



# St. James'

## Christleton

### PARISH MAGAZINE

CHESHIRE COMMUNITY COUNCIL  
  
**BEST KEPT  
VILLAGE**

# September 2012

[www.christleton.org.uk](http://www.christleton.org.uk)

35p

# Starting in September

Sat 1	1.30 pm	Wedding - Rik Jackson & Zoe Bell
Sun 2	<b>8.00 am</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>
	10.45 am	Holy Communion
	6.30 pm	Evensong (CW)
	6.30 pm	Alternative Harvest Thanksgiving with Tina & Malcolm on Tina's allotment
Mon 3	10.45 am	Holy Communion at Oaklands Nursing Home
	11.20 am	Holy Communion at Tarvin Court
Wed 5	10.45 am	Holy Communion - Methodist Church followed by refreshments
	7.30 pm	P & O Meeting - Toll Bar Road
Fri 7	12 noon	Wedding - Gregory Atkinson & Joanne O'Loughlin
	6.30 pm	Choir practice
Sat 8	3.00 pm	Wedding - Steven Wild & Tania Bull
Sun 9	<b>8.00 am</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>
	10.45 am	Sunday Club - Parish Hall
	10.45 am	All Age Service
	12.15 pm	Holy Baptism - Teddy Lowry Phillips
	6.30 pm	Holy Communion
Mon 10	2.00 pm	Mothers' Union - Parish Hall
Wed 12	10.45 am	Holy Communion - followed by refreshments
	11.30 am	Holy Communion - Birch Heath Lodge

Fri 14                      6.30 pm              Choir Practice

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

Sat 15                      1.00 pm              Wedding - Jonathon Wright/Joanne Barber

**Sun 16                      8.00 am              Holy Communion**  
10.45 am              Family Communion & Rededication Service  
1.00 pm              Wedding - Gavin Cowper & Sarah Hodgkinson  
6.30 pm              Evensong

Wed 19                      10.45 am              Holy Communion - followed by refreshments

Fri 21                      6.30 pm              Choir Practice

**Sun 23                      8.00 am              Holy Communion**  
10.45 am              Sunday Club - Parish Hall  
10.45 am              Morning Prayer  
6.30 pm              Holy Communion

Wed 26                      10.45 am              Holy Communion - followed by refreshments

Fri 28                      6.30 pm              Choir Practice

**Sun 30                      8.00 am              Holy Communion**  
10.45 am              Sunday Club - Parish Hall  
10.45 am              Holy Communion  
6.30 pm              Evensong

# Letter from Our Rector

The success of the British athletics team over the past weeks have left us all on a high. However, one of the things I didn't know about cycling (and many other events) was just how much of team events they are.

The television commentator often referred to members of each team working for the others, to the extent that some members of the team were included, not to try and win the race, but to assist in helping a team member to win.

That must be one of the hardest roles to play in any team, because the competitor knows that the glory can never be theirs.....it's not their role to win, only to support.

In many ways, that must be a discipline in itself, because I for one, know that if I had that once in a lifetime opportunity for Olympic Gold, I would probably have a rush of blood to the head.....and go for it.....and who could say otherwise.

So athletic discipline is not just the early morning and late evening training sessions in winter as well as summer. It is not only the hard slog of pushing one's body through pain and injury,..... but also recognising one's place within the team, working and supporting each other, very often without the recognition bestowed on the winner.

On reflection, I guess most organisations are just the same, those who support and encourage without recognition for their efforts, who acknowledge their role as ensuring victory for another.

St Paul in his first letter to the Corinthians spoke of the need for teamwork and for each person to recognise their place within the team, using their gifts and talents to support and encourage one another.

Corinth was totally destroyed in 146BC but rebuilt a century later, it's inhabitants were at first Romans, but eventually Greeks came back in large numbers and many other races were also attracted to the area. So Corinth was a rich cosmopolitan area, and yet spiritually poor, perhaps the "Look after number one" culture had arrived, but St Paul, urges the Church in that place to refrain from seeking that kind of lifestyle and instead to see themselves as a body, One Body with many parts, with each part being of importance and each part knowing it's role.

It is by working for each other and with each other, that we do God's will and fulfil His purpose. Surely with the examples of selfless sacrifice we have witnessed during the Olympic Games, and the many victories won, we can understand more clearly St Paul's message to the young Church.

Times change.....the message remains the same.

Your faithful servant

Malcolm

September, 2012

## Dr Liz McClure

**C**ongratulations from everyone in the Parish to popular G.P. Dr Liz McClure who retires from her present position as a G.P. in Chester at the end of August. Liz has contributed so much to both the local and city communities, with her enthusiasm & zest for life and the dedicated care both to her patients, and to all who know her. She has contributed to so many church committees, led the walking groups, and provided refreshments including her famous home made cakes and biscuits to so many church events. She has always enthusiastically supported the Charity for Preserving Cheshire Churches, visiting so many in a short time with her faithful dog(s) running alongside. We wish her every happiness in her well earned retirement giving her more time to look after husband Ron, and hopefully enjoy many new adventures together.

## Luke Disley

**C**ongratulations to Luke a student at Christleton High School, and occasional singer with St James Church Choir. He is a member of the National Youth Choir of Great Britain, and recently had the wonderful & uplifting experience of singing in The BBC Proms at the Royal Albert Hall. The Youth Choir performed with distinction, under the guidance of World famous Conductor Daniel Barenboim, and the West Eastern Diva Orchestra. They sang as the chorus in Choral Symphony no9 part of the Beethoven Cycle. What a wonderful experience for Luke and the other young musicians.

# Roger Croston

**A**s you will have read in the August magazine Roger Croston of Christleton had the privilege of arranging an audience with the Dalai Lama at Westminster Abbey for the descendants of the British who were in Tibet before 1950. The photograph that accompanied the article was of his parents Alf and Margaret Croston. This photograph of Roger sporting his Union Jack tie is the one that should have appeared. Apologies.



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## Cover Picture

### The Best Kept Village Sign

**O**ur cover picture this month features the stolen Best Kept Village sign, which stood on the Village Green for over 20 years. This important feature of our village was a significant piece of our heritage, the recognition of the efforts of so many villagers over many years, to enhance the village environment for the benefit of all. The sign wasn't of great monetary value, and doesn't compare with the theft of grave plaques and other memorial features in other places. However the loss of such important features from cities, towns and villages devalues us all and leaves us shocked & upset that such people have lost all sense of decency. Clearly the thief or thieves stole the sign for the metal content, not realising that the oak post was of even more value, as this was dumped in the Parish Hall Car Park. It is unlikely that this plaque will ever be recovered, so perhaps we might think of replacing it with an appropriate Village Sign in the same position as part of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Celebration.





# NATURE NOTES

David  
Cummings

In view of the poor weather and the absence of many local wildlife sightings this month, I thought I'd write about some of my more interesting sightings this year. The most exciting perhaps is the knowledge that we now have otters in the neighbourhood with photographic evidence to prove it. We've also had the welcome return of a number of water voles, although the high level of the river Gowy through June & July might have affected their breeding potential this year. My favourite bird sightings have been tens of thousands of Manx shearwaters flying across Carmarthen Bay at dusk, on route to their nest sites on the Pembrokeshire bird islands of Skokholm & Skomer, whilst the sight of 80,000 magnificent white gannets on Grassholm in the Irish sea was certainly very exciting, despite the pungent smell down wind of their nest ledges. I've also enjoyed





seeing osprey, fish eating eagles at their nest site in Mid Wales, elegant black & white avocets and their young born locally at RSPB Burton Mere, a magnificent male ruff at WWT Martin Mere and a superb black winged stilt at WWT Slimbridge. These almost exotic birds are now becoming the norm in the U.K. as are



Great White and Little egrets, something we couldn't have imagined twenty or so years ago. The success of the magnificent red kite now



breeding freely all over the UK from a point when they were almost extinct in the 1960's, and the release of common cranes and white tailed eagles from current introduction programmes means we have a new and diverse group of birds flying around us. This in some way helps to make up for

the rapid decline in farmland birds in particular, where some common species from the 1970's have almost disappeared, yellowhammer, golden plover and lapwing being just three local examples. Clearly changes in weather patterns can influence the birds that we see, but also the activities of human kind, and the differences in farming practices can also lead to the disappearance of some species and the welcome introduction of others.



# Crew Youth Group



## Fun, games and fellowship at the crew party.

The Crew met together before breaking for the summer for a BBQ, games and fellowship. We were blessed with super weather and all agreed it was a great way to break for the holidays. We would love to welcome new members so if you feel you would like to be one of us, please contact Tina Lightfoot at [tina.lightfoot@googlemail.com](mailto:tina.lightfoot@googlemail.com) or alternatively speak to the Rector. We start again on September 2nd with a special Harvest thanksgiving at the Boughton Heath Allotments starting at 2pm

## Worship and Witness

The Crew are holding a Harvest thanksgiving service on plot 18 on the Boughton Heath Allotments ( at the back of the park and ride)

**Sunday 2nd September at 6.00pm**

Refreshments after the service providing it's not too wet!



**W**ith the enormous success of the 2012 Olympic Games taking place in London this month, I've been searching the Parish Records to find an appropriate story for this month's History File. I've come up with what I think is a wonderful example of an extraordinary village event, organised to celebrate the 1887 Jubilee of Queen Victoria. It's the Christleton Jubilee Sports held on June 21st 1887. When you read the variety of events themselves, together with the details of the prizes on offer, I think you will agree that it must have been a "crazy day". It wouldn't have been allowed today on so many grounds, and it just typifies some very Victorian attitudes to men & women. However I can't think that they had heard of the now famous "Olympian Games" at Much Wenlock, which were set up by the local GP William Penny Brookes to improve the health of the villagers.

## Programme.

- 1. Foot Race.** 60yards. For men over 50yrs. Handicap.  
Prizes. 1st. 2s 6d & 1lb tobacco. 2nd. 1s & 1/2lb tobacco-
- 2. Foot Race.** 100yards. Men between 35 - 50yrs. Handicap.  
Prizes. 2s 6d & 1lb tobacco 2nd. 1s & ½ lb tobacco
- 3. Foot Race** 150yards. Men between 20 & 35yrs Handicap  
Prizes. 1st 3s. 2nd 2s.
- 4. Foot Race** Youths under 20yrs. Scratch Distance. By roads over two bridges.  
Prizes. 1st 4s. 2nd 2s. 3rd 1s.
- 5. Foot Race.** 50yards. Women (married & widows) Handicap  
Carrying egg and spoon.  
Prizes. 1st. 1lb tea. 2nd 1/2lb tea, 3rd. 1/4lb tea
- 6. Foot Race.** 60 yards. For unmarried Women & Girls. Scratch.  
Prizes. 1st Silk Umbrella. 2nd & 3rd Something else.
- 7. Treacle & Rolls** Open to all.  
Prizes. 1st 4s. 2nd 1s.
- 8. Smoking Contest.** For men over 40years!!  
Prizes. 1st. 1lb tobacco. 2nd ½ lb tobacco. 3rd 1/4lb tobacco
- 9. Tug of War.** Open to all lightweights on Donkey Back  
Prize. The rope or 5s.
- 10. Foot Race.** 100yards. For members of the Band. Scratch.  
Prizes. 1st 5s. 2nd 2/6d

**11. Singing Contest.** For the best comic song.

Prize 5s. Judge C S Lyon & Committee.

**12. Blindfold Race.** 100yards. Scratch.

Prizes. 1st 4s. 2nd 2s

A bell will be rung throughout the race to indicate where the goal is.

**13. Foot Race.** Open to all From the gate of the field by road over Quarry & Christleton Bridge back to the field.

Prizes. 1st 5s & 1 lb tobacco. 2nd 1lb tobacco. 3rd 2s 6d

**14. Foot Race** 100yards Open to all. Scratch.

Conditions. Hands tied, and a lighted pipe of tobacco to be carried in the mouth the whole distance.

Prize. A box of 100cigars.

**15. Sack Race** 50yards. Open to all.

Prizes. 1st 5s 2nd 2/6d

**16. Children's Sports.**

To be organised on the day and suitable prizes awarded.

### Conditions

Entries are free, but the committee can reject any candidate.

The handicapping, will be done by the committee.

The committee have the power to modify this programme.

The decision of the referee will be final.

Committee,

Thos Mayers. Thos Butler. Josh Mosford. Arthur Peers. Samuel Lyon. Edward Comber.

Judge; C S Lyon. Starters. Messrs. Mosford & Butler. Referee Mr E Comber.

### Other notes on the programme

The sports will be held in the Morris Field by kind permission of Mr Townsend Ince.

Coloured Lights were burned from the top of the church tower, from where large Beacon Fires could be seen on surrounding hills in the neighbourhood.

I found it difficult to believe in some of the events. How could you have a tug of war on donkeys! How did they judge the smoking contest? A foot race with hands tied and a smoking pipe placed in the mouth. How dangerous was that!! What did Treacle & Rolls, an event open to all involve!! The value of some of the prizes was extraordinary for that time, and I guess that smoking was clearly a very important village pastime !

*Illustrations: Opposite - Coronation Canal Swim. Below - Christleton Band*



# Celebrations

**A**bout 5 years ago we spent one of our of our many holidays self catering in France at the Village of Limeuil situated on a steep rocky hillside above the confluence of the rivers Dordogne and Vezere.

To approach the village from the river was up steep paths and steps. At the side of the village a road ran to the top arriving at two open areas where cars could be parked. There was a big House with its garden open to the public and the Marie which seemed deserted, no shops and a number of abandoned houses, some being converted to holiday lets.

The small farms of the area had been swept away and replaced by large tracts of cereal production. Farm labourers were not required. We stayed at the Old Courthouse which had been converted to living accommodation access up a flight of steps, the gaol being down below now used for storage

One day we found the areas full of cars; it appeared a funeral for a local Catholic was taking place at a small church. Next day we saw on the notice board that next Sunday Holy Communion would be in English so we duly put on our best clothes and turned up, once more the area was full of cars but only two with English registrations ours and a passing family who also decided to come to the service.

The place was full of worshippers, it was very small, chairs being so close together it was impossible to kneel and on the front row a little dog was tucked under a seat. The service followed the B.C.P.format in English with five clergy taking part including the Bishop. Throughout the prayers and sermon the previous day's events and celebrations were commented upon, no clues given to what they were about. At the end of the service everyone was invited to have Cake and Bubbly.

We were made most welcome and then discovered it was the Leaders first service, she had been ordained the day before. The congregation was mainly ex-Pats from the area and most travelled 30/40 miles to attend the service at this little church once a month. It was something they missed so much. How lucky we were to join their celebration?

***Jean Williams***

# BAPTISM IN NORFOLK

**W**e have been urged in the newsletter to pick up a magazine from any church we may visit on holiday or on any other occasion and write an article. So here goes.

Our church visit was to St Mary at Newton Flotman, a village a few miles from Norwich in Norfolk. The occasion was the Baptism of our great granddaughter Maggie Croston-Clegg at an All Age service at 9.30 am on Sunday 5 August, so we had to get up early.

We were made most welcome. The church is quite small and was full of young families. A special leaflet with a photograph of the baby had been produced by the church and to my surprise and delight the first hymn was "Our God is a great big God" – with actions – very familiar to me as we have this at our own Primary School assemblies on Wednesday mornings when I help out as part of our five man team.

Newton Flotman Village Primary School is Church of England and seems to be a very flourishing part of village life.

Our baby looked lovely in a family christening robe going back several generations, complete with cap and cape. Children in the congregation gathered round the font – yes, she did cry a bit with the shock of the water, then yawned and went to sleep as photographs were being taken at the end of the service, after which we were able to mix with the congregation over a cup of tea in the attached church hall.

*Margaret Croston*

**Baptism of Maggie Croston-Clegg  
@ Newton Flotman Church**



**Welcome**  
*Please ask a sidesman at the back if there's anything you require, as you worship with us*

**Gathering**  
*We take our seats for any notices, and we may use the following words:*

The Lord is here  
**All: His Spirit is with us.**  
Lift up your hearts.  
**All: We lift them up unto the Lord.**

 **Our God is a great big God,**  
Our God is a great big God,  
Our God is a great big God,  
And He holds us in His hands.

He's higher than a skyscraper,  
He's deeper than a submarine.  
He's wider than the universe,  
And beyond my wildest dreams.  
He's known me and He's loved me  
Since before the world began;  
How wonderful to be a part of  
God's amazing plan.

Jo & Nigel Hemming, Copyright, © 2003 Unwept Songs

**Preparing**  
*We use the following response:*

Father forgive us.  
**All: Save us and help us.**

**Bible Reading—John 6:24-35**





## ST JAMES CHURCH

Open all day Sundays

September 2012

Again this year we will be opening St James Church between services on Sundays in June, July, August and September.

We are now asking for Church members who are willing to give of their time to look after the Church.

All that is required is to give a warm welcome to all visitors to the Church.

The time table sheets are at the back of Church for you to fill in.

Many thanks. R G Brackenbury.



# WHAT'S ON THIS MONTH

## SUNDAY CLUB

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

## "Will you come to the wedding.....?"

On **Saturday 8th September at 3.00 pm**  
in St. James' Church, Christleton's Tania  
Bull is to marry Wavertonian Steve Wild.

Many of you will know Tania who grew  
up in "The Old Rectory", Plough Lane  
and went to Christleton's Primary and  
High Schools . She attended St. James'  
church and Sunday school and was a  
member of Christleton Brownies and  
Guides. As a student she even served  
at the Ring O' Bells!

Having worked away from home, Tania  
is very pleased to be marrying in St.  
James' and would be delighted to see  
many of her Christleton friends join the  
congregation in church on Saturday to  
witness and support her marriage to  
Steve!

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## CHRISTLETON W.I.

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

Next Meeting

## Wednesday 12th September Competitive Produce Show

Members are invited to exhibit their  
homemade jams, chutney, cakes,  
flower arrangements, crafts and  
artwork for judging.

## 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, Lillian Hopley  
Tel: 01244 676683

## CHRISTLETON GARDENING CLUB

The 2012/2013 season of the Gardening  
Club begins on **Monday 10 September**  
at the Methodist Hall Christleton.  
We meet 2nd Monday of each month and  
have approx. 8 speakers and 2 outings a  
year

We would very much welcome new  
members.

If you interested in gardens and plants  
please join us.

The subscription is £12 per year  
Further details Judith 01244 335296

St. James' Christleton Parish Magazine

# WHAT'S ON LATER

## **Victorian Christmas Street Party Saturday December 8th along Village Road**

Following the great success of the Diamond Jubilee Village Event, it is proposed to hold a Victorian Christmas Street Event with Village Road being closed to traffic. There will be all sorts of activities, including switching on the Christmas Lights, carol singing, food & drink, games etc and it is hoped that as many people as possible will come along dressed in appropriate "Victorian" dress. It is also hoped that Father Christmas will make an appearance. Please support this event.

More details to follow

## **Charity Talk with Buffet Supper in the Parish Hall, 7.00pm 27th October 2012**

(Date to be confirmed)

## **The Jim Partington Memorial Talk. by David Cummings Christleton in Black & White; Christleton in Colour**

Photographic images of the village in the Victorian age, together with the Christleton of today, including the 2012 Diamond Jubilee Celebrations.

Admission Adults £7 Children £3  
(Includes light supper & soft drinks)  
All proceeds to Village Charities.

### **BIRTHDAY GREETINGS**

Belated 80th birthday greetings to Margaret Vernon who celebrated this milestone on 27 July last.

## **Harvest Gifts**

Last year the bulk of the harvest gifts donated by our church family and the primary school were given to Chester Aid to the Homeless and to Save the Family, where they were gratefully received and appreciated. We also took flowers and chocolates to the local nursing homes. Thanks to all for your generosity. This year we would like to do this again and hope that you will all help to contribute by bringing either perishable or non-perishable goods to our Harvest Festival on **14th October**. If you would prefer to make a monetary offering please put your contribution in an envelope marked 'Harvest Appeal' and give to myself, the Church Wardens or Rector.

Thank you  
Berenice ( Pastoral Worker)

## **Harvest Ceilidh**

Following on from the success of last year's ceilidh, another is being planned for **Saturday 20th October**. Tickets are now available but due to limited capacity will be sold on a 'first-come first-served' basis. Please do not think you have to dance! You are welcome simply to enjoy sitting and listening to the band, " Two Left Feet ", and enjoy the hot supper. There will also be a raffle to help raise funds and proceeds from the evening will go towards St. James' .

Tickets will be available from church and are £10 per adult or £25 for families with one/two children under sixteen years. You may also telephone any of the numbers below for tickets to be set aside : 336779, 335469, 335645

# **Christleton Local History Group**

## **Winter Programme**

Indoor meetings at 7.30pm at The Primary School in Quarry Lane.  
Admission £3.00 All welcome.

### **Wednesday 12th September**

Speaker. David Cummings

There will be a short AGM followed by a Picture Quiz; & talk.

So you think you know Chester!! &

Diamond Jubilee Celebrations at Christleton in 2012.

### **Wednesday 17th October**

Speaker; Simon Ward

Recent happenings in the field. A review of Chester  
Archeology.

### **Wednesday 21st November**

Speaker; Geoff Clifton

The Task of a Cathedral Engineer

### **Wednesday 23rd January**

Speaker. Roger Croston

The Kingdom of Bhutan

### **Wednesday 27th February**

Speaker. Doug Hayes

Changes in Agriculture Practices in the last 50years.

### **Wednesday 20th March**

Speaker. David Cummings

The Olympic Games; from Ancient Greece to London 2012 via  
Much Wenlock

Further Details from David Cummings 01244 332410

# CHESTER LECTURE SOCIETY PROGRAMME FOR 2012 – 2013

## 2012

September 27	Simon Ward "Further Reports on Chester City Walls" Chester City archaeologist
October 4	Dr Anthony Kelly "Travel Posters" – NADFAS Lecturer Posters from the past
October 11	Brian Anderson "Antarctica" the world's last true wilderness
October 18	Geoff Somers "Journeys through the tropical forests of North Borneo and Malaysia"
October 25	Denise Heywood "Road to Bali" Widely travelled in the East. NADFAS lecturer
November 1	Dr Paul Hindle is fascinated by Rollercoasters. "Shake, Rattle and Roll"
November 8	Chris & Keith Buxton Eastern Turkey "Land of the Kurds"
November 15	Adrian Sumner, art expert "Art and Culture of Sicily"
November 22	David Woolf "Japanese Gardens" David lived in Japan for several years. Old and new gardens, temple gardens of Kyoto.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION £20 for sixteen lectures or pay at door individually £5.  
Contact Anne Large on 01244.336108

## MAGAZINE CONTRIBUTORS

Please ensure all items for inclusion in the October Magazine are sent to Janet Milton, (335469), as soon as possible **BEFORE Friday 14th September** or you can email this to [christletonmag@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:christletonmag@hotmail.co.uk)

## MAGAZINE DISTRIBUTORS

The October Magazine will be available for collection from Sunday 30th September

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# The way I see it: Ordinary blessings

'The captains and the kings depart ...' They've gone: the Jubilee, the European Nations Cup, the Olympics. As a lady said to me at church last Sunday, perhaps one day the television will get back to normal. Well, this is 'normal'. It's also, funnily enough, what the modern Prayer Book calls 'Ordinary Time' - that means the bits in between all the great feast days and penitential seasons and so on. At the moment it's the seemingly endless 'Sundays after Trinity'.

'Ordinary' is such a lovely word, I think. It's root is that reassuring word 'order', and it encompasses ideas like orderliness, well-ordered, in order. It's opposite is strange, unusual, distinctive: extraordinary.

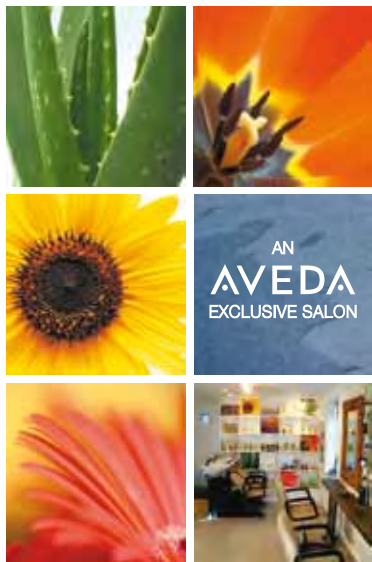
One of the odd things about human behaviour is that most of us most of the time don't want to look strange, unusual or even distinctive. Just look at the way we dress, following fashion, deliberately trying to look like those around us. Think of the teenage uniform, male or female. Their whole ambition is to look exactly like their peers. Or think of guests at a wedding, especially the males, all looking exactly alike in bow ties and tails. Mind you, at times - perhaps at a party - we shall go to the other extreme and try to be as different and distinctive as possible - outrageous colours, pink hair, funny glasses.

Where the Gospels are concerned, our tendency is to remember the extraordinary bits - water turned into wine, storms stilled, lame people dancing and blind people seeing. Yet they are only extraordinary because their context is so utterly ordinary - women preparing meals, men sowing crops, feet being washed and food being eaten. The whole setting is so ordinary that the amazing acts of power that Jesus did stand out like beacons. But they happened - and this is important - in the ordinary world, to ordinary people, in the ordinary circumstances of life.

In 'Ordinary Time', when nothing special is happening, we have space and time to reflect on some of the wonderfully 'ordinary' events that have taken place in our lives - touches, I reckon, of the love and grace of God. I'm thinking of ordinary acts of kindness, generous words, quietly spoken prayers, memories too precious ever to fade away. I'm thinking of the 'ordinary' love of one human being for another, the 'ordinary' hand on the shoulder in time of need, the 'ordinary' serenity of a life well lived.

Or, perhaps, they're all extraordinary, really.

# Hairdressing **n**icholas **h**arvey



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For prices, opening hours and  
information email  
[info@nicholas-harvey.com](mailto:info@nicholas-harvey.com)  
[www.nicholas-harvey.com](http://www.nicholas-harvey.com)

Village Road, Christleton  
Chester CH3 7AS  
Tel: 01244 335210  
(Student discounts available)

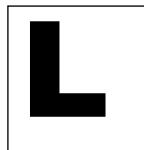
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# ON Dogs

Readers of the Parish Magazine who know my tastes in life will be surprised that I have not previously written about dogs. What have our canine friends to do with Christianity anyway? Dogs rarely appear in the Bible and are rarely mentioned in sermons. Understandably there are many people who cannot understand the attraction of our canine friends. Some indeed have an innate fear of certain animals, which is no more shameful than a fear of heights.

Dogs as some say are only animals, they can't answer back and only guide dogs, police dogs, and collies on sheep farms do anything useful. Elements of that are true, yet I myself have experienced the special affection and support of four black Labradors in the past 30 years with sometimes two in the house at once. They have been very much part of our family and have been popular and appreciated by neighbours and visitors.

I bred poultry in my teenage years and our family Cairn terrier accepted second place, but visiting my uncles' farms around us I grew to admire trained working dogs. Some years later as their owners retired, the last sheep dog of the line retired to become a family pet. Soon after university, I began to realise the value to older people of loyal canine company, particularly for those who lived in isolated locations and were themselves becoming less mobile.

Now in that age-category myself, it was a close call whether we bought another dog after our third one died two years ago. Elements of disability in the family, our three offspring living far away, and that freedom, which even I appreciated for 15 months, could easily have closed the doors on us ever having a dog again. But the lovely Carrie's arrival here a year ago has brought us great happiness. At 16 months she has all the fun of an energetic and playful puppy, but with a mature affection and a welcome propensity to sleep long hours, even to lie in each morning. I remain very loyal to the memory of her three predecessors, but Carrie is so pretty and she is the comedian of the bunch, particularly in her clever ball-play. She is the first that I have trained strictly to the whistle.

Responsible dog owners have not only to discipline the dog but also



themselves. Commitment, routine and good habits have to be paramount. They recognise that dogs can be dangerous or just unruly and no dog I know has trained itself to pick up its droppings. Some quite pleasant dogs annoy neighbours with excessive barking and in one East European capital I never saw so many strays, both accepted and ignored by much of the population. Most had even developed road sense.

Such contrasts are a reminder of the serious almost Christian responsibilities that the owner of a dog has to develop; considering others (both people and dogs), regular habits like walks and feed times, healthy friendships with the dog-owners one meets, and even opportunities for outreach. Two of our previous dogs regularly visited my mother in a residential home for several years where they were often borrowed by care-staff to give other residents the chance for a comforting stroke.

Dogs get us out to exercise and meet people. Conversation, mutual support and bonhomie are the rewards to both owner and dog.

*John Carruthers*

## **LEPROSY MISSION**

### ***Stamp out leprosy!***

Please donate your used stamps so that money can be raised for Leprosy Mission.

Stamps should be trimmed to quarter inch border around the stamp and can be left at the back of the Church.

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### **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

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### **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.

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### **MOBILE LIBRARY VAN SERVICE**

We call every TWO WEEKS.

#### **WEEK 1.**

Quarry Lane at 3.15 to 6.00pm.

#### **WEEK 2**

Quarry Lane at 11.30 to 12.15pm.

Our NEW telephone is Chester 973700.

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### **READERS**

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

# Parish Registers for July 2012

## Baptisms

- 8th Katie Marie Mcleod daughter of Luke & Charlotte McLeod  
2 Thirlmere Road, Newton, Chester
- 8th Edward Charles John Goodsall son of Charles John & Bridget Amy Goodsall  
93 Butterbacha Road, Huntington, Chester

*"We welcome you into the Lord's Family"*

## The Marriage Service

- 15th James Edward Tucker & Kate Louise Sowerby  
1 Grosvenor Court, Grosvenor Road, London
- 27th Christopher Robert Suddaby & Nicola Karen Blackford  
134 Newry Park East, Chester

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

## The Funeral Service

- 3rd Edna Buckley Cae Bryn Nursing Home, Wrexham 96yrs  
(Burial of cremated remains)
- 3rd Lydia Hattam Birch Heath Lodge Nursing Home, Christleton 86yrs.
- 9th Ronald Harrison 89yrs  
(Burial of cremated remains)
- 14th James Morris Tregantle Little Heath Road, Christleton  
(Burial of cremated remains)
- 14th Margaret Morris Tregantle Little Heath Road, Christleton 86yrs  
(Burial of cremated remains)
- 16th James Frederick Michael (Mick) Johnson 6 Toll Bar Road, Christleton  
78yrs

*"Grant them eternal rest"*

## Offertories

July	Cash	C.S.E.	2012	2011
1st	113-70	673-00	786-70	685-20
8th	116-39	418-50	584-89	563-85
15th	156-11	562-30	718-41	645-20
22nd	76-50	757-00	833-50	668-92
29th	85-80	711-50	797-30	904-60
<b>Totals</b>			<b>£ 3,720.80</b>	<b>£3,467-77</b>

*"Of your own do we give you"*

# **PARISH CHURCH OF ST. JAMES, CHRISTLETON**

<b>SUNDAYS</b>	8.00 a.m.	Holy Communion	
	10.45 a.m.	Parish Communion	1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sundays
		Family Service	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday
		Mattinns	4 <sup>th</sup> & 5 <sup>th</sup> Sundays
	6.30 p.m.	Evensong	1 <sup>st</sup> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sundays
		Evening Communion	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday
		Songs of Praise	5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday
<b>WEDNESDAYS</b>	10.45 a.m.	Holy Communion	
<b>SAINT'S DAYS</b>	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**

**All baptisms, weddings and appointments by arrangement with Janet Milton 335469**

<b>Churchwardens:</b>	John Pearson	335101
	Carl Cumiskey	330028
<b>Deputy Wardens:</b>	Alan McAllester	335494
	Chris Platel	332466
	Keith Smalls	335688
<b>Reader:</b>	Wayne Morris	01978 263389
<b>Verge:</b>	John Milton	335469
<b>Sacristan:</b>	Betty Dunning	335652
<b>Pastoral Worker:</b>	Berenice Kirwan	336779
<b>Sunday Club:</b>	Berenice Kirwan	336779
<b>Mothers' Union Branch Leader:</b>	Janet Brown	335785
<b>Organist &amp; Musical Director:</b>	Steve Roberts	815277
<b>P. C. C. Secretary:</b>	Betty Gilliatt	335645
<b>P. C. C. Treasurer:</b>	Carl Cumiskey	330028
<b>Stewardship Envelope:</b>	Betty Dunning	335652
<b>Gift Aid Secretary:</b>	Nigel Seddon	335588
<b>Bellringers:</b>	Ian Braithwaite	300565
<b>Bellringers Secretary:</b>	Nikki Dromgoole	351124
<b>Parish Hall Booking:</b>	Clare Holland	332819
<b>C. M. S. Secretary:</b>	Janet Brown	335785
<b>Children's Society Sec:</b>	Lesley Morgan	335088
<b>Visiting Group:</b>	Berenice Kirwan	336779
<b>Library:</b>	Gwen Knight	336236
<b>Church Flowers:</b>	Olive Hammond	336562
<b>Magazine Editor:</b>	David Bull	332234
<b>Magazine Compiler:</b>	Julie Coxall	336062
<b>Magazine Distributors:</b>	Jenny Davies and Valmai Griffiths	335884
<b>Parish Resource</b>		
<b>Person for Child Protection:</b>	Alastair Holland	332819