

# St. James'

PARISH MAGAZINE

March 2012



# MARK IN MARCH

Sun	4	8.00am	Holy Communion
		10.45am	Holy Communion
		10.45am	Sunday School
		6.30pm	Evensong
Mon	5	10.45am	Holy Communion at Oaklands Nursing Home
		11.20am	Holy Communion at Tarvin Court Nursing Home
Wed	7	10.45am	United Communion - followed by refreshments
Thu	8	10.30am	"Coffee Morning" at Methodist Church to plan Village Teas
Fri	9	6.30pm	Choir Practice

**N.B. Last date for April Parish Magazine.**

**Please email to the editor at**

**[christletonmag@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:christletonmag@hotmail.co.uk).**

**Any non-computerised contributions to Janet Milton  
(335469) as early as possible please.**

Sun	11	8.00am	Holy Communion
		10.45am	Holy Communion
		10.45am	Sunday School
		6.30pm	Evening Worship



Mon	12	2.00pm	Mothers Union	Parish Hall
Wed	14	10.45am 11.30am	Holy Communion - followed by refreshments Holy Communion at Birch Heath Lodge	
Sun	18	8.00am 10.45am 10.45am 6.00pm 6.30pm	Holy Communion All Age Service Sunday School Crew Youth Group – Hidden Talents Holy Communion	
Wed	21	10.45am	Holy Communion - followed by refreshments	
Sun	25	8.00am 10.45am 10.45am 6.30pm	Holy Communion Morning Prayer Sunday School Holy Communion	
Wed	28	10.45am	Holy Communion - followed by refreshments	
Sat	31	1.00pm 7.00pm	Wedding: Andrew Weaver, Joanne Gatehouse David Cummings Talk for Christian Aid “Wildlife & Scenery of Vancouver & Rockies” Parish Hall	

Cover Picture This Month

The Christleton Swans “Display of Love”

# Message from our Rector

If you have been reading the notices on our weekly news sheet, you will know that we urgently need to address our financial position. For many years, we have been spending more than we have been receiving. Whilst we are called to be generous with all we have, we are also called to be responsible stewards.

One of the initiatives which we will have in the near future is a "Thanksgiving Sunday", which is slightly at odds with our thinking as Christians, because surely each Sunday and indeed each day is a cause for thanksgiving.

I want to stress something I am sure you know very well, namely that Christian Stewardship is not about paying bills; its about something far more fundamental and important- it is about giving glory to God, and when we glorify God through our giving, the bills are not the worry they would otherwise be.

There are three things we need to attend to, to give maximum glory to God through our giving.

GOD'S PEOPLE ARE CALLED TO REGULAR GIVING

GOD'S PEOPLE ARE CALLED TO REALISTIC GIVING

GOD'S PEOPLE ARE CALLED REVIEWABLE GIVING

The theological basis for this is straightforward. We are made in the image of God, we are God's work of art, created in Christ to live the good life as he had meant us to live it.

God gives to us regularly, day after day- there is not end to his giving, and there is no irregularity.

God is generous, yesterday, today, and forever. So if our generosity is to reflect God's, our giving will be regular.

The financial basis for regular giving is equally straightforward. Nothing of substance is ever achieved without a regular source of income, each of us rely on a weekly or monthly pay packet, or pension, or some other form of regular and dependable income.

Our giving to God's church works best for us and for the church when it is regular, our envelope scheme, or bankers order, and by allowing the gift aid to be claimed which can significantly increase

our giving without any additional cost to ourselves.

The New Testament answer - each person should give in proportion to what they possess. In 1 Corinthians the apostle Paul wrote to God's people at Corinth and said "On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income".

In the Old Testament the proportion was a tithe of one's resources. Scripture reminds us that in the first place what we have to give actually belongs to God.

Each week we pray.....Yours Lord is the greatness, the power, the splendour and the majesty, for everything in heaven and on earth is yours. All things come from you and of your own do we give you".

Scripture also reminds us that our offering should be a joyful gift, for through it the needs of the poor and needy are enabled, for our offering is for ministry, for the work of God. And miraculously, part of what we give away actually comes back to us in terms of heating, maintenance and in provision for ministry here in this holy place.

GOD'S PEOPLE ARE CALLED TO BE REGULAR GIVERS

GOD'S PEOPLE ARE CALLED TO BE REALISTIC GIVERS

GOD'S PEOPLE ARE CALLED TO BE REVIEWABLE GIVERS

The other good thing realistic giving is that its reviewable, because if we give in proportion to our income, when our disposable income goes up, our giving goes up, however, when there is a decrease in our disposable income we can reduce the amount we give without feelings of guilt or concern.

God's people give at their best by giving regularly, realistically, and by keeping it under review.

As we begin to address the deficit in our finances, I would ask you to prayerfully and carefully consider your most generous contributions to the work and witness of the church, and may I take this opportunity to offer my sincere gratitude for the time, the finance, and the talents which you offer.

Your faithful servant Malcolm



# TONY GARDNER

Tony who has just passed away and his late wife Pat were great supporters of conservation work at The Pit from the efforts of the children from the Primary School in 1976, and latterly with the Christleton Pit Group. They provided refreshments every time we met, including more recently Tony's special coffee (not for the children of course).

It's been estimated that he produced over 2,000 cups of coffee during this time. We're not sure how many bottles of rum and whisky were used to warm the coffee!!! But it worked, and the work rate of the team always improved after our coffee break. The sound of ringing from the little bell must have seemed odd to passers by, but pit group workers covered in grime and mud would magically appear from all directions.

Tony had first been involved in conservation work at the Pit in the 1960's when the Parish Council led by Dennis Roberts, Phil Heywood, Tony and others tried to kill off the water horse tail plants which were choking the Pit. They used weed killer to spray over the surface, something which would never be allowed today, but they succeeded, and the Parish Council won a Conservation award from Cheshire County Council for their efforts. In Millennium Year he was very proud to be invited to unveil the Commemorative Plaque which stands on the Alms Houses side of the Pit today, to celebrate the efforts of the Village in maintaining the Pit as a Local amenity for all.

He worked with Cheshire County Council as an Architect for Planning Issues, working closely with his good friend Phil Haywood on many aspects of the environment connected with the village, especially tree planting etc. He was also involved at the time when Christleton became a Conservation area. He was Chairman of the Parish Council for six years, and was in the Chair in 1985, when the issues of the proposed new A55 extension through the village, was announced. He was one of the founders of Churches Together in Christleton, acted as secretary for many years, and was a staunch member of the congregation at St James. He was a very happy family man with three children and several grandchildren. Tony was a real gentle – man, with such a wonderful smile & delightful personality. He never complained about his various illnesses and ailments, and was still positive about life, and all he could possibly enjoy. He was also a very good friend to many in the village and he will be sadly missed. DC



8th March

10.30am

"Coffee Morning"

at Methodist Church

to plan Village Teas .



### **Christleton Local History Group.**

The Official launch of the new Christleton Parish DVD

Free Admission; nibbles & drinks.

7.30pm- 9.00pm at Christleton Parish Hall  
on Saturday March 10th

Please RSVP to David Cummings 332410  
if you would like to attend.

### **Christleton Local History Group**

7.30pm at Christleton Primary School

Wednesday 21st March

Speaker. Ray Buss.

Chairman of the Chester Canal Heritage Trust

Industry along the Chester Canal

Ray visited us two years ago with his story of the Chester Canal.

He continues this story with a look at the industry  
which grew up around it

### **Talk for Christian Aid.**

Saturday 31st March 2012

7.00pm In the Parish Hall.

David & Beryl Cummings Present

A Buffet Supper for Christian Aid.

Featuring

The Wildlife & Scenery of Vancouver & The Rockies

Tickets £7.00 from Village Stores/David on 332410 or at Church

All proceeds to Christian Aid

**Save the Family** has been supporting homeless families for the past 35 years. The work of Save the Family addresses these issues holistically while helping to prevent children being removed from their parents, thereby keeping families together.

Save the Family offer a last chance to these families by providing emergency accommodation, ensuring children stay in education and adults receive life skills, including basic literacy and numeracy. Parents learn the joys of parenting and playing with their children and families move back into the community financially aware, enabled to gain employment and proud to support themselves.

Save the Family currently have two 'Together Villages®' along with a portfolio of community based 'move on' houses, so, Save the Family can continue the support needed to ensure families do not become homeless again.

In October Save the Family officially opened our new Cotton Hall Farm Together Village®, which has more than doubled our capacity to house and support homeless families. This has been an immense blessing for the charity and to the many families Save the Family serve.

We have been warmly embraced by the local community, with people from the locality dropping off donations and volunteering their time. Families began moving in in mid-January, and we look forward to forging strong links within Christleton and the local area.

Save the Family  
Cotton Hall Farm,  
Cotton Hall Lane,  
Cotton Edmunds  
Tel. 01244 409100





## Opportunities with “The Crew”

I write this illustrated article for several reasons. Firstly, to show off my lovely collection of bones! Secondly, to show the Crew beginning to really get into the mood! Thirdly, to thank Tina for giving me the opportunity to be involved, on one of my favourite subjects. Fourthly to remind us of the renewal that occurred in the Valley of the Bones which we talked of that evening, and speaking for myself, experienced it anew. Fifthly, and most importantly, to ask and encourage others to take part in this part of our ministry -if you are willing to take on the leadership of this group, the Crew and the church really need you! If you are not able to, then are you able to contribute help one evening demonstrating one of your special areas of expertise or knowledge? Tina Lightfoot is supporting this work meanwhile and I am sure would welcome assistance and support.



Liz McClure



# Nature Notes

I spent a great deal of time earlier in the month looking up into the night sky for the elusive "aurora". Following the success of the Sky at Night programmes from Jodrell Bank, and seeing pictures in the newspapers I felt sure it would appear over Christleton. Sadly despite driving to dark areas of the sky away from the city lights I saw nothing. Unlike in March 1716 when Henry Prescott a regular visitor to Christleton writes, "A sharp but kindly day. Accounts describe a phenomenon in the sky from 8 o' clock to 3 in the morning. Tis called the Aurora Borealis, a light or moisture sometimes dilated, sometimes embodied into column's, sometimes broken and divided into figures and strands"

Stars of the bird world in the village this month have been several wintering black caps, two visiting redpolls, hundreds of redwings and fieldfare, and many more sightings of resident starlings, goldfinches and house sparrows. A welcome sight on the fields behind Skips lane were a flock of at least twenty pied wagtails foraging in the stubble of the stalks left from a field of maize. In the same area I had a report of a possible rare bird of prey. Described as bigger than a buzzard, with splayed wings and a longer body, it just might have been a marsh harrier, but it is hard to tell without better identification or photograph. I was fortunate to see a



little owl sitting sunning itself in beautiful daylight on top of a post along Rake Lane near Birch Heath. Another welcome sight were good numbers of lapwing especially on grassland which had been spread with slurry, and in one such field I saw about fifty lapwing accompanied by a pair of swans and two cygnets. This was not our Christleton pair who are still together as a family along the canal although from time to time the cygnets seem very happy to forage for food on their own.

The swans are now able to fly, as they have full flight feathers, but are reluctant to do so whilst there is plenty of food along the canal and adjacent fields. However the severe frosts and frozen canal that we have this week might see them fly to the river Dee and then head off towards the estuary where there are already a flock or herd of 150+ swans grazing on the marshes. This mixed herd is made up of local mutes, and at least 60 whoopers (from Iceland) & 30 Bewicks (from Russia). In the last few weeks they seem to prefer the conditions and food on the outer marsh, although some occasionally fly in to the new Burton RSPB Reserve.

DC

## A Journey Prayer

This day to me, God, do thou bless,  
This very night, God, blessing give;  
Thou God of grace, o do thou bless  
All days and all the times I live.  
God, bless the path I walk above,  
God, bless the earth beneath my toes;  
God, bless me, give to me thy love,  
O God of gods, bless rest, repose;  
God, bless me, give to me thy love,  
O God of gods, bless

Finance is a difficult subject because it raises so many questions about how we relate to our Church. Do we offer our collection money in much the same way as we pay for our groceries, our T.V. licence, going for a meal? Are we consumers who happen to like a religious show put on by someone else, or are we members of the body of Christ? Do we think that it is our responsibility to play a part in being the church in Christleton? Do we support the church within our capabilities?

The Church is not directly financially supported by the government. Our Bishops and Clergy are not civil servants; their income comes mostly from our giving. The principal source of income for the Church is regular giving by church members. Giving by church members goes towards paying for the following :

- Full time ministry i.e. having a Rector
- Having a diocese of Chester and Bishop
- Our National Church
- Mission and support of charities
- Pastoral work within the parish
- Running and maintaining the church buildings

We measure many of the basic necessities of life in terms of money. Goods are worthwhile according to price, a good bargain gets snapped up, a poor one stays on the shelf. The world of money, worrying about where it will come from, how much we have got and where it is going to, covers a large area of our lives, both in effort and in time.

We claim that Christ is Lord over the whole of life, so this large area must also come under the rule of Christ. Sometimes the way the Church handles its money and possessions leads to bad publicity and accusations of hypocrisy. Yet we are the Church, ultimately it comes down to us, our faith and the money under our control during our lives.

How do we decide how much to give? Some would suggest that the Bible specifies the Old Testament tithe as the measure by which to judge all giving. Others would identify the deep differences between society in Old Testament times and today, saying that different circumstances require varying responses. At times in our history the tithe was almost a rigidly enforced tax.

If we read the New Testament we find no instruction to tithe. However, we do find plenty of advice about generous giving. Christian giving is left to the decision of each individual and the motivation is not a legalistic percentage but a desire to say "Thank you" to God for all his gifts, especially for the priceless gift of his Son, our Saviour.

There is no hard and fast tithe, but there should be no short changing the church either. The Christian way is to be both realistic and sacrificial. There is no membership fee for joining the church; there is no entry fee for worshipping in church. Each of us should examine our giving soberly and in relationship to our income and outgoings.

Where does giving for God's work through the Church stand in our priorities? How does it compare with our spending on other items of daily life?

Does giving come last after all other spending?

We show thankfulness by the way we live, in our relationships. We show it by giving, within families, among friends, within the life of the Church and of course in God's wider world. God gives because he loves us.

Jesus' self-sacrifice even to death and His glorious resurrection shows us the true nature of God. His nature is giving. All that we have is His. Our giving shows that ultimately all we have is His gift. In this way giving is a reflection of the nature of God in our own lives.

Your faithful servant   Malcolm

Churches Together in Christleton

Lent Lunch (inc homemade soup)

Thursday 1 March 12 noon – 1.30 pm

Methodist Schoolroom

ALL WELCOME  
Proceeds to Christian Aid



## 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](mailto:christletonhall@btinternet.com)**



# The History File

## Little Heath Pit Part 2

Extraction of minerals from the Pit.

Villagers from early times discovered the wealth of material available to them at the Pit. There were pockets of sand for use of the building trade, areas of gravel and rough stones to be used for road making, a deep red clay to make bricks, and a grey clay/marl which could improve the quality of local fields by adding body to the sandy structure and providing an in built fertiliser from the lime content within it.

### Brickmaking.

When the children of the Primary School began work on the Pit in the mid 1970's they found evidence of a brick kiln where local hand made bricks, more variable in size and shape than today's bricks, were made and fired. The bricks can be seen in many of the older cottages and walls around the village date from around 1700 when much rebuilding of the village took place, following its destruction during the Civil War in 1645. The name "Bricky Lane" is given to the lane to the north side of the Pit, indicating strongly that there was a brick kiln there. We also discovered that Christleton bricks were very expensive, and in a document at the Cheshire County Record Office found an order for 73,000 bricks from Christleton. At 9s 2d per 1000, these were more than twice as expensive as bricks from other local sources. There were several other clay pits and brick kilns in the parish, the most interesting, being the pit at Cotton Edmunds belonging to the Westminster Estate. The technique for making bricks started with clay being dug in the autumn and left to weather and break up. In spring it was mixed together with spades, and trodden down to remove stones and impurities, then moulded, dried in sheds, and fired in wood or coal fired kilns.

### The Pit(s) at Little Heath

In all there were probably five or even six individual pits at Little Heath each with their particular materials or aggregates, and as the years progressed each gradually filled with water, and became a source of

water for both animals and the village population. Several of these pits were extensive, and others were used to dump rubbish that had accumulated from the village. This seems to have been a particularly extensive practice in Victorian times as we found lots of bottles, broken pottery and other artefacts when clearing the area in 1974. When the commercial activities at the pit ceased, the pits themselves rapidly filled with water, becoming wonderful habitats for wildlife. Cliff Boddy used to tell us that when he was a boy fishing there in the 1920's, there was one big pit but with a walkway down the centre of it. This is feasible as there is a sandy/rocky outcrop in the middle where we've placed the new swans nest site. Another smaller pit in front of the Little Mere development was infilled when material from the Pit was taken out in the 1970's and trees donated by the former Crosswood Nurseries planted on top of this site in 1976. These trees are now a mature copse and add greatly to the conservation value of the area.

DC



# **Churches Together in** **Christleton**

Invite you to a LENT series

## **“TUNE INTO GOD”**

### **Aspects of Prayer**

- March 7<sup>th</sup>** : **Rev. Claire Heald**  
Praying the Kingdom: a Meditation
- March 14<sup>th</sup>** : **Rev. Malcolm Cowan**  
Compline
- March 21<sup>st</sup>** : **Fr. Paul Shaw**  
Praying the Psalms-  
The Divine Office of the Church
- March 28<sup>th</sup>** : **Mr John Carruthers**  
Quaker Prayer

### **VENUE**

**Christleton Methodist Church 7.30pm**

Refreshments to follow



# 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 14  
Fractures and Trauma , Mr J Rau



## 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 April edition are sent to Janet Milton (335469), as soon as possible BEFORE Friday 9 March or you can e-mail this to christletonmag@hotmail.co.uk

## MAGAZINE DISTRIBUTORS

The April magazine will be available for collection from Sunday 25th March

## **LEPROSY MISSION**

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

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

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

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### **PLEASE TELL US....**

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

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### **AVAILABLE AT ST. JAMES' CHURCH**

“Loop” system for the hearing impaired.

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

Easy to follow Communion Service

Books for Children

Access for wheelchairs

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

## **CHRISTLETON UNDER-FIVES COMMUNITY PLAYGROUP**

Registered Charity 1022817

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

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### **MOBILE LIBRARY VAN SERVICE**

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.

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### **READERS**

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

# Parish Registers

## Holy Baptism

- 16<sup>th</sup> Megan Faith Lisa Pritchard daughter of Jonathan & Debra Pritchard  
35 Eddisbury Way, Whitby,  
16<sup>th</sup> Curtis James Pritchard son of Jonathan & Debra Pritchard  
35 Eddisbury Way, Whitby

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

## The Funeral Service

- |                  |   |           |
|------------------|---|-----------|
| 3 <sup>rd</sup>  | Anthony George Tilston Orchard Manor Nursing Home         | Age 82yrs |
| 4 <sup>th</sup>  | Charles John Jones The Hald, Whitchurch Road, Rowton      | Age 71yrs |
| 5 <sup>th</sup>  | Thomas Kenneth (Ken) Williams 13 Fir Tree Lane, Littleton | Age 72yrs |
| 18 <sup>th</sup> | Harold Winlow 2 Willow Herb Close Huntington              | Age 90yrs |

*"Grant them eternal rest"*

## Offertories.

January	Cash	CSE	2012	2011
1 <sup>st</sup>	73-50	440.00	513-50	936-41
8 <sup>th</sup>	228-50	651-50	880-00	811-40
15 <sup>th</sup>	88-20	510-70	598-90	688-50
22 <sup>nd</sup>	143-59	692-00	835-59	589-83
29 <sup>th</sup>	136-70	638-00	774-70	530-50
<b>Totals</b>			<b>£3,602-69</b>	<b>£3,556-64</b>

*"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**

<b>Churchwardens:</b>	John Pearson	335101
	Keith Smalls	335688
<b>Deputy Wardens:</b>	Lois Dickinson	
	Alan McAllester	
<b>Reader:</b>	Wayne Morris	01978 263389
<b>Verger:</b>	John Milton	335469
<b>Sacristan:</b>	Betty Dunning	335652
<b>Pastoral Worker:</b>	Berenice Kirwan	336779
<b>Sunday School:</b>	Berenice Kirwan	336779
<b>Mothers' Union Branch Leader:</b>	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