



ST. JAMES' - CHRISTLETON

PARISH MAGAZINE

NOVEMBER 2009 35p



**REMEMBRANCE
SUNDAY**

8th November

www.christleton.org.uk

Remember in November



Sun 1

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

- 8.00 am Holy Communion - Order 2
- 10.45 am Parish Communion - Order 1
- 10.45 am Sunday School - Parish Hall
- 6.30 pm **ALL SOULS SERVICE**

A service to remember “those whom we love, but see no longer”

Prayer Link Road: Grove Gardens

Neighbourhood Link: John Carruthers

Mon 2

- 10.45 am Holy Communion at Tarvin Court Nursing Home
- 11.20 am Holy Communion at Oaklands Nursing Home

Tues 3

- 7.00 pm House Group – Moor Lane

Wed 4

- 10.45 am United Communion - followed by refreshments
- 2.00 pm Parents, Toddlers and Grandparents informal get-together (Parish Hall)
- 7.45 pm Pastoral and Outreach Committee (Lady Chapel)

Thur 5

- 12 noon Prayer Lunch - Methodist Church

Fri 6

- 6.30 pm Choir Practice

Front cover

Just as Remembrance Sunday is marked by a service at St. James' in Christleton there are other services in the British Isles and other countries. The front cover shows ex-servicemen in Malta on Remembrance Sunday. The smaller photo is a wreath of poppies laid on the war memorial in Valletta by The Cheshire Regiment.



Sun 8

The Third Sunday before Advent.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

- 8.00 am Holy Communion - Order 1
10.45 am Sunday School - Parish Hall
10.45 am REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY SERVICE with 2 minutes
silence and followed by wreath laying ceremony at
War Memorial
6.00 pm The Crew Youth Group - Parish Hall
6.30 pm Evensong CW
Prayer Link Road: Haslin Crescent
Neighbourhood Link: Ann Smith

Mon 9

- 2.00 pm Mothers' Union - Parish Hall
2.30 pm PCC Standing Committee - The Rectory
7.45 pm Stewardship Committee - Lady Chapel

Tue 10

- 7.00 pm House Group – Moor Lane

Wed 11

- 10.45 am Holy Communion - followed by refreshments

Thur 12

- 7.45 pm Faith and Worship Committee - The Rectory
7.45 pm Churches Together Committee - The Rectory

Fri 13

- 6.30 pm Choir Practice

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

Sun 15

THE SECOND SUNDAY BEFORE ADVENT

- 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 with Offertory of Children's Society Boxes -
Prayer Link Road: Hawthorn Road
Neighbourhood Link: Jayne Roscoe

Tue 10 7.00 pm House Group – Moor Lane

Wed 18 10.45 am Holy Communion - followed by refreshments

Fri 20 6.30 pm Choir Practice

Sat 21 9.00 am - 1.00pm Parish Meeting for GAP - Parish Hall

Sun 22 CHRIST THE KING

8.00 am Holy Communion - Order 1

10.45 am Matins CW - followed by refreshments

10.45 am Sunday School - Parish Hall

6.00 pm The Crew Youth Group - Parish Hall

6.30 pm Evening Communion - Order 1

Prayer Link Road: Home Close

Neighbourhood Link: Gertrude Wright

Mon 23 7.45 pm Deanery Synod - Saltney

Tues 24 9.00 am Church Walking Group leaves car park
Contact David Cummings (332410)

7.00 pm House Group – Moor Lane

Wed 25 10.45 am Holy Communion followed by refreshments

7.45 pm PCC Meeting - Parish Hall

Thur 26 7.45 pm Advent Compline (Night Prayers) and Meditation

Fri 27 3.30 pm Preparation of Hall for Christmas Fair

6.30 pm Choir Practice

Sat 28 10.00 am **CHRISTMAS FAIR** (See Full Page Poster)

Sun 29 ADVENT SUNDAY

8.00 am Holy Communion - Order 1

10.45 am Matins - CW

10.45 am Sunday School - Parish Hall

6.00 pm The Crew Youth Group - Parish Hall

6.30 pm Advent Worship and Offertory of CMS Boxes.

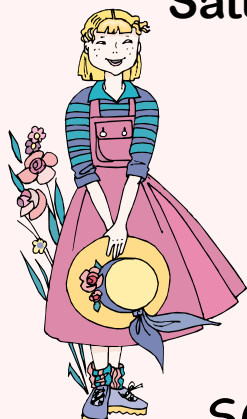
Prayer Link: Those worshipping at St James from outside the Parish. Area Secretary: Leo Carroll



St. James' Annual Christmas Fair

Saturday 28 November 2009

Christleton Parish Hall



Theme

Opening by
Rose Queen
SOPHIE HURST

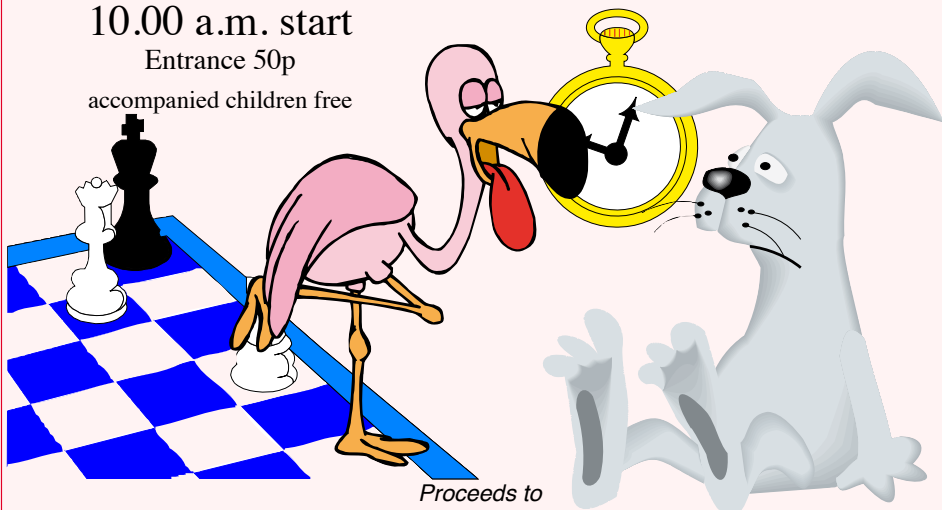


Alice in Wonderland

10.00 a.m. start

Entrance 50p

accompanied children free



Proceeds to

International – St Gregory's Foundation helping people in great need in Kaerelia, NW Russia and linked with Chester Cathedral. **National** – Cystic Fibrosis Research and Support, and **Local** – Contact Centre for parents and children involved in family breakdown

Dear Friends

REMEMBER IN NOVEMBER

Henry Ford may have said: "History is bunk", but I prefer to go with Edmund Burke who said; "Those who do not look back to their ancestors will not look forward to posterity" or GK Chesterton who wrote: "The disadvantage of men not knowing the past is that they do not know the present. History is a high hill or point of vantage, from which alone men see the town in which they live, or the age in which they are living." To me November provides us with such a high hill or point of vantage, from which we see not only from where we have come, but also the direction in which we should go.

This year 1 November is a Sunday, so we celebrate All Saints with our Parish Communion in the morning and commemorate All Souls on the same day, with our special All Souls Service in the evening. It has frequently been pointed out that Saints are not Saints because of what they did, but that what they did was the result of their saintliness – their closeness to Christ. As we celebrate the saints through the ages, we recognise that it was only by their devotion and deep faith, from a life of prayer and study of God's word, that they were able to endure incredible hardships and sacrifices to help bring in God's Kingdom of peace and righteousness. They truly followed the one who came, "not to be served, but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many." And we also note that the saints are not 'cardboard cut-outs' from the remote past, but living examples from the Communion of Saints from New Testament times right down to today. There have been more martyrs for the Christian faith in the last century than any other. People like Dietrich Bonhoeffer, whose letters from a German concentration camp inspired so many Christian to discover how to live with true freedom in the world: or Archbishop Luwum who died for refusing to be manipulated by Idi Amin in Uganda: or Oscar Romero killed on the steps of the sanctuary for standing against tyranny in South America.

But then All Souls reminds us not only of the heroes of our faith, but all those whose memories we treasure. I have just been talking to a lady in a Nursing Home who spoke with love and pride about keeping up the standards her mother had taught her. How much we owe to those who helped to mould who we are today by their love and example! And both All Saints and All Souls remind us that we are all one in the Communion of Saints – that we are linked either side of death as one family in heaven and on earth.

8 November is Remembrance Sunday which cuts two ways. We remember with pride and gratitude the sacrifice of those who gave their lives for our freedom. We also remember the horror and futility of war and the inhumanity of man to man. This year war is all too close as we hear of yet more of our soldiers killed in Afghanistan, and see the latest atrocity committed by those who would seek to impose their own tyranny.

So where does our path lead from this vantage point of history? Surely we must learn that in order to succeed, all evil needs, is for us to do nothing. We personally may not be called to make the sacrifices we remember of the saints or those who have died in war, but we can play our part by helping to increase the light and diminish the dark. Our Growth Action Planning as a parish will build on the feedback we have received to determine the priorities for us in passing on our heritage of faith in meaning and relevant ways for today. In November we also have the offertory of our Children's Society Boxes and the Christmas Fair. This year the Christmas Fair Charities are: International: St Gregory's Foundation helping people in great need in Karelia, NW Russia; National: Cystic Fibrosis research and support and Local: Contact Centre for parents and children involved in family breakdown. All these are examples of the paths we can take, to be inspired by good examples from the past and to learn from the mistakes, in order to forge a better way for the future.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Peter Lee". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish underneath the name.

Prayer of the Month: *Contemporary Prayers for Public Worship*

We thank you, Lord our God, for creating the world and preserving it until now. We thank you for the regular return of day and night, and of the seasons, and for the dependability of nature and of time. We thank you for memory, which enables us to build on the experience of the past; for imagination, which admits us to a wider world that we could otherwise know; and for foresight, by which we plan for the future.

We thank you for your patience with the errors and sins of humankind: you have neither wearied of us nor allowed us to ruin ourselves in self-destruction or utter degradation, but have sent your Son Jesus Christ to break down the barriers between us and you and between us and each other, and to restore the broken unity of human life. Amen.

King Offa & Offa's Dyke

Travelling through the beautiful Wye Valley last week on a journey through Wales, we stopped off at the Old Railway Station near Tintern for a break, and came across a series of fine sculptured wooden figures, including one of King Offa. Although I've walked parts of Offa's Dyke foot-



path many times I've never really known much about him. So I decided to find out, and thought that it might be also interesting for many of you. King Offa ruled Britain from 757 to 796 AD and clearly was a powerful King, taking on both The Archbishop of Canterbury and The Pope during his reign. His power was also recognised in Europe by Charlemagne. He was King of Mercia, a kingdom which stretched mainly through the middle of England, with Wessex to the south and Northumbria to the north. During his reign he also

acquired Kent, Essex and East Anglia. Finally he takes over a large part of Powys in Wales after a battle near Hereford in 760, and he later built an earthwork now known as Offa's Dyke to hold out against further attacks by the fierce Welsh tribes. The Dyke, a huge earthwork built along the border between England and Wales, uses the natural landscape where possible, and earth embankments up to 25ft (8m) high and deep ditches were added when needed. It crosses sections of hard volcanic and limestone rocks, rolling hills and productive farmland. At times it seems to follow the river valleys such as the Wye, Lugg

or Teme. It was also linked to many ancient hill forts, especially in the northern section between Moel Famau and Prestatyn. Although it was never garrisoned and defended as Hadrian's Wall it still proves an impressive link between Wales and England. Today it is best known for the footpath that runs alongside it from Prestatyn in the north to Chepstow and the Bristol Channel. This is a challenge to many walkers and runners, and the 177m or 285km distance has been covered by steady walking over twelve days, or in less than 24 hours by members of the Chester based Deeside Orienteering Club running in relays.

The Dyke itself only exists for just over half the distance but was built by thousands of men, and proved that this early Society was capable of great organisation. In parts the dyke runs across hills around 1,500 high, and would have needed a great deal of effort to move earth and soil to form this impressive barrier. However King Offa would no doubt be highly amused to learn that his great earthwork, is now giving pleasure to thousands of people each day, whilst walking/running /enjoying the footpath alongside the dyke across the whole of its range from Prestatyn to Chepstow and admiring the superb scenery that exists along the length of its route. The pictures depict the wooden sculpture of King Offa at Tintern, and a replica helmet from the Sutton Hoo treasure in Suffolk which might have belonged to a Warrior or King from the time of Offa.



PHOTOGRAPHY

As a record of people, wildlife and landscape the still photograph has developed to near perfection. Indeed, with digital development can technical progress go any further? If God's purpose for us was to become perfect at everything, is this one of the best examples? Not to mention cinematography and digital television.

I have known as friends both photographers by profession and three or four others who achieve professional standards as amateurs. Whilst I could never emulate them, I used to be pretty good myself, mainly taking colour slides for teaching purposes. Yet I rarely use a camera now, an event in 1974 changing my attitude to doing so.



Early in a visit to Israel with Cheshire schools, my camera ceased to wind on and could not quickly be repaired there. At first I was devastated, but my teacher colleagues told me not to worry; between them they would send me a selection of their pictures. Once mended, the camera served me well for several more years, but I had come to realise that there is more to a holiday or a visit than a camera.

Indeed, I have not taken a camera abroad with me for ten years finding it often a barrier to natural conversation, for instance listening to the grief of a flood victim near the German/Czech border, or chatting to an elderly Romanian content in his village but not wealthy.

True, I depend on the beautiful postcards now readily available in most places. I might even be accused of taking advantage of others by letting them take the pictures, but then I let the pilot fly the plane, the train-driver the train.

The purposes for which photos are taken are not always straightforward. Invited to a seminar at the German Embassy, I saw pictures taken secretly by 8 professional photographers during the restricted days of East Germany before the collapse of the Iron Curtain. One of the photographers was even present, telling in her 80's; challenging but triumphant tales of her career. Her stark but beautiful portrait of an elderly couple on their balcony in East Berlin did not tell you that they were the only people in a long street of hundreds not waving flags and banners as a communist parade passed. The two were at peace but at risk. Strangely, the government and press of the time themselves used photography a good deal, but mainly to fill newspapers "with endless images of ecstatic workers and peasants" in East Germany.

I wonder how Jesus Christ or St Paul would have reacted to a photographer accompanying them on their travels. Might it have strengthened their respective messages? Would beautiful scenery and facial expressions recorded at the time have enhanced the stories of the Bible? Most of us prefer the word in the Bible and its exposition from the pulpit. Mystery is better.

As for cine-photography and notably religious blockbusters from Hollywood, happily I am no expert.

Advent with the Prophets

During the season of Advent, join us for night prayers and meditation each **Thursday evening at 7.45 in St James' Church commencing 26th November.**

The meditations each week will focus on the prophets and what they have to say to us about preparing for the coming of our Lord.

This is an excellent opportunity to escape the hustle and bustle of Christmas shopping for a few moments of tranquillity and peaceful reflection.

Water Level at the Pit

The dry weather of the last three weeks has contributed to the low level of water at The Pit. Areas of mud have been exposed for the first time for several years, and as the water level drops herons find easy pickings of fish in the shallows. The low water level is possibly the reason that the swans have moved on. The cob seemed to fly out each day from early August leaving the pen in moult to stay and feed up after her long spell on the infertile eggs. She has now flown off, and I hope to be able to report on their whereabouts shortly. The “Waverton pair & six cygnets” who can be seen most days along the canal in Christleton have had yet another adventure. You might remember the story of the swan (CX86) on the railway line, then the fact that a month later, after the eggs had been laid, another male swan C671 had taken over the family, chasing off the original (railway line) cob. Well during August that “new cob” himself was reported to have been seen with fishing line around his bill, I searched the canal for a week to no avail but when I found the family again, the pen and the six cygnets were reunited with the first and original cob CX86, and there has been no sign of C671 since. Who said that swans mate for life??

Butterflies;

The warm weather of early September has brought many sightings of butterflies into the village. There have been good numbers of peacock, tortoiseshell, comma and painted ladies. Indications are that all butterflies have done well this year and recovered from the low numbers of 2008. The comma is always a late arrival on the scene, appearing in September/October when there is a great deal of fruit on the ground, often seen feeding on fallen apples and pears. The scalloped edges of the wings are a great clue to the identification of the comma, and I always thought that’s how they got their name. But apparently it is the white comma on the underside that is the real reason for its name as can be seen on the accompanying photographs. The

butterfly “stars” of the summer have been without doubt the highly coloured painted ladies as I’ve mentioned many times over the summer. However I didn’t realise that there were many other reasons for this explosion, and the migration north of these wonderful creatures. It appears that a wet winter in Morocco led to the growth of their favourite food plants. Hence plenty of food for the caterpillars, and many more butterflies emerged than normal. When spring also arrived early, they left their birthplace and headed north, many of them landing in Spain. Others came further north to France and then the UK in their millions. What I didn’t realise is that the early arrivals in Spain themselves laid eggs producing new



individuals, and it’s this second group of butterflies that also came across the channel into the UK giving us a summer long presence of these beautiful butterflies. Painted ladies have a short life span of 6-8 weeks from egg to

adult, and all these incredible creatures weighing less than one gram, fly distances of up to 1600 miles (2,500km) in 10 days across land and sea to reach our shores, giving us a wonderful “Painted Lady” summer to rival the last that occurred in 1997.



Letter to the editor

Dear Sir,

A big thank you to David Cummings for help in locating a family grave in Christleton Churchyard, namely Sgt Major John Walker who died in 1879 aged 86 and his granddaughter Mary Christina Walley who died in 1872 aged 3 and his eldest son George John Walker, who died in 1871 aged 42. A census records that the Walkers were living at "No 31 Christleton" in 1871 and the Walleys at "No 28"

I was also delighted to hear news of Mrs Betty Dunning. Betty's sister-in-law and brother-in-law (the Arrowsmiths of Bunbury) were friends of my family for over 50 years.

*Rev Phillip Cook, Portslade
Brighton.*

Some thoughts on genealogy

~ Genealogy: tracing yourself back to better people.

~ I trace my family history so I will know who to blame.

~ Can a first cousin, once removed, return?

~ Searching for lost relatives? Find them fast - win the lottery!

~ Do you even WANT ancestors?

Box Opening time is here again!

**Sunday 15th November
6.30pm**

**Evensong with the
annual Offertory of
Children's Society
collection boxes.**

I do hope you will be able to join us for this service, when we will be showing a short film on the work of The Children's Society. The Society provides vital help and understanding for children who face danger, discrimination or disadvantage in their daily lives ;children who are unable to find the support they need elsewhere.

May I thank in advance all those box holders who collect loose change throughout the year for the Society, it really can make a difference! Boxes are always available for anyone interested in becoming a new box holder,

With many thanks,

Lesley Morgan

5 Community and Family



My perspective of town life in Romania this year was beautifully shaped by the four days I spent on a small farm 60 miles north of the city of Sibiu, two hours drive away on moderate roads. The Potru family were so welcoming and kind. They have two pigs, two sheep, hens and ducks all eventually for home consumption. Beyond the abundance of aubergines, melons, grapes and huge tomatoes, lush tall maize fills the 4 or 5 acres of what they modestly call their garden. Further up the slopes behind the house, community land is shared mainly for the growth of hay; even the cultivated areas have few fences. Rural Romania was spared the Enclosure Acts which divided up farmland in Britain.

Mr Potru knows first where his land finishes, as do his neighbours. Trust pervades the village. Cornesti, pronounced 'Cornesht', moved downstream nearly 200 years ago to a more spacious site spread along the spring-line of underground water. Each house has its own well and Transylvania's natural gas field gives each house a ready supply. Electricity and telephone lines are overhead and pretty reliable, lights flickered occasionally and the water pressure in the hot, dry summer months is low.

The village lane is as bumpy as any pictured in an English tourist supplement; horses trundle by hauling an assortment of old 4-wheeled trailers. There are cars, but people walk a lot, sometimes quite long distances. Everyone seems to know everyone and there is an abounding spirit of community and mutual support. Cornesti has not known anything else.

Its spirit survived a horrible few months in autumn 1944 when there was vicious fighting in the valley as the Nazi army retreated west towards Hungary from the advancing Russian and Romanian allies. The hatred was the greater as Romania had first fought on the German side. Many lives were lost and elderly Cornesti villagers still tell of how they hid in the nearby upland forests.

Like an increasing number of farming families, the Potrus had or have other sides to their lives. Mr Potru retired early this year as a motor mechanic, his wife is an intensive care nurse specialising in stomach conditions. Both daughters did well at school, Andrea moving straight into a jewellers, Mirela has recently graduated from university. One wonders how the family ever found time to tend their crops, but they all pulled together.

Taking me to the huge salt-mine at Praid, I was told that since 1945 serious asthma sufferers went there to be cured by clean-air therapy. Indeed, Mirela was taken there aged 4 – 10 once a month, at 23 is now fine, and married shortly after my visit.

Some might call rival Romania backward. But a friendly society that benefits from healthy home-grown food, where the young talk to and care for the elderly, and where girls (and boys) can walk safely alone even at night, displays exceptional Christian values. For a model of the caring community we so urgently need to restore in Britain, Cornesti can teach us a lot.

Thanks

Valmai Griffiths, Croeso, 47 Toll Bar Road, Christleton, would like to thank family and friends for the kindness shown to her on the death of her mother Doreen, who was staying here in Christleton at the time.

Thanks especially to Jen Davies, Jim and Cynthia Siddall (Mum and Dad 2) for their love and to Rev Canon Peter Lee for his support.

*‘To the world she was just someone,
But to us, she was the world’*

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 METHODISTS

Warmly invite you for
Coffee & Homemade Biscuits
On Saturday 14 November
10 am – 12 noon

Charity Christmas Cards
Cake Stall : White Elephant : Raffle
Proceeds to the World Mission Fund
All welcome

CHRISTMAS FAIR

11 November 11am - 4pm
Vicars Cross Golf Club
in aid of the Neuro Muscular
Centre, Winsford. Free entry.

CHRISTLETON W.I.

Meets on the second Wednesday of the
month at 7.15 pm in the Parish Hall
Next Meeting
11th November
**TAYLORS BOAT YARD &
CANAL**
Geoff Taylor

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,
Trish Pollard

Telephone: 01829751140

CHRISTLETON W.I. MONTHLY WHIST

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

KELSBORROW CHOIR

with the
Grimethorpe Colliery Band
Chester Cathedral
Saturday 12th December
7.30pm

Reserved Tickets £17
Unreserved Tickets £12
Tel: 01829 740868

THIS MONTH

CHRISTLETON LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

Meets at the Primary School in
Quarry Lane

Admission £2.50

All welcome.

**Wednesday 25th November
7.30pm**

Speaker, Geoff Lawson

Subject William Holman Hunt
- Articulate Art.

W H Hunt OM was an English
painter, one of the founders of the
Pre Raphaelite Brotherhood.



Parents ~ Toddlers ~ Grandparents !

You are invited to the

Parish hall in Christleton on

**Wednesday 4th November
at 2.00 p.m.**

We will have a short time with
story/songs/activity for pre – school
children, followed by tea/coffee &
cake and soft drinks for children.

St. James Church

For further information telephone

Berenice 01244 336779

Come and listen to a great story!

THE CREATION

By Joseph Haydn

The Borders Sinfonia & EPMS

Chorus

Conductor Tim Stuart

With soloists:

Emme Peaurt, soprano

Oliver White, tenor &

Michael Pearce, bass

**Saturday November 14th 2009
at 7 30 pm**

Ellesmere Port Civic Hall

Tickets in advance

from 0151 327 4062 or

www.epmsonline.co.uk

Some availability at the door

ST JAMES WALKING GROUP

November 24th 2009

North Wales;

Conway Mountain

Sychnant Pass.

Rating; Hard - 9miles.

Mountain walk with superb

Estuary Views.

Depart. Church Car Park 8.00am

Fish & Chip lunch at Conway.

**CHRISTLETON
WEDNESDAY GROUP**

Fun Quiz Evening

on

Saturday 14 November,
at Christleton Parish Hall,

7 for 7.30 pm.

Tickets £8.50

(available from members) includes
a glass of wine & finger buffet

In aid of Claire House
Children's Hospice

**CHRISTLETON
WEDNESDAY GROUP**

FESTIVE LUNCH

on

Wednesday 2 December,
at Christleton Parish Hall,

12.00 noon.

Tickets £9, available from members.

(includes a glass of wine)

In aid of Claire House
Children's Hospice

In aid of
hope house children's hospices
Christleton Friends Group

CHRISTMAS EVENING

featuring Jamie @ Home

Christleton Parish Hall

Wednesday 18th November

Door open at 7.00pm

Taster from Jamie @ Home Recipe
Plus Cooking Demonstrations and a
complimentary glass of mulled wine or
a soft drink

You will also have the opportunity
To Shop Till You Drop

With various Christmas Stalls for All
your Gift Needs

Tickets £7.50

More details contact
Penny 01244 332376

**CHRISTLETON GUIDES
JUMBLE SALE**

2.00pm

Saturday 7th November

Christleton Scout Hut

Admission 25p

Children 10p

Refreshments available

THE MONDAY PAINTERS

A local art group, is holding an **Exhibition of Paintings for sale** in support of The Hospice of the Good Shepherd. It will take place on **Saturday 14 November 2009 at Christleton Parish Hall from 10 am – 3.30 pm.** Entrance £1 including refreshments. Children under 12 yrs free.

THE ORIENT EXPRESS

In celebration of Gillian's 70th birthday last month we joined her on a day's excursion on the Orient Express travelling from Chester to Edinburgh.

All 3 of us Gillian, Christine and myself were collected just after 5.30 am and on arrival at Chester Station were greeted by James the Train Manager smartly dressed in his Orient



Express uniform. The train arrived, slightly late, and we were helped on to the train by our carriage steward Simon and took our seats at our reserved table which was beautifully laid for breakfast. We were joined by another lady (also named Christine), making up the table of 4, and she was the wife of one of the stewards working in another carriage and had only known she would be travelling the night before!

Soon after we left the station at about 6.30 am we were offered Bucks Fizz, and shortly afterwards muesli with as

much tea or coffee as we could drink. The train stopped at Warrington, Manchester and Preston to take on more passengers by which time all the carriages were full. Our journey was to take us through Yorkshire, the Lake District, up Shap Fell, to Carlisle, Lockerbie (who could ever forget the significance of that name) and finally to our destination in Edinburgh. We were served Brunch about 10 o'clock consisting of champagne cocktail, Bellini, fresh fruit cocktail, scrambled eggs wrapped in a smoked salmon parcel topped with caviar, tomato and chives. This was followed by a selection of Danish pastries and again as much tea or coffee as we could drink together with a top-up of champagne cocktail! Delicious!

On arrival in Edinburgh about 12.00 noon (but it felt like late afternoon to us because we had been up at such an early hour), we were bussed to the Port of Leith where The Royal Yacht Britannia was moored and commenced our tour of this remarkable ship.

We were all presented with an official guidebook and everyone was given an audio handset to use which explained the history of each section of the yacht. We were very impressed with the way in which the yacht is being preserved; it is in pristine condition even down to the shiny copper pipes in the engine room. We saw every inch of the yacht that we were allowed to see which

was pretty much most of it, including the State Drawing Room and Dining Room, the Queen's Sitting Room adjoining the Duke's Sitting Room and likewise their bedrooms which were undoubtedly modest in décor. In contrast the State Drawing Room was large and comfortable with a baby grand piano which had been fastened to the floor by bolts in case of heavy



weather and we could picture Sir Noel Coward "singing for his supper" along with members of the Royal Family. We finished our

tour by having afternoon tea on the Yacht and made our way back to the bus for a ride into Edinburgh where we were deposited outside Harvey Nichols for a spot of shopping.

At approximately 5.00pm we left Edinburgh for the return journey home. It was nice to get back on the train after our exhausting five hour tour of the Royal Yacht and the city itself and to sink into the extremely comfortable seats on the train. The tables this time were laid for dinner and commenced with a glass of champagne and canapés – of course! Then there was soup, venison or fish, a

huge cheeseboard selection, chocolate and raspberry torte followed by coffee and several top-ups of champagne not to mention the bottles of red & white wine!! The journey home passed very quickly – could be something to do with the laughter we shared or the amount of alcohol consumed – I really couldn't say, but we arrived back in Chester Station about 10.30 pm feeling rather tired but we all agreed that we had had the most memorable day which we will remember and talk about for many years to come.

Janet Milton

In Flanders Fields

*In Flanders Fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.*

*We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset
glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we
lie
In Flanders fields.*

*Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies
grow
In Flanders fields.*

The concept of a personal guardian angel is a popular one. For centuries Christians have prayed for angels to protect them especially through the long dark hours of the night.

I have a guardian angel, well, I have a little carved wooden angel given to me by my Godmother when I was very ill as a child. I've kept her with me ever since, sadly she now only has one wing. Of course, it's only a bit of fun. I don't believe she has any miraculous properties, no power of protection.

But do I believe that I have an angel that watches over me and protects me from harm? If I did, would I be prepared to drop down into the cheetahs' enclosure at Chester zoo and expect no harm to come to me? If I did that, I would be supremely arrogant and very dead.

And if I did believe that people had angels watching over and protecting them from harm, where were they in the gas chambers of Auschwitz? In the refugee camps of East Congo?

Rwanda? Sri Lanka? The list is endless.

Yet Jesus, when talking about how special children were to God, says that children are so close to God that only the child's angel is between them. But where were the angels of all the children who have been beaten and abused by those who should be protecting them?

These are difficult questions but ones that perhaps our non-Christian friends ask us, expecting a clever answer and ones we even ask of God in our prayers.

Whilst the concept of guardian angels has been a firmly held belief within the Christian tradition, the notion of a personal guardian angel within scripture doesn't really exist. It is true that there are many instances when people are sustained, protected or warned but this seems to be for a specific purpose or limited time frame.

Throughout the bible, we see angels providing sustenance, not just spiritual but physical.

They feed Hagar and her son when they have been turned out to die by Sarah because of her jealousy. When Hagar is in despair

and her child is dying of thirst, an angel of God calls to her:

‘What troubles you Hagar? Do not be afraid; for God

Has heard the voice of the boy where he is.

Come, lift up the boy and hold him fast with your hand...’

When she opens her eyes, there is a well of water.

Elijah was also fed by Angels in the wilderness. As a bit of a ‘foody’ myself, I love the notion that angels understand our basic needs to the point of acknowledging that if we are going to be of any use, we need to have a good meal inside us first. Elijah didn’t simply get water and perhaps locusts or some other equally disgusting but I daresay nutritious food, no, he got warm cake! I love that angel!

Jesus was also given sustenance by angels after he had spent 40 days and nights in the wilderness but not until he was ready. How they must have been itching to give him food but the time wasn’t right. Once he had resisted the devil’s temptations, however, we are told that angels ‘waited on him’

Angels also serve to protect people at specific times. The angels guarded Daniel during the time he was in the lion’s den.

Paul, who faced many hazards on his travels was caught up in a terrific storm when an angel came to tell him that he and all the people on the ship would live. Paul was able to reassure his shipmates even though they had not seen an angel. He said

‘I urge you now to keep up your courage, for there

Will be no loss of life among you but only of the ship.

For last night there stood by me an angel of God

To whom I belong and whom I worship, and he said,

“do not be afraid Paul... God has granted safety

to all those who are sailing with you”

And angels are there to warn people. They warned Lot to get out of Sodom before it was destroyed and we know of course that an angel came to Joseph in a dream and warned him to take Mary and the child Jesus to escape the fury of Herod. As they fled, did they hear the weeping and wailing of the mothers when the massacre began? Why didn’t the angels warn all those with a boy child under the age of two?

Again, more questions and there are no easy answers.

The truth is that we live in a world where evil exists as well as good. We have capacity to love and be generous, but we are also capable of hatred and great selfishness. We celebrate the sun on our faces because we know how miserable

the dark is.

God does not interfere with our lives but we know, like any loving parent, he desires us to take the right path, so much so that he gave us his son to show us the way.

The same child that escaped Herod with his family was to sacrifice his life for us, on the cross. An angel warned Joseph to ensure that Jesus could fulfil his purpose, God's purpose. It seems that there are times when God does need to interfere. Paul, saved from drowning and rescued from prison went on to die a martyr's death. Far from thinking enough was enough, he knew that God's purpose for him was to continue to preach the gospel, regardless of the consequences.

So, back to guardian angels.

Do they protect us from harm? If the answer is yes, then for what purpose?

If we think of a guardian, we think of someone who not only protects but who guides us and gives us advice, a parental substitute. It may be comforting to think that we have a guardian angel with us at all times keeping us safe and happy, but if the role of the guardian angel is to bring us closer to God, it may be less comforting as our angel may set us spiritual challenges. The path to heaven can be rocky and steep but it's our angel's job to ensure we don't try to dip out and take an easy route but one which won't lead us to God.

Jane Williams suggests that they may guard us from our worst selves in order for us to come closer to God.

Do we need guardian angels when we have Jesus to guide us and save us, to show us the way and intercede for us?

As is so often the case, my meditation tonight raises more questions than answers.

To suggest we have the answers is to say that we know the mind of God. The whole truth is not for us to know in this world. What matters is that we have faith and trust in God for he will sustain, protect and love us as we endeavour to live out our lives according to his will. And if God chooses to send his angels to help us, how truly blessed we will be.

As for my little angel, well she may not have any miraculous powers but she is there to remind me that I am never alone. God and his angels are watching over me.

Lord, your angels remind us that we are precious to God, may they bring us closer to you by guiding us along the right path

Historic Cheshire Churches Preservation Trust Sponsored Bicycle Ride

This years Sponsored Bicycle Ride in aid of the Historic Cheshire Churches Preservation Trust took place on Saturday 12 September. Again, the day was blessed with glorious sunshine – this was the third year that I have done the ride and I have not yet seen a drop of rain.

I varied my route this year, and although I was never too far away from Christleton, my milometer recorded 73.9 miles, criss-crossing the countryside to take in churches as far north as Ashton, as far east as Tilston Fearnall, and as far south as Farndon. All the churches are open and manned by volunteers to record and sign that I have been and are most welcoming, very often offering tea and biscuits. I visited in all 25 churches and chapels. As in previous years, everybody who sponsored me has been very generous, and the total that I collected was £572. My grateful thanks to everybody for their generosity.

This year, I had the bonus of another participant; Liz McClure cycled to a number of churches (with her dog in tow) and got sponsorship for £159 – a wonderful addition to the total. Wouldn't it be great if, in future years,

others could also participate and get sponsored by their own circle of family, friends and neighbours (it can be done by car – not need to cycle)?

The final total collected was £731. One half of this is for the Preservation Trust and the other half is given back to St James.

Again, very many thanks to all who sponsored me and Liz.

Edward Elliott

Miscellaneous observations

By the time you find greener pastures, you can't climb over the fence.

The psychiatrist really helped me a lot. I would never answer the phone, because I was afraid. Now I answer it whether it rings or not.

I was thinking of becoming a doctor. I have the handwriting for it.

God may have made our relatives - but thank God we can choose our friends!

Experience is something you don't get until just after you need it.

How do you find where a flea has bitten you? Start from scratch!

Any day above ground is a good day.

Any married man should forget his mistakes - there's no use in two people remembering the same thing.

VILLAGE TEAS 2009

Churches Together in Christleton

Thank you to everybody who helped with the Village Teas this summer which we think has been a huge success. Most weekends seem to have been very busy despite some wet days but that doesn't seem to have dampened the spirits of those wanting a friendly place to visit on a Sunday afternoon.

At the Coffee Morning on 22 October at the Methodist Church we should know just what monies we have collected and how much can be distributed to the Playing Fields and The Guides.

As one lady was heard saying at the last session – “what are we going to do on a Sunday afternoon without tea and cakes at 3 o'clock”.

Ann Collier Janet Milton Sheila Roberts



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 **December** edition are sent to Janet Milton (335469), as soon as possible **BEFORE Friday 13th November** or you can e-mail this to
christletonmag@hotmail.co.uk

MAGAZINE DISTRIBUTORS

The **December** magazine will be available for collection from Church on
Sunday 28th November

Online for Advent: Mary and Joseph – the Road Movie

If you think local nativity plays are charming/hilarious, give yourself a treat and visit a website called:
www.paperlesschristmas.org.uk.
You won't regret it!
Direct link now on the Christleton web site.

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 September 2009

Holy Baptism

- 6th Holly Florence Cooke daughter of Thomas & Jodette Cooke
Stamford Heath Farm, Stamford Lane, Christleton
- 20th William Douglas Green son of Brian & Joanne Green
10 Hilary Close, Great Boughton.

"We welcome you into the Lord's Family"

The Marriage Service

- 19th Mark James Wood & Sarah Cunnington
59 Green Lane, Vicars Cross
- 26th Scott Henry Graves & Helen Ruth Dougherty
10 Kinnington Way, Backford Cross, Chester

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

The Funeral Service

- 10th Norman Plevin Birch Heath Lodge Nursing Home, Christleton.
- 15th Sylvia Marjorie Kenyon Manor Croft, Quarry Lane, Christleton
- 17th Llewelyn Williams 22 The Square, Christleton
- 17th Dorothy Annie Evans 3 Plas Newton Lane, Newton, Chester
(Burial of Ashes)

"Grant them eternal rest."

Offertories

September	Cash	CSE	2009	2008
6th	240-85	845-00	1,083-50	1,022-10
13th	86-30	564-10	650-40	740-36
20th	131-27	682-50	813-77	784-52
27th	152-24	577-40	749-64	1,037-67
Totals.			£3,297-66	£3,584-65

"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 Canon K. Peter Lee, M.A.**
The Rectory, Birch Heath Lane, Christleton335663

Churchwardens:	John Pearson	335101
	Keith Smalls	335688
Reader	Wayne Morris	01978 263389
Reader Emeritus	John Roberts	332207
Verger	David Ellis	336879
Sacristan:	Betty Dunning	335652

Sunday School:	Berenice Hogg.....	336779
Mother's 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
Bellringer Vice Captains	Ian Crossan	332280
Parish Hall Booking	David Mercer	336155
C. M. S. Secretary	Janet Brown	335785
Children's Society Sec.	Lesley Morgan	335088
Visiting Group:	Berenice Hogg	336779
Library	Lois Dickinson	378320
Church Flowers	Olive Hammond.....	336562
Magazine Editor	David Bull.....	332234
Magazine Compiler	Richard Nicholson	336004
Magazine Distributors	Jenny Davies and Valmai Griffiths	335884
Neighbourhood Link Co-Ordinator	Janet Bowden.....	335705
Parish Resource		
Person for Child Protection	Susan Alexander	335077



BAPTISMS, WEDDINGS & APPOINTMENTS
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