



St. James'

PARISH MAGAZINE

June 2011
www.christleton.org.uk

35p

June's Jottings

Wed	1	10.45 am	United Communion - followed by refreshments
Thur	2		United Prayer Lunch - Methodist Church
Fri	3	6.30 pm	Choir Practice
Sun	5	8.00 am 10.45 am 10.45 am 12.00 noon 2.00 pm 6.30 pm	Holy Communion - Order 2 Parish Communion -Order 1 Sunday School - Parish Hall Baptism - Louise Holloway & Jack Fernley Village Teas - Methodist Church Evensong - followed by refreshments <i>Prayer Link Road: Home Close</i> <i>Neighbourhood Link: Gertrude Wright</i>
Mon	6	10.45 am 11.20 am	Holy Communion at Tarvin Court Nursing Home Holy Communion at Oaklands Nursing Home
Wed	8	10.45 am 11.30 am	Holy Communion - followed by refreshments Holy Communion at Birch Heath Lodge Nursing Home
Fri	10	2.00 pm 6.30 pm	Wedding Blessing David Kirwan and Berenice Hogg Choir Practice
NB: Last day for contributions to July magazine, preferably earlier, to Janet Milton (335469). You can attach your Word document and e-mail to christletonmag@hotmail.co.uk			
Sat	11	1.0 pm	Wedding Thomas Healing & Sarah Coombs
Sun	12	8.00 am 10.45 am 6.00 pm	Holy Communion - Order 1 Family Service - followed by refreshments The Crew Youth Group Parish Hall

Sun	12	6.30 pm	Evensong <i>Prayer Link Road: Little Heath Road & Pearl Lane</i> <i>Neighbourhood Link: Judith Edwards & Liz Evans</i>
Mon	13	2.00 pm	Mothers' Union - Parish Hall
Wed	15	10.45 am	Holy Communion - followed by
Fri	17	6.30 pm	Choir Practice
Sun	19	8.00 am 10.45 am 10.45 am 6.00 pm 6.30 pm	Holy Communion - Order 1 Parish Communion - Order 1 Sunday School - Parish Hall The Crew Youth Group - Parish Hall Evensong <i>Prayer Link Road: Littleton Lane & the Bypass</i> <i>Neighbourhood Link: Judith Willacy</i>
Wed	22	10.45 am	Holy Communion - followed by
Fri	24	6.30 pm	Choir Practice
Sat	25		Village Fete - Theme 'Medieval'
Sun	26	8.00 am 10.45 am 10.45 am 12.00 Noon 6.00 pm 6.30 pm	Holy Communion - Order 1 Matins - followed by refreshments Sunday School - Parish Hall Baptism The Crew Youth Group - Parish Hall Evening Communion - Order 1 <i>Prayer Link: Moor Lane & Chapel Close</i> <i>Neighbourhood Link: Gwen Knight</i>
Wed	29	10.45 am	Holy Communion followed by refreshments

Dear Friends

Matthew Arnold's famous poem was the subject of a television programme I saw recently on BBC4.

Like me, you were probably put to this poem for the purposes of O Level

English, as we called it then. It starts, of course:

The sea is calm tonight,
The tide is full, the moon lies fair..

Arnold is fascinated by the pebbles crashing forward and back as the waves arrive and retreat along the shore. He is reminded of a passage from Sophocles where the classical tragedian likens the rhythmic sound to what Arnold famously calls "the turbid ebb and flow of human misery."

The author's message materialises in the final two verses:

The Sea of Faith

Was once, too, at the full, and round earth's shore

Lay like the folds of a bright girdle furled.

But now I only hear

Its melancholy, long, withdrawing roar,

Retreating, to the breath

Of the night wind, down the vast edges drear

And naked shingles of the world.

Ah, love, let us be true

To one another! for the world, which seems

To lie before us like a land of dreams,

So various, so beautiful, so new,

Hath really neither joy, nor love, nor light,

Nor certitude, nor peace, nor help for pain;

And we are here as on a darkling plain

Swept with confused alarms of struggle and flight,

Where ignorant armies clash by night.

In 1851 this was a shocking poem. How could a son of great Dr Thomas Arnold, the devoutly Christian head of

Rugby School, be so agnostic,atheistic even? Was faith really so untenable and irrelevant to reflectiveVictorians in the aftermath of generations of Enlightenment thinking and scientific advance? Was the universe really without purpose or meaning?

So Matthew Arnold believed.

His response to the situation is curiously modern: a passionate yet wistful marriage of sentiment and paradox. "Love, let us be true to one another," he exclaims to his new wife – they happen to honeymooning in Dover. They are to find meaning in what they feel for each other, despite their being part of a value-neutral world where feelings, whether religious, moral or personal, have no objective status or reality.

Essentially it is the paradox inhabited by Professor Richard Dawkins, who is passionately opposed to religion in a universe where, on his premises, passion can have no intrinsic meaning, any more than religion does. How absurd.

Quite by chance – or providence? – I also recently stumbled on a brilliant little collection of prescient lectures [*Truth to Tell* SPCK 1991] given nearly twenty years ago given by the late Bishop Lesslie Newbiggin. Newbiggin, a theological college principal and bishop in the Church of South India, was a scholarly ecumenist and theologian who still very much deserves to be read.

He blames the legacy of Descartes and ensuing Enlightenment rationalism for the notorious divide between the sciences and the humanities: We readily trust knowledge gained through science. But our knowledge about history and religion and art we regard as subjective, unreliable, tainted by relativism.

This shows itself, proponents allege, on the one hand in the "unstoppable dynamism of our technology, always forging ahead to achieve whatever ends – wise or foolish – we may desire." On the other hand, on the humanities side, for

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example in literature, it is "scepticism, nihilism and despair" which abound, for "Life has no point. Nothing is sacred. Reverence is an unworthy relic of past times. Everything is a potential target for mockery. There are no honoured models to shape behaviour." But *all* real knowledge, Newbiggin points out, involves both a knowing human subject and knowable objective reality. There can be no true knowing without a knowing subject; and in that knowing the mind of the subject is involved.

So science cannot be a value-free description of reality, "objective" truth in which the human subject and his life context have no relevance. It takes only a moment's thought to realise that scientific investigation, just like the search for truth in the humanities, involves a host of subjective human factors.

These include social and historical factors, among them the traditions of work and study and thinking that form young scientists. They also include personal elements such as intuition, imagination, background and character. The effort to know involves struggle, feeling one's way, and at every stage current ideas and the prevailing culture play their part alongside the personal qualities of the seeker.

There is an important sense in which scientists no less than religious thinkers are in essentially the same position of St Augustine, who believes *in order that he might understand*, and St Anselm many centuries later, who in similar vein speaks of *faith seeking understanding*.

Find Newbiggin's book if you can, and read it. It is very persuasive. To my mind it blows a fatal hole in the paradoxical dualism of Matthew Arnold and comparable views prevalent to-day. Knowing and feeling are *not* in separate compartments. All our knowing is dependent upon human subjectivities.

But this does *not* render us unable to progress towards objective truth, either in science or in religion. For though there is only space enough to state it brusquely and baldly for now, the bottom line is this: If the Church's faith in God who has revealed himself in Christ is essentially true, it deserves to be the defining reality behind how we seek to live and think and work. The more we make authentic Christian teaching and understanding the central framework for how we live and what we commit to, the more we shall be living in him who, more than simply pointing us to truth, is himself the Truth.

No doubt it is valuable to be aware as we can of alternative frameworks of human thought and action. That can be a useful reality check. But our primary interpretation and exploration of life must be on Christian terms. Christianity cannot be an apologetic add-on to prevailing norms of secularism and rationalism, any more than to scepticism and subjectivism. At the end of the day it is a faithful Church which will in Christ judge a faithless world, not the other way about.

As for those attractive humanising passions of Matthew Arnold and Richard Dawkins, these are not surprising but meaningless by-products of a universe without purpose. They are profound evidence, albeit badly misunderstood, for the essential meaningfulness of our being, since it is being in God who is, God who cares.

As for the Sea of Faith, its tides are rising, depend upon it.

Your faithful servant

Malcolm



Installation of the New Rector.

The Collation and Induction of our new Rector was held before a packed congregation at St James' on Wednesday 4th May. The solemn service was led by The Right Revd. Keith Sinclair, Bishop of Birkenhead & The Venerable Dr Michael Gilbertson Archdeacon of Chester, accompanied by The Rural Dean Revd. Mark Hart. The new Rector Revd. Malcolm Cowan was supported by his wife Joyce, a large number of family, friends and members of our choir and congregation, who enthusiastically responded to each part of the service and in the singing of the hymns. The hymns were Guide me O thou great redeemer, I cannot tell, O Jesus I have promised, Great is thy faithfulness, and Lord for the years. A cross-section of the many clergy present, together with members of the local community gave special welcomes to the new Rector during the service. Afterwards a reception was held in the Parish Hall, with nibbles and wine provided by Janet Milton and her team. I'm sure that we all wish Rector Malcolm and Joyce every blessing in their new calling in Christleton, and every happiness in their future with us.

I feel we all should thank Church Wardens Keith & John for their hard work during the inter-regnum, also our supporting clergy and the many members of the PCC & church family who ensured the smooth running of St James' during this time. DC



In the News.

Readers will be sad to learn of the sudden death of Dave Ellis our Verger and member of St James Choir. Dave had been feeling unwell and had tests for an illness just before Easter, but appeared to be in quite good spirits when I spoke to him. However a massive heart attack a few days later led to him being put on a life support machine and eventually he died of multiple organ failure. Dave will be remembered for his leading part in church life as Verger, and all the duties that task entailed. He was extremely reliable and rarely took time off for a break. He worked well with Betty for many years, having taken on the job when he was made redundant. He was proud of his role in church, and also enjoyed his time at "The Institute" and in his garden. He entered the Village Show with his Hanging Baskets and Containers and his display in 2010 was a delight. DC

Churches Together in Christleton

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

This year we are taking the alternative time, ie at Pentecost, to come together for a short time of prayer in the different churches.

The schedule is as follows:

Wed 8 June, St James .noon

Thurs 9 June, Methodist church, noon

Fri 10 June, St James, noon

Sat 11 June, at Rowton Mass centre (as part of the service then), 6pm

Sun 12 June, St James, 6.30pm – **UNITED SONGS of PRAISE for Whitsunday**

Mon 13 June, Methodist church, noon

Tuesday 14 June, St James, 7.15pm

Wed 15 June, Methodist church, noon

We landed in Kathmandu (1350 m) and, mercifully, were met by our friends and taken to their home (there are no street names or addresses in Kathmandu!). Our senses were on overload. We were bombarded with smells as we crossed the polluted Bagmati River, blaring horns came from all directions as traffic overtook us on all sides and flashing headlights made Paul brake sharply as oncoming traffic took up our side of the road and refused to give way!

We slept well that night, until woken first by a tumultuous thunderstorm and then later by the cockerel chorus and barking of street dogs. Undaunted, the next day we walked to Kathmandu's Durbar Square, frequently seeing the three typically Nepali features of: temple, covered sitting place (usually occupied by men) and a well or water source. Bob enjoyed watching young lads playing cricket and couldn't resist explaining a bowling technique or two, much to their delight. They were fast learners too. The women carried on with their washing in front of their houses only stopping to retrieve the occasional cricket ball that had fallen in their washing water!

We walked along the quaint street of the villages of Khokana and Bungamati in the Kathmandu valley. It was like a medieval history book with women sitting at their doorways carding, spinning and weaving wool. We saw a young girl knotting, what she called 'nettle string', as she listened to music through her ear-phones. Wood-carvers, carpet makers and sari decorators showed us their work. Men and women were carrying large loads of harvested produce from the fields and others were threshing and winnowing mustard seed, beans etc.

Our stay in Kathmandu was with our good friends Paul and Sarah Wright and their two children Jack (10) and Asha (8). The Wrights have visited us several times in the UK and participated in a Sunday morning Service in St. James in August 2005. They have been living in Nepal for 14 years, as Paul works



with non-government officials and charitable organisations, training teams in rescue and disaster management after damage caused by monsoons, earthquakes, landslides and so on. Sarah is involved in

teaching in the Kathmandu Bible College, training Sunday School teachers and working with the women in the Churches. Jack and Asha attend 'The British School' in Kathmandu, which provides an interesting and challenging curriculum.

Paul and Sarah speak fluent Nepali and were able to introduce us to their neighbours, friends at the school, in the mission and at church. We were invited to a meal at the minister's house on Good Friday evening and he asked us to preach on Easter Saturday morning (their usual Church day). We used the opportunity to bring them greetings from friends in St. James' and then told the Easter story, which Paul translated. It was a wonderful experience of 'World Church'. On Easter Sunday morning we walked to church for a 6 am service of lively singing accompanied by drums, guitars and a keyboard. After the sermon we sat on the floor in a circle and were served with breakfast of a bread roll and a hard boiled "Easter" egg with salt, and a cup of Nepali sweet tea. This was followed by a march through the streets of Kathmandu. Thousands of Christians from many churches joined the march, some holding banners, some singing, some dancing as we joyfully announced (in Nepali and English) the Hallelujahs and Hosannas of the risen Jesus.

There is a lot more we could say about our experience - trekking in the Langtang Valley north of Kathmandu, our visit to the Chitwan National Park, the joy of seeing rare animals from elephant-back and so on ... Our photos will be a constant reminder that it was all real!

Bob and Gwen Knight

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Saturday June 11th 2011 at 7.30pm St John's Chester
Tickets £12 (concessions £11) Students and children £5

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BLOOD TRANSFUSION SERVICE AWARD

In September 2010 David Barnes from Durban Avenue was invited by the National Blood Service to a Presentation lunch at The Crowne Plaza Hotel, Pier Head in Liverpool in recognition of his 80 units of blood donated over approximately 25 years.

Along with other like minded donors in the North West Area he was presented with a Royal Doulton glass bowl inscribed with the double heart symbol of the BTS and inscribed 'thank you', by Mike Wood a Chronic Lymphatic Leukaemia sufferer who relies on donations of blood which are specifically matched by staff in the Red Cell Immunohaematology laboratory in Liverpool. Donors with special antibodies are called on to donate for Mike so he can receive the best match possible.

Robin and David had a most enjoyable day in Liverpool and would encourage anyone to donate much needed units of blood. If you are interested the National Blood Service is holding a Blood Donation Session in the Parish Hall on

25 May 2011 between 14.00 – 16.00 hrs & 17.30 – 19.30 hrs

7 September 2011 between 14.00 – 16.00 & 17.30 – 19.30 hrs

Or you can contact Lyn Babington, Donor Relations Assistant on 01978 221177/221170.



*Congratulations David
on your splendid achievement.*

Janet Milton

Churches Together in Christleton DAY TRIP TO THE RIBBLE VALLEY

On Thursday April 7th at 9am, some 50 of us from St James' ,the Methodist church and St Werburgh's (some of whom worship at the Mass centre at Rowton) went by coach to the glorious Ribble Valley. This was in addition to the first outing there in October – so overbooked that Fr Paul very kindly arranged a second date.

We were lucky with a fine day which grew brighter and brighter as the day went on. Fr Paul was a mine of interesting information as we travelled North to our first port of call – the bustling market town of Clitheroe. We spent an hour in this charming town, exploring the independent shops or boutiques, sampling fare in one of the many coffee-houses, some of us venturing to the keep of the tiny Norman castle (from which the views of Pendle and all around were brilliant) or discovering the Grand – originally a cinema, now a cleverly and tastefully modernised Music and Arts venue.

On we went to nearby Whalley, to visit one of the great Cistercian Abbeys, moved here in 1296 when an Abbot and 20 monks came from Stanlaw in Wirral. Construction really began in 1320, and the Abbey was dissolved in 1537. It passed to the Assheton family who altered and then rebuilt the Abbot's lodging. After further alterations in the nineteenth century, in 1923 it was bought by the church to become a Retreat House and Conference Centre for the diocese of Blackburn. Its position is delightful, in the heart of the village by the river, surrounded by hills and woods and set in its own beautiful gardens. We were given an excellent lunch there, after which 2 tours of the ruins had been arranged for us. Ours was the second tour; we were regaled by our 'monk' (a retired Anglican priest) with interesting tales and stories and many hilarious jokes – we begged him to write them down and compile a book!

Back on the coach, enjoying the bright sun on blossom everywhere, and clear views over lovely countryside, we drove to see Stonyhurst College – the Jesuit public school – a most impressive building in extensive grounds, founded in 1593 at St Omer - when Roman Catholic education was prohibited in England - and re-located to this impressive 16th century Manor House in 1794. Today the school provides boarding and day education for boys and girls aged 13-18.

We arrived back in Christleton at about 5pm, all having enjoyed a splendid day with much enjoyment and laughter, - as I believe those who went in October did too. Many many thanks to Fr Paul for organising both these trips for us so successfully.

Jan Bowden

Nature Notes.

We have now had the driest & sunniest spring for 350 years, yet the wildlife has flourished. Despite the lack of rain, the display of flowers, blossom trees and hedgerows around the village has been superb. Everyday we've expected it to be sunny, and it has been.

There has been a wonderful profusion of colourful butterflies in the air and I've recorded over 25 different brimstone butterflies in the area alone, the large colourful yellow butterfly that gives the species its name. They have been everywhere and it must easily be the most numerous sightings for Cheshire since records began. The tiny holly blues have recently been emerging along the canal, and all butterfly species seem to have had a great start to the year.



Our garden has been alive with small birds, including a very noisy song thrush, which has been using our steps and gate as an anvil for smashing its snails. Hockenhull is alive with migrant warblers and I've recorded more species there than for many years, including blackcap,



whitethroat, chiff chaff, willow & sedge warblers, reed buntings, linnets and even a cuckoo! There was also one report from the village itself of a cuckoo being heard, no doubt like all the migrant species having followed favourable warm winds from the south. You can always tell which direction the wind has come from if your car is covered with fine red dust. It is from the Sahara desert.

Our “Pit” swans were almost a month late in arriving back this year, but they began to lay in a hurry after I helped them build their nest, and six eggs were produced in seven days. This rapid laying is most unusual as if to compensate for their late start. The usual pattern is for an egg to be laid every two days, until the final total is reached, usually seven for this pair. The cob sits and guards the eggs until the last egg is produced, and then the pen takes over. By my calculation this year the cygnets will be born around the 1st June. The major problem they will face is the lack of water, and if the drought continues the cygnets will have to walk to the water’s edge, rather than swim from the nest. Their food source is also scarce, as the large number of fish at the Pit have eaten almost all the floating reed, so I guess they may “walk” to the canal within days of being born.

The huge carp at the Pit have been splashing and crashing through the floating amphibious bistort in the last few days, a sign of displaying and mating. They can be observed from anywhere around the pond, and with their protruding fins, look like miniature” jaws” as they glide through the water. These fish were released at “The Pit” without permission many years ago, and it is hoped to provide a better balance in the water by removing the biggest fish when the time is appropriate. It is hoped that this will also stop the illegal fishing that takes place there, and removes the nuisance that is caused to neighbours in the area. DC



The Palm Sunday Procession.

We were delighted this year that The Right Reverend Keith Sinclair, Bishop of Birkenhead led our Palm Sunday procession across the fields from Fir Tree Lane, Littleton to St James'. This walk has now become a firm favourite with young and old alike, a new village tradition. The walk this year was held on a gloriously warm sunny spring morning and was led by a group of children carrying palm crosses, followed by Lucius the donkey with its owner Mrs Meriel Cashin, The Bishop, Church Warden John Pearson, and supported by a large number of the congregation. It was very appropriate that in his address during the service, Bishop Keith told the congregation that he had been on a visit to the Holy Land only the previous week, and had visited all the places that our Lord had visited in Jerusalem during the Easter story, so he was delighted to have been asked to come to Christleton for this very special occasion.



Congratulations to St James' Bellringers for winning the Chester Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers 6 Bell Striking competition at St Alban Tattenhall, on 16th April 2011.

They won the J W Griffiths Shield by ringing the Plain Bob Doubles (Touch).

The team consisted of Nikki Dromgoole; Treble, Betty Harries; Second; Ian Braithwaite; Third, Brian Harries; Fourth, Steven Everett; Fifth, David Fisher; Tenor



Christleton High School

A Specialist School in Maths and Computing with Business and Enterprise

Unwanted Christmas Gifts Sale

At the end of this summer term, 27 Sixth Form students are going to Morocco to trek in the Atlas Mountains and also to stay in a mountain village for two days to help the villagers construct a new watercourse, so they can have water all year round.

We aim to raise £2700 to help the village fund this project, and, in aid of this we are holding an 'Unwanted Christmas gifts Sale' on Wednesday 29 June from 6.30 - 8.00 pm. Donations of books and clothing will be very welcome also and all items should be brought to the High School anytime up to the date and time of the 'sale'. Any craftspeople who wish to show their products should contact the school reception.

Don't kill ALL the Dandelions

Don't be too hard on your dandelions – they are one of the most important sources of nectar and pollen for bees, and help hives thrive. From that point of view, perhaps it is good that dandelions are so notoriously tough and fast-growing.



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Congratulations also to Christleton Parish Council and all involved in fundraising for the excellent new Children's Play Area at King George's Fields. The children who use it think its fab, which sums it up really.



Thanks for Christian Aid Talk/Christchurch Disaster Appeal.

A big thank you to all who supported the Buffet Supper in April with the talk "Around the World in 90 minutes" We raised £350 on the night. Also for the support of my Christchurch N.Z. Earthquake Disaster Appeal.

I have recently been able to send £200 for the work of the Linwood Salvation Army Volunteers distributing aid each night to victims on the streets.

A former Christleton Primary & High School pupil, Jessica Fearnley is helping with the project.

Coming Soon.

St James' Church.

Saturday July 2nd. 10.00- 12.00 noon.

Village Show Coffee Morning in the Lady Chapel, including descriptions & guided tours of the Stained Glass Windows.

Pentecost reminds us that Christians everywhere are all part of one body – the Church. In May 'Christian Aid' collections hopefully focused our thoughts and prayers and generosity on people and places in the world that were suffering and in great need.

Here are two articles which highlight particular suffering and need and what is being done to help.

Iraqi Christians going hungry

Growing instability across the Middle East is forcing Iraqi Christian refugees to return to their homeland, where churches are struggling to cope with the increased demand for food and other basic needs.

Barnabas Fund supports feeding programmes for thousands of needy Iraqi Christians both inside the country and in nearby Syria, Jordan and Lebanon, where many have fled to escape persecution and violence. Barnabas Fund now reports: "Our supporters have given generously to this work over many years, but funds are now running low, and more help is urgently required."

Hundreds of thousands of Christians have left their homes and fled to neighbouring countries, while others remain displaced inside Iraq, finding refuge in the more stable areas of their homeland. They leave behind property, possessions and work, finding themselves in a strange place without the resources to provide food and other basic needs for their families. But at least they are safe from the persecution and violence. Now, however, the whole region is being rocked by instability, and Christian migrants in the worst-affected countries are fleeing the violence. Many have already left war-torn Libya, and as riots disrupt life in Syria and Jordan, Iraqi Christian refugees are left vulnerable once again, with many feeling they have little choice but to return home – dangerous though that is.

Displaced Iraqi Christians, both in Iraq and elsewhere, are heavily reliant on the support they receive from the Barnabas feeding programmes, which often comes in the form of a monthly food parcel. The typical amount per family is around £15 a month. This support frees up what little money they have for other pressing needs such as rent, clothing and medical bills.

If you would like to help feed Iraqi Christians please go to

www.barnabasfund.org/

Helping people caught between governments

The All African Conference of Churches (AACC) works to help make a difference in the lives of the people of Africa in general and in the lives of the disadvantaged in particular. Therefore raising the alarm about the situation of the Ogonis in Quidah, Benin Republic is part of its mandate.

The Ogoni people come from the Niger Delta area of Nigeria. They protested against environmental and economic injustices in 1990 under the military regime. They allegedly suffered persecutions and many fled to Benin following the death of Ogoni leader Ken Saro Wiwa. But the authorities of Benin Republic – in response to the demands of its political and economic relationship with Nigeria – refuse to recognise this group as refugees, leaving them unable to return home, but unable to access services in their new homes. They are also English-speakers in a French-speaking country. Since 1999, 50 infant deaths were recorded in a group of about 200 people.

The group has had no schooling for the children for the past 11 years, and the children cannot enrol in schools due to unrecognised status. However the Methodist Church of Benin built a three class primary school for the children in 2006 with funds from the World Council of Churches. The Ogonis are very hardworking people and wish to support themselves despite these challenges. There are four major businesses to engage 140 adults of the Ogoni community – including metal and scrap recycling, trading in food stuffs, second hand clothes, snacks and baking. Thanks to the efforts of the AACC, and Christians in Benin and Nigeria, they are now receiving help. The AACC is supporting income generation projects to help the community become self-supporting, and recently received a £10,000 grant from the Methodist Church in Britain to assist this.

Please pray for the Ogoni people and all those working with them. And please be encouraged that your prayers and gifts are making a real difference.



I believe: The Place of Creeds in a Life of Faith ...

was the title of a Lecture given by Professor Alister McGrath on Wednesday 11th May in Chester Cathedral.

McGrath is the author of many books including *Christian Theology: An Introduction* and *Dawkins' God: Genes, Memes and the Meaning of Life* and in Bishop Peter's words: Prof. McGrath is 'engaging, authoritative and passionate' about how the Creeds can encourage us to be 'lost in wonder, love and praise'.

McGrath set the scene by mentioning that Bishop John Pearson's *An Exposition of the Creed* (1659) is a treasure of our heritage of faith along with the King James Bible (1611) and the Book of Common Prayer (1662). John Pearson was Chaplain to Charles II and also Bishop of Chester (1673-1686) and his tomb can be seen in Chester Cathedral. He was concerned to build up the faith of believers. In essence McGrath explained that for us today the Creeds are a public statement of faith, which offer a framework from which to develop our corporate understanding and our private inner experience. Just as medics use a skeleton to learn about the workings of the human body but always recognise that there is far more to it than just the bone structure, so Christians use the Creeds to show the basics of Christianity with the understanding that these are really only the bare bones of our beliefs.

Some expressions are difficult for us to understand and the words need careful interpretation in the context of our world today.

McGrath suggested that if we use the Creeds as a map or a guide book they can show us where things are, but we must want to see the beauty of the landscape for ourselves in order to be able to appreciate it and share it with others. It is not the map or guide book that primarily interests us, but rather finding our way around to places that we wish to

explore. If we wish to focus in on things in detail, we can use the Creeds as a lens for clarification and to take a snapshot. The Creeds may also serve as a light to illuminate the objects that may be obscure or otherwise may not be seen. This process of discovery through the Creeds will transform the way we think about the world and the way we behave towards each other.

Bishop John Pearson's exposition was written for his congregation in Eastcheap in 1659, but McGrath encourages us to continue to explore the richness of our faith and flesh out the framework of the Creeds as we translate these words afresh in our communities today.

GMK

Oh God, please grant

Oh God, through thine Anointed One,
The fullness of our needs be done –
Grant us towards God the love ordained,
Grant us towards man the love unfeigned;
Grant us the smile of God's good face,
Grant us God's wisdom and God's grace;
Grant us to fear and reverence still,
Grant in the world to do thy will
As done in heaven by saintly hands
And myriad of angelic bands;
Each day and night, each dawn and fall,
Grant us in kindness, Lord of all.

From an ancient Celtic prayer

WHAT'S ON THIS MONTH

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Held in the Parish Hall from 10.45 am – 11.45 am each Sunday during term-time, except when Family Service is held at St. James. For further details please contact Berenice 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 W. I.

Meets on the second Wednesday of the month at 7.15 pm in the Parish Hall. June 8th - Birthday Party

CHESTER FLOWER CLUB

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



MAGAZINE CONTRIBUTIONS

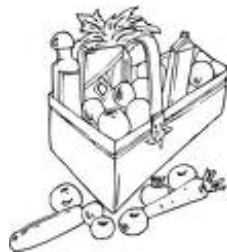
Please ensure all items for inclusion in the July edition are sent to Janet Milton (335469), as soon as possible BEFORE Friday 10th June or you can e-mail this to christletonmag@hotmail.co.uk

MAGAZINE DISTRIBUTORS

The July magazine will be available for collection from church on Sunday 26th June



It's Next Month
Christleton Village Show 2011
Is on Saturday 9 th. July
In Christleton Parish Hall



This year the show theme will be Traditions which should give plenty of scope for inspiration particularly in the Arts categories.

With all of the good weather lately, Hanging Basket and containers at the front of houses and businesses could make a bumper year and makes such a difference to the village scene and adds to the rural style of our village. So try the Hanging Basket section – you may win the trophy.

Schedules have been available from Phil and Sue Prees at Christleton Village Stores for some time, so get a schedule, choose some categories and start choosing likely veg's sewing, painting etc. etc. whatever is your thing. It doesn't cost much, is great fun and you could win a trophy – there are lots of them.

This year Linda at Drakes has agreed that the hairdressers can be a collecting point for completed Entry forms which makes getting your forms in on time so much easier.

This is in addition to the direct Entry form collection point of Judith Butts house –Greenmantle, Plough Lane.

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

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

St James Church

Open all day Sundays,

June, July, August and September 2011

St James Church will once again be open between services on Sundays in June, July and August for the seventh year. This will of course only be possible if you are prepared to come and help share the load! No special skills are needed – just a wish to give a warm welcome to those who visit our church – most of whom are very appreciative. Please sign up, if you are able, on the sheets at the back of church. Thank you very much.

J.B

VILLAGE TEAS

Village Teas will be served again this summer on Sunday afternoons commencing on 5 June and finishing on 25 September. 2.30pm - 4.30pm

Any money raised this year would be donated to Save the Family and Children Today.

We look forward to seeing you at the Methodist Church in June.



Ailton (335469) Anne Collier (313409)
Ia Roberts (336754)


save the family


children today

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 the 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 and large print weekly notice sheets

Easy to follow Communion Service

Books for Children

Access for wheelchairs

Please ask any of the Church wardens or Sidesmen if you need assistance in anyway

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 01244 336586 for further details.

MOBILE LIBRARY VAN SERVICE

The van calls weekly alternate Thursdays all day and alternative Fridays in Quarry Lane.
11.15 - 12.45pm.

For further information of when the van is next in your area, please telephone Upton Library on 01244 380053.

READERS

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

Parish Registers

Holy Baptism

24th Maisie Annaline Wilson
 daughter of Neil Edward & Claire Louise Wilson
 15 Hereward Road, Boughton, Chester
"We welcome you into the Lord's Family"

The Wedding Service.

19 June Isobelle Grace Pollock

26 June Isabelle Grace Bird & Jack Taylor Price

30th Christian Paul Evans & Amanda Jane Conlan
 16 Church Road, Formby, Merseyside

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

The Funeral Service

4th	Jean Mary Whitehouse	18 Woodfields, Christleton
6th	Laura Rawson	10 Ring Road, Christleton
18th	Leonard Hendry	53 Toll Bar Road, Christleton
27th	Madeline Joan Peaker	1 Moorcroft Ave, Boughton

"Grant them eternal rest"

Offertories.

April	Cash	CSE	2011	2010
3rd	148-65	666-00	814-65	1,423-90
10th	85-50	378-50	464-00	1,278-77
17th	157-40	673-00	794-40	880-78
24th	378-31	1,054-00	1,432-31	754-62
Totals.			£ 3,505-36	£4,388-07

"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: The Rev'd. Malcolm Cowan, B.Th
The Rectory,
Birch Heath Lane,
Christleton
01244 335663

Churchwardens:	John Pearson	335101
	Keith Smalls	335688
Deputy Wardens	Lois Dickinson	
	Alan McAllester	
Reader	Wayne Morris	01978 263389
Sacristan:	Betty Dunning	335652
Pastoral Worker:	Berenice Hogg	336779
Sunday School:	Berenice Hogg	336779
Mothers' Union Branch Leader	Janet Brown	335785
Organist & Musical Director:	Steve Roberts	815277
P. C. C. Secretary:	Brenda Bailey	335034
P. C. C. Treasurer:	David Mercer	336155
Stewardship Envelope:	Betty Dunning	335652
Gift Aid Secretary	Nigel Seddon	335588
Bellringers	Ian Braithwaite	300565
Bellringers Secretary	Nikki Dromgoole	351124
Parish Hall Booking	Janet Milton	335469
C. M. S. Secretary	Janet Brown	335785
Children's Society Sec.	Lesley Morgan	335088
Visiting Group:	Berenice Hogg.	336779
Library	Lois Dickinson	378320
Church Flowers	Olive Hammond	336562
Magazine Editor	David Bull	332234
Magazine Compiler	Julie Coxall	336062
Magazine Distributors	Jenny Davies and Valmai Griffiths	335884
Neighbourhood Link Co-Ordinator	Janet Bowden	335705
Parish Resource		
Person for Child Protection	Alastair Holland	332819