

St. James' Christleton



Parish Magazine
February 2006

30p

FEATURES IN FEBRUARY

Wed	1	10.45 am 2.30 pm	United Communion - followed by refreshments. Parish Visiting Group - White Haven
Fri	3	6.30 pm	Choir Practice
Sun	5		Fourth Sunday Before Lent - Proper 1
		8.00 am	Holy Communion - Order 2
		10.30 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 Visit of Danny and Ari Morrison from Chile Prayer Link Road : Roadside Neighbourhood Link : Janet Milton
Mon	6	10.45 am 11.30 am 6.30 pm 7.45 pm	Holy Communion at Tarvin Court Nursing Home Holy Communion at Oaklands Nursing Home Confirmation Group - Lady Chapel Preparation for Healing Eucharist - Lady Chapel
Tues	7	8.00 pm	Bellringers' AGM - Lady Chapel
Wed	8	10.45 am 11.30 am	Holy Communion - followed by refreshments Holy Communion at Birch Heath Lodge Nursing Home
Fri	10	6.30 pm	Choir Practice NB: Last date for contributions for March Parish Magazine to David Bull (332234). Earlier if possible please

Sun	12		The Third Sunday Before Lent - Proper 2
		8.00 am	Holy Communion - Order 1
		10.45 am	Family Service followed by refreshments
		6.00 pm	The Crew Youth Group - Parish Hall
		6.30 pm	Evensong
			Prayer Link Road: Rowan Park Neighbourhood Link: Edie Haywood
Tues	14	8.00 am	Tuesday Ramble Group leave car park for Conway
Wed	15	10.45 am	Holy Communion -followed by refreshments
Fri	17		6.30 pm Choir Practice
Sun	19		The Second Sunday Before Lent
		8.00 am	Holy Communion - Order 1
		10.45 am	Parish Communion with Baptism
		6.00 pm	The Crew Youth Group - Parish Hall
		6.30 pm	Evening Worship
			Prayer Link Road: Rowton Lane Neighbourhood Link: Karen Smalls
Wed	22	10.45 am	Holy Communion - followed by refreshments
Fri	24	6.30 pm	Choir Practice
Sun	26		Sunday Next Before Lent
		8.00 am	Holy Communion - Order 1
		10.30 am	Sunday School - Parish Hall
		10.45 am	Matins - followed by refreshments
		6.00 pm	The Crew Youth Group - Parish Hall
		6.30 pm	Healing Eucharist
			Prayer Link: Rowton Bridge Road Neighbourhood Link: Angela Haswell
Wed	1		ASH WEDNESDAY
		10.45 am	Holy Communion - followed by refreshments
		7.00 pm	Invitation to Churches Together in Christleton to Mass and imposition of ashes - St Werburgh's

The Rector's Letter

Dear Friends

FAIR SHARE

The Chester Diocese has agreed a new way to apportion Parish contributions to the Diocese, which are known as the Parish Share. This is the money needed to continue all the work of the Diocese, including the training, stipends, housing, pensions etc. of all its clergy. The Diocese consists of over 270 Parishes and includes the whole of the ancient boundary of Cheshire from Wirral to the Pennines, and from the Mersey to Shropshire. Traditionally the Diocese worked out Parish Share on a Parish's average income over the past three years. This was becoming increasingly difficult to assess on a fair basis. The basic emphasis has now switched so Parishes pay for what they get. By dividing total costs by the number of Parishes, a notional figure of £46,216 has been set as 105% of what is needed to break even, and cover contingencies including any shortfall. Beyond this, Parishes have been assessed on a socio-economic banding from the latest census figures available, to try to assist Parishes in economically 'deprived' areas by greater contributions from the more 'affluent' areas. Christleton is set at 115% with a projected Parish Share of £46,237. However, to cover the transition and 'soften' the blow for those with the steepest increases, Parishes with a projected total decrease have been frozen at last year's contribution. For Christleton that is £52,467 for 2006. This new system is seen as fairer and more realistic. Any Parishes not able to meet their Share in future will come under review to see if they should be amalgamated with another Parish

So, for us as a Parish, we need to budget this year to put aside £52,467 of regular income as our Share to the Diocese, before we have any money for other work in the Parish. Last year our total expenditure was over £100,000, and exceeded our income. Thanks to the generosity and commitment of many Parishioners we have been able, over the past few years, successfully to complete the Restoration work on the Church, and meet ongoing expenditure, which is a considerable achievement. However we are due another Quinquennial inspection of the Church this year, and that could reveal further necessary expenditure. Nor should we, surely, merely be looking to cover existing expenditure, with no vision for expanding our mission as God's Church in the future. As part of our Christian commitment and involvement in the wider Church, the PCC commits 10% of income to supporting

'outside' Christian work. Details of this for 2005 are given on p26 of the January Parish Magazine. There is so much we could be doing, both in the Parish and beyond, if resources were available.

At present we have over 400 members on the Electoral Roll of St James. If each member gave just £5 per week we would almost meet our present expenditure of £100,000 p.a. without any other income. Yet we only have 135 members of the regular giving envelope scheme, plus those who give directly through Standing Orders etc. We also only have about 130 members who have 'Gift Aided' their giving, enabling us to recover the tax they have paid on that contribution. If you want further details about the 'envelope' scheme and/or Gift Aiding your giving, please let the Churchwardens or myself know. May I invite all of us to think of our giving to the Church as investing 'shares' in the business of God's work? Christian giving really should be a response of thanksgiving for all God has given us, and an enthusiastic response of wanting to have a share in the ministry and mission entrusted to us. For this to be realistic it needs to be regular. The Church cannot exist on an occasional 'one off' donation any more than any other concern from domestic housekeeping to big business. It also needs to be proportional. Those who have more can properly give more than those who have less. If we thought of giving as a percentage, rather than as a figure, it would happen automatically and consistently through regular updating as a progressive upward curve, without 'surges' then 'fall-backs'.

Again our thanks, as a Church, to all those who give regularly, and have helped us to meet the challenges we have recently faced. May we all want to gain our share in the ever-expanding and exciting project of our ministry and mission as Christ's Church in this Parish.

Yours sincerely



Peter Lee

Prayer of the Month: USPG Interchange Prayer

Lord, you have entered into our life and death, and in all the world you are calling us to enter into your death and risen life. Draw us now, we pray, by the same movement of grace, to share with your disciples everywhere in an exchange of joys and sorrows, strength and weakness, gifts and needs: that your life may be shared, your people joined in one body with you, and all people brought to find in that interchange of love, fulfilment and joy for ever. Amen.
February, 2006

CHRISTLETON WI
ALZHEIMERS SOCIETY

CHRISTMAS CRUMBLE
MORNING

Please may I say a very big 'Thank You' to all those who donated money and prizes, including the Waverton Painting Group, to our fund raising morning. Thank you to all those who attended and to those who worked so hard selling raffle tickets, running the stalls and working in the kitchen, including my son-in-law who is very good at washing up! It was a lovely friendly morning and the sun shone on us all.

Our final figure was £610.00 and this money has gone directly to the Chester branch and they are very grateful.

Thank you all once again for making it such a successful morning.

A Happy New Year to everyone.

J Maura Jones – The Old Farm.

CATHEDRAL LINK

Saints' Windows
in the Cloisters

St Agnes (child martyr of Rome). At age 12 or 13 Agnes was ordered to sacrifice to pagan gods and lose her virginity by rape. She was taken to a Roman temple, and when led to the altar, she made the Sign of the Cross. She was threatened, then tortured when she refused to turn against God. Several young men presented themselves, offering to marry her, whether from lust or pity is not known. She said that to do so would be an insult to her heavenly Spouse, that she would keep her consecrated virginity intact, accept death, and see Christ. On her feast day two lambs are blessed at her church in Rome, and then their wool is woven into the palliums (bands of white wool) which the pope confers on archbishops as symbol of their jurisdiction. Sources vary as to her death. She was either beheaded and burned, or tortured and stabbed in the throat at Rome where she is buried.

Patronage: engaged couples, gardeners, Girl Scouts, rape victims

Saints Day: 21 January

Boy and Girl Chorister Voice Trials – 2006

Do you know anyone who might be interested in auditioning for one of only a few places in Chester Cathedral Choir?

We are looking for keen and musical young singers, between the ages of 8 and 10 years, to sing as boy and girl choristers. All choristers receive a generous bursary and have the opportunity of taking part in concerts, foreign tours, recordings and broadcasts.

Details from David Poulter,
Director of Music.

The Cathedral Office
12 Abbey Square
Chester, CH1 2HU

Tel : 01244-500974

e-mail

organist@chestercathedral.com

Bible Talks in Chester Cathedral

1.10 pm – 2.00 pm on
Wednesdays
in the Cloister Room

The Gospel of Mark

8 February	Women in Mark
15 February	The Enemies of Jesus
22 February	The Lonely Jesus
1 March	Mark's Beginning and Ending

Led by Canon Christopher
Burkett, Canon Trevor Dennis,
February, 2006

Revd Julia Hedley, Canon
Chris Humphries and the Dean.

Admission is free
all are welcome.

World Church continues to grow

The world Christian population continues to grow. It stood at 2,140 million people in the middle of 2005, the latest published figure, some 140 million more than five years earlier. This is one-third, 33%, of the world's population, which stood at 6,450 million in 2005. Furthermore the increase in Christian numbers is growing slightly faster than the population generally, 1.3% per annum against 1.2%. This is because of the huge continuing growth in Asia and Africa (respectively growing at 2.6% and 2.4% per year). It is only in Europe where the numbers are decreasing. However, although they have smaller numbers overall, the Muslims and the Hindus are growing faster than the Christians. There were 1,310 million Muslims in 2005, growing at 1.9% per year, and 870 million Hindus, growing at 1.5% per year, but it will be many decades before these overtake the number of Christians! The charismatic independent churches are growing the fastest (2.4% per year), something which is also seen in the growth of the charismatic black churches in the UK. From Dr Peter Brierley, Executive Director, Christian Research

Following the Parking Meeting held in September, follow up letters had been sent to the Law College to encourage students to use the official College car park and to a number of businesses requesting their staff to use alternative car parking areas. The Chairman reported that he had received a complaint that the contractor vans parking by the Pump House were causing obstructions, and damaging the cobblestones. A request had been sent to the contractors asking their workmen to find alternative parking and to forward their proposals for repairing the damaged cobbles. As no response had been received, the Clerk was to send a follow up letter with photographic evidence of the damage. A letter from Canon K Peter Lee regarding parking in the Church and Parish Hall car parks was to be circulated to all members.

There had been no response to the Parish Council's letters to the landscape contractor or the Developer regarding the Legion Meadow. Councillor Kenyon would draft a letter requesting that monies held by solicitors for the landscaping work be released to the Parish Council to enable them to employ their own contractors to carry out outstanding work in

the Spring and Autumn of 2006, and any money left on completion to be returned to the Developer.

Work on the Quarry Lane Bridge is being deferred until Spring 2006.

The Council considered projects for budget requirements for the financial year 2006-7 and the following items were approved as major projects to be carried out in that year. Litter Bin at Little Heath Play Area. Landscaping of First Field at Sports Club. Village Green:- raised flower bed/new cast iron directional sign post.

It was reported that the Jubilee Bench should be completed in the present financial year. Dredging The Pit will be carried forward to the next financial year. The Victorian Street Lighting Upgrade is complete apart from one outstanding lamp.

Members approved, in principle, the gate designed for entrance to the Style Pathway. Comments are being sought from the Primary School who are the main users of this pathway.

The dates of the next meetings of the Parish Council are Tuesday January 10th and Tuesday February 7th in the Methodist School Room, commencing at 7.30 pm. Members of the public are welcome.

Organist Biker to Return for Charity Tour

The successful charity organ tour – a motorbike tour of the UK, Ireland and, this year, Holland, is to rev up again for a second year of charity fundraising. Stuart Wilks originally former organist at Finchley Parish Church – where Peris and Sheila Williams's son, Andrew is Rector, is set to ride through the depths of winter this February. He will be playing organs in various towns and cities on his route, and raising funds for two charities.

Stuart will be setting off from Woodford Green, Essex on 25th February, and heading to Colchester before riding through Holland for two days, then up to Scotland, then down to Stockport and Chester on Friday 3rd March, before riding across to Ireland, and back to London on Monday 6th March. The charities for 2006 are both dedicated to saving lives in different ways are the Leukaemia Research Fund and Bullying Online – one dedicated to

cancer research and the other to raising awareness and providing support for victims of bullying.

Last year, the tour raised around £3700 for two charities, and was inspired by Stuart's in-laws struggle against cancer. This year, the tour is dedicated to the memory of his Partner's Mother, and in support of his Aunt's ongoing battle, and Stuart hopes to equal or beat

his achievement of 2006. More information is available at www.organtour.org.uk, or he can be contacted on 020 8504 1390.

The Organtour charity ride is being organised by Stuart Wilks, with support from Pickavance Consulting and Hill International.

More information is available from Stuart at 6 Montalt House, 95 Montalt Rd, Woodford Green, Essex, IG8 9TD. Tel 020 8504 1390 or email stuartwilks@hotmail.com.





THE FRAUENKIRCHE IN DRESDEN

Part 5

CONSECRATION AND MESSIAH

“Comfort ye, comfort ye my people” rang out in the Frauenkirche on December 11 as the Bach Choir consummated the completion of the reconstruction of this great church in Dresden and the British contribution with a performance of “The Messiah”. I was privileged to be there. As the audience of 2,000 arrived, many stood in their seats in awe at the stunning beauty of the restored Baroque interior; the beautiful pastel shades of painting after painting on the ceilings and the walls, and an intricate pattern of curved galleries of seating worthy of any Italian opera house. “The Messiah” did them full justice.

Earlier, on October 30 the Frauenkirche had been reconsecrated in the presence of the Duke of Kent, the Bishop of Coventry and Alan Russell, the Chairman of the Dresden Trust. The Trust has continued to raise much money in Britain towards rebuilding, reconciliation, and ongoing cultural and educational initiatives in the city. Bishop Colin gave a further fine address in German and the service was widely covered on German television. As readers may have seen, it received good coverage in the British media, including longer mention than usual on TV and radio news.

The media fairly recognised what I have increasingly felt during my 8 visits to Dresden since 1997, that the city has moved on. In a friendly manner, Dresden rejoices in its restored skyline, its fine museums, shops and restaurants and its relaxing river scenery along the Elbe. It is no longer a question of “not mentioning the war”, more a positive approach to the 21st century concerning issues like employment, the environment and education. This was evident in the two Dresden High Schools that I visited in December; one the vision of two teachers who founded the HOGA School in 1990 as the new united Germany emerged, the other the only joint German/Czech school in Germany upstream at Pirna. The fascinating questions that I was asked in English by small groups of cheerful pupils displayed the

concerns of children everywhere, as did the comments of the teachers.

“The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light and the Glory of the Lord shall see it together.”

True reconciliation.

John Carruthers.

The very first Valentine card - a legend



The Roman Emperor Claudius II needed soldiers. He suspected that marriage made men want to stay at home instead of fighting wars, so he outlawed marriage. A kind-hearted young priest named Valentine felt sorry for all the couples who wanted to marry, but couldn't. So secretly he married as many couples as he could - until the Emperor found out and condemned him to death. While he was in prison waiting execution, Valentine showed love and compassion to everyone around him, including his jailer. The jailer had a young daughter who was blind, but through Valentine's prayers, she was healed. Just before his death in Rome on 14 February, he wrote her a farewell message signed 'From your Valentine.' So the very first Valentine card was not between lovers, but between a priest about to die, and a little girl, healed through his prayers.

From the Village Archives.

I have recently come across some interesting pamphlets about life in Christleton in the early 1900's and thought this service sheet very interesting, and would be appreciated by many readers of the magazine.DC

A Special Service held at St James Church on Saturday July 28th 1906 to commemorate the appointment of the Rector as Honorary Canon of Chester Cathedral.

Programme

1. Letters.
2. Presentation of an Address to Rev.L Garnett, by Mr T R Fleming(Chairman)
3. Presentation of M.A.Hood, and Cheque for Fees by Mr H.A.Heywood
4. Presentation of Pieces of Plate by Mr Earlam.
5. "A Psalm of Life" (Longfellow) to be sung by all.
6. Rev. L. Garnett's reply'
7. Vote of Thanks to the Chairman.
Moved by the Lord Bishop of Chester.
Seconded by the Rev.Canon Cooper Scott.
8. Vote of Thanks to Hon Sec and Treasurer.
Moved by Mr. H. Wildig.
Seconded by M. W. Millwood.

God Save the King.

Copy of Address.

**To the Rev. Lionel Garnett
Rector of Christleton**

The Parishioners of Christleton, and many other Friends, desire to assure you of the great gratification they feel at your being appointed by the Bishop of Chester an **Honorary Canon of Chester Cathedral**.

They also desire to gratefully acknowledge the services you have rendered to the Parish during the **Thirty Seven Years** you have been **Rector of Christleton**; and to express the hope that for many years to

come they may continue to have the benefit of your counsel and guidance.

As a small token of their good-will and affection they beg your acceptance of the Fees for the **Degree of Master of Arts at Oxford**, together with the accompanying **Pieces of Plate**.

Signed on behalf of the subscribers,

T.R.Fleming Chairman.

Sam Earlam Hon. Sec.

H.A.Haywood, Treasurer.

Christleton 28th July, 1906.

Printed by Phillipson & Golder, Printers, Chester.

Helping each other

A few years ago, in a rural part of England, there were two horses that lived in a field together. From a distance, each looked quite normal. But if you went a bit closer, you would notice something unexpected. One of the horses, a gelding, was blind. But his owner, instead of choosing to have him put down, had hung a bell from the halter of the mare, who could see. Wherever she went, her blind friend knew where she was, and could follow her. Like the owners of these two horses, God does not throw us away just because we are not perfect or because we have problems or challenges. He watches over us and even brings others into our lives to help us when we are in need. Sometimes we are the blind horse being guided by God and those whom he places in our lives. Other times we are the guide horse, helping others find their way to God.



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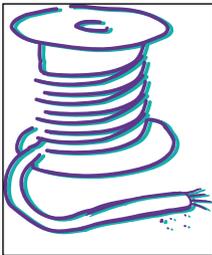
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THE SWANS

*I first saw them,
one calm summer day.
When sunlit waters rippled
as the swans effortlessly glided
over the tranquil lake.*

*Their plumage looked of driven snow,
their beaks a flash of orange.
Majestic and proud with arched wings,
the faithful pair negotiated the reeds.*

*Privileged I watched the cygnets
first attempts at clumsy flight.
Protective father guarding them,
lest intruder threaten.*

*As sunlight faded,
I listened transfixed,
To the magical singing notes,
produced by beating wings,
And the answering murmur
of birdsong in the darkness.*



Claire Brown

This delightful poem was written in the early 1990's by 10 year old Claire, who was inspired by a visit to The Pit, and who had carefully studied the movements of the swans for the first time.

DC

Nature Notes

Fascinating Details of a Russian (Beswick) Swan sighted on the Dee Marshes. The wildlife highlight this month is the news of the sighting of a wild Beswick swan on the Dee Marshes. One of a flock of eighty or so that have frequented the marsh during the winter months, this particular bird can be identified by a blue neck collar 138U. It was ringed on Zeloni Island in the Pechora Sea in Russia in August 1996. The Beswick or tundra swan has a very distinctive bill pattern**, and is the smallest of our visiting swans, but by far the furthest flier. During the last ten years this bird has summered in Russia, and visited widely different places in Great Britain, Ireland and Denmark each winter. e.g

Winter 1996/7	The Ribble Estuary, WWT Martin Mere near Ormskirk, Westport Lake, Stoke on Trent. The Enge Estuary in Denmark.
Winter 1997/8	Myroe Loch Foyle, Inch Levels, River Bush, Derry, Ballyhough all N. Ireland,
Winter 1998/9	Southport, Martin Mere, Inner Marsh Farm, River Dee.
Winter 2000/1	WWT Welney The Fens, West Fen near March, Cambs. Ouse Washes.
Winter 2002/3	Langwood Fen, WWT Welney. WWT Martin Mere, Lancs. Lytham Coast Martin Mere, Ormskirk.
Winter 2003/4	WWT Martin Mere all winter.
Winter 2004/5	WWT Martin Mere, Lytham St Anne's and Inner Marsh Farm, Dee Estuary.

** In the 1960's Sir Peter Scott discovered that these delightful creatures had distinctive bill patterns, and with careful observation each one could be identified individually. A study has been carried out over many years, and many family histories drawn up. The most famous Beswick being an easily identifiable female nicknamed Mrs Noah, who flew from Kamchatka in Russia, to Slimbridge on the River Severn, for over thirty years travelling a distance of well over 200,000 miles in this time, a truly remarkable record. She had several mates during this time, and many of her cygnets followed her to Britain.

The highest count on the Dee marshes this winter has

been about 160 swans, made up of 80 Beswicks, 5 Whoopers from Greenland or Iceland, and the rest our local mute swans. The swans on the Dee Marshes are difficult to see without a telescope, but anyone wishing to see a truly wonderful spectacle should visit the Wetland and Wildfowl Trust site at Martin Mere near Ormskirk, well signposted from the M6. From now until Mid March there will be around 2,000 wild Whooper swans displaying and feeding on the reserve. They are a wonderful sight, one of the best wildlife spectacles in Britain. They are fed by the W.W.T. wardens during the day, and many, come flying in from the nearby marshes when feeding time is near. (They are very intelligent as well as being superb navigators!), and they come very close to the hides when feeding takes place.(5metres) There are lots of other things to do at the Reserve, and it is an excellent centre to see a wide variety of wildfowl. The ringing of swans is part of the work done by the Cheshire Swan Study Group, and all Christleton cygnets have been given distinctive rings this year. CL 26 was still at Southport Marine Lake the last time I had a report. Two cygnets CL 25 & 27 are still with the adults on the canal, but they are spending more and more time on their own, so I suspect they will be flying off shortly.

David Cummings.

Stop Press.

Look out for low flying Barn Owls. There have been at least five sightings in the last month.

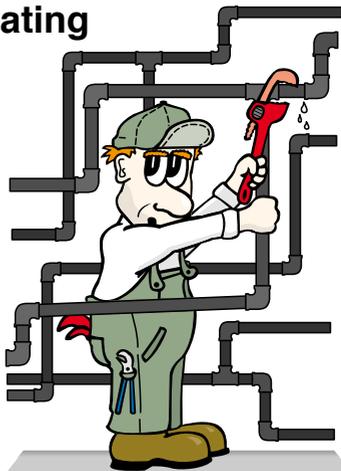


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LOCAL EVENTS DIARY

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Held in the Parish Hall from 10.30 am – 11.45 am each Sunday during term-time, except when Family Service is held at St James. For further details please contact Berenice Hogg, 336779.

CHRISTLETON LADIES GUILD

Held at the Christleton Methodist Church, commencing at 2pm, Tuesdays fortnightly, £1 admission includes refreshments. For further information contact Joan Webb, 335518.

All very welcome.

CHRISTLETON GARDENING CLUB

The next meeting will take place on **13 February** with a talk on "Clematis" by Mr Matthew Powell.

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.

CHRISTLETON W.I. MONTHLY WHIST DRIVE

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 26 February.



LOCAL EVENTS DIARY

CHRISTLETON WEDNESDAY GROUP

**SOUP & SWEET
SPRING LUNCH**

WEDNESDAY 22 MARCH

**CHRISTLETON PARISH
HALL
12.00 NOON**

**In Aid of
CHILDREN'S CHARITIES**

Ticket £6.50 (available from members) includes a glass of wine

CHESTER FLOWER CLUB

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

Winter and Spring

Lord, end my winter, and let my spring begin. I cannot with all my longings raise my soul out of her death and dullness, but all things are possible with thee. I need celestial influences, the clear shinings of thy love, the beams of thy grace, the light of thy countenance; these are the Pleiades to me. I suffer much from sin and temptation, these are my wintry sings, my terrible Orion. Lord, work wonders in me, and for me.

Charles Haddon Spurgeon 1834

MAGAZINE CONTRIBUTIONS

Please ensure all items for inclusion in the March edition are sent to the Editor, David Bull, The Old Rectory, Plough Lane, as soon as possible BEFORE Friday 10 February.

You can e-mail this to
christletonmag@hotmail.co.uk

CHRISTLETON RAMBLING GROUPS



Sunday Ramble, February 12th.

Bickerton Hill reverse Pilgrimage circuit.

Renewed energy after a month off we hope to see you there! A fairly gentle route past Lovers leap from Bickerton around the hill for about 3 miles, 2 hours maximum walking. All dogs welcome and maybe boots in case it's a teeny bit muddy!

Meet in church car park for 1.30pm.

St James' Tuesday Rambling Group.

The next two walks are published below. Both are exciting walks, and we should see a great variety of wildlife. Binoculars would be useful, to enable close up views of woodland creatures and wading birds.

New members are always welcome. Please ring David on 332410 for further details.

Tuesday 14th February

Conway / Bangor

Coastal Walk along Traeth Lavan Sands.

8miles. [easy]

Picnic needed.

Depart Church Car Park at 8.00am

Tuesday 28th March

Cheshire; Sandstone Trail & Woodland walk.

Helsby & Frodsham Hills.

7miles. [moderate +] Trekking poles will be useful on this walk, as there are some steep sections of footpath to be negotiated. Spectacular views.

Picnic needed.

Depart Church Car Park at 9.00am

O come, all ye faithful - and they did. Church was a big draw at Christmas.

More than four out of ten adults attended church this past Christmas - up by a third in the past four years. Christmas worshippers are on the increase, with more than 43 per cent of Britain's adult population attending church over the festival, according to a survey by opinion pollster ORB. The figure has been steadily rising since the turn of the millennium from the 33 per cent found by ORB in 2001, to 39 per cent in 2003 and now 43 per cent in 2005. The Bishop of Manchester, the Rt Revd Nigel McCulloch, said: "It was a privilege to offer a warm welcome to people who enjoy church at Christmastime. These figures indicate two things. First, that the busy-ness of the season hasn't crowded out the hunger for the Christmas message. And second, that Christmas gives us a great opportunity to connect with the wider community all year round." The poll also found major support for Church of England schools. Seven out of 10 agreed that Church of England schools have a positive role in educating the nation's children. Among people of no religious persuasion and those of non-Christian faiths the level dropped but was still more than half (52 per cent) and six in 10 (61 per cent) respectively. The survey shows that churches attract people of all ages and across all areas of the country at Christmas, with the highest attendance levels in city

areas (46 per cent), suburban (46 per cent) and rural (49 per cent). Lowest attendance levels are among 18 to 24 year olds (28 per cent) and those who live in seaside towns (25 per cent). In London, almost half the adults, 48 per cent, attended church at Christmas and, across the country, 22 per cent of adults of non-Christian faiths attended. Half the adults in Britain affiliate to the Church of England or another Anglican church, the survey found, while seven in 10 are Christian. Both levels have been static since 2001 and replicate the national census results. ORB also found that 22 per cent of adults attend religious services once a month or more and that 86 per cent of adults had been in a church or other place of worship in the last year, similar to levels recorded in 2003 and 2001. Among Christians this figure was 91 per cent, among those of no religious persuasion it was 75 per cent and among those from non-Christian religions it was 73 per cent. "These figures show that churches and church schools bring valued aspects of community life to local neighbourhoods," said the Rev Lynda Barley. "Seven in every 10 adults support Church of England schools and nine out of every 10 have been in a church or other place of worship in the last year. High levels of support for local churches and chapels are maintained among people of all religious affiliations and of none. With 43 per cent of adults in church at Christmas, that probably translates into approaching 25 million people of all ages." ORB surveyed 1019 adults aged 18 and over by a random telephone poll between November 4 and 6, 2005.

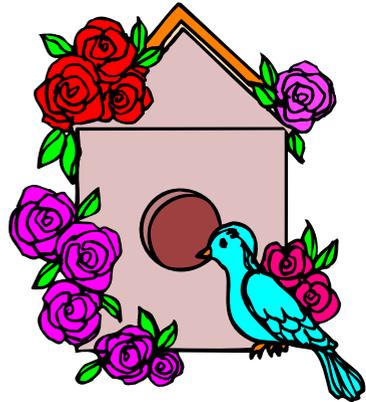
Love is...

What do children know about love? When questioned, some four to eight year olds came up with the following:

- When you're born and see your mommy for the first time. That's love.
- Love is what makes you smile when you're tired.
- If you want to learn to love better, you should start with a friend who hates you.
- Love is when your puppy licks your face even after you left him alone all day.
- I know my older sister loves me because she gives me all her old clothes and has to go out and buy new ones.
- You have to fall in love before you get married. Then when you're married, you just sit around and read books together.
- I let my big sister pick on me because my Mom says she only picks on me because she loves me.
- Love goes on even when you stop breathing and you pick up where you left off when you reach Heaven.
- Love cards like Valentine's cards say stuff on them that we'd like to say ourselves, but we wouldn't be caught dead saying it.
- When you love somebody, your eyelashes go up and down and little stars come out of you.

National Nest Box Week 14 – 21 February

National Nest Box Week begins on St Valentine's Day, the traditional date for birds to pair up for the new breeding season. The British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) aims to urge everyone with nest boxes to clean them out and check that they are in tip-top condition for the coming breeding season. This is also the very best time to put up new boxes. Nest Boxes are important for birds and other wildlife - including mammals like bats and hedgehogs and insects like bumble bees and hornets - because modern habitats



are often very short of the holes and cavities they need to nest and roost safely. The best boxes for an ordinary garden are those for tits - they have a very good chance of being occupied. In many gardens, particularly those in modern developments, these nest boxes are the only places for these birds to nest safely.

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Holy days in February

2nd The Presentation of Christ in the Temple/ Candlemas

In bygone centuries, Christians said their last farewells to the Christmas season on Candlemas, 2 February. This is exactly 40 days after Christmas Day itself. In New Testament times 40 days old was an important age for a baby boy: it was when they made their first 'public appearance'. Mary, like all good Jewish mothers, went to the Temple with Jesus, her first male child - to "present him to the Lord". At the same time, she, as a new mother, was 'purified'. Thus we have the Festival of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple. So where does the Candlemas bit come in? Jesus is described in the New Testament as the Light of the World, and early Christians developed the tradition of lighting many candles in celebration of this day. The Church also fell into the custom of blessing the year's supply of candles for the church on this day - hence the name, Candlemas. The story of how Candlemas began can be found in Luke 2:22-40. Simeon's great declaration of faith and recognition of who Jesus was is of course found in the Nunc Dimittis, which is embedded in the Office of Evening Prayer in the

West. But in medieval times, the Nunc Dimittis was mostly used just on this day, during the distribution of candles before the Eucharist. Only gradually did it win a place in the daily prayer life of the Church.

14th St Valentine's Day

There are two confusing things about this day of romance and anonymous love-cards strewn with lace, cupids and ribbon: firstly, there seems to have been two different Valentines in the 4th century - one a priest martyred on the Flaminian Way, under the emperor Claudius, the other a bishop of Terni martyred at Rome. And neither seems to have had any clear connection with lovers or courting couples. So why has Valentine become the patron saint of romantic love? By Chaucer's time the link was assumed to be because on these saints' day - 14 February - the birds are supposed to pair. Or perhaps the custom of seeking a partner on St Valentine's Day is a surviving scrap of the old Roman Lupercalia festival, which took place in the middle of February. One of the Roman gods honoured during this Festival was Pan, the god of nature. Another was Juno, the goddess of women and marriage. During the Lupercalia it was a popular custom for young men to draw the name of a young unmarried woman from a name-box. The two would then be partners or

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'sweethearts' during the time of the celebrations. Even modern Valentine decorations bear an ancient symbol of love - Roman cupids with their bows and love-arrows. There are no churches in England dedicated to Valentine, but since 1835 his relics have been claimed by the Carmelite church in Dublin

28th Shrove Tuesday

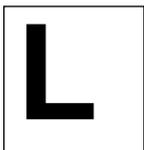
A thin, flat cake, are made of batter and baked on a griddle or fried in a pan. The pancake has a very long history and is featured in cookbooks as far back as 1439. The tradition of tossing or flipping them is almost as old: "And every man and maide doe take their turne, And tosse their Pancakes up for feare they burne." (Pasquil's Palin, 1619).

CHRISTLETON CRICKET CLUB

Christleton Cricket Club recently held their Presentation dinner at Christianos Restaurant in Tarporley. Gareth Davies spoke of how proud he was to be Chairman of the village teams and of their progress over the past five years. He presented Clubman of the Year to joint winners Richard Morgan - Jones and Mike Wyatt for their work in achieving Clubmark for Christleton CC and for developing a junior section comparable with any in Cheshire

Other winners were Alex Barr, 1st team Player of the Year, Scott Graves for the 2nd team and Will Lamb for the 3rd team. Junior Player of the Year was presented to Andrew Sissons by Maroof Khan. Next season Christleton will be the only Chester team playing in the Premier league. Any new members are welcome to join indoor nets at Queens Park high school commencing February 5th at 4.00pm

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No news

A traveller was marooned in a small town because of a landslide caused by heavy rain. It fell in torrents for three days. Looking out of the window of the restaurant, he finally remarked to the waitress: "This is like the flood."

"The what?"

"The flood. Surely you have heard about the great flood and Noah and the Ark?"

"Sorry, sir," she replied. "I haven't seen a newspaper for four days."

Aspects of Romantic Love

God obviously approves of romance – after all, putting Adam and Eve alone together in the Garden of Eden was his idea. And romance – love between a man and a woman - has been around ever since. The history of the Israelites began with three great romances: Abraham and Sarah. Isaac and Rebekah. Jacob and Rachel. The on-going history of Israel was deeply affected by later romances: Esther and King Xerxes, David's love affair with Bathsheba, and Solomon's marriage to hundreds of foreign wives. There is even an entire book in the Old Testament devoted to the love of a man and woman: the Song of Solomon! When we reach the New Testament, we find real love between Joseph and Mary (even when Joseph thought Mary had been faithless, he did not want to harm her). St Paul, though himself a bachelor, nevertheless spent a lot of time urging Christians to love and be kind and faithful and considerate to their spouses. He even wrote 1 Corinthians 13 – the great love chapter that is read at millions of weddings worldwide 2000 years later. Down the centuries ever since, romantic love has been critical in shaping history (Anthony and Cleopatra), in shaping cultural

ideals (King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table). Some of our favourite stories are built on romance. (Puccini's *Tosca*, Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*, Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*, Charlotte Bronte's *Jane Eyre*.) Romance remains as prominent now as it ever was, added to which we have films, television and drama all flying the romantic flag. Catherine Cookson, Barbara Cartland and Mills and Boon novels flood the market. *Titanic's* love-song was a smash hit. Wherever we look, whatever we do, romance continues to permeate every aspect of life. The old adage that 'love makes the world go round' is irrefutable – and it also seems to make the galaxies go round, too. (Think of the *Star Wars* films.) Certainly romance is alive and well in Britain – last year we sent over 21 million Valentines to each other. And what of the future? Well, just as the Bible begins with a love story, so it ends with one. And you are involved! For actually the greatest Love Story of all time is that between God and his people. Christ is described in Revelation as our heavenly Bridegroom, and the Church is his beloved Bride. He has given us the most expensive present of all – himself. And, just as in all the best romances, the story will end with the bride and groom getting together at last, so at the End of Time, Christ will return for his Bride.

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.

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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 2005

Baptisms

18th Duncan James Michie son of Andrew & Amy Michie
1453 Starr Grass Drive, Madison WI 53719 U.S.A

"We welcome you into the Lords Family"

The Funeral Service

4th Leslie Raymond Dutton Oaklands Nursing Home, Littleton
(Burial of Ashes)
18th Leonard David Cragg Jones Birch Heath Lodge Nursing Home,
Christleton. (Burial of Ashes)
28th Bill Patterson Birch Heath Lodge Nursing Home, Christleton

"Rest eternal grant unto them"

Offertories

December	Cash	CSE	2005	2004
4th	235.30	690.00	925.30	969.00
11th	329.04	643.60	927.64	831.57
18th	489.48	840.20	1329.68	1236.50
25th	1780.51	784.20	2564.71	2609.19
Totals			£ 5747.33	£ 5646.26

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