

St. James'



PARISH MAGAZINE

www.christleton.org.uk



September 2010

Starting in September

Wed 1 10.45 am United Communion - followed by refreshments

Thur 2 7.45 pm Pastoral & Outreach Committee - Lady Chapel

Fri 3 6.30 pm Choir Practice

Sun 5	8.00 am	Holy Communion - Order 2
	10.45 am	Holy Communion - Order 1
	12.00 noon	Baptism
	6.30 pm	Evensong - followed by refreshments
		Prayer Link Road: Home Close
		Neighbourhood Link: Gertrude Wright

Mon 6 Holy Communion at Tarvin Court & Oaklands
Nursing Homes

Wed 8 10.45 am Holy Communion - followed by refreshments
Holy Communion at Birch Heath Lodge
7.30 pm Stewardship Committee - Lady Chapel

Fri 10 6.30 pm Choir practice
7.30 pm Standing Committee - Rowton

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

Sun 12	8.00 am	Holy Communion
	10.45 am	Family Communion and Rededication Service – The Revd Canon P Williams & Dr Wayne Morris Followed by refreshments
	6.30 pm	Evensong Prayer Link Road: Little Heath Road & Pearl Lane Neighbourhood Link: Judith Edwards and Liz Evans

Mon 13 2.00 pm Mothers' Union - Parish Hall

Wed 15 10.45 am Holy Communion - followed by refreshments

Fri 17 6.30 pm Choir Practice

Sun 19	8.00 am	Holy Communion
	10.45 am	Sunday School - Parish Hall
	10.45 am	Holy Communion
	4.00 pm	A Christleton/Congo Link Afternoon with Eric & Sandra Read in the Parish Hall - refreshments
	6.30 pm	Evensong Prayer Link: Littleton Lane & The Bypass Neighbourhood Link: Judith Willacy

Wed 22 10.45 am Holy Communion - followed by refreshments
7.45 pm PCC - Parish Hall

Fri 24 6.30 pm Choir Practice

Sun 26	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	Evening Communion - Canon Peris Williams Prayer Link: Moor Lane & Chapel Close Neighbourhood Link Gwen Knight

Wed 29 10.45 am Holy Communion - followed by refreshments

st. james' | PARISH LETTER

Dear Members and Friends of St. James,

Interregnum Plans for St. James Church, Christleton

We are writing to let you know about how we plan to manage the period we will have without a Rector. An Interregnum can last for up to 12 months following the retirement of the incumbent, which gives us the opportunity to make full use of all our talents, and continue to grow in Faith. Our aim is to have little change to our normal church life, with the PCC and church activities continuing as normal.

Service Cover

We are well blessed in that Canons Peris Williams, Chris Samuels, the Reverends Gill Hibbert, John Carhart, Brian Harris and Dr. Wayne Morris have all kindly agreed to cover the services, and all services are now “fully booked” until the end of December. Our rededication Service will be on the 12th September at 10.45 am led by Canon Peris Williams and Dr. Wayne Morris.

Although the Minister will decide upon the format of any service, services will follow the traditional monthly pattern.

We will be providing a monthly Notice Sheet which Janet Milton, as secretary to the Rector, will put together, and we are all encouraged to let Janet know of any important events so that they can be included.

The detailed monthly service rota will be drawn up by Wayne Morris to include Readers and Leaders of the Prayers as well as the hymns chosen by our Director of Music.

Pastoral Care

Berenice Hogg, as Pastoral Worker, will assist with baptism preparation and hospital Visits. The plan is to have baptisms after morning service.

The Reverend Gill Hibbert will help with hospital visits, and communion in nursing homes and at home. Canon Peris will liaise with Berenice and Gill and he will minister to those who are seriously unwell as well as giving communion at home.

Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals

Janet Milton and David Ellis will be keeping Parish Diaries and Janet will manage all calls related to these three important events, in close consultation with Dave Ellis and Canon Peris. All other enquiries will be channelled through ourselves.

The first task of the churchwardens, PCC secretary, Brenda Bailey, and Treasurer, David Mercer has been to provide a Parish Profile which includes detail about the size and life of the Parish, key people involved with the running of the church , buildings and churchyard matters, and finance. The PCC discussed in July, the qualities and skills we would like to see in the new Rector, and this has been included in the Profile. We are seeking a “middle of the road priest” with no excessive leanings towards high church or evangelism, and have asked that the position be advertised widely.

This Parish Profile has been sent to Church House, copied to Bishops Peter and Keith as well as the Rural Dean and Archdeacon, and the vacant position will be advertised this month.

We recognise that it will take time for the right person to be appointed as our new Rector, yet we are blessed with a strong team, clergy, verger, sacristan, organist and choir who will ensure that St. James provides the variety of worship we all enjoy.

The Parish Letter will be written by different people each month, with Canon Peris writing in October and Wayne in November.

Thank you all for your support at this challenging and rewarding time. We shall keep you all informed of progress in choosing the new Rector of St. James.

Yours sincerely,

John Pearson and Keith Smalls

Alex Clifton

Congratulations to Alex, a former pupil of Christleton Primary & High Schools who returned to Chester this summer as Artistic Director of the Open Air Theatre productions at Grosvenor Park. He also directed "Hercules" one of the two plays performed with distinction by an excellent cast. Helen Eastman's



"Hercules" together with Shakespear's "Much Ado about Nothing" were performed in a delightful setting, on a stage built around three mature trees at the edge of the open space in the Park, a perfect place for such theatre. I hope the success of the productions will encourage the City to continue such a venture in the future, and invite Alex to return in 2011. Alex has already had a busy and very successful career. After working as an assistant director at the National Theatre Studio and Resident Director of the English National Opera, he took up the post of Artist Director at the Farnham Maltings Centre. He now works at RADA as a Senior Acting Teacher, and acts as a freelance director when time permits. He has directed at The Oxford Playhouse, The Arcola Theatre, The Watermill Theatre in Newbury, and for English National Opera. His production of Glyn Maxwell's "The Only Girl in the World" was recently named Time Out's Off West End Production of the year.

Success at The Nantwich Show

Congratulations to members of the village who entered the Nantwich Show this year.

Edward Elliott was the most successful with eight 1st prizes and two 2nds in the Floral and Hanging Basket sections, Gillian Brackenbury had three 1st in the Hanging Basket & Floral Section, whilst Ben Williams had a second place in the Hard-craft section, and Janet Brown several 1st ,2nd and 3rds in the Produce section.

Peter & Fiona Lee

Farewell evening. (These favourite things)

A number of people have asked me to print the words of this song sung at the farewell presentation to the Rector & Fiona on July 16th. They were adapted by Musical Director Steve Roberts and sung to the tune "Your favourite things"

*Nose, ear and eye drops and cushions
when sitting
walking sticks, handrails and new dental
fittings,
Church magazines now all tied up with
string,
These are a few of your favourite things.
Hearing aids and cataracts and false teeth
and glasses
Steradent and liniment and those free bus
passes.
Pacemakers, Zimmer frames and porches
with swings,
These will be some of your favourite
things.*

*When the pipes leak, when the bones
creak, when the knees go bad
You'll simply remember your days at St
James', then you might not feel, so bad.*

*Hot tea and crumpets and corn pads for
bunions,
No spicy hot food or food cooked with on-
ions,
Bathrobes and slippers, and creams that
don't sting,
These are a few of your favourite things.
Sundays are free now; you do as best
pleases,
We've now got Perris; you know how he
teases,
Afternoon kick offs, no sermons to write,
seems that the future is looking quite
bright.
Just odd weddings; and or funerals; cov-
ering holidays,
You'll keep your hand in with the job
you've just had,
Retirement won't feel so bad.*

Cliff Bridge

Belated congratulations from all at St James' to Cliff who celebrated his 98th Birthday on July 16th.



Alf & Margaret Croston



Congratulations to Alf and Margaret Croston who celebrate their Diamond Wedding Anniversary on 16th September

The Rectory
August 2010

Dear Friends

The weekend of 18/19 July seems a long time ago, but this is my first opportunity to write in the Parish Magazine to thank you all for all you have done for us, and given to us. We shall never forget the kindness and generosity that has been shown to us. Words cannot do justice to the thanks we want to express to everyone for memories we shall always treasure.

We very much enjoyed sharing in the social gathering in the hall on Saturday evening with so many friends and such a wonderful 'spread' of food and drink. The presentation in the Church was quite overwhelming. We were dumbfounded to look out across a sea of faces and to be presented, first of all with the books and sun loungers, generous in themselves and 'full of promise', but then the cheque for £5275, nestling in the box from Ben Williams, which was truly incredible.

We also found it uplifting to share together in worship with so many of you on the Sunday, which gave us an inspiring 'send off'. We are deeply touched by the generosity which has been shown to us. Thank you, not only for this but for all your friendship and support while we have been at Christleton.

With our best wishes to you all.

Peter and Fiona

John Sellers Educational Foundation Christleton

This ancient Trust was set up on 23 December 1779 by John Sellers and local worthies for the education of poor children in Christleton and Littleton. It was originally to provide instruction in reading, English, writing, arithmetic, and for spinning, sewing and/or other manual work. In 1805 it was extended by deed to include the children of Rowton. The original Minute Book is still in use.

The main source of income is from the rent of a field in Plough Lane. The present trustees comprise the Rector, Clerk, a representative from Cheshire West & Chester, and two Christleton Parish Councillors. It is their intention to try and increase the capital and use the interest to provide grants. Further donations or legacies, which could be used to increase the level of grants paid out, would be very much appreciated.

This year the Primary School and the High School have been given money but applications are encouraged from individuals in exceptional circumstances who would like to apply in confidence.

Applications for grants from individuals or groups wishing to be considered should apply in writing before November to the Clerk, Mrs M Croston, 5 Bridge Drive, Christleton, CH3 6AW.

Maypole Dancing in Christleton

Although it's some years since we last had a performance of Maypole Dancing in the village, it has been a very strong tradition for over 100 years. The series of Maypole dances that we used were adapted from those first performed in the village in the early 1900's. They were based



on traditional maypole dances recorded in Cecil Sharp's English Folk Dance manual from the 1890's. In the 1970's I adapted the dances and re arranged the music to suit our own needs. e.g. dropping the double plait dance which if danced enthusiastically by the children could cause the pole to swing violently from side to side, and could be a danger to the dancers if it toppled over during a performance. I also had a local folk music group led by David Hayns make a special new recording of the tunes used in the Christleton dances, one of which was later used by the BBC during an "It's a Knock Out" TV programme. Many of these tunes were nursery rhymes, and the children would always go "pop" when the phrase "Pop goes the weasel" was played from the tune of that name. The dances themselves had descriptive titles including, single plait, double plait, barbers pole, spiders web and gypsies tent.



Photographs taken at the Village Fete in 1907 show that the performances in those early days were given by the younger girls and infants (including boys) from the Girls & Infants School in Quarry Lane. In the 1930s the teams were made up of all girls, but from the late 60 s & 70 s there were always mixed teams of children from the Junior School in Pepper Street, and

later the new Primary School in Quarry Lane. The Christleton maypole had sixteen ribbons (eight pairs of dancers), and the dances were timed to allow the revolution of the ribbons in time with the bar sequences of the music. There were 4 ribbons of each colour, red, blue, green and yellow, and they had to be at least 15ft long. The pairs were numbered from 1 to 8 with the number 1 pair being the lead couple, who always started from a pre determined place, and set the pattern of places around the maypole. The red and blue ribbons were used on positions 1,3,5,7 and the green and yellow on positions 2,4,6,8. These combinations gave the delightful woven patterns when the dance progressed. We always tried to keep continuity by having the same couples dance together where possible, but it took up to three weeks of regular daily practice to train a team successfully. As we nearly always performed on solid surfaces, the maypole itself had to be very strong, and have substantial feet to support it, so it made it difficult to transport. However with logistic support from parents and City Council teams performed regularly and successfully in Chester on the Meadows, before The Battle of Rowton Moor re-enactment for Banardo's, on the Roodeye for the Lord Mayor's Parade, the Town Hall Square with The Deva Folk Ensemble. They also performed in Tatton Park at the Knutsford May Fair, and often on the Village Green outside the Jim Partington's Butchers Shop. The team also entertained and later shared performances with Folk Dance Groups from Sweden, Poland, & Czechoslovakia. Maypole Dancing is perhaps out of fashion these days, but it certainly kept the youngsters very fit, as it was a non stop aerobic activity for twenty minutes at a time. The photograph opposite was taken in the playground of the old Primary School (now the Parish Hall)



Thank You

I would like to send a very big 'thank you' to all those who helped and/or contributed to the buffet for Peter and Fiona's party recently. It was a real team effort and went a long way to ensuring the success of a memorable evening.

Thank you so much.

Janet Milton

STUDENT GRANTS

For over 300 years the Educational Foundation of Dr Robert Oldfield (www.drrobertoldfield.co.uk) has been providing grants for students who need financial help towards the cost of their college or university education.

Originally the charity was established to assist "poor boys" living in the Parish of St Michael in Chester with their schooling (the former Parish Church is now the Heritage Centre in Bridge Street). Its investment is in farms and land within the Chester area. Over the years the Trust has extended its help to other students

who were born or permanently reside in the Chester District, and are under the age of 25.

Grants are made to individuals and are means-tested.

They are also available for other "educational purposes" (which is widely interpreted), including :

- * travel in the UK and abroad;
- * outfits, clothes, tools, instruments;
- * books and equipment.

Applications are welcome at any time. For a form :

e-mail : admin@drrobertoldfield.co.uk

Telephone : 01244 310022

Write to : Clerk to the Governors,
Dr Robert Oldfield Foundation,
Exchange House,
Whitefriars,
Chester CH1 1DP

Further information from
Ken Holding, tel : 312689 or
k.holding@sky.com

Diamond Wedding Anniversary

As we approach our Diamond Wedding anniversary this month, it seems remarkable that we have progressed through so many celebrations:- 1st Paper, 2nd cotton, 3rd leather, 4th silk, 5th wood, 6th iron, 7th wool, 8th bronze, 9th pottery, 10th tin (we had a tin of toffees!) 15th crystal, 20th china, 25th silver, 30th pearl, 35th coral, 40th ruby, 45th sapphire, 50th gold, 55th. emerald. 60th Diamond.

Marriage has its origins way back in history, but the idea of leaving parents, being united with a new partner, and setting up home are common to most traditions. A bride usually comes to the ceremony with her father who “gives her away” to the bridegroom. As the wedding party leaves Church the groom’s father escorts the bride’s mother and the bride’s father the groom’s mother, showing that now the families are united. Often Church bells ring out and in country villages in England in the past, the local blacksmith would explode gunpowder on his anvil. Until the nineteenth century special clothes were not often bought and before the days of honeymoons away from home the couple went straight to their new home. On the first Sunday following the wedding, the couple would lead their family to church dressed in their wedding clothes.

Rationing was still in force way back in 1950 and after much searching in a couple of towns I had the choice between only two dresses for which clothing coupons had to be submitted. Friends and family pooled food coupons so that we could have a wedding cake, and the reception was held in a British Restaurant (very basic). No honeymoons abroad then, but we had an enjoyable visit to the Lake District.

Part of the Mothers’ Union prayer sums it all up:-

“ Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who gave marriage to be a source of blessing to mankind, thank you for the joys of family life. Pour out upon us your Holy Spirit, that we may truly love and serve you. Bless all who are married and every parent and child. May we know your presence and peace in our homes, fill them with your love and use them for your glory. through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen”

Margaret Croston

Christleton Pit Swans

The latest report I can give is that 5 cygnets survive as I write (on 8th August) and are doing well. When they come out on the canal bank at Rowton to feed, two cygnets tend to stay with the pen and three with the cob. They are all growing fast and should be fully grown and ready to practise flying by early September. By this time they will weigh about 28lbs on average the same as an adult female. The cob will be heavier, usually about



35lbs at his peak weight. Several people have reported that the pen looks injured as she has lost feathers and there is often blood around her body. However all is well, because she is actually in moult, and has now lost all her old flight feathers, and the new ones are emerging as quills along her wings.(see photo) This is a natural process that occurs each year to every swan, and as soon as her new feathers have fully developed, the cob will go into his moult. During the moult season of about six weeks each of the pair in turn will maintain a dominant role

over the family, allowing the cygnets and the partner in moult to feed before they do. This ensures that someone is always on the watch for predators and will react if any danger is imminent. After several initial fights and flurries, the Christleton and Waverton pairs have kept apart this summer, and the Waverton pair has moved along the canal towards Tattenhall and can often be seen near Golden Nook Bridge. They still have their six cygnets. The other pairs I reported earlier this year in Chester have also 5 and 6 cygnets surviving respectively. So a good survival rate, even if overall numbers of breeding pairs are down.

Butterflies & Dragonflies

I've also been monitoring the butterfly and dragonfly populations



around the parish this summer, and although we saw good numbers of species in the early part of the season including the magnificent brimstone, overall, the number of newly emerged insects is well down. However I have recently recorded

small numbers of comma, peacock, red admiral, tortoiseshell and holly blue in my garden, usually seen feeding on a deep purple buddleia bush. Several gatekeepers and meadow browns have been seen in Birch Heath Lane and on the Common. We should really be seeing numbers at their peak at present so it's very disappointing to see so few. I've also only seen two brown and one southern hawker dragonflies and there have been very few demoiselle damselflies on the Gowy at the Roman Bridges this year. So all in all, it's not been a good breeding season for these beautiful creatures despite the warm weather.

WHAT'S ON THIS MONTH

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 W.I.

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

Next Meeting

8th September

PRODUCE AND CRAFT SHOW

All Welcome

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 WEDNESDAY GROUP

CHARITY CHRISTMAS CARD SALE

Come & buy all your cards direct from the local & national charities on

**Saturday 16 October,
at Christleton Parish Hall,
10.00am to 12.00 noon**

Coffee / tea & biscuits included in £1.00 admission

Also cakes, books & DVDs for sale

CHESTER FLOWER CLUB

Meetings are held in Christleton Parish Hall on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 1.30 pm. Details of any events can be obtained from the Secretary, Trish Pollard

VILLAGE TEAS

Sunday Afternoons until the end of September at the Methodist Hall

Do join us and enjoy the delicious home made cakes and friendly chat



WHAT'S ON THIS MONTH

You are invited to
**A Christleton/Congo Link
Afternoon**

With

Eric & Sandra Read

Meet them over afternoon tea
and find out about
their work in DR Congo
and their move to the
Philippines.

on

**Sunday 19th September
at 4.00 pm**

in the Parish Hall

**CHESTER BACH SINGERS
BRITTEN ST NICOLAS**

**Saturday October 16th
7.30pm**

Conductor Martin Bussey

Tenor Joshua Ellicott

Chester Music Society Junior
Choir

St David's School choir, Saltney
St Nicholas RC School choir,
Northwich

Tickets : £15 £12 £6

concessions available

Cathedral Box Office:

01244 500959

www.chestercathedral.com

**CHURCHES TOGETHER IN
CHRISTLETON
AWAY DAY TO THE RIBBLE
VALLEY**

**Thursday October 21,
from 9.30am – 5.30pm**

As mentioned in the last
magazine, this will cost
approximately £15 and we shall
be travelling by coach. It is now
confirmed that we shall visit
Whalley Abbey, Clitheroe and
Stoneyhurst College. Later in
the month there will be lists at
the back of St.James' and the
Methodist church, with further
details of timing and cost. We
hope many will come and join
in for what promises to be a
very enjoyable day out. All are
welcome!

J.Bowden (335705)

Please note the **Christleton WI
Monthly Whist Meeting** will
now no longer be held

The **What's On Page** at
christleton.org.uk

gives an up to date guide to events
in the village.

Please email details you would like
included to
richard@christleton.org.uk

WHAT'S ON THIS MONTH

Christleton Local History Group

All meetings are held at the Primary School in Quarry Lane. The first of this winter term is on

**Wednesday 29th
September 2010
at 7.30pm**

There will be a short AGM followed by an illustrated talk.
Speaker; David Cummings
A review of the recent Roman Day in Chester, (one of the finest historical events held in the city for many years.)
& visits to Archeological Sites in Wales
including evidence left behind by early man from visits to Burial Chambers, Hill Forts and Castles.

The entrance fee is £2.50 per evening.

The full programme will be published in next month's Magazine and on the Village website

Dates for your Diary

**Saturday October 16th
7.00pm**
at The Parish Hall

The 2010 Jim Partington Memorial Talk.

***The Wildlife & Scenery of the
Pembrokeshire Coast.***

(A new presentation by David Cummings including visits to the bird islands of Skomer and Grassholm)

Tickets £6 including light refreshments.

From Church, Village Shop or David Cummings on 332410

***All proceeds for the
refurbishment of
The Children's Play area at
Little Heath***

Music at St James' Saturday October 23rd

7.30pm

Concert by the

"Newstead Brass Band"

Tickets on Sale from September.
(More details next month.)

WHAT'S ON THIS MONTH

**Tuesday 7th September at
Cheshire View
7.00pm for 7.30pm**

**Christleton Hope House Children's
Hospice will be hosting An Evening
with Boodles Jewellers as part of
their 15th Birthday celebrations**

The guest speaker, Mr Don Rustage, from Boodles Jewellers will be entertaining you on the evening speaking about how to select your diamond when shopping for jewellery. He will also be discussing the fabulous Boodles jewellery, giving a background to their latest collections, with opportunities for you to try on items from the Raindance collection which he is bringing on the night.

Tickets cost just £15 – £1 for every year our doors have been open. The event will start at 7pm for 7.30pm and is a fabulous two-course meal with tea and coffee followed by Don's talk. There will also be an update on the work of Hope House in your local area and a fabulous raffle before the event ends at 10pm.

To purchase tickets for this event please contact our Fundraising Office by phone on 01691 671 671.

**Wednesday 29th September
Doors open at 6.30pm until
9.30pm.**

**Christleton Friends of Hope House
are holding a Pamper Evening at
The Cheshire View, Plough Lane,
Christleton**

There will be a variety of mini treatments available encouraging pampering from head to toe along with a selection of stalls allowing you to start your Christmas shopping early or just treat yourself to something nice! With everything from massage to make-up and nails to nutrition, you are sure to feel truly pampered!

Entrance is just £2.50 with tickets available from members of Christleton Friends in advance of the evening or on the door. Doors open at 6.30pm until 9.30pm. Mini treatments are restricted so we recommend that you book with the different stalls on arrival. There will also be hot food and snacks available so come and have your supper at the same time. All the proceeds from the event will go to Hope House Children's Hospices.

Hope House currently care for over 250 life-limited children and their families and over 130 bereaved families from all across North and Mid Wales, Cheshire and Shropshire. of a child.

For further information about this event please contact us on 01691 671 671.

The Prophets: Jeremiah 1: 4-10

Thus spake the prophets: such a familiar expression but what and who were the Old Testament prophets? And what have they got to say to us in 2010.

Over the next four issues we will take a look at some of the messages of the Prophets; messages given to a nation at war with its neighbours or to a people in exile and consider how relevant they are for us today.

Firstly though, what are prophets? When did they prophesy? And who were they?

Prophet or prophetess is the word most commonly used in the bible to describe a 'messenger of God'. Not one who necessarily foresees the future but one who 'forth tells' the word of the Lord.

Of course many people both then and now may well proclaim that the message they bring comes from God but the people of Israel were warned not to be taken in by false prophets. How could they and indeed we tell the difference? In Deuteronomy chapter 13 we are given quite clear instructions on this: a false prophet is one who will tempt us to worship other gods. If the prophet is false, their message will fail the test when measured against the Truth that is already known and will fail the test of time. In times of hardship and of fear, however, I daresay, a false prophet's words may well sound comforting so we must be on our guard. We don't have far to look for false prophets in this current climate and especially in this society when all around us we are tempted to worship the god of hedonism

But enough of false prophets.

Jeremiah describes a true prophet as one who has 'stood in the council of the Lord' and as such the hallmarks of a true prophet are:

A call from God: Jeremiah's call can be pin-pointed to an exact time in history; the 13th year of the reign of Josiah, son of Amon King of Judah. Likewise Isaiah received his call in the year that King Uzzah died. In a vision, Isaiah heard the voice of Lord saying 'whom shall I send? And who will go for

us?’ and Isaiah responded ‘Here am I. Send me!’

Receiving a call from God is life changing for the Prophets, they are called to speak the Truth, fearlessly and without regard to their safety.

A message from God: It is the message which defines the prophet. Messages were received in a variety of ways: voices, visions or dreams and may have been proclaimed publicly, face to face with an individual or acted out as when Isaiah was instructed to ‘take off the sackcloth from your body and the sandals from your feet’. He went about barefoot and naked for 3 years to illustrate how the Egyptians and Cushites would be lead away naked and shamed by the Assyrians. Jeremiah was ordered to break a clay jar to demonstrate to the people how the Lord Almighty would smash the nation just as the jar was smashed, this was because they were worshipping other Gods.

A life centred on prayer: As well as speaking to the people on behalf of God, prophets were also expected to intercede, that is to speak to God on behalf of the people

Who were the prophets?:

The Old Testament is comprised of 39 books but these books are grouped into 5 categories. The books of the Prophets is one of those categories and ranges from Isaiah through to Malachi. There are 4 major prophets, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel and Daniel the remainder being referred to as the 12 minor prophets. Historically most lived in the 8th and 7th century BC when the nation of Israel was under threat and then when the people of Israel were in exile.

At this time of year, Isaiah is probably the best known and quoted prophet thanks in large part to Handel’s Messiah. We know he was married to a prophetess, had 2 sons, received his ‘call’ from God around 740BC and prophesied for over 40 years. Throughout his life he preached God’s righteousness, warned of the judgment on sin, and comforted his people with the knowledge of God’s love, his longing to forgive and all the glories in store for those who remained faithful to him.

Jeremiah appears on the scene about 100 years after Isaiah. He was born around 650 BC and received his call in 627BC. Like Isaiah, he prophesied for about 40 years in which time Judah was defeated by the Babylonians and the people of Israel taken in to exile. Although Jeremiah is often described as a prophet of gloom and doom there is a strong streak of hope running through his prophesies. After the judgment, after the exile,

God will restore the joy and prosperity of his people in their homeland. Ezekiel was training to be a priest when taken into exile. At the age of 30, he was called by God to be a prophet. He received a vision in which he saw God in all his glory and against this Ezekiel saw his people's sin in all its blackness. He declared God's message to the exiles. One of his most characteristic themes is that of individual responsibility before God.

Daniel was another exile taken to the Court of Babylonia as a boy a few years earlier than Ezekiel. He was of noble, possibly royal background and was exceptionally able and intelligent. Daniel's message is that God is sovereign ruler of the world at all times and in all places. No matter how powerful the opposing forces, God will in due time defeat them all.

I make no apology for this sounding like a history lesson or a who's who of the prophets. I'm keen to put a face as it were to these great people of the past. These are not abstract writings of mythical beings but real people whose lives can be traced back to a specific time in history.

Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel and the rest lived and loved, had hopes, aspirations and fears just like us. What makes them different is their message. They were called by God to talk to his people on God's behalf.

Their most important messages were:

God is the ruler of all history: the prophets weren't just considering the time in which they lived but time past and time to come

Both communities and individuals need to have a right relationship with God and there is no place for religion without right living. How often do we hear Jesus echoing that message in his teachings?

God's judgment is inevitable but there is hope because of the nature of God.

And finally, God has a bright future in store for his people in the coming of the messianic kingdom

It is these messages we will consider over the forthcoming issues.

Prayer: Lord, despite the great divide of centuries, our land, our lives, our hopes, desires and our sins are little different from those of the people to whom your great prophets foretold your message. We give thanks for their lives and their witness and help us to hear their messages within the context of our lives today. Amen

**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.

**MAGAZINE
CONTRIBUTIONS**

Please ensure all items for inclusion in the **October edition** are sent to Janet Milton (335469), as soon as possible **BEFORE Friday 10th September** or you can e-mail this to christletonmag@hotmail.co.uk

MAGAZINE DISTRIBUTORS

The **October** magazine will be available for collection from Church on **Sunday 26th September**

As good as it gets

Getting older, if you have reasonable health, is very enjoyable. If I'd known what fun it was to be in my 70s, I'd have done it years ago! - Tony Benn

A friend is someone who reaches for your hand but touches your heart.

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 July 2010

Holy Baptism

- 4th William Robert Talbot son of Peter & Amy Talbot
"Mac-Ian" Village Road, Christleton
- 4th Cody Joseph Handley- Hurst son of Robert Handley & Claire Hurst
The Lodge, Stamford Lane, Cotton Edmunds, Christleton

"We welcome you into the Lord's Family"

The Wedding Service

- 2nd Kristian Raleigh John Rogers & Joanne Greenwood
7 Angela Road, Heath, Cardiff
- 9th Daniel Raymond Griffiths & Sara Jane Lockwood
8 Rowan Park, Christleton
- 15th Iain Alexander Cruickshank 25 Selsdon Court, Handbridge &
Judith Ann Willetts 2 Selsdon Court, Handbridge, Chester

"Those whom god has joined together, let not man divide"

The Funeral Service

- 4th John Stanley Roberts, "Cerisy", Birch Heath Lane, Christleton
(Burial of Ashes)
- 11th James Davies Siddall, Nestwood Cottage, Little Heath Road, Christleton
(Burial of Ashes)
- 28th Edna May Bebbington, Chilworth House, Rectory Avenue,
High Wycombe, Bucks
(Burial of Ashes)

"Grant them eternal rest"

Offertories

July	Cash	CSE	2010	2009
4th	294-49	681-00	975-49	920-68
11th	334-19	577-00	911-19	980-68
18th	539-81	1,025-00	1,564-81	906-38
25th	129-30	522-00	641-30	711-79
Totals.			£ 4,092-79	£ 3,519-33

"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:	Interregnum All baptism, weddings and appointments by arrangement with Janet Milton, 335469
Churchwardens:	John Pearson 335101 Keith Smalls 335688 Wayne Morris 01978 263389
Reader	David Ellis 336879
Verger	Betty Dunning..... 335652
Sacristan:	
Sunday School:	Berenice Hogg.....336779
Mother's Union Branch Leader	Janet Brown335785
Organist & Musical Director:	Steve Roberts815277
P. C. C. Secretary:	Brenda Bailey335034
P. C. C. Treasurer:	David Mercer336155
Stewardship Envelope:	Betty Dunning335652
Gift Aid Secretary	Nigel Seddon.....335588
Bellringers	Ian Braithwaite300565
Bellringer Vice Captains	Ian Crossan.....332280
Parish Hall Booking	Janet Milton335469
C. M. S. Secretary	Janet Brown335785
Children's Society Sec.	Lesley Morgan335088
Visiting Group:	Berenice Hogg.336779
Library	Lois Dickinson378320
Church Flowers	Olive Hammond.....336562
Magazine Editor	David Bull332234
Magazine Compiler	Richard Nicholson336004
Magazine Distributors	Jenny Davies and Valmai Griffiths.....335884
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