

Parish Magazine



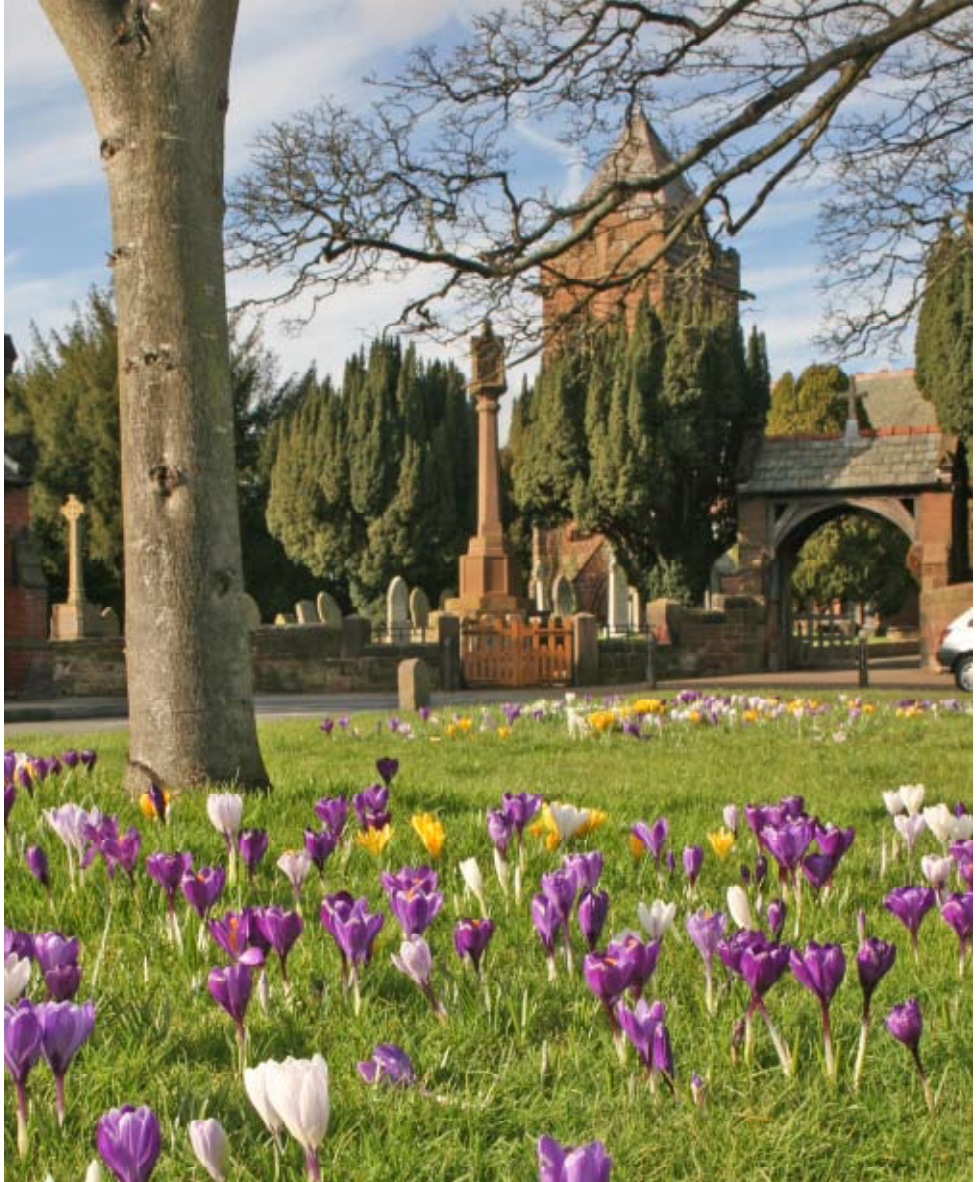
March 2008

# St. James'

30p

**Christleton**

[WWW.CHIRSTLETON.ORG.UK](http://WWW.CHIRSTLETON.ORG.UK)



# Mark in March

<b>Sun</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>Mothering Sunday: The Fourth Sunday of Lent</b>
	8.00 am	Holy Communion - Order 2
	10.45 am	MOTHERING SUNDAY FAMILY SERVICE – followed by refreshments
	6.00 pm	The Crew Youth Group (Parish Hall)
	6.30 pm	Evensong with Lent Sermon Series: A Question of Faith: The Church Prayer Link Road: Cotton Abbots and Cotton Edmunds Neighbourhood Link: Ellen Frost
<b>Mon</b>	<b>3</b>	
	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)
<b>Wed</b>	<b>5</b>	
	10.45 am	United Communion followed by refreshments
	11.20 pm	Churches Together Committee (St James)
	7.45 pm	United Reflective Worship (Methodist Church)
<b>Fri</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>WOMENS WORLD DAY OF PRAYER</b>
	10.30 am	Service at St Jon's, Vicars Lane
	7.30 pm	Service at Holy Trinity, Blacon
	6.30 pm	Choir Practice
<b>Sun</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>Passion Sunday</b>
	8.00 am	Holy Communion (Order 1)
	10.45 am	Sunday School (Parish Hall)
	10.45 am	Parish Communion (Order 1)
	6.00 pm	The Crew Youth Group - Parish Hall
	6.30 pm	Evensong with Lent Service Series: A Question of Faith: Prayer Prayer Link Road: Croft Close Neighbourhood Link: Beryl Cummings
<b>Mon</b>	<b>10</b>	
	2.00 pm	Passiontide Meditation - St James Open Meeting of Mothers' Union
	6.30 pm	Confirmation Group - Lady Chapel
<b>Wed</b>	<b>12</b>	
	10.45 am	Holy Communion - followed by refreshments
	11.30 am	Holy Communion at Birch Heath Lodge Nursing Home
	7.45 pm	United Reflective Worship - St James
<b>Fri</b>	<b>14</b>	
	6.30 pm	Choir Practice

NB: Last date for contributions for April Magazine to the Rector (335663). Earlier if possible please. You can attach your Word document and e-mail to: christletonmag@hotmail.co.uk

<b>Sun</b>	<b>16</b>		<b>PALM SUNDAY</b>
		8.00 am	Holy Communion (Order 1)
		10.30 am	Palm Sunday Procession with Donkey from Littleton followed by short service in Church
		6.00 pm	The Crew Youth Group (Parish Hall)
		6.30 pm	Passiontide Devotion in words and music
			Prayer Link Road: Durban Avenue      Neighbourhood Link: Jenny Brown
Mon	17	7.45 pm	Compline (Night Prayers) and Meditation
Tues	18	7.45 pm	Compline (Night Prayers) and Meditation
Wed	19	10.45 am	Holy Communion - followed by refreshments
		7.45 pm	Compline (Night Prayers) and Meditation
<b>Thur</b>	<b>20</b>		<b>MAUNDY THURSDAY</b>
		7.45 pm	Passover Reflections (Methodist Church)
<b>Fri</b>	<b>21</b>		<b>GOOD FRIDAY</b>
		10.45 pm	Family Service
		2.00 pm	One Hour Devotion
<b>Sat</b>	<b>22</b>		<b>HOLY SATURDAY</b>
		6.30 pm	Easter Vigil
<b>Sun</b>	<b>23</b>		<b>EASTER DAY</b>
		8.00 am	Holy Communion (Order 2)
		10.45 am	Parish Communion (Order 1)
		10.45 am	Sunday School - Parish Hall
		6.30 pm	Festal Evensong
			Prayer Link Road: Fir Tree Lane
Wed	26	10.45 am	Holy Communion - followed by refreshments
Fri	28	6.30 pm	Choir Practice
<b>Sun</b>	<b>30</b>		<b>The Second Sunday of Easter: Low Sunday</b>
		8.00 am	Holy Communion (Order 1)
		10.45 am	Matins
		6.30 pm	Evening Communion (Order 1)
			Prayer Link: Those worshipping at St James who live outside the Parish
			Neighbourhood Link Co-ordinator: Janet Bowden

# The Rector's Letter

Dear Friends

## The Sound of Silence

'Darkness Yielding' is a collection of writings on Christmas, Holy Week and Easter. In a passage for Holy Saturday entitled 'The Sound of Silence', Martin Piercy writes of a friend who won a competition to write a short play for radio. He chose to write on the first three chapters of Genesis, and it features two lowly 'angels' who were backroom boys in God's workshop, who had to 'dub' sound on to creation. The story tells of all God created, but not of the sounds they make. The two angels grumble "its all right for 'im upstairs to say 'let there be birds', but who's gotta put the soundtrack on a flock of bleedin' seagulls? – muggings 'ere. And it must be different from the parrot, the sparrow and the cormorant ..." as they talk about their work and why waves on pebbles must make a different sound to the 'plop' of a pebble in still water, attention focuses on a box in the corner of the sound studio. "What's that box for?" asks the junior apprentice angel. "Ah, you don't want to touch that," replies the senior angel. "That box is full of sounds you don't want to hear – a child crying, a mother dying, the sound of war, screams, the rattle of death. Once you open that box, you'll release the noise of chaos, and you'll never get them back in." When the senior angel leaves for a coffee break, the apprentice goes to the box and inspects it more closely. It looks such a nice box. How can one small box contain so many sounds? He prises open the lid and lifts it slightly. He hears no scream, nor the sound of war, only the crunch of teeth into a delicious, crisp green apple ... Martyn Piercy points out that Lent is about acknowledging all those sounds that were let out long ago over which we have so little control. Sounds that deafen, destroy and disturb us in the tragedies and traumas, the betrayals and denials, the woundings and the killings of our failures and faithlessness – caught up in the inadequacies of our own personal lives and the sin of the world to which we belong, since the Fall.

We are no more capable of closing the box on those noises of terror than the junior angel. They are unleashed all around us so they threaten to blot out all other sound. Once that box was opened it is impossible to push those sounds back and close the lid. But on a Friday that was Good, a man on a cross absorbed all that sound. He took the cries of dereliction, the scream of physical torture, the ridicule of the world, to himself. The sun was darkened, the earth quaked and the rocks were split open. And from the cacophony of that chaos came whispers of love – 'Father, forgive them

for they know not what they do'; 'today you will be with me in Paradise'; 'it is finished'; Father, into your hands I commend my spirit'. Alone amidst the chaotic confusion of the world, only he could hear the still small voice. And on a Saturday that was Holy, there came the sound of silence – quiet, exhausted waiting. But very early on the Sunday morning, while it was yet dark, another emptiness, the open tomb. And out of that emptiness came a new sound – the sound of hope; of joy; of peace. To Mary, the sound of her name: to the disciples his word of peace; to Cleopas and his friend, a gesture of hope.

Easter is not the reversal of Good Friday but its inevitable consequence. The sounds released when the box was opened, and the apple eaten, can never be put back. They still threaten to deafen and destroy us. But on Good Friday they were absorbed and transformed. For the Lord was not in the wind, and the Lord was not in the earthquake, and the Lord was not in the fire; but after the fire a still small voice. On Easter morning as we wake to the dawn chorus of Spring, a new sound comes through the stillness, which can never be obliterated by the cacophony of chaos. Jesus Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Peter Lee". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above a thin horizontal line.

**Prayer of the Month**

**Iona Dawn**

**Joy Mead**

*I am by the shore  
in the early darkness  
when the rising sun  
touches a broken world,  
makes a flame  
of each blade of grass,  
warms the silent stones,  
sends the lark up  
into the clean air.*

*The new day miracle  
and the end of waiting:  
I am emptied wholly  
into a moment of trust  
with no desire to make sense  
of all this light.*

# People in the News

## BOB THOMSON

Bob has lived at 'Kasamu', Plough Lane for the last 40 years. As well as his commitment to the Chester Motor Boat Club, Bob has been very supportive of the village along with his wife Kathleen in supplying plants from his garden for the stall at the Summer Fair and Christmas Fair, cakes for coffee mornings for Guide Dogs for the Blind, and many more. As they are now well into their eighties I thought it appropriate that the talents of this well known local couple were highlighted through the magazine at the time of Bob's recent award from Chester Motor Boat Club.

Lesley Wyke

Chester Motor Boat Club

### **Congratulations**

Belated greetings to

**Margaret Taylor** of Haslin

Crescent who celebrated a special birthday in February

### **Congratulations**

Colin and Margaret Simon of Woodfields celebrate their **Ruby Wedding Anniversary on 23rd March**

Married at St. James' Church in 1968 by the Reverend. Skipper

## PHIL HURST

Phil Hirst who lives in the Village was the guest speaker at the February History Group meeting, when he spoke about Britain's Lost Megafortress, based on the programme he had made on the subject for the History Channel. The lost fortress was of course Chester, and in his talk, interspersed with film from the programme he investigated why fortress Deva was built, why it was so extraordinarily large, and its strategic purpose in the Roman masterplan. Phil is currently media Producer at Chester University, and Producer/Director for Planet X Television.

He has produced acclaimed work for

Granada TV; The Lost Treasures-3rd Series. Channel 4 Para Normal- The Other side.

The History Channel - Britain's Lost Megafortress. BBC - News Reports.

ITV. Frontline Fire & Rescue.

His next project is on Granada TV, with his Lost Treasures 3rd Series beginning on May 4th.

## **Shining a light in the darkness**

On behalf of The Children's Society, may I thank you all for supporting the Christingle Service held at St James in January and helping to raise the wonderful sum of £493.45. The money raised will enable The Society to provide vital help and support to those children who face the greatest danger, discrimination or disadvantage in their daily lives; children who are unable to find the help and support they need elsewhere.

### **UNITED FOR CHILDHOOD**

Manchester United, the world's most famous football club, has teamed up with The Children's Society in a national, three-year partnership to help make childhood better in the UK.

The Children's Society has been

selected by Manchester United as one of its partner charities in a three-year deal that will help us to create real change for children.

David Gill, Chief Executive of Manchester United explains: 'Our new partnership will enable us to raise a significant amount of money to support a number of important projects. We are extremely proud of this partnership and the young people who will benefit'.

The partnership got off to a great start as 24 children from four of our projects travelled to Manchester United's Carrington complex to meet their football heroes last November. The young people got to meet and watch stars like Rio Ferdinand, Ryan Giggs, Cristiano Ronaldo, Carlos Tevez and Wayne Rooney at a morning training session. The same group were also treated to a special trip with Manchester United's official airline Air Asia, on a private flight over the North West of England. For many of the young people, this trip was their first on an aeroplane.

Sean 15, who is disabled, said: 'Wow! I've never been on a plane before and this is one of the best days I've ever had. To meet my heroes as well was a dream come true for me. I got loads of photos and presents. Thank you'.

*Lesley Morgan*



# Church Giving

**A**s we start the New Year it seems an appropriate moment to talk about Church giving. Members of the parish give to the Church in many ways, and the Church is totally dependent on this support to allow it to function successfully within the community.

The most obvious form of giving is financial and although this support is critical to the survival of the Church, other forms of support are very welcome. People giving their time and skills freely is just as important. Giving support enables the Church to carry out its mission within the Christleton parish and within the Christian family to which we belong. People give their time and services to help deal with the day to day running of the Church; they help out with services, events and functions. They come forward and fill key roles, or help with the numerous activities the Church is involved with on an ongoing basis. Just as important, are the people attending services and supporting events and functions throughout the year.

The Church in Christleton is not simply about a nice building, or Peter our rector, it is much more. It is about being Christ's Church, its about the people of our village, and the wider Christian family, it is about playing a

small but important role, supporting Christian work wherever it takes place around the world.

The giving of people's time and skills is vital to the Church and just as important as financial giving. However there is no getting away from the fact that the cost of running the Church is getting more and more expensive each year. Also as a Christian organisation, the requests for help and support are an ever increasing demand on our resource, and if we wish to continue with all the good work that we are currently involved with, let alone taking on new and exciting commitments, the financial demands will continue to grow.

There are a number of ways that the Church generates finances. The most important income and appropriately, comes from the personal giving by the people of the Parish. This is supplemented by income generated by the Church. To give structure to the giving by the people, the Church runs a very successful envelope scheme, where regular attendees of the Church, commit to giving a weekly contribution to the collection. We currently have 121 members of the congregation participating in the scheme and last year it raised £34800. In addition, tax payers, at no additional cost to themselves, 'Gift Aid' their donation and the Church receives an additional 28% in contribution from the Chancellor. Last year this amounted to an extra £8263

**St. James' Christleton Parish Magazine**



being received by the Church. (This amount reduces to 25% from April)

The average amount given through the scheme last year by each member was £5.53 per week, 89 members gave up to £5 per week, 20 members gave up to £10 per week, and 12 members gave £10 or more.

If you are not currently a member of the envelope scheme it is easy to join. It does not have to be a major commitment, every contribution helps. Planned giving helps the Church to organise its finances better. If you are a member already, and a tax payer, maybe you have not 'Giftaided' your contribution. Again this is very simple to do. Additionally, when did you last review the amount you regularly give to the Church, it is easy to continue to give the same amount year on year. Maybe this year, is the year you can afford to give a little more. Currently only 12 people in the scheme, give £10 or more a week. Could you afford to join this small group?

An alternative method of contributing is through standing order. Last year the Church received a total of £11687 from these donations. Maybe this could be a more convenient method of contributing for you.

Donations and legacies from wills are another important income for the Church. More people are making wills today in an attempt to minimise their

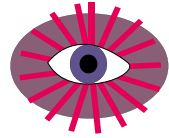
families exposure to inheritance tax, and who can blame them. Donations to charities are exempt from tax and therefore are a very tax efficient way of giving to something dear to your heart. These contributions can be specific to a particular aspect of church life or project. What a wonderful way of leaving a lasting legacy after you have gone. Last year the Church received a total of £5625 from donations in wills.

As we start the New Year it is a good time for each of us to reflect on how we can give more to the life of the Church, to help it to grow stronger and become more influential in the work we undertake in Christ's name. Please take a moment to consider whether you can give more to the Church financially and/or commit some of your time or offer your skills. Either would be warmly welcomed and appreciated.

Without its people the Church would have no heartbeat and as we know, without a heartbeat you do not survive.

If you wish any further information on this article including how to join the envelope scheme, gift aiding your contribution, setting up a standing order or more information on wills and legacies please contact Keith Smalls or Lois Dickinson.

# Nature Notes



I've had several reports this month of new sightings of polecats in the village, including two in Haslin Crescent, and another at Rowton. There have been several dead badgers on the roads, and it's probably a sign of the times, in that they are already active in January / February, when normally they wouldn't be expected to emerge from hibernation until March. Welcome visitors to several bird tables have been pairs of bullfinches\*. There may be more than one pair judging by the spread of their sightings\*. Another welcome sight, was of three magnificent curlew flying low across a meadow, the first time I've seen them in the area for many years. These large waders with long curved bills were a common sight at Hockenhull in the 1960's and 70's but have disappeared like many other wading birds since that time. The probable reason is the change in farming practice, from having dairy cattle to growing arable crops. Large areas of grass and wet land were drained to produce better yields of wheat, barley, oats etc, and are no longer

suitable for these large wading birds with their evocative calls, cur-lew, cur-lew, cur-lew. Another delightful wader, the beautifully camouflaged long billed snipe have also largely been lost from our area, with only the occasional sighting these days, and the days when I once saw an estimated 1,000 snipe on the flooded Gowy meadows have long gone. The swans are still accompanied by two of last years cygnets, but they are now regularly flying to and from the Pit indicating that they are almost ready for me to build their nest for them. This will be done by the time you read this article, but if the water level keeps as high as it is, I will have to adjust the height of the nest site to take it clear of the water.

DC



# CATHEDRAL NEWS

Thanks to a 2007 grant from the Friends of the Cathedral work will be starting soon on the provision of “non visible” protective grilles on some of the vulnerable stained glass windows in the Lady Chapel, St Werburgh’s Chapel and the Chapter House.

Staff from Barclays (Chester Branch) Bank have been planting spring bulbs in the Garth. Barclays donated £500 worth of bulbs towards Philip Hunt’s replanting scheme which is being funded by the Friends.

The Friends Plant Sale this year in the Cathedral Cloister is on Friday 2 May and Saturday 3 May from 10 am – 4 pm. Offers or queries to Caroline Dennis on Chester 314408.

## SAINTS’ WINDOWS IN THE CLOISTERS

St Polycarp, associate of, converted by, and disciple of Saint John the Apostle. Friend of Saint Ignatius of Antioch. Fought Gnosticism. Bishop of Smyrna (modern Izmir, Turkey). Revered Christian leader during the first half of the second century. The Asia Minor churches

recognised Polycarp’s leadership and chose him representative to pope Anicetus on the question of the date of the Easter celebration. Only one of the many letters written by Polycarp has survived, the one he wrote to the Church of Philippi, Macedonia. At 86, Polycarp was to be burned alive in a stadium in Smyrna; the flames did not harm him and he was finally killed by a dagger, and his body burned. The “Acts” of Polycarp’s martyrdom are the earliest preserved reliable account of a Christian martyr’s death.

Saints Day: 23 February

Patronage: earache, dysentery

## Canon Lawrie & Mrs Margaret Skipper

For anyone who would like to keep in touch, their new address is:

The Rev’d Canon &  
Mrs L R Skipper  
Apartment 4  
Manorhead  
Hindhead  
Surrey  
GU26 6RA

# Adopt a Grave Scheme

You may well have read in the November Parish Magazine about the excellent work the 2nd Christleton Guides have been doing with their participation in the adopted graves scheme in St James Church Yard. Your curiosity might have prompted you to want to know more about the scheme. If that is the case read on!

We are very fortunate to have a wonderful and peaceful church yard in the village, which is maintained to a high standard. The Church spends over £4000 a year in achieving these standards, but still there is always additional work to be done. We are very dependant on family and friends of those buried in the Church Yard to maintain their graves. We are very fortunate that they do a splendid job. We also have working parties during the year, to supplement the paid maintenance which helps control costs and improve standards.

These working parties are well supported by a dedicated team of enthusiastic helpers who get together on selected Saturday mornings between 9.00am and 1.00pm to tidy and maintain the Church Yard.

This works very well, but it was clear that Saturday mornings were

not convenient for every one. So this year we launched an Adopt a grave scheme where volunteers could adopt a grave or even several graves, which they would maintain on a regular basis. The scheme has several benefits, first it helps control the cost of the Church Yard maintenance, and secondly it allows volunteers to support the working parties at a time that suits their busy schedules. Finally it helps maintain the Church Yard to a high standard.

We currently have over 30 people who have adopted graves and we are very grateful for their loyal support. As you will appreciate we are always looking for more help.

So having read how the 2nd Christleton Guides are doing their bit to help, hopefully you now feel motivated to contribute.

Phone me on 01244 335688 and we can arrange for you to adopt a grave or two, alternatively you can join the working party one Saturday morning (the next working party will be next spring) or if time does not allow, maybe you would prefer to make a donation to the PCC to support the maintenance costs.

What ever you choose to do, all contributions will be gratefully received.

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# **ChristianAid**

## **IN CHRISTLETON**

### **WE NEED YOU**

As Easter approaches, I know it is time to turn my thoughts to

Christian Aid Week (11 – 17 May 2008)

and to ask, once more, for volunteers to join and support our ever faithful band of collectors.

Is this something you could do?

If you feel that you could volunteer I would be most grateful. It would be a shame not to be able to cover every house in the Parish and the more collectors we have the fewer houses each will have to cover.

Also, I would be very glad to hear from anyone who would be willing to help me on the administrative side of Christian Aid Week.

Please ring me  
Fiona Lee (335663)

## **Christleton Wednesday Group**

At Christleton Wednesday Group's Spring Lunch on March 12th a cheque for £3100, the proceeds of their fund raising for 2007, will be presented to Caroline Cox, General Secretary for the 'Children with Chronic Arthritis Association'.

The Wednesday Group, a small independent none affiliated group who have raised a large amount of money for local and national charities over the years, mainly for children - in excess of £55.000, would like to thank all the people who have supported them in raising this money.

Their selected charity for 2008 is 'The Friends of the Mulberry Centre' a local charity helping local people.

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### **Quotes**

Of all the things that will surprise us in the Resurrection morning, this I believe, will surprise us most: that we did not love Christ more before we died. J C Ryle

I cannot recall, in any of my reading, a single instance of a prophet who applied for the job. AW Tozer

# CHURCHES TOGETHER in CHRISTLETON



*Calling all Waiters – Waitresses – Bakers*



It is hoped to set up a  
**Village Tea Room**  
at the  
Methodist Church  
during

*June, July and August*

Do you enjoy meeting people?  
Would you be able to spare a few hours to prepare and/serve  
Sunday afternoon teas?  
If you would like to help please contact  
Janet Milton Telephone 335469 or  
Sheila Roberts Telephone 336754

*The more the merrier    Proceeds to charity.*

# The History File

## Memorable weather conditions in the Village.

The following paragraphs are taken from some of the earliest parish magazines and were included in the book "In their words", a social history of Christleton written by Judy Smith in 2000. The words are those of Rector Canon Lionel Garnett, and give a graphic description of village life.

July 1876 was exceptionally hot and dry. The hay harvest was good, but pastures suffered from lack of rain. The 14th, 15th 16th had almost tropical heat, broken by a severe thunderstorm with prodigious hailstones that did great damage to glass and growing crops. The summer of 1887 likewise was dry with "brilliant sunshine and cheap harvesting. Wheat is everywhere above average; hay and corn well and cheaply got in. It is said that the Irish harvest-men are going home with a pound or two less in their pockets. In contrast the summer of 1888" will be remembered as a chilly, sunless and dripping season. July was disastrous to haymakers and holiday makers. We have been saved from drought, but we have lost our summer"

March 2008

Winters, too, had extremes of temperature. The frosts of 1890 began on November 24th, and, to the time of writing in January 1891 magazine, there were only four nights without frost. "The Dee was frozen over and numbers skaters on it on December 21st, some rash people venturing as far as Eaton" The cold extended well into 1891; winter swallowed up the spring. "The Dee froze again for miles between Christmas 1892 and mid January 1893, with skaters going between Chester & Eccleston. Conditions were even more extreme in 1895, when Canon Garnett wrote, "the long and severe frosts of January & February rank as one of the great frosts of history. A week's good skating on the Dee and I myself had a day on Windermere, which froze from end to end. The village temperature's were recorded as 5degrees Fahrenheit, which is 27degrees of frost, but doesn't represent the intense cold which prevailed from January 25th to 30th, and February 4th to 17th, aggravated by bitter east winds.

He used the winter's suffering in February 1879, however to lecture to the Parish. "The long continued frost, coming on top of a general depression of trade, is making a distressful winter, which will be long remembered by the working classes.



The evil may not be altogether evil if it teaches a lesson of thrift. Working men, and especially tradesmen, have had plenty of work and wages for several years; in too many case have spent their substance in riotous living and laid no store for the years of famine”



In recent weeks a beautiful portrait of Canon Lionel Garnett has come to light, and has been donated to St James’ by former Rector Canon Laurie Skipper. I have had the image digitised and include it with this article. It is of a really beautiful quality, typical of the excellent studio photography of Victorian times.  
DC

## SCIENTIFIC FACT

A chemistry teacher wanted to teach his class a lesson about the evils of drink, so he produced an experiment that involved a glass of water, a glass of whisky, and two worms. “Now, class, closely observe the worms,” said the teacher while putting a worm into the water. The worm in the water writhed about, happy as a worm in water could be. He then put the second worm into the whisky. It curled up and writhed about painfully, then quickly sank to the bottom, dead as a doornail. “Now, what lesson can we learn from this experiment?” the teacher asked. One little boy responded promptly: “Drink whisky and you won’t get worms.”



### **Birch Heath Lodge Nursing Home**

**Require a gardener for a few  
hours weekly**

(depending on season).

Applicant must be able to plant,  
mow and weed.

If you have an interest in plants  
and would like an opportunity  
to develop the garden for our  
residents, please call

**335503**

to discuss with the owner

*Alan Gannon*



# LOCAL EVENTS DIARY

## 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

## ST. JAMES' TUESDAY WALKING GROUP

**March 18th 2008**

N Wales; Llangollen. Eglwyseg  
Rocks & Glen from World's End. 6  
miles moderate +.

Pub meal at The Sun Trevor Inn  
Depart Church Car Park at 9.00am

## CHRISTLETON W.I.

Meets on the second Wednesday of the  
month at 7.15 pm in the Parish Hall  
Next meeting on March 12th  
*A41 Magazine*  
**Julie Coxall**

## CHESTER FLOWER CLUB

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

## CHRISTLETON WEDNESDAY GROUP

**SPRING LUNCH**

**Wednesday 12th March**

**12.00 Noon**

in Christleton Parish Hall  
Tickets £7 - available from members  
Price includes a glass of wine  
In aid of Friends of the Mulberry Centre

## CHRISTLETON W.I. MONTHLY WHIST

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



## MAGAZINE DISTRIBUTORS

**T**he April Magazine will be available for collection from Church on  
Sunday 30th March 2007.

# LOCAL EVENTS DIARY



## CHRISTLETON GARDENING CLUB

**March 10**

Plants for Special Purposes  
Norman Ellis

## CHESTER CATHEDRAL CARLO CURLEY'S ORGAN EXTRAVAGANZA

**29 March at 7.30 pm**



Featuring HD Big Screen

Video Projection for  
views of Carlo playing!!

Tickets £10 unreserved  
£8 (children under 16)

Available from Chester  
Cathedral shop. Tel: 01244 311586

## CHURCHES TOGETHER IN CHESTER

Good Friday Service at Chester  
Cathedral

Led by Saughall and Blacon Group  
Friday 21 March at 7.30 pm

## WOMENS WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

**Friday 7th March 2008**

**"GOD'S WISDOM PROVIDES  
NEW UNDERSTANDING"**

Service prepared by  
Christian Women of Guyana  
At: 10.30a.m. St John's Church  
Vicars Lane

Rev SUSAN FLYNN

At 7 30p.m  
Church of the Holy Trinity  
Mrs M Roynon

## CHRISTLETON LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

**Wednesday March 12th**

**7.30pm**

*Victorian Transport on Wirral and  
in Liverpool*

Speaker

Glyn Parry; Well known speaker on  
Wirral Topics.

## MAGAZINE CONTRIBUTIONS

**P**lease ensure all items for inclusion in the **April** edition are  
sent to the Rector, as soon as possible

**BEFORE Friday 14th March** or you can e-mail this to  
[christletonmag@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:christletonmag@hotmail.co.uk)



***Advanced Notice***

**Saturday April 12th  
7.00pm in the Parish Hall  
Buffet Supper & Charity talk for  
Christian Aid  
by David Cummings**

***“The City of Athens &  
The Greek Islands of Crete, San-  
torini, Samos, Icaria and Lesbos***

Tickets, £6 including a glass of wine and  
light supper.

All proceeds to Christian Aid.  
Tickets from David at Church, or book by  
calling 332410.

**MASS IN B MINOR - J S Bach**  
with period instruments

**Saturday 15 March  
7.30pm, Chester Cathedral**

**Chester Bach Singers  
Conducted by Martin Bussey**

Eleanor Rolfe Johnson, Joyce Tinsley,  
William Balkwill, Marcus Farnsworth  
Eighteenth century Concert Orchestra  
Tickets £16, £12, £6 (concessions  
available)

from Chester Tourist Information Of-  
fice

(credit card bookings) 01244 402385  
or CBS tickets 0151 677 3137  
[www.chesterbachsingers.org.uk](http://www.chesterbachsingers.org.uk)

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# Consultation about Traffic Problems in Christleton

This initiative started when a group from Plough Lane talked to other residents who live on the main traffic routes through the 'old' village. Every household was concerned about vehicle speed and increasing traffic density; especially on the 'rat runs' through the village. People were concerned by the impact of large and heavy vehicles on our village roads, which were described by one resident as 'built for hay-wains'.

Residents also raised the issue of parking around the schools and in the centre of the village. The combination of parking and traffic problems was said to make a mockery of efforts to improve the appearance of the village and to promote the quality of village life.

Some of these problems have been aired before in a piecemeal way but it is clear that they are all inter-related: doing something about one will affect others. So we invited residents who had told us about concerns to come together for a meeting in November to discuss the situation and to think about the consequences of changes we might press for. About 100 people came along on a foul November night.

It was agreed that the issues aired at the meeting should form the basis for an open, village-wide consultation process which would lead to a Village Traffic Plan. We have therefore published our

draft conclusions from this meeting on a website (see below) and would like to invite all residents to read them and offer any improvements, additions, alterations or disagreements they would like to see included. Say what you would have said if you had been at the meeting.

We are firmly committed to this being a residents-led consultation to establish what the Christleton community decides it wants to happen - before we engage with those who can make it happen. We will continue to listen to suggestions at any time.

One initial conclusion is that to make practical progress we need hard evidence of problems, particularly when it comes to confirming vehicle speeds and density of traffic. Local residents have gathered a lot of data for Plough Lane. If you wish to add weight to the evidence about your local problem please contact us - we can arrange training in use of the radar gun and the speed indicating device. These provide the data needed to make the case for remedial action in your area.

Anyone who cannot access the internet can obtain a paper copy. Contact us by telephone on 335839 or 335296.

Website: [www.christleton.org](http://www.christleton.org) (please note the address, it is not the original village website)

Email details are on the website.

Geoff Butt  
Jan Nowland  
Phil Patton

# Christleton Post Offices 1819 – 2008

## *Part 1*



**W**ith the unbelievable demise and closure of Christleton Post Office in Village Road, it seems appropriate to give a short history of the Post Office in the Village. I'm not sure of the date when the actual post office counter came into being, but the first shop to include a Post Office was on the corner of Pepper Street and Windmill Lane, and can be dated to

1819. It's probable that the first owners were the Johnson Family, and that through marriage the ownership passed on to the Morgan Family. The first building was also attached to the Old bakery in Windmill Lane, and presumably received flour from the windmill on Windmill Hill, where the Law College Car Park is today. By examining the photograph we can see that this first Post Office



was also licensed to sell flour, as well as deal with the mail. There were also many more collections and deliveries than we have today. The four figures in the picture include Thomas & Mrs Johnson and two of the Morgan Family. Sometime around the turn of the century the Post Office moves to "Two Gables" the black & white house opposite the church, and there is photographic evidence to show that it existed there in 1908. The original post office was then converted to a private house and covered in red Ruabon brick commonly used in the village from 1890 onwards, and made by the Westminster Brick Works at Ruabon. Another quirk from this story is



that “Two Gables” was designed by Thomas Lockwood, one of two architects working for the Westminster Estate, and was made for John & Gilbert Mayers Builders of Christleton who were working for the Westminster Estate in Chester, including building of St Michael’s Arcade in Bridge Street. The Ruabon

Brick works still has a John Douglas (the second architect) building at its entrance complete with a classic Douglas style round tower. John Douglas work can be seen all around the City, especially in Bath Street, Grosvenor Park Road, St Werburgh Street, and even the Eastgate Clock, was his design.

*We are sad announce that  
Mr. Ernest Hall, a former  
Postmaster of Christleton  
Post Office passed away on  
Friday 8th February 2008*

## **St Patrick’s Day moved to 15 March**

The Roman Catholic Church has moved St Patrick’s Day this year, after discovering it clashes with a key day in the Church’s calendar. The Irish patron saint’s feast, normally on March 17, this year would clash with the second day of Holy Week. RC Church rules decree the saint’s

feast day does not rank as highly as the Monday before Easter and therefore it had to be moved two days back to March 15, which falls on a Saturday. Senior Irish clerics wanted to keep the date as close to international civic celebrations as possible, as they are planned years in advance. The last time St Patrick’s Day had to be moved was in 1940 when it coincided with Palm Sunday, the first day of Holy Week. The next date it will have to be moved again is 2160.

*A bus station is where a bus  
stops. A train station is where  
a train stops. On my desk I  
have a work station.*



# LAST POST



The village says goodbye to Christleton Post Office in Village Road and its postmaster Mr. Paul Jackson on 5th March 2008. It should be noted that the decision by the Royal Mail to close our Post Office was taken against the wishes of the residents of Christleton

### **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.

## **FASCINATING FACTS**

Blueberry Jelly Bellies were created especially for Ronald Reagan.

Brazil got its name from the nut, rather than the other way around.

Cats have over one hundred vocal sounds while dogs only have about ten

A flush toilet exists that dates back to 2000 BC

## **DID YOU KNOW?**

The date has been eaten for thousands of years; there is archaeological evidence of date cultivation in eastern Arabia in 4,000 BC and it is possible that they were eaten even before that. The ancient Egyptians considered the date to be a symbol of fertility and the fronds of the palm tree an emblem of longevity.

## **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 CHURCH OF ST. JAMES, CHRISTLETON

<b>SUNDAYS</b>	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
<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 Canon K. Peter Lee, M.A.**  
**The Rectory, Birch Heath Lane, Christleton ....335663**

<b>Churchwardens:</b>	Lois Dickinson .....	378320
	Keith Smalls .....	335688
<b>Reader</b>	Wayne Morris .....	01978 263389
<b>Reader Emeritus</b>	John Roberts .....	332207
<b>Verger</b>	David Ellis .....	336879
<b>Sacristan:</b>	Betty Dunning .....	335652

Sunday School:	Berenice Hogg.....	336779
Mother's Union Branch Leader	Margaret Renner ... ..	332005
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:	Gill Hibbert.....	336544
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Church Flowers	Olive Hammond.....	336562
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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**  
**BY ARRANGEMENT WITH THE RECTOR 335663**

