

St. James'

PARISH MAGAZINE

April 2012



Appointments in April

HOLY WEEK

Sun	1	8.00 am	Holy Communion
		10.45 am	Holy Communion
		10.45 am	Sunday School - Parish Hall
		6.30 pm	Evensong
Mon	2	10.45 am	Holy Communion at Oaklands Nursing Home
		11.20 am	Holy Communion at Tarvin Court Nursing Home
		7.30 pm	Meditation and Compline
Tues	3	7.30 pm	Meditation and Compline
Wed	4	10.45 am	United Holy Communion - followed By refreshments
		7.30 pm	Meditation and Compline
Thur	5	12 noon	Maundy Thursday
		7.30 pm	Holy Communion with stripping of the Altar
Fri	6	10.45 am	Good Friday
		2.00 pm	All Age Service
		6.30 pm	Devotion at the foot of the Cross Choir Practice
Sat	7	6.30 pm	Holy Saturday
			Easter vigil and Blessing of the Paschal Candle
Sun	8	8.00 am	Easter Day
		10.45 am	Holy Communion
			All Age Holy Communion (with Easter Eggs for Children)
		6.30 pm	Evening Worship

Wed	11	10.45 am	Holy Communion -followed by refreshments
		11.30 am	Holy Communion at Birch Heath Lodge Nursing Home

Fri	13	6.30 pm	Choir Practice
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NB: Last date for contributions for May Parish Magazine. Please e-mail to the editor at christletonmag@hotmail.co.uk. Any non-computerised contributions to Janet Milton (335469).

Sun	15	8.00 am	Holy Communion
		10.45 am	Holy Communion
		6.30 pm	Evensong BCP

Mon	16	2.00 pm	Mothers' Union - Parish Hall
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Wed	18	10.45 am	Holy Communion - followed by refreshments
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Fri	20	6.30 pm	Choir Practice
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Sun	22	8.00 am	Holy Communion
		10.45 am	Holy Communion - followed by refreshments
		10.45 am	Sunday School - Parish Hall
		6.30 pm	Evening Communion

Wed	25	10.45 am	Holy Communion - followed by refreshments
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Fri	27	6.30 pm	Choir Practice
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Sun	29	8.00 am	Holy Communion
		10.45 am	Sunday School - Parish Hall
		10.45 am	Holy Communion
		6.00 pm	The Crew Youth Group - Parish Hall
			Chris Platel talking about Christian Aid
		6.30 pm	Evensong

Message from our Rector

I sometimes find it hard to believe that it's now a year since I arrived here, and as I reflect upon the year past, it does, in many ways allow me almost as a parallel to walk through the Lentern season.

The arrival of Joyce and I to the parish, coincided with Springtime, new life, with the ducklings and cygnets on the water at the pit. The beautiful crocus and daffodils on the village green and hedgerows was a sight to behold. The days began to lengthen (and this is of course where the word Lentern [or Lent] has it's origins, in the old English..... lengthen) . There was also the wonderful sight when drawing back the curtains of a morning, with ducks walking round the garden.

With lighter nights and warmer days it was the perfect opportunity to get out and explore our new home surroundings and to meet with as many people as possible and to build up new relationships.

However, in what seemed far too short a period, the days began to get shorter, the nights began to draw in, the beautiful flowers have lost their colour and the leaves on the trees having turned from every shade of green to brown, now began to wither and fall.

Autumn almost too quickly is followed by winter and dark nights. However, with each time and season God's hand was so visible, and each new day, with its variety of shades, colours was a sight to behold, even the starkness of the trees in winter has a strange and enigmatic beauty.

As the year turns full circle, we begin to see the first shoots of new life, the Spring flowers have come out to greet the new season, the swans have returned and the sweet sound of the dawn chorus sings through our windows.

It is a perfect time and opportunity for each of us to reflect upon our Lenten journey, to draw our own parallels of life and faith, the cheering crowds singing sweet hosannas to Christ, when life was sweet and all seemed good in the world.....to the wanderings in the desert, the lonely testing place, when we so often feel alone, abandoned and forsaken, by friends as well as by God, and usually when we need them more than ever.....to the enigmatic beauty of the Cross with it's bleakness and starkness, and yet.....it reveals something else which we find hard to articulate, but which draws us on, almost calling out to each one of us

And as we respond to the call, as we move forward, to view the man who now lies in the tomb.....we hear the cry "He is not there, he is Risen"and we respond.....He is Risen indeed, Alleluia

Your faithful servant

Malcolm



People in the News

St James' Choir Member Nigel Seddon

On 22nd April this year Nigel Seddon and Carol Clulow will be joining another 38,000 people and attempting to run the Virgin London marathon. Whilst they have both completed the Chester marathon, the London event is the marathon that everyone talks about and they are determined to complete the course and do a respectable time. Training has been hard over the winter - it is difficult to feel motivated when the nights are dark and it is cold but now days are getting longer, it is easier to get out, although now the distances are getting longer and the runs are quite time consuming!

Pictured are Carol and Nigel at the start of their longest run so far – one in which they covered 20 miles

in just over 3 hours. They are planning to do another two long runs (20+ miles) and then will reduce the training in April down to shorter faster runs ready for the big day.

They are running for Oxfam and are hoping to raise £5,000 for the charity. They kick-started fund raising at the end February at the Ring O Bells with a quiz night and raised nearly a thousand pounds but there is still a very long way to go. Please help and support them by donating to Oxfam using the following link or by contacting Nigel or Carol direct. Nigel's number is on the back of the magazine. NS/DC

<http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/fundraiser-web/fundraiser/showFundraiserProfilePage.action?userUrl=CarolClulowandNigelSeddon>



Congratulations.

Congratulations from all at St James Church, to June and George Brocklesby on the occasion of their Silver Wedding 11th April 2012.

The Crew

The Crew continued their meetings this season with a Pre Lent chocolate fest in the Parish Hall on Sunday 26th February. A very enjoyable time was had by all, including the Rector !

Please give them every support.



Cover Picture.

The Palm Sunday Procession outside St James' in 2011. The procession was led by the Bishop of Birkenhead, The Right Reverend Keith Sinclair, together with Lucius the Donkey and owner, Mrs Meriel Cashin, who were accompanied by a large congregation across the fields from Pearl Lane in Littleton to the Church.

Nature Notes

The February bird of the month for me is the Kestrel. These small birds of prey used to be a very common sight along motorway verges, and could regularly be seen on telegraph posts in the village. In recent years they seem to have largely disappeared, but I'm glad to say now seem to have made a comeback, and there have been regular sightings in and around the village during January & February. Their distinctive hovering action above a food source makes them very easy to identify, and they mainly feed on small mammals. Kestrels are about 36cm(14") in height and the males are much redder on their upper body than the females.



They have pointed wings with distinctive black colouring on the tips, and a long tail, which fans out when they are hovering above prey. The female has a lighter coloured barred brown and black back. They have a high pitched call, kee-kee-kee but is nothing like the mewing of

the bigger buzzard, easily the most common bird of prey in the village and surrounding farmland. Kestrels will use nest sites in trees, but are also quite happy using the pole nest boxes put up in the area for barn owls. I'm getting regular reports of owls being heard in the village, and these are almost certainly tawny owls disputing territory with other pairs, and creating their own patch.

I'm also getting regular reports of the sighting of another exciting bird, the black cap, and especially of one aggressive individual chasing all other small birds away from bird feeders in a garden. These are no doubt overwintering warblers, either ones that have stayed for the winter, or have come over to us from Scandinavia because of our "milder winters".



I guess the chiff chaff that I heard in late February at Marbury Country Park was also an overwintering bird, although some early migrants (sand martins) are reported to have crossed the English Channel and are heading this way. Two "booming" bitterns that have overwintered at Marbury are probably due to head off to their breeding grounds soon, but who knows, if numbers are increasing as predicted after a relatively warm winter they might just stay. Incidentally the old Cheshire name for a bittern was a "Bitterbump" and it would be very exciting if the boom of the Bitterbump was once again regularly heard in the county.

PS. My first sighting of a butterfly this year was a small tortoiseshell flying over "Sainsbury's Island" in mid February. It amazing what time we now have to see the wildlife of the area whilst queuing to cross the dreaded lights! Also the swans are back, flying back to the Pit from the canal on the 5th March. Watch this space.!

DC



Thank You

It really is quite amazing the lengths some people will go to just to get a ride in an ambulance! Joking apart, it was very much an unexpected event but I understand our church warden John Pearson stood in the middle of Pepper Street with his hand in the air to stop the traffic approaching my prostate body lying in the gutter, thus saving me from becoming mincemeat, and for that I thank him. The fact that my husband, the Verger, was oblivious to my predicament while busying himself sprinkling salt on the footpath leading up to church so that the 'congregation would not slip on the ice' is an entirely different matter!! Also thank you to those who kept me company in the gutter checking my vital signs, whilst awaiting the arrival of the ambulance – it was all very much appreciated.

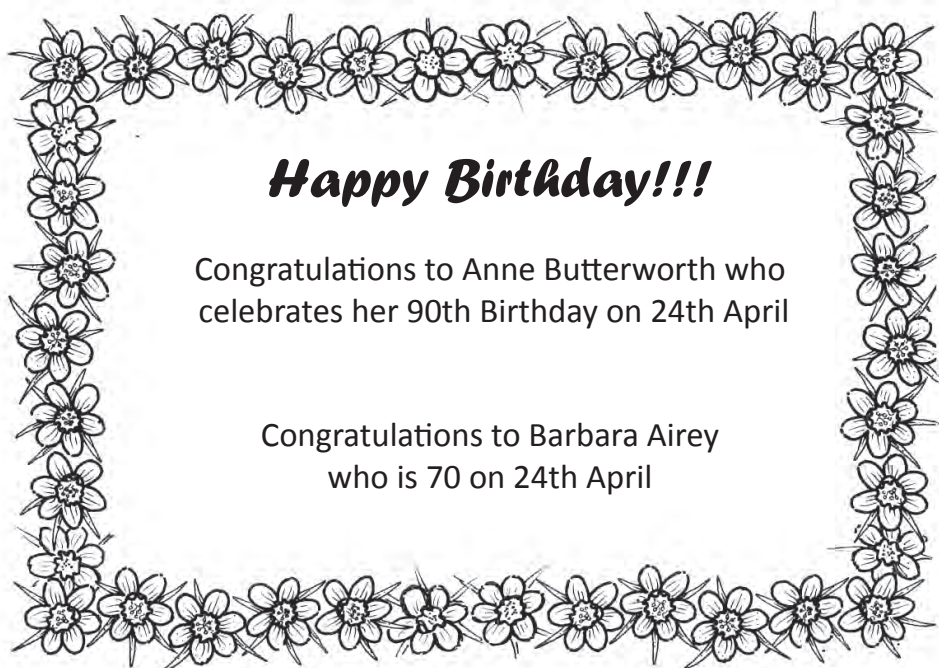
Last month my contribution to the Magazine was sent from my hospital bed – this month I am home and recuperating from the broken ankle, hopping on one leg, complete with purple plaster from knee to toe (very much in keeping with the colours for Lent).

I would like to thank so many friends for their good wishes, visits, cards, plants, flowers, cakes and even roast pork dinner – delicious. You have all been so very kind and supportive and when something like this happens, it really does make a difference.

The Verger is looking after me beautifully and in the past 3 weeks has learnt how to cook, load the dish washer & how to hold a duster in his hand! Unfortunately he couldn't learn how to use the washing machine because that packed in 10 days ago. So thank you to him and everyone for all your kindnesses.

Sincerely & God Bless.

Janet Milton



Happy Birthday!!!

Congratulations to Anne Butterworth who
celebrates her 90th Birthday on 24th April

Congratulations to Barbara Airey
who is 70 on 24th April

Stay awake

Should you sleep on a problem? Some say yes, some say no. But consider this: when you sleep on a problem, it often causes the painful memories to haunt your dreams, making the whole thing even more vivid. Some medical research now suggests that unpleasant experiences should be 'mentally digested' a bit before you go to sleep.

At the University of Massachusetts, young people were shown upsetting photographs of car crashes, etc. They remembered them in more detail if they slept soon afterwards; rather than if they stayed awake and gave themselves a chance to 'move on' from the unpleasant incident. The Bible urges all people in distress to turn to God in prayer. "Find rest, O my soul in God alone; my hope comes from him.... Trust in him at all times, O people; pour out your hearts to him, for God is your refuge."
(Psalm 62 5 & 8)

The History File

Little Heath Pit Part 3

The key to the rapid change of fortunes can be found in the weather patterns for particular years. Little Heath Pit depends on having sufficient rainfall to keep it full. The larger the area of open water the more evaporation that takes place, and emergent plants with roots in the water, such as bulrush and yellow flag in turn absorb considerable quantities of water. It's also estimated for example that a single willow tree absorbs 4000 litres of water per year through its roots, and we had at least thirty willow trees in the pit ! One solution was to remove some of the willows, and cut down the branch growth from time to time. This was successful in helping to retain a good water level until the drought of 2011. However some of these older stunted willows have now died of old age and have not been replaced naturally.



Long spells of warm weather can cause major problems and it's calculated that in a very sunny week in summer 5cm or 2" of water can be evaporated by the sun, and even more soaked up through the plants and aquatic vegetation. Smaller ponds protected by overhanging trees, and covered by pondweed or floating grass don't have such a problem.

Ponds everywhere also suffer from a build up of silt from rotting vegetation, which accumulates after a time, and need clearing. e.g. The major London Park ponds need draining about every fifteen years to remove such silt, and Little Heath Pit being a pond with no direct flow or stream outlet, has similar problems. The latest project for the removal of silt from the Pit took place in 2007/2008 and was funded by Wren U.K. and carried out by the Blue Boar Company. Tons of silt were removed by miniature floating cranes, and poured into barges. This material was

then taken to the side of the pit, unloaded into road trailers and hauled by tractor and spread over large areas of surrounding farmland, work carried out by Stuart Arden & Co. who have given great assistance to the Pit Project for many years.

Another factor concerning the level of water in the Pit is that water run- off from nearby farm fields, which was once of great benefit to the main pond has largely ceased due to changes in agricultural practices since the 1970's.

“The Magic Spring”

In 1989 during our search for a constant source of water, we followed the advice from older members of the community who were convinced that a “spring” in the area of the Alms Houses had provided water for the pit in the past. However the bubbling source of water, we found when exploring that marshy area with divining rods, proved to be a from a leaking mains water pipe 20m away. The water which flowed for seven years from this “ spring”, gave a regular volume of approx. 400 litres per hour, and kept the water level high. However it was lost when the leak was finally discovered and repaired. The change in vegetation due to the influx of “mains water” was quite dramatic, with bulrushes dying due to the influx of the fluoridated water, whilst yellow flag iris plants really flourished.

DC



VILLAGE JUBILEE PICNIC

To be held on Sunday 3 June at
a venue to be announced shortly.

Bring your own picnic.

Fancy dress competition for a) children b) adults

Keep the date free –

further details in next month's magazine.



Christleton Parish Hall

**available for Meetings, Parties, Functions etc,
occasional or regular use.**

The Hall has wheelchair access
and specially adapted facilities.

For bookings please contact Parish Hall Manager

Clare Holland

Telephone 332819 (before 8pm please)

email christletonhall@btinternet.com

Confirmation. A Confirmation service has been arranged for Sunday 20th May 2012 (this will replace our usual Sunday morning service). If you (or someone you know) would like to confirm their Baptismal promises, or if you would like more information on what is involved.

Please speak with Tina Lightfoot or the Rector as soon as possible. We would usually recommend a minimum age for candidates of 11 years of age, although there is no upper age limit.

“GROSVENOR MUSEUM SOCIETY

Next lecture :

Tuesday 17th APRIL

“Cheshire’s Agriculture : Mid 19th Century to the present day”

Speaker : Doug Haynes

This will be held at the Grosvenor Museum a 7.30pm.

Entrance : members free

Suggested donation for non-members £4, students £2.

Further details from Ken Holding 01244 31689.”

Friends of Chester Cathedral Plant Sale

will take place in the Cathedral Cloisters

on Friday 4th and Saturday 5th May, 2012,

between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.

Free Entry.



Note this date in your diary

Christleton Village Show 2012

Is on Saturday 14th. July In Christleton Parish Hall

This year the show theme will be **Celebrations** as this year we have 3 major events – **the Queens Diamond Jubilee the London Olympics and the 20th anniversary of the restarting of the Village Show**

When you read this in April, schedules will be available from Phil and Sue Prees at Christleton Village Stores. There are some new categories amongst the familiar so there is a greater choice to start planting, sewing, painting etc. whatever is your thing. It doesn't cost much, is great fun and there are lots of trophies to win. You will also be helping with a good charity. After last year's show we donated to Hope House Children's Hospice; The Hospice of the Good Shepherd and Save the Family at Cotton Farm



This year Linda at **Drakes** has agreed, once again, for the hairdressers to be a collecting point for completed Entry forms, making getting your forms in on time so much easier.

This is in addition to the Entry form collection point of Judith Butts house –Greenmantle, Plough Lane. There will also be a coffee morning on 7th July in the Lady Chapel in St James Church for entries. Late entries will also be accepted on the Day for fresh produce. Getting your entry form in early, helps enormously with registration and display of the items entered on the Saturday.

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

David or Beryl Cummings - 332410, Janet Brown – 335785.
Charles Smeatham – 335209. Margaret Croston – 335955,
Sue Haywood – 01829 741814, Chris Marsland – 335424,
June Pearson - 335101, Judith Butt – 335296, Sue and Lewis Rees;
Christine Abrams -335562, Edward Elliot - 336659;
Sarah Donald, Jean Williams, Jim Ferns.

Christleton Parish Council Annual Open Morning

Saturday 14th April 2012. 10am - 12 noon
The Parish Hall (on the Village Green) Christleton

Find out more about:

Our Community Plan

**Best
Kept
Village**

Traffic Action

Our schools

Homewatch

The History of Christleton

The Little Heath Play Area
and Bike Trail ideas.

King
George's
Fields

The Institute

The Pit Group

The Village Website
www.christleton.org.uk

Councillors

Village
Activities

The Fete

The Village Show

Fire
and
Rescue

Contact: The Clerk to the Parish Council
Sue Thwaite 01244 318618
christletonpc@hotmail.com

Refreshments

THE PARISH OF ST JAMES, CHRISTLETON

PARISH MAGAZINE

March 2011



Thank you for subscribing to our Parish Magazine. Annual subscriptions for 2011/2012 are due on 1 April 2011.

We are pleased to be able to hold the subscription at £4 for this year. (Individual copies remain at 35p).

Subscriptions can be put in the envelope marked with your name and returned as soon as possible please to your distributor as indicated. Please make cheques payable to Christleton PCC.

Christleton Wednesday Group

Jubilee Celebration Lunch on Wednesday 30 May,
at Christleton Parish Hall, 12.00 noon.

Ticket £10.00, including a glass of wine,
(available from members or phone 01244 336644)

In aid of Dial House, Chester


EPMS will be presenting an exciting concert of fine choral and orchestral music on Saturday 21st April at Ellesmere Port Civic Hall.

The concert includes Mozart's Requiem Mass, Britten's National Anthem and cantata 'Rejoice in the Lamb', and William Walton's Excerpt from Facade (including 'Popular Songs').

The Requiem was commissioned by Mozart's patron to commemorate a family bereavement, the work became a requiem in more ways than one, with Mozart's untimely death reputedly occurring as he was writing bar 8 of the Lacrymosa. His wife, always the business person behind the Mozart brand and with 6 children to support, commissioned Franz Sussmayr (Mozart's student for many years) to complete the work.

The Britten setting of the National Anthem is to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

Britten's enigmatic Rejoice in the Lamb is a festival cantata that is set to words by Christopher Smart, who suffered the indignity of spending much of his life in mental institutions. In the 1700s these would have been grim places and Smart spent much of his time as a devout Christian writing poetry. The words are fascinating in many ways and have both direct and indirect links to the scriptures and, some may say, to the Psalms in particular. Britten wrote the piece in America when the World was in turmoil during the Second World War, which adds a further poignancy given his position as a conscientious objector. There is also a connection between Shostakovich and Rejoice in the Lamb with the 'DSCH motif'. The motif is in several of Shostakovich's compositions, in a round-about way denotes his initials and may have been added by Britten as a homage to Shostakovich's to mark the persecution of musical artists during the Stalin era.



**ELLESMERE PORT
CIVIC HALL
SATURDAY APRIL 21st
at 7.30 pm**

The Chorus of
Ellesmere Port Music Society
The Borders Sinfonia
conductor Tim Stuart

soloists: Sarah Williams, Caroline Palmer
John Pierce & Oliver Sammons

REQUIEM

W. A. Mozart

also
Rejoice in the Lamb
National Anthem
by Benjamin Britten
Facade
by William Walton

TICKETS
FROM £13
concessions £12
children and students £7
0151-327 4062
www.epmsonline.co.uk

Ellesmere Port
Music Society
magnus

WHAT'S ON THIS MONTH

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Held in the Parish Hall from 10.45 am – 11.45 am each Sunday during term-time, except when Family Service is held at St. James. For further details please contact Berenice Kirwan, 336779.

CHRISTLETON METHODIST CHURCH we meet for Informal Prayers and a Simple Lunch on the first Thursday of each month at 12 noon. All welcome. There is no charge for the lunch but a donation to cover costs would be appreciated.

CHRISTLETON W. I.

Meets on the second Wednesday of the month at 7.15 pm in the Parish Hall. Wednesday March 11 April
Cookery, Mark Gleave



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 Lilian Hopley telephone Chester 676683.

MAGAZINE CONTRIBUTIONS

Please ensure all items for inclusion in the May edition are sent to Janet Milton (335469), as soon as possible BEFORE Friday 13 April or you can e-mail this to christletonmag@hotmail.co.uk

MAGAZINE DISTRIBUTORS

The May magazine will be available for collection from Sunday 29th April

LEPROSY MISSION

Stamp out leprosy!

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

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

PLEASE TELL US....

If you know of any special birthdays, anniversaries or anyone celebrating a special occasion, who is a Parish magazine reader. Please inform the editor David Bull

AVAILABLE AT ST. JAMES' CHURCH

“Loop” system for the hearing impaired.

Large print books for the visually impaired and large print weekly notice sheets

Easy to follow Communion Service

Books for Children

Access for wheelchairs

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

CHRISTLETON UNDER-FIVES COMMUNITY PLAYGROUP

Registered Charity 1022817

Christleton under fives is an established pre-school playgroup attracting children from a wide area. It enjoys good and well founded links with Christleton Primary School. Children from the age of 2 1/2 years until school age are accepted. Please contact the Supervisor, Carole Penny, on 01244 336586 for further details.

MOBILE LIBRARY VAN SERVICE

The van calls weekly: alternate Thursdays & Fridays in Quarry Lane 3.15 pm – 6.0 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

Parish Registers

Holy Baptism

12th Harry James Edwards son of James & Kelly Edwards
26 Stunhill Avenue, Ellesmere Port

"We welcome you into the Lord's Family"

The Funeral Service

8th Edward Antony (Tony) Gardner
Old Pits Farm, Little Heath, Christleton 91yrs

9th Beryl Carrington
26 Marbury Road, Vicars Cross, Chester 84yrs

28th Vera Vickers
Birch Heath Lodge Nursing Home, Village Road 92yrs

"Grant them eternal rest"

Offertories.

February	Cash	CSE	2012	2011
5th	40-59	429-00	469-59	709-88
12th	222-10	435-50	657-60	646-00
19th	149-30	565-50	714-80	552-74
26th	208-40	615-50	823-90	670-64
Totals			£2,665-89	£2,559-26

"Of your own do we give you

PARISH CHURCH OF ST. JAMES, CHRISTLETON

SUNDAYS 8.00 am Holy Communion

10.45 am Morning Worship

6.30 pm Evening Worship

WEDNESDAYS 10.45 am Holy Communion

SAINTS' DAYS As announced

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

Churchwardens:	John Pearson	335101
	Keith Smalls	335688
Deputy Wardens:	Lois Dickinson	
	Alan McAllester	
Reader:	Wayne Morris	01978 263389
Verger:	John Milton	335469
Sacristan:	Betty Dunning	335652
Pastoral Worker:	Berenice Kirwan	336779
Sunday School:	Berenice Kirwan	336779
Mothers' Union Branch Leader:	Janet Brown	335785
Organist & Musical Director:	Steve Roberts	815277
P. C. C. Secretary:	Brenda Bailey	335034
P. C. C. Treasurer:	Carl Cumiskey	330028
Stewardship Envelope:	Betty Dunning	335652
Gift Aid Secretary:	Nigel Seddon	335588
Bellringers:	Ian Braithwaite	300565
Bellringers Secretary:	Nikki Dromgoole	351124
Parish Hall Booking:	Clare Holland	332819
C. M. S. Secretary:	Janet Brown	335785
Children's Society Sec:	Lesley Morgan	335088
Visiting Group:	Berenice Kirwan	336779
Library:	Gwen Knight	336236
Church Flowers:	Olive Hammond	336562
Magazine Editor:	David Bull	332234
Magazine Compiler:	Julie Coxall	336062
Magazine Distributors:	Jenny Davies and Valmai Griffiths	335884
Neighbourhood Link Co-ordinator	Janet Bowden	335705
Parish Resource		
Person for Child Protection:	Alastair Holland	332819