

St. James'

PARISH MAGAZINE



www.christleton.org.uk

**March
2010**

35p

Mark in March

Mon 1 10.45 am Holy Communion at Tarvin Court Nursing Home
11.20 am Holy Communion at Oaklands Nursing Home
6.30 pm Confirmation Group (Lady Chapel)

Wed 3 10.45 am United Communion followed by refreshments

Thur 4 12 noon Lent Lunch for Christian Aid - Methodist Church

Fri 5 10.30 am WOMENS WORLD DAY OF PRAYER SERVICE
Christ Church, Gloucester Street
6.30 pm Choir Practice

Sun 7 **The Third Sunday of Lent**

8.00 am Holy Communion (Order 2)
10.45 am Parish Communion (Order 1)
10.45 am Sunday School (Parish Hall)
6.00 pm The Crew Youth Group - Parish Hall
6.30 pm Evensong - followed by refreshments
Prayer Link Road: Tarvin Road and Brickfield Lane
Neighbourhood Link: Roger Bellamy, Huw Morgan, Nigel Seddon

Mon 8 2.00 pm Lent Meditation in Church
6.30 pm Confirmation Group (Lady Chapel)

Wed 10 10.45 am Holy Communion - followed by refreshments
11.30 am Holy Communion at Birch Heath Lodge Nursing Home

Fri 12 6.30 pm Choir Practice

NB: Last date for contributions for April Magazine to Janet Milton (335469). Earlier if possible please. You can attach your Word document and e-mail to: christletonmag@hotmail.co.uk

Sun 14 **The Fourth Sunday of Lent: Mothering Sunday**

8.00 am Holy Communion (Order 1)
10.45 am Mothering Sunday Family Service - followed by refreshments
6.00 pm The Crew Youth Group (Parish Hall)
6.30 pm Evensong
Prayer Link Road: The Park
Neighbourhood Link: Margaret Kingston

Mon	15	6.30 pm	Confirmation Group (Lady Chapel)
Wed	17	10.45 am	Holy Communion - followed by refreshments
Thur	18	10.00 am	Coffee Morning to arrange Summer Village Teas - Methodist Church
Fri	19	6.30 pm	Choir Practice
Sun	21		PASSION SUNDAY
		8.00 am	Holy Communion (Order 1)
		10.45 am	Parish Communion (Order 1)
		10.45 am	Sunday School (Parish Hall)
		6.00 pm	The Crew Youth Group (Parish Hall)
		6.30 pm	Evensong
			Prayer Link Road: The Square
			Neighbourhood Link: Liz Evans
Mon	22	6.30 pm	Confirmation Group (Lady Chapel)
Tues	23	8.00 am	Church Walking Group leaves car park Contact David Cummings (332410)
Wed	24	10.45 am	Holy Communion - followed by refreshments
Fri	26	6.30 pm	Choir Practice
Sun	28		PALM SUNDAY
		8.00 am	Holy Communion (Order 1)
		10.35 am	Palm Sunday Procession with donkey Leaves Littleton to cross the fields to St James for a short service
		6.30 pm	Passiontide Devotion in words and music (Palm Crosses will be given at each service)
			Prayer Link Road: Toll Bar Road
			Neighbourhood Link: Valmai Griffiths
Mon	29	7.45 pm	Compline (Night Prayers) and Meditation
Tues	30	7.45 pm	Compline (Night Prayers) and Meditation
Wed	31	10.45 am	Holy Communion - followed by refreshments
		7.45 pm	Compline (Night Prayers) and Meditation

Dear Friends

Love's Endeavour, Love's expense

In his book 'Love's Endeavour, Love's Expense', Canon Vanstone told of two boys in his former Parish who asked for something to do in their half term. He gave them a room in his Vicarage and suggested they make a model of a scene where they had been the previous Summer. They did not respond enthusiastically at first, but gradually as they assembled unlikely materials and set to work they became increasingly absorbed. The smallest detail required painstaking planning and execution and Bill Vanstone felt increasing responsibility to guard it against being spoilt or sneered at. He wrote:- "For the self-giving built into the model I could find no single word or name but love. It was love which had overcome the disproportion between these human beings and the sticks from the dustbin or stones from the gutter. It was love which had given importance to the materials, and to myself a responsibility for them ... I had actually seen the activity of love – the concentration, the effort and unsparing self-giving that are involved in love."

So Canon Vanstone draws from us that if that is how involved two lads can get in a simple model made in spare time, consider how involved in self-giving is God with his creation, and what responsibility we should feel as stewards, or guardians, of that creation. Witness the self-giving love of God involving himself in a continuous process to work order out of chaos, good out of bad – witness the love of God in Christ who looks at us worrying and calls us to open our eyes to the birds and the flowers and the love which God bestows on them and yet more on us – such love that supremely he gave himself, not just for humanity, but for all his creation, to bring us a new, redeemed creation. That is the nature of God's agony in allowing himself to be drawn into his own creation by love for it and allowing himself to be

rejected by it, to work the triumph of love. All this is so well expressed in Bill Vanstone's 'Hymn to the Creator' which is printed, instead of a 'Prayer of the Month, over the page.

The Bible tells us that in the beginning God created the world, and he saw all that he had made and 'behold it was very good.' But God did not create the world as a craftsman a work of art, which he finishes and then leaves. God is our loving Father, who is intimately bound up in his creation. Through the Bible we trace the long winding quest as God calls his people back to him and tries to lead them in the way that leads to peace. In Jesus God becomes man to work our redemption from within and restore his image in us. As we now go through Lent we follow Jesus path as he became totally identified with us and worked signs of the coming Kingdom – glimpses of how God's world should be. And as we follow Jesus along the road to Jerusalem we see him progressively allowing himself to be 'handed over' as a free act of love – it is as though he becomes immersed in all the sin and hatred of the world. But it is through the supreme act of love in giving his life for us on the Cross, that the power of his love would finally 'dissolve' all that threatens and destroys the goodness of God's Creation. Easter will not be the reversal of Good Friday, but the inevitable outcome of Jesus supreme act of love.

It is as we follow Jesus along that path to Jerusalem and Calvary that we are drawn to recognise that "love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all." We are called to 'take up our cross and follow him', by realising that we cannot stand idly by, but must follow him as his disciples, to live by his power of love, and join his mission to work order out of chaos, good out of bad and life out of death. As we follow Jesus along that path to Jerusalem and Calvary, may we be so drawn into the self-giving of 'love's endeavour, love's expense' that we too, may experience the joy and freedom of the new life of Easter.

Yours sincerely

Peter Lee

*Morning glory, starlit sky,
Leaves in Springtime, swallows' flight,
Autumn gales, tremendous seas,
Sounds and scent of summer night;*

*Soaring music, tow'ring words,
Art's perfection, scholar's truth,
Joy supreme of human love,
Memory's treasure, grace of youth*

*Open Lord, are these, thy gifts,
Gifts of love to mind and sense;
Hidden is love's agony,
Love's endeavour, love's expense.*

*Love that gives, gives ever more,
Gives with zeal, with eager hands,
Spares not, keeps not, all outpours,
Ventures all, its all expends.*

*Drained is love in making full;
Bound in setting others free;
Poor in making many rich;
Weak in giving power to be.*

*Therefore he Who Thee reveals
Hangs, O Father, on that tree
Helpless; and the nails and thorns
Tell of what thy love must be.*

*Thou art God; no Monarch Thou
Thron'd in easy state to reign;
Thou art God, whose arms of love
Aching, spent, the world sustain*

St Cecilia Singers at St James' Church

A concert by the Chester St Cecilia Singers will be held in St James' Church on Saturday evening 24th April. The St Cecilia Singers have a great tradition of performing items from the treasury of Sacred Music. Their 2010 concert series will feature beautiful stirring and well loved pieces by some of the greatest composers from the past six centuries; with a programme to suit all tastes. Look for further details in next month's magazine.

Beating of the Parish Bounds

The traditional "Beating of the Bounds" perambulation of the Parish will take place on Rogation Sunday 9th May 2010, starting from St James Church at 10-00am. This ancient ceremony takes place every ten years and involves walking as close as possible to the old Parish Boundaries. The walk of between ten & twelve miles (depending on changes to field boundaries, new roads and housing estates etc.) takes in the five Townships of Christleton Parish, Christleton, Rowton, Cotton Abbots, Cotton Edmunds and Littleton. The last walk in Millennium Year 2000 saw 86 walkers taking part, with 49 completing the whole distance, although on previous occasions higher numbers have participated.(156 in 1993) We hope that walkers this time will seek sponsorship to help the work of "Christian Aid". Phil Hodges has already designed a logo for us, and we hope to organise T & Sweat Shirts to highlight the walkers on route. Look out for further details next month. DC

Buffet Supper for "Christian Aid" in the Parish Hall

The Parish Hall Saturday April 17th 2010. 7.00pm

A trans European Journey from The Alps to The Pyrenees.

A talk about the geology & scenery, history & culture, flora & fauna from the Swiss Alps through many regions of France including the Dordogne and its prehistoric painted caves, to the dramatic scenery of the Picos de Europa and the wild Pyrenees in Northern Spain, Tickets £6 from Church, Village Stores or David Cummings 332410.

The Kempe Windows at St James



In previous issues I have described many aspects of the making of stained glass, and about the work of Charles Kempe. However I have now obtained a detailed list with dates, for all the Kempe Windows at St James' from the Corpus of Kempe Stained Glass published by the Kempe Society. I am printing them here, and will also place an amendment in my booklet, "A self guided tour of St James' Church" as this recent publication gives us new information about our windows and their dates of construction etc. What is now clear is that Charles Kempe was one of several favoured glass artists of William Butterfield, the architect of the present church building, and that Kempe's work in this church is spread over 25 years, and two eras of the Kempe Company, hence the two distinctive company logos, but always whilst the church was in the rectorship of Rev. Canon Lionel Garnett.

The distinctive "Kempe windows" in the following description can be followed by starting at the east window, and following a line from the chancel to the Lady Chapel and then along the south and north aisles.

Date	Place	No of lights	Description
1903.	East	3	1. St ames the Great & St Mary 2. Christ as King and the Crucifixion 3. St Werburgh & St John
1909	S Chancel	2	Jeremiah & Zachariah
1909	Lady Chapel	2	King David & Isaiah
1898	S Aisle East	3	Saints George, Anne & Elizabeth
1904	S Aisle 2nd E	3	St John, Madonna & St Luke
1899	S Aisle 2nd	2	Annunciation
1909	S Aisle West	2	St John the Evangelist & Ruth
1884	N Aisle (Childrens)	1	St Elizabeth
1905	N Aisle 2 east	2	Gethsemane
1905	N Aisle E	3	Christ before Pilate

Clues to finding the the Saint in the windows

Although the recognition of some of the saints is easy, especially if their name is visual, and given the written description above, each one has a distinctive symbol which identifies them. e.g. St James & St Werburgh can be seen either side of the figures of Christ in the east window, but other windows illustrate the figures of St Matthew, St Mark, St Luke, St John, St George, St Peter, St David St Catherine, St Elizabeth, and many of Mary, See if you can find them.

St Matthew- a Book or Angel St Mark- a Lion. St Luke- a calf St James- a shell

St John- an eagle St Peter- keys St David- a harp St George- a red dragon
St Catherine- a wheel Mary- is seen holding lilies. St Werburgh holds a model of Chester Cathedral.

Reference

The Corpus of Charles E Kempe. Published by the Kempe Society.



Beeston and Burwardsley

Over the years many children from the Parish and the surrounding area have enjoyed staying with their respective primary schools at Beeston and Burwardsley.

It was in March 1970 that a young education officer was sent from County Hall to see if two country primary schools closed the previous year might convert into residential field centres for children of primary school age. “You’ll get the key for Beeston from Mrs Bennett on the corner, but Burwardsley is being used by two overflow classes from Tattenhall Primary School so the teachers will let you in”, he was told.

That education officer was me and the young teachers at Burwardsley were one David Cummings and Pat Hatfield, both later to become head teachers, David at Christleton.

Burwardsley duly opened as an Outdoor Education Centre in September 1970, Beeston the following January. Despite the continuous pressure on education budgets nationally, the two Centres remain alive and well after 40 years, thanks to superbly dedicated staff and continuous goodwill from primary schools.

John Carruthers



CHURCHES TOGETHER IN CHRISTLETON

LENT HOUSE GROUPS

Our Lent House Groups are being held throughout March every:-

Monday morning	10.00 – 11.30 am
Tuesday evening	07.45 - 09.15 pm
Wednesday afternoon	02.00 – 03.30 pm
Wednesday evening	07.45 – 09.15 pm

We are meeting for lively and interesting discussion using the book 'Christ & the Chocolaterie'. This takes its inspiration from the film Chocolat.

It's not too late to join us!

For further information & details contact the Rector (335663)
or Judith Edwards 33557



NATURE NOTES

David
Cummings

The highlight of the birds seen in the village in January has to be the hawfinch & brambling seen in a garden in Birch Heath Lane. These are very scarce if not first time visitors to the Parish, and together with the redwings and fieldfare of the previous month have given many of us great pleasure and excitement. A female pheasant also visited the same garden. Several readers have reported having both mistle and song thrushes in their gardens together with noisy nuthatches and even more greater spotted



woodpeckers!! One delighted family saw a spectacular plumaged kingfisher give a diving display at Rowton Bridge, and then later flushed a woodcock from the fields near their house. These long beaked woodland birds are beautifully camouflaged to suit their habitat, and are tricky to see at the best of times, but they have a very



distinctive flight pattern when on the move, and are also much bigger than snipe which have similar long beaks and also a fine camouflage.

My Big Garden Birdwatch for the RSPB was a great success this year with more species seen than for many years, including a Tree Sparrow which is now rarely seen in our area. Putting more food out than usual because of the cold weather and providing a good supply of water has also paid dividends. Anyone walking the canal between Christleton and Waverton should look out for the spectacular flight of up to two thousand or so starlings. They perform each day as dusk approaches, and wheel and dive across the sky in a variety of patterns and shapes, often splitting into two or more competing groups before linking up again as one big party. They roost in a stand of conifers alongside the canal and their chattering calls go on for hours, maybe helping to keep themselves warm, in these cold frosty conditions. They can also be seen foraging in fields alongside the canal, but also visit local gardens to feed on bird feeders/tables. I had ten feeding in my RSPB census hour and for all the fact that they are relatively common birds, they have a beautiful plumage when seen in close up. As I write the Christleton Pit pair of swans have already taken up residence, but in view of the cold weather forecast I will leave building the nest on the platform until the end of the month.

CHRISTLETON RESIDENTS:

DID YOU KNOW?

The Christleton Parish Council meeting is held in the Methodist Church on the
1st Tuesday of every month at 8.00 pm

The first item on the agenda is always Public Forum time which is allocated for residents to raise concerns/queries with the Council.

The minutes of every meeting are published in the Parish Notice Boards and on Christleton.org website.

The Parish Council always welcomes residents to the meetings, whether to simply listen to discussions regarding village issues or to raise a concern or query.

Next meeting: 2nd March, 2010

Happy 90th Birthday



Tony Gardner

With sincere congratulations to Tony on his 90th Birthday on March 11th, from all his friends in the Parish, especially the Village Pit Group. Tony, and Pat his late wife have provided much needed and welcome refreshments for almost every Primary School & Village Pit Group working parties carrying out conservation work at The Pit since the mid 1970's, a wonderful effort for which we are most grateful.

Christleton Parish Plan

We are continuing to make progress towards the development of a parish plan for Christleton. A small group of volunteers has now met to raise awareness and help organize a meeting in May. This meeting will give villagers an opportunity to hear more about the benefits of parish planning and have a say in whether or not we go ahead with a plan for Christleton.

We have applied for a starter grant from Cheshire Community Action (visit their website for a look at completed plans and how other villages have benefited). The Parish Council has also made a generous donation to help get the project off the ground. Look out for more information in the next issue of the Parish Magazine.

For further information or to express an interest in helping please contact Sue Mallows
(suemallows@hotmail.com)
Telephone: 01244 335527



Shining light into darkness

On behalf of The Children's Society, may I thank you all for braving the wintry weather in January to support the Christingle Service held at St James, which raised the wonderful sum of £399.89!

I have received the following message from The Children's Society "Your kind gift has moved us one step closer towards reaching this year's target of £175,000 & helping us to help more children who have run away".

Lesley Morgan

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Adam & Eve

At Sunday School the children were learning how God created everything, including human beings. Little Josh was especially intent when the teacher told him how Eve was created out of one of Adam's ribs. Later in the week his mother noticed him lying down and looking scared. "Josh, what is the matter?"

Josh whispered fearfully: "I have pain in my side. I think I'm going to have a wife."

The Kondopoga Icons

Pilgrims from Chester Cathedral visited Kondopoga in 2007 and again last year. Three Icons were commissioned and paid for by the Friends of Chester Cathedral. One is of Mary and the Christ child and the other two depict The Annunciation and The Deposition. They arrived last summer, the one of Mary to be placed on a stand in St Werburgh's Chapel and the others to be hung behind the altar in the Lady Chapel. The one of Mary arrived undamaged but the others had been unpacked for customs and clumsily repacked. A few chipped edges on The Annunciation were repaired by an icon painter near Shrewsbury. More serious damage had occurred to The Deposition and when last year's pilgrimage was made to Kondopoga Mother Julia offered to come over to England to do the repairs. Once again The Friends came to the rescue and offered to pay her fare here..Mother Julia is the wife of Father Lev and they have built a new church. She started to paint icons in St Petersburg in the 1980's and after they moved to Kondopoga she began painting them for the churches they were building. When you next visit the Cathedral and have a look at these wonderful treasures, remember that some of St James's Christmas Fair money went to help the people of Kondopoga.

The icon of the Madonna and Child was dedicated at the Cathedral Eucharist on Advent Sunday in the presence of Mother Julia. The other two were dedicated by the Dean on 10 January during the Epiphany Carol Service. The service included prayers in Russian by Fr. Paul Elliott, Rector of the Russian Orthodox Church, Wallasey.

The Friends' Plant Sale in the Cathedral Cloisters will take place on Friday 30 April and Saturday 1 May. Contact Derek Jackson on Chester 350293 if you have any offers or queries.

WHAT'S ON

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 GARDEN CLUB

Next Meeting
8th March, 2010
SWEET PEAS
Clive Coleclough

Methodist Church
7.30.pm

All Welcome

CHRISTLETON W.I.

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

Next Meeting

10th March

BONES AND JOINTS

JANARFHAN RAO

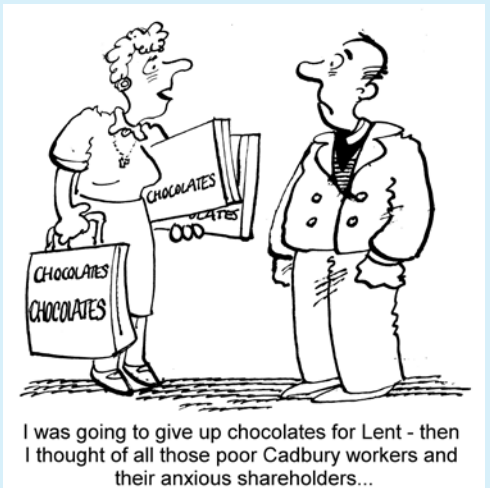
ORTHOPAEDIC CONSULTANT

ALL WELCOME

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

Telephone: 01829751140



THIS MONTH

CHRISTLETON LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

Wednesday 24th March

Speaker. David Hayns

Subject

Canal and Castle

An armchair walk from Bunbury
Locks to the top of Beeston Hill.

ST JAMES WALKING GROUP

Tuesday March 23rd

East Cheshire; Macclesfield Forest
& Teggs Nose

Rating: Hard. 8 1/2 miles

Walking in the Gritstone region
of Cheshire & the Ancient
Macclesfield Forest.

Pub Lunch.

Depart Church Car Park at

8.00am

CHRISTLETON W.I. MONTHLY WHIST

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

All welcome

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN CHRISTLETON

Lent Lunch

Thursday 4 March

12.00 – 1.30 pm

Methodist School Room

All Welcome

Proceeds to Christian Aid

CHRISTLETON WEDNESDAY GROUP

Soup & Sweet Spring Lunch

on

Wednesday 14 April

at Christleton Parish Hall,

12.00 noon.

Ticket £7, including a glass of wine,
(available from members)

In aid of the

“Hospice of the Good Shepherd”

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 **April edition** are sent to Janet Milton (335469), as soon as possible **BEFORE Friday 12 March** or you can e-mail this to
christletonmag@hotmail.co.uk

MAGAZINE DISTRIBUTORS

The **April** magazine will be available for collection from Church on **Sunday 28th March**

Flowers

There are women whose thoughtful husbands buy them flowers for no reason. And then there's me. One day I couldn't stand it any longer. "Why don't you ever bring me flowers?" I asked.

"What's the point?" my husband said. "They die after about a week."
"So could you," I shot back, "but I still like having you around."

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 January 2010

Holy Baptism

31st Bethan May Jones daughter of Gareth & Jane Jones
34 Bluebell Close, Huntington, Chester

"We welcome you into the Lord's Family"

The Funeral Service

4th Doris Loos Blake The Stable House, Village Road,
Christleton
6th Hilda Lewis 9 Hawthorn Road, Christleton
14th Mary Emily Murdock Oaklands Nursing Home, Tarvin Rd,
Littleton
15th Jean Langley Birch Heath Lodge Nursing Home, Christleton
17th Colin Denham Country Homes New Hey Rd, Woodchurch,
Birkenhead
18th Dr Barrie Scott Gilliatt "Eastgarth" 56 Tarvin Road, Littleton
19th Dr Barrie Scott Gilliatt (Burial of Ashes)
25th Barbara Blackwell 1 Church Walks, Christleton
29th Violet Stone Prospect House Nursing Home, Malpas

"Grant them eternal rest."

Offertories

January	Cash	CSE	2010	2009
3rd	211-51	543-00	754-51	816-70
10th	240-80	431-50	672-30	889-81
17th	116-39	782-50	898-89	776-34
24th	96-61	438-00	534-61	846-65
31st	111-90	915-50	1,027-50	576-55
Totals			£3,887-71	£ 3,906-05

"Of your own do we give you"

