

Parish Magazine



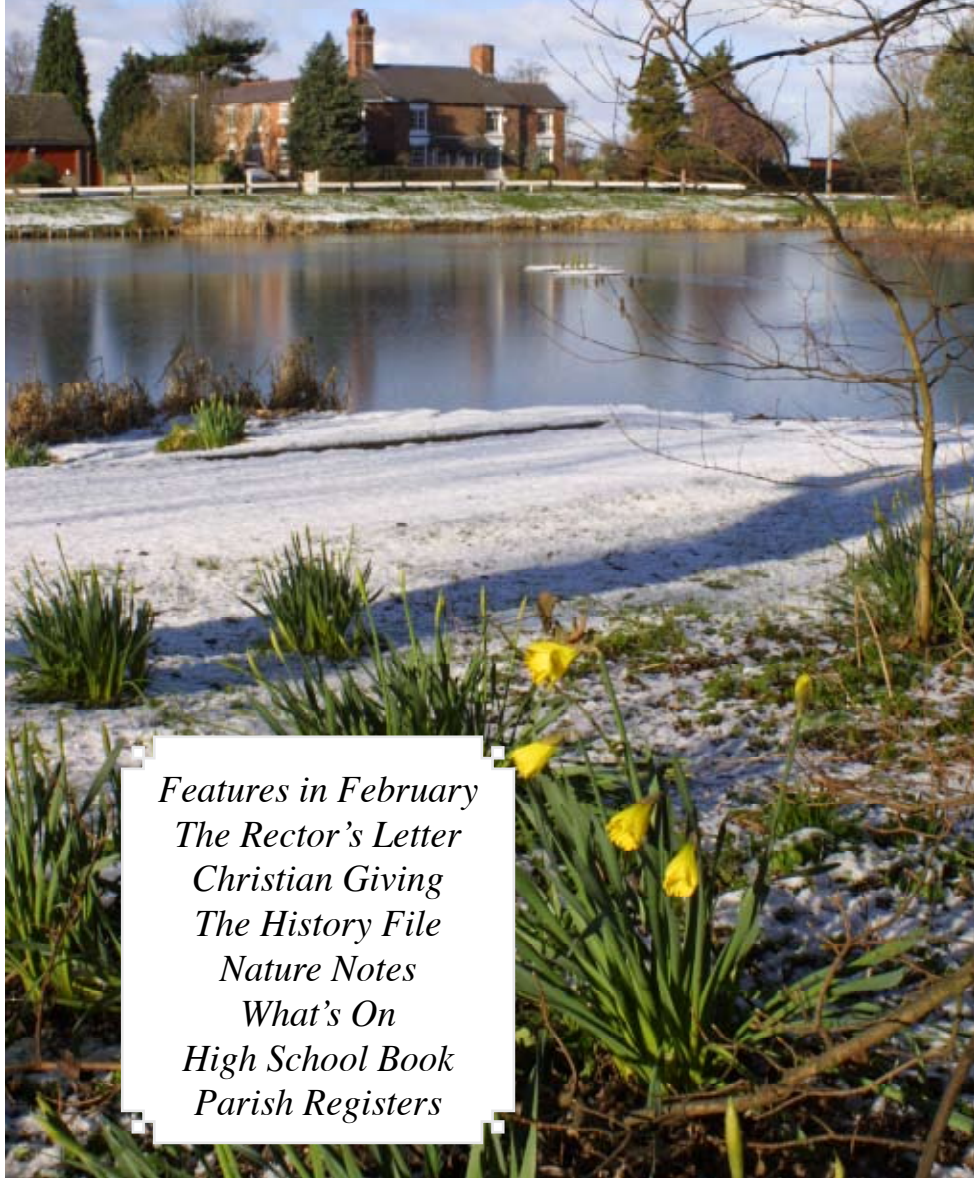
February 2009

St. James'

Christleton

35p

www.christleton.org.uk



Features in February
The Rector's Letter
Christian Giving
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FEATURES IN FEBRUARY

Sun	1		THE PRESENTATION OF CHRIST IN THE TEMPLE
		8.00 am	Holy Communion - Order 2
		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 - followed by refreshments
			Prayer Link Road: Haslin Crescent
			Neighbourhood Link: Ann Smith
Mon	2	10.45 am	Holy Communion at Tarvin Court Nursing Home
		11.20 am	Holy Communion at Oaklands Nursing Home
		7.45 pm	PCC Meeting - Parish Hall
Wed	4	10.45 am	United Communion - followed by refreshments
Thur	5	12 noon	Prayer Lunch - Methodist Church
Fri	6	6.30 pm	Choir Practice
			NB: Last date for contributions for March Parish Magazine to Janet Milton (335469). Earlier if possible please, or you can attach your Word document and e-mail this to christletonmag@hotmail.co.uk
Sun	8		The Third Sunday before Lent
		8.00 am	Holy Communion - Order 1
		10.45 am	Family Service followed by refreshments
		6.30 pm	Evensong
			Prayer Link Road: Hawthorn Road
			Neighbourhood Link: Jayne Roscoe
Mon	9	2.00 pm	Mothers' Union - Parish Hall
Wed	11	10.45 am	Holy Communion - followed by refreshments
		11.30 pm	Holy Communion at Birch Heath Lodge Nursing Home
Thur	12	2.30 pm	Parish Visiting Group - White Haven
Fri	13	6.30 pm	Choir Practice

Sun	15		The Second Sunday before Lent
		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
			Prayer Link Road: Home Close
			Neighbourhood Link: Gertrude Wright
Wed	18	10.45 am	Holy Communion - followed by refreshments
Fri	20	6.30 pm	Choir Practice
Sun	22		The Sunday Next before Lent
		8.00 am	Holy Communion - Order 1
		10.45 am	Sunday School - Parish Hall
		10.45 am	Matins - followed by refreshments
		6.00 pm	The Crew Youth Group - Parish Hall
		6.30 pm	Eucharist for Healing
			Prayer Link: Little Heath Road and Pearl Lane
			Neighbourhood Link: Judith Edwards and Liz Evans
Mon	23	7.45 pm	Bereavement Support Group -Tarvin Road
Tues	24	8.00 am	Parish Walking Group leave car park for East Cheshire
Wed	25	10.45 am	Holy Communion for ASH WEDNESDAY
		7.30 pm	Invitation to Mass and Imposition of Ashes at St Werburgh's
Thur	26	7.45 pm	Deanery Synod - Guilden Sutton
Fri	27	6.30 pm	Choir Practice

The poem on the front cover is by Celia Standish

The Rector's Letter

Dear Friends

Gap Year

Many students now take a 'gap year' before, or after, university. Some use this to earn money to help pay student debts, or to spend travelling round the world. Some will include an experience of helping people who do not have the advantages we all take for granted. It is a time out to broaden horizons and perhaps come to a clearer direction for their future.

Chester Diocese is launching a different type of 'gap year'. It stands for Growth Action Planning, and it is hoped that every Parish will come up with its own plan. There are a couple of respects in which this has similar objectives to a student's gap year! It can be seen as an opportunity for a parish to step back, and get a clearer view of its aims and objectives, and to re-evaluate its present priorities and practices. It could also be seen as an opportunity to muster the resources required to achieve those goals.

It is very easy to go from year to year assuming that your priority is to keep fulfilling the existing pattern of tasks. It is all too easy not to notice that some of the things we are doing have lost their relevance, and that we are ignoring new challenges. Equally, it is good to reaffirm those basic priorities in Christian Ministry which never change. So over the coming months we shall be taking up the Diocesan initiative, and apply it here in Christleton. This will be led by the PCC, but I invite all of us to play our part in giving fresh impetus and purpose to the life of St James. It is no use coming up with great ideas if they are not 'owned' by, or do not have the support of, those who will be involved in turning them into reality.

Lent starts with Ash Wednesday, which this year is on 25 February. Lent is the time when we remember Jesus going into the wilderness for forty days and nights. In one sense I suppose this was a similar 'time out' for Jesus to re-evaluate his life. It was in the wilderness that Jesus struggled to discover his mission and purpose in life and to direct his will and resources to achieving that purpose. The story of the temptations describes how demanding and fundamental this was. If that was so for Jesus, how much more so must it be for us. If our observation of Lent is to have any significance it must

surely involve each of us personally examining our own Christian ministry and mission. It also requires that we direct the necessary resources of time, talents and possessions towards that goal. There is still time for us to plan how we shall personally use Lent to deepen our Christian discipleship. Its better not to take on more than is realistic, but we have to start somewhere and we need to keep to it.

‘Lent’ means Spring and is a time for growth. At the time of year when all seems dead in nature, the sap is rising, and there is secret growth below the surface. If we are to plan the growth of action in our Parish, that needs to start in the secret growth ‘below the surface’, in our spiritual lives, through worship, Bible reading and prayer. Then, when we come up with plans to renew our present commitment, or to venture new projects in our mission and ministry, we shall have the resources to ‘bridge the gap’, between the plan and making it a reality.

Yours sincerely

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

Prayer of the Month:

Help us, O Lord, to think about our life as Jesus thought about his:

Help us to understand the nature of our calling;

the nature of the one who calls;

the nature of the world's needs;

the nature of our own resources;

the nature of God's provision.

Help us not to drift through life, but to seek your guidance.

Save us from making hasty decisions;

save us from making no decisions at all.

Help us not to seek our own glory, but yours.

Help us to have no ambition but to do good.

Make us pure in heart.

*And help us, finally, not to judge ourselves, and not to judge others, but to leave judgment where it belongs, with him to whom all power is given, the one who knows all and loves each, Jesus Christ our Saviour and Lord.
Amen.*

Collections at Christmas

Carols around the Tree/Midnight Communion/8.00am Communion/
Christmas Day Family Service
Total Collections at these services; £2,072-66

Distributed as;

50% £1,036 to Overseas Missions

25% £ 518 to Chester Aid for the Homeless

25% £ 518 to Adoption Matters

BRITISH LEGION POPPY APPEAL

I would like to say a very big thank you to everyone from Tarvin Road, Littleton, Marbury Road and the Broadmead area for donating to the British Legion Poppy Appeal. The house-to-house collection raised £320.00.

Mabel Kirk
8 Tarvin Road
Littleton

Morten Nilssen

Pat, Anna & Lara would like to say a very big thank you to everyone who sent messages of condolence and to those who attended Morten's funeral.

A special thank you to Peter Lee for taking the service.

To consider

The quickest way to double your money is to fold it in half and put it back.

There are two theories to arguing with women. Neither one works. Generally speaking, you aren't learning much when your lips are moving.

Experience is something you don't get until just after you need it. If I wanted to hear the pitter-patter of little feet, I'd put shoes on my cat.

The Parish of St James, Christleton

CHRISTIAN GIVING 2008

At the November meeting of the PCC the figures below for our Parish Christian giving for 2008 were agreed. They include giving received from boxes etc and direct PCC giving. These amounts have now all been sent on to the designated causes. They exclude all donations given at funerals as these are just passed on, on behalf of the family.

Home:

Children's Society	(Christingle, boxes etc)	1569
Save the Family (Good Friday etc)		395
British Legion (Remembrance Sunday collection)		772
Adoption Matters (Christmas Collection)		518
CATH	(" ")	518
Christmas Fair – National		722
Christmas Fair – Local		722
Christian Schools Worker (Chester)		300
St Luke's Hospital for the clergy		100
Hospice (Chaplaincy)		200
Church Army		200
Churches Action on Substance Misuse		200
Ordinands		133

Overseas

Leprosy Mission	200
Christian Aid	265
Christmas Fair – International	722
Eric and Sandra Read (Link Missionary)	200
Grays	200
Bible Society	200
USPG*	626
CMS*	738
Danny and Ary Morrison	200

Totals

Home	6349
Overseas	3351
Total	9700

The History File

The weather in December and early January has seen some of the coldest weather in the village and the city for many years, with many nights and days with severe frosts. Seeing pictures of the frozen River Dee on television will have brought back memories for local people of 1963, when the river was frozen for many days and the large swan population were forced into a small area near The Groves. Lots of local people went down to the river to feed them each day. The ice was so thick that small

cars were even driven across to the Handbridge side on the ice, and there are many pictures of families enjoying the freedom of skating on the ice. Similar things happened on the canal in Christleton, and David Wain a well known former resident of the village, drove his estate car along the canal from Skips Lane to Waverton and back. That year also saw village residents collecting water daily from a water tanker which was sited alongside the Village Green and Partington's Butchers Shop. Clearly the water



supply to the village was frozen, as was the well opposite the church. There have been several other occasions when the canal and pit have been frozen for several weeks at a time, and great efforts made to keep the swans and cygnets from becoming trapped in the ice. I remember clearly one memorable spell of bad weather during my time at the primary school when we recorded minus daytime temperatures for a whole week with a minimum temperature of minus-18C being recorded one night. We went to great lengths to keep the school open, with cooks Joyce Dentith and Ethel Morris providing hot soup for the children during the morning breaks to keep them warm.

I was reminded of the story of David Wain driving his car along the canal, in an excellent document about the history of Skips Lane compiled and written by Jim McCready. It really has played an important part in the history of the village especially with its links to Boat Building, Canal Boat Hire, Horse Boxes and Scouting. Perhaps I can expand this story in a future magazine, as Jim's excellent work

has added to the knowledge which we already had, and previously published in the two Local History Group publications of 1978 and 2000. Perhaps I can just complete this piece by saying that there were no homes at all along this former farm track in the 1920's, and the history that has developed over the subsequent years is fascinating including the name Skips Lane, which was not officially sanctioned by the Parish Council until 1975. Why Skips Lane?, well Miss Smith the Village Scout Group leader lived at a gated end of the Lane, and no doubt the scouts would go down to her house along the track, and the name "skip's lane", stuck as a very appropriate name. "Skip" being the nickname of the skipper or leader of the Scout Group.

DC

With thanks to Jim McCready for his excellent article "A Hop along Skips Lane", and to David Wain for his delightful historic photograph.

NATURE NOTES

The cold weather has also played a vital part in bringing interesting bird species into the village. Redwings can be seen anywhere, but especially foraging close to the ground in the fields alongside the canal and playing fields. There have also been sightings of bullfinch, reed bunting, linnets and a yellowhammer, as well as many expected species of robin, wren, great, blue, and long tailed tits, together with many starlings and blackbirds. I haven't seen a song thrush for several months, but there

are mistle thrushes in and around the churchyard, on Birch Heath Common and over the fields near the Cricket Club. Our mute swans are still on their winter territory on the canal, occasionally paying visits to "The Pit", still with two surviving cygnets, who seem to have reattached themselves to the adults after spending weeks apart on the canal. However there are fewer wild whooper(40) and Bewick (20)swans on the Dee Marshes this winter although I understand that there is the magnificent spectacle of over 1800



wild swans at Martin Mere Wildlife Trust Reserve near Ormskirk, with birds from Greenland, Iceland and Russia. One of these, a Bewick, a species of swan which is physically half the size of our mutes, was ringed



as an adult at Martin Mere in 1991, and now at 23yrs old has returned again this winter. This makes it a very exciting visitor because even if flying only in straight lines (which they don't) this bird has flown the equivalent of over 100,000 miles during its lifetime whilst flying each winter to and from England and Arctic Russia.

Surprise visitors to Christleton over the Christmas period were a pair of shelducks, normally to be found on the River Dee Marshes, and which flew along the canal in the direc-

tion of Chester. Not so surprising in this cold snap has been the appearance of many birds of prey, and in the last week alone, I have seen, buzzard, kestrel, sparrowhawk, red kite, merlin, marsh and hen harrier, tawny owl, barn owl, and a pair of peregrine falcons. All have been hunting for prey, eager to survive in



this cold snap, and finding food on frozen meadows, estuaries or along roadsides. They have not all been in this area, but it has been just one amazing bird watching week. DC



WHAT'S

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Held in the Parish Hall from
10.45 am – 12.00 noon each Sunday
during term-time, except when Family
Service is held at St James. For further
details please contact
Berenice Hogg, 336779.

CHRISTLETON METHODIST CHURCH

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

CHRISTLETON LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

Wednesday February 25th
7.30pm

Speaker - Phil Hirst
Lost
Treasures & "Adventure
Archaeology"

Encompassing Phil's adventures
in making the TV series "Lost
Treasures"

Film Maker for the History Channel
Head of Media Studies Chester
University

CHRISTLETON W.I.

Meets on the second Wednesday of the
month at 7.15 pm in the Parish Hall
February 11th
The First Female Mounted Police
Officer in the North Weest
Karen Corcoran
All Welcome

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 Tel: Chester 346497

CHRISTLETON W.I. MONTHLY WHIST

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

MAGAZINE DISTRIBUTORS

The March Magazine will be available for
collection from Church on Sunday 22nd
February 2009.

MAGAZINE CONTRIBUTIONS

Please ensure all items for inclusion
in the **March** edition are sent to Janet
Milton (335469), as soon as possible
BEFORE Friday 6th March or you can
e-mail this to
christletonmag@hotmail.co.uk

St. James' Christleton Parish Magazine

ST JAMES TUESDAY WALKING GROUP

February 24th 2009

East Cheshire; Mow Cop & Little Moreton Hall. Moderate 8 1/2 miles
Following part of the Gritstone Trail, the South Cheshire Way and the Cheshire Ring Canal walk.

Pub Lunch.

Depart Church Car Park at 8.00am

CHRISTLETON WEDNESDAY GROUP

SOUP & SWEET SPRING LUNCH
on

Wednesday 1 April,

at Christleton Parish Hall,
12 Noon.

Tickets £7, available from members.
(includes a glass of wine)

In aid of
Claire House Children's Hospice

COFFEE MORNING

At Christleton Institute

Wednesday 25 February

10.30am – 1.30 pm

Cake - Ploughman's Lunch
Sales Table

In aid of AANG SERIAN
Registered Charity No 1111711

www.serianuk.org.uk

ALL WELCOME

Coming in April SPRING CONCERT

Ellesmere Port Music Society Choir

Saturday 18 April 2009

7.30 pm

Civic Hall, Ellesmere Port

A fellow nurse at my hospital received a call from an anxious woman. "I'm diabetic and I'm afraid I've had too much sugar today," she said. "Are you light-headed?" my colleague asked. "No," the caller answered, "I'm a brunette."

Christleton High School

50th Anniversary 1958-2008

The special 50th Anniversary Book is now available from the School price £14.99 following its publication shortly before Christmas. It is an excellent publication, packed with articles and photographs about the school, staff, pupils and the events that have taken place in those fifty memorable years. Villagers with connections to the school during this time will find it fascinating, and an excellent and colourful addition to history books about the Village. Congratulations to Di Morley and Joce Platel the main editors and all "The Book Team" for their efforts. DC



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.

With Valentine's Day and Love in mind

Love does not consist in gazing at each other but in looking together in the same direction. - Antoine De Saint-Exupery

It is astonishing how little one feels poverty when he loves. - Bulwer

Men should keep their eyes wide open before marriage, and half shut afterward. Madame Scuderi

Two souls with but a single thought, two hearts that beat as one. - E F J von Munch-Bellinghausen

The Christian is supposed to love his neighbour, and since his wife is his nearest neighbour, she should be his deepest love. - Martin Luther

One of the best legacies a father can leave his children is to love their mother. - C Neil Strait

CONTRIBUTORS

The best way to send contributions to St. James' Parish Magazine is to e-mail the document.

Attach your Word document and e-mail it to

christletonmag@hotmail.co.uk

Parish Registers for December 2008

Holy Baptism.

7th Joseph William Henry Hindle son of David & Viv Hindle
45 Shavington Avenue, Hoole, Chester

“We welcome you into the Lord’s Family”

The Funeral Service

2nd Doreen Stella Mills 6 Bridge Drive Christleton
22nd Joan Astley 23 Cedar Court, Roundhill Meadow, Caldý Valley, Gt Boughton
23rd Patricia Joan Austin 57 Richmond Crescent, Vicars Cross, Chester

“Grant them eternal rest.”

Offertories

December	Cash	CSE	2008	2007
7th	150-87	601-00	751-87	806-61
14th	364-42	887-30	1,251-72	995-36
21st	481-22	829-751	310-97	861-80
28th	81-35	457-20	538-551	600-72
Totals			£3,853-11	£4,264-49

“Of your own do we give you.”

PARISH CHURCH OF ST. JAMES, CHRISTLETON

SUNDAYS	8.00 a.m.	Holy Communion	
	10.45 a.m.	Parish Communion	1st & 3rd Sundays
		Family Service	2nd Sunday
		Mattins	4th & 5th Sundays
	6.30 p.m.	Evensong	1st, 2nd & 3rd Sundays
		Evening Communion	4th Sunday
		Songs of Praise	5th Sunday
WEDNESDAYS	10.45 a.m.	Holy Communion	
SAINT'S DAYS	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion	

WHO'S WHO & WHAT'S WHAT

Rector: **The Rev'd Canon K. Peter Lee, M.A.**
The Rectory, Birch Heath Lane, Christleton335663

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

Sunday School:	Berenice Hogg.....	336779
Mother's Union Branch Leader	Janet Brown	335785
Organist & Musical Director:	Steve Roberts	815277
P. C. C. Secretary:	Brenda Bailey	335034
P. C. C. Treasurer:	David Mercer	336155
Stewardship Envelope:	Betty Dunning.....	335652
Gift Aid Secretary	Nigel Seddon	335588
Bellringers	Ian Braithwaite	300565
Bellringer Vice Captains	Ian Crossan	332280
Parish Hall Booking	David Mercer	336155
C. M. S. Secretary	Janet Brown	335785
Children's Society Sec.	Lesley Morgan	335088
Visiting Group:	Gill Hibbert.....	336544
Library	Lois Dickinson	378320
Church Flowers	Olive Hammond.....	336562
Magazine Editor	David Bull.....	332234
Magazine Compiler	Richard Nicholson	336004
Magazine Distributors	Jenny Davies and Valmai Griffiths	335884
Neighbourhood Link Co-Ordinator	Janet Bowden.....	335705
Parish Resource		
Person for Child Protection	Susan Alexander	335077



BAPTISMS, WEDDINGS & APPOINTMENTS
BY ARRANGEMENT WITH THE RECTOR 335663

