly to find out more – or speak with your editor David Bull (332234).

People in the News

Golden Wedding

Many congratulations to Pat & Jim Hawkes
who celebrate their Golden Wedding on 17th December

Congratulations

also to May Cummings 90 years old on December 7th

The Green Man



I first came across the "Green Man" when taking part in the Knutsford May Fair with the Maypole Team from the Primary School in the 1980's. The Green Man headed the procession through the town, and then appeared when we



were giving a dance display at the Old Hall at Tatton Park. Since then I have come across sculptures and designs of a variety of styles, in cathedrals, churches and gardens. For example Ely Cathedral in Cambridgeshire has over 64 Green Men hidden in architectural tracery all around the cathedral. Although many parts of the building were destroyed at the time of the dissolution of the monasteries, the men doing the desecration didn't seem to want to harm the figure of the

Green Man. They clearly had some important significance to these early church vandals. Nearby St Mary's Church in Nantwich has at least six examples of Green Man in both wood and stone, some of them attributed to the architect Gilbert Scott, including a stone boss in the centre of the church roof. There are many other examples to be found in churches in Cheshire, including some on misericords, tip up seats in choir stalls where monks would have once worshipped. The carving of the Green Man figure made of wood or stone is found in many cultures around the world, in places like India and Nepal for example, and seems to relate to a fertility symbol, a sign of rebirth or renaissance, representing the cycle of growth each spring. The face is almost always male, but can be carved in many forms. The most common being a foliate head covered almost completely in leaves. Sometimes the representation can be seen pulling a face like a gargoyle, and occasionally is in the form of a fountain. Related characters appear in plays. John Barleycorn, Robin Goodfellow, Puck, even the Green Knight from Sir Garwain and the Green Knight, all have impish behaviour at times serving to antagonise and yet also be spirits for good. As Mike Harding writes in his Little Book of The Green Man, we know him without understanding him. At the recent Marbury Flower Festival near Whitchurch, floral artists had made a representation of The Green Man in a tree in the churchyard, complementing the one staring down from the stonework on the outside of the church. In the Chester Midsummer Festival parade the Green Man always walks through the city



behind a group of mythical giants and dragons. He is submerged in foliage and greenery and represents an important figure from the middle ages, like the Green Man at the head of the Knutsford procession mentioned earlier. However the Green Man seems to have made an appearance much earlier than this, as Osiris Lord of the dead in Egyptian Culture from over 4,000 years ago is regarded as a corn deity, and is commonly represented with a green face and representing vegetation, rebirth and resurrection.

Ref. A little Book of The Green Man. Mike Harding

Internet Wikipedia - Green Man.

WHAT'S ON THIS MONTH

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Held in the Parish Hall from
10.45 am – 12.00 noon each Sunday during
term-time, except when Family Service is
held at St James. For further details please
contact

Berenice Hogg, 336779.

CHRISTLETON METHODIST CHURCH

We meet for Informal Prayers and a Simple
Lunch on the first Thursday of each month
at 12 noon. All welcome. There is no charge
for the lunch but a donation to cover costs
would be appreciated

CHRISTLETON WEDNESDAY GROUP FESTIVE LUNCH

on

Wednesday 1st December,
at Christleton Parish Hall,
12.00 noon.

Tickets £9, available from members.
(includes a glass of wine)

In aid of the
Hospice of the Good Shepherd

CHRISTLETON GARDENING CLUB

Monday 13th December
Christleton Methodist Hall
7.30 pm

Film - Gertrude Jekyll
All welcome



CHRISTLETON W.I.

Meets on the second Wednesday of the month at
7.15 pm in the Parish Hall

Next Meeting

8th December

Christmas Meeting

CHESTER FLOWER CLUB

Meetings are held in Christleton Parish Hall on
the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 1.30 pm.

Details of any events can be obtained from
the Secretary, Trish Pollard

CAROL SINGING

Friday, December 17th
7.30 pm

Gillian Brackenbury invites you to join her
and St James Church Choir to sing carols
round the Xmas tree in her home

Refreshments £5

Proceeds to choir funds

Sunday 12 December 7.30 pm CHESTER BACH SINGERS A VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS

Tattenhall Parish Church
Tickets £12 including seasonal
refreshments (concessions £11, students
& children £5). CBS box office: 0151 677
3137 Chester Tourist Information Centre:
0845 647 7868

Saturday 18 December 7.30 pm CHESTER BACH SINGERS A VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS

St Mary's Handbridge, Chester
Tickets £12 including seasonal
refreshments (concessions £11, students &
children £5) CBS box office: 0151 677 3137
Chester Tourist Information Centre:
0845 647 7868

Services at St James

Christmas 2010

12 December 10.45 am

Family 'Toy' Service - Dr Wayne Morris - followed by refreshments
You are invited to bring wrapped Christmas gifts of toys (labelled with the appropriate age and sex) to be given to less fortunate children in the Chester area

19 December 6.30 pm

FESTIVAL OF CAROLS AND CEREMONY OF LIGHT
Revd Canon Peris Williams

24 December CHRISTMAS EVE

7.00 pm Carols round the Tree - Revd Canon Peris Williams
11.30 pm Midnight Communion – Bishop of Chester the Rt Rev
Dr Peter Forster

25 December CHRISTMAS DAY

8.00 am Holy Communion - Revd Canon Chris Samuels
10.45 am Christmas Family Service
Revd Canon Peris Williams & Dr Wayne Morris

26 December

10.45 am Holy Communion - The Revd Gill Hibbert



REMINISCENCES AND RE-TRACING STEPS

My old Grammar School (Hindley & Abram) in Lancashire recently held a re-union for those who entered between 1860 – 1960! (Incidentally, John Carruthers mother taught there for a while). Before going to Aspull, where it was being held, we called to see my old home that was a shop and is now a house again and decided to have a look at the Church where we were married 60 years ago. We didn't expect it to be open, as is usually the case these days, but they were having a coffee morning and we were welcomed in, and given scones and tea and made a fuss of. Someone dashed off to get the Marriage Register, found the page, 78, showing our entry for 16 September 1950 and promptly gave us a photocopy of it. Meanwhile the rain poured down as it had done on that wedding day.

Hindley Chapel was built in 1641 in troublesome times moving towards Civil War. Whether through rising population, dissatisfaction with the distance from the Parish Church three miles away in Wigan, whose rector was also Bishop of Chester, the inhabitants of Hindley and Abram got together to build their own chapel. It was rebuilt in 1766. Oak timber was shipped via Liverpool and timber was also used from the old padded and fitted out with kneelers. Workmen were paid at the going rate of 1s.2d per day and supplemented by free ale - Church building was thirsty work. Nikolaus Pevsner in his record of the buildings of England speaks of All Saints "this delightful brick chapel" commenting favourably on the exterior and where, in church buildings then, the pulpit mattered more than the communion table. The three-decker pulpit had the curate or guest speaker on top, his assistant on the middle and the clerk on the bottom.

The Church had its High Days, such as the Wakes weeks and also its low days. Such a day was in November 1868 just after an explosion at a nearby colliery when over sixty people were killed. Forty two of them were buried at All Saints. A contemporary account brings out all the pathos of the occasion – "It was a very cold day, chill, with a foggy atmosphere and heavy rain. The paths of the churchyard were lined with spectators and they spread over the rest of the ground. Hearse

followed hearse and soon after 3 o'clock some 15 to 20 bodes had arrived at the church gate ... then after being carried into Church were carried outside. It was 7 o'clock and dark before the last body was interred." Seventeen were aged between 11 and 16, with several cases of father and son being buried together. The incumbent of the time was so upset that he could not take the service, which was left to his curate, and was so ill that he was unable to minister for some months afterwards.

The chapel stood in fields of wild flowers and skylarks when I was young but now the land is built over with houses and shops. However we were glad to be able to visit.

Margaret and Alf Croston

CHRISTMAS CARDS and CHRISTMAS CHARITIES

Do you ever think that the giving of Christmas cards has become a little out of hand? Perhaps you have even considered that the cost might be better directed? Of course, no thoughts expressed here preclude the sending of your own Christmas cards.

We are not holding the usual pre-Christmas Charities fund-raising event this year. Would you consider reducing the number of cards you give to friends at St James and donating what you save to our three Christmas Charities? This is something that happens at a number of Churches known to us and appears to be very successful.

A board will be placed in the Lady Chapel at the beginning of December for the purpose of pinning cards. A gift of cash or cheque (the latter made out to St James Church, Christleton), should be put in an envelope marked Christmas Charities and given to the Treasurer or either of the Church Wardens. We hope you will consider this suggestion.

Jan and David Bowden on behalf of the PCC

Last date for contributions for Parish Magazine – 2011

January 2011	by Friday	3 December 2010
February	by Friday	14 January
March	by Friday	11 February
April	by Friday	11 March
May	by Friday	8 April
June	by Friday	13 May
July	by Friday	10 June
August	by Friday	15 July
September	by Friday	12 August
October	by Friday	9 September
November	by Friday	14 October
December	by Friday	11 November
January 2012	by Friday	2 December 2011

Date Magazine available for collection from Church

January 2011	available	19 December 2010
February	available	30 January
March	available	27 February
April	available	27 March
May	available	24 April
June	available	29 May
July	available	26 June
August	available	31 July
September	available	28 August
October	available	25 September
November	available	30 October
December	available	27 November
January 2012	available	18 December 2011



The coming of the Messianic Kingdom

During this season of Advent we have been considering the messages of the prophets of the Old Testament and what relevance they have for us as we prepare ourselves for our Lord's coming. At times, I'm afraid it has been somewhat grim.

More often than not, the prophets and their messages do not make easy reading. As God's messengers they seem to be all too often berating the people of Israel as a parent berates a particularly truculent child. One gets the picture of a people who want it all. They want their rights but are not prepared to accept their responsibilities and while they're about it, just in case they've got it wrong, they'll worship a few other gods as well, just to hedge their bets! All in all, the best you can say about the Israelites was that they were human; all things considered they're not so very different from us despite all our sophistication and so called understanding.

And so with Christmas and all the wonderful celebrations which come with that festival we hear the message that all the prophets want us to hear. The reason why they wanted the Israelites to turn away from sin, to get into a right relationship with God and remain faithful to their covenant with him is because God has promised that he will send a Messiah, a saviour. There will be a second Eden, a second Adam to the fight.

Isaiah's description of the Messiah describes God's son in Kingly terms;

Wonderful counsellor refers to the King's great wisdom

Mighty God can be better translated as 'Divine Warrior' and refers to the king's supernatural skill and strength in battle.

Everlasting father or 'Father for ever' reflects the hope that the king will look after his people even as a father looks after his children
Prince of Peace indicates that the king will bring peace, prosperity and well-being to his people.

Jeremiah prophesies

'The days are coming declares the Lord,
when I will raise up for David, a righteous branch,
a king who will reign wisely and do what is just and right in the land
In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety.
This is the name by which he will be called:
The Lord Our Righteous Saviour

The prophet Zechariah also describes God as a King;

Rejoice greatly, Daughter Zion! Shout Daughter Jerusalem!
See, your King comes to you, righteous and having salvation,
Lowly and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey

From a lowly birth to a lowly entrance into Jerusalem, our Lord and King comes to us.

No Israelite king ever fulfilled this wonderful promise but 800 years after the prophesies of Isaiah, Jeremiah and Zechariah, Jesus was to fulfil it perfectly.

Just as with the Israelites, leaders and rulers throughout the world today continue to disappoint, to let us down. They renege on their promises and show themselves to be weak and corruptible. There is a suggestion that Shakespeare wrote Henry V not as a true reflection of the actual king but as an example of the attributes of great leadership, so disillusioned was he of the so called leaders of his day and recent history.

What we read in the prophets is that we need not put our trust in earthly rulers who so often let us down. Hope in the saving work of Jesus Christ, a king whose reign is both universal and eternal, provides us with the necessary encouragement to improve conditions here on earth until our righteous king comes once more.

Like the Israelites, we can behave like spoilt and truculent children and we need to guard against such behaviour but a childlike approach in our preparation for the coming of our Lord would be no bad thing. It is always a joy to see children swept up in the wonderment of Christmas, their anticipation on Christmas Eve unable to believe that at long last the day has arrived when they can hang up their stockings and put the sherry and mince pies out for Father Christmas. They accept without question that baby Jesus was born in a stable, that he was God's gift to us and that's why we get presents. But we are adults, Christmas arrives all too quickly, there's no time to do all that has to be done, we no longer believe in Father Christmas and giving presents is a drain on our credit card (but we'll worry about that in when the bill arrives) and anyway, just how do we explain the virgin birth?

We don't!

We listen to the glorious words of Isaiah full of hope, joy and promise. We allow ourselves to get wrapped up in the mystery of the incarnation. In faith, we accept without question that God has remained faithful to us and that his Kingdom will come. Not just on Christmas Eve but each and every minute of our lives let us say with the eager anticipation of child

My heart is prepared so come into my life Lord Jesus, come.

Christmas Greetings from Peter and Fiona



As you will not be receiving a Christmas card from us this year in the December Parish Magazine, we hope you will accept this as a personal message from us to wish you a very happy Christmas. We shall miss being with you all at Christmas, but we shall be thinking of you, and pray that our worship will join with yours at St James to bring us all the peace and joy of the birth of the Christ child.

ON PHILANTHROPY

According to the dictionary, to be philanthropic is to love one's fellow man and to be benevolent and humane towards them; a kind quality to which all individuals may aspire. Yet we have grown to consider the word 'philanthropy' as a special kind of big and generous giving by companies and corporate bodies. In the case of companies these are usually funds drawn from their operating profits.

With the global size of many businesses these days, one could easily be sceptical. For a huge company, is the giving away of large sums of money to social projects or charitable causes generous giving rooted in Christian values, or is such corporate philanthropy even self-indulgent? Could it even be seen as a subtle form of marketing or advertising?

For the private person who considers the limits of his generosity giving modest donations to the charity box or special appeal, it would be easy to be sceptical. Such actions of philanthropy by wealthy enterprises hardly hurt them, we might say, therefore it can hardly be a sacrifice.

Yet until the vast company mergers that gained momentum in the 1960's and 1970's, philanthropy was easy to identify. It was basically a deed honestly, compassionately, and expansively thought out. Moreover companies doing it were considered just and of good report over many years. In Britain and in parts of Europe philanthropy and corporate giving on a grand scale was rooted in the Victorian era, even earlier.

It sometimes took the form of companies acting mainly for the benefit of their employees and their families. Fitting that bill were the Cadbury and Rowntree chocolate manufacturers of Birmingham and York who built settlements near their factories at Bournville and New Earswick respectively. They did not stop there. Schools were sponsored, sports clubs created, facilities for the elderly were provided and the definition of company beneficiary extended beyond the employee to dependents and grandparents. Salts of Saltaire did the same in Bradford for textile workers.

Overseas, chocolate, chemical and oil companies sourced many of their raw materials in under-developed parts of the world. That derived from the days of the British Empire; a time of enlightened paternalism where most of those enterprises along with government agencies tried to improve the lot of local communities. This applied particularly to rural areas of Africa and Asia containing palm oil, cacao, tea and coffee plantations. The same was true for more industrial settlements around mineral workings, chemical plants and oil refineries.

Whether in every case such action was genuinely philanthropic and not in self-interest was sometimes debatable but doubtless much good was done. I was reminded of these issues when a friend drew my attention to the work of the Bangladeshi economist, Muhammad Yunus and his concept of 'Social Business' outlined in his new book.

Reading the earlier chapters, I thought that his ideas were just philanthropy all over again. But having grown up in poverty and experiencing the Bangladeshi famine of 1974 as he graduated from university there, he developed a new concept. He set up the Grameen Bank to lend small sums and develop self-reliance among the people around him and he has spread this practice to other parts of the developing world.

Yunus' definition of social business takes philanthropy even beyond the Victoria ideal. He has successfully persuaded big businesses to set up non profit making off shoots where money is given to local people for them to start their own businesses for everyone's mutual benefit in the neighbourhood.

For example, a small farmer adept at repairing his small tractor would be given tools and even some second-hand tractors to set up a garage selling and maintaining agricultural machinery. In due course the profits are his and he feels respected and recognised. This enlightened philanthropy has spread to several parts of the world and won the Nobel Peace Prize for Yunus in 2006.

John Carruthers

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.

AVAILABLE AT ST JAMES CHURCH

"Loop" system, for the hearing impaired
Large print books for the visually impaired & large print weekly notice sheets

Easy to follow Communion Service Books for children

Access for wheelchairs

Please ask any of the Churchwardens or Sidesmen if you need assistance in any way.

CHRISTLETON UNDER-FIVES

COMMUNITY PLAYGROUP

Registered Charity 1022817

Christleton Under Fives is an established pre school playgroup attracting children from a wide area. It enjoys good and well founded links with Christleton Primary School. Children from the age of 2 1/2 years until school age are accepted. Please contact the Supervisor, Carole Penny, on 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.

READERS

Please remember to support our magazine advertisers and mention where you have read their name.

MAGAZINE CONTRIBUTIONS

Please ensure all items for inclusion in the **January edition** are sent to Janet Milton (335469), as soon as possible **BEFORE Friday 3rd December** or you can e-mail this to
christletonmag@hotmail.co.uk

MAGAZINE DISTRIBUTORS

The **January** magazine will be available for collection from Church on
Sunday 26th December

Why teenagers worry

One teenager was talking to another, "I'm really concerned. My father slaves away at his job so I'll never want for anything, and down the years has set aside thousands of pounds so that I can go to college. And my mother spends every day washing and ironing and cleaning up after me. She even takes care of me when I'm sick."

The other teenager said: "Sounds perfect – so what are you worried about?"

The first teenager replied: "I'm afraid that one day they might try to escape."

CONTRIBUTORS

The best way to send contributions to St. James' Parish Magazine is to e-mail the document.

Attach your Word document and e-mail it to

christletonmag@hotmail.co.uk

Parish Registers for October 2010

Holy Baptism

- 3rd Amber Sophia Crumbleholme daughter of Bradley Crumbleholme & Hannah Boyle
25 Belgrave Road, Great Boughton, Chester
- 3rd Sophie Louise Holland daughter of Steven & Sarah Holland
23 Sorrell Close, Huntington, Chester

"We welcome you into the Lord's Family"

The Funeral Service

- 4th Harold Malcolm Carr Watling Court, Vicars Cross, Chester
- 15th John Thomas Huxley 25 Bridge Drive, Christleton
- 19th Audrey Margaret Williams 11 Durban Avenue, Christleton
- 22nd Bernard Roberts 5 Bretton Lane, Bretton, Clwyd

"Grant them eternal rest"

Offertories

October	Cash	CSE	2010	2009
3rd	148-24	920-70	1,068-94	943-36
10th	250-81	861-80	1,112-61	1,247-81
17th	77-13	578-30	655-43	1,151-38
24th	149-98	610-56	760-48	773-90
31st	89-50	695-50	785-00	724-70
Totals			£ 4,382-46	£ 4,840-15

"Of your own do we give you"

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	
SAINT'S DAYS	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion	

WHO'S WHO & WHAT'S WHAT

Rector:	Interregnum All baptism, weddings and appointments by arrangement with Janet Milton, 335469
Churchwardens:	John Pearson 335101 Keith Smalls 335688
Deputy Wardens	Lois Dickinson Alan McAllester
Reader	Wayne Morris 01978 263389
Verger	David Ellis 336879
Sacristan:	Betty Dunning..... 335652
Sunday School:	Berenice Hogg.....336779
Mother's Union Branch Leader	Janet Brown335785
Organist & Musical Director:	Steve Roberts815277
P. C. C. Secretary:	Brenda Bailey335034
P. C. C. Treasurer:	David Mercer336155
Stewardship Envelope:	Betty Dunning335652
Gift Aid Secretary	Nigel Seddon.....335588
Bellringers	Ian Braithwaite300565
Bellringer Vice Captains	Ian Crossan.....332280
Parish Hall Booking	Janet Milton335469
C. M. S. Secretary	Janet Brown335785
Children's Society Sec.	Lesley Morgan335088
Visiting Group:	Berenice Hogg.336779
Library	Lois Dickinson378320
Church Flowers	Olive Hammond.....336562
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