

# St. James' Christleton



**Parish Magazine**  
**June 2006**

30p

# JOTTINGS FOR JUNE

**Sun 4**

## **WHIT SUNDAY**

8.00 am

Holy Communion - Order 2

10.45 am

Parish Communion - Order 1

6.30 pm

Evening Worship led by The Crew Youth Group. Followed by refreshments

Prayer Link Road: Badgers Close Neighbourhood Link:  
June Hulmes

**Wed 7**

10.45 am

United Communion - followed by refreshments

7.45 pm

Pastoral and Outreach Committee

**Thur 8**

2.00 pm

Parish Visiting Group - White Haven

**Fri 9**

6.30 pm

Choir Practice

NB: Last day for contributions to July magazine, preferably earlier, to David Bull (332234). You can attach your Word document and e-mail to: christletonmag@hotmail.co.uk

**Sun 11**

## **TRINITY SUNDAY**

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: Birch Heath Lane. Neighbourhood Link:  
Fiona Lee

**Mon 12**

9.00 am

Holy Communion for ST BARNABAS

2.00 pm

Mothers' Union - Parish Hall

**Wed 14**

10.45 am

Holy Communion - followed by refreshments

11.30 am

Holy Communion at Birch Heath Lodge Nursing Home

7.45 pm

Faith and Worship Committee – The Rectory

**Fri 16**

6.30 pm

Choir Practice

**Sun 18**

**The First Sunday After Trinity : Proper 6**

8.00 am Holy Communion - Order 1  
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  
Prayer Link Road: Brickfield Lane Neighbourhood Link:  
Nigel Seddon

Tues 20 9.00 am Tuesday Ramble Group leaves car park for N. Wales coast

Wed 21 10.45 am Holy Communion - followed by refreshments.

Fri 23 6.30 pm Choir Practice

Sat 24 Village Fete

**Sun 25**

**The Second Sunday After Trinity : Proper 7**

8.00 am Holy Communion - Order 1  
10.30 am Sunday School - Parish Hall  
10.45 am Matins  
6.00 pm The Crew Youth Group - Parish Hall  
6.30 pm Evening Communion  
Prayer Link Road: Bridge Drive Neighbourhood Link:  
Margaret Croston

Mon 26 6.30 pm Confirmation Group - Lady Chapel

7.45 pm Adult Confirmation Group - Rectory

Wed 28 10.45 am Holy Communion - followed by refreshments

Thur 29 9.00 am Holy Communion for ST PETER



**Cover Picture.**

*The Marriage took place on Saturday 6th May between Tian Shuang of Beijing and Mark Christopher Dodds of Rowton. The happy couple left St James' in a beautiful combination of carriage and pair for their Reception and Honeymoon. The couple live and work in Beijing, China. Congratulations to them both.*

# The Rector's Letter

Dear Friends

## **“Three Dimensioned Light”**

Last week I went to the funeral of my father's younger brother, Lincoln Lee, in Buckinghamshire. Linc was a pilot in the war and later for BOAC, before working for the International Air Transport Association. As a personal anecdote, I have a newspaper cutting from 1952 which reads:- “Travelling by air to West Africa, the Archbishop of Canterbury (Dr G.W. Fisher) – who was formerly Bishop of Chester – found that he had Confirmed the pilot of the aircraft, Capt. Lincoln Lee, and had Ordained the pilot's two brothers.” My father was the elder of those two brothers, and the other, my Uncle Cyril, who was once Curate of Kelsall when it was part of the Parish of Tarvin! My Uncle Linc wrote a book entitled “Three Dimensioned Darkness”, about the world of the airline pilot, and the use of radar. It took its title from the poem “Night Take Off” by O.C. Chave. It seemed to me that if “Three Dimensioned Darkness” was a good title for night flying, “Three Dimensioned Light” would be a good title for our faith and the Doctrine of the Trinity.

Trinity Sunday, which we celebrate this year on 11 June, is always a special day to me, not only because it is the anniversary of my Ordination, but also because it is the expression of the fullness of our faith. It is too easy to ‘get hooked’ on just one aspect of our faith, but Trinity Sunday ensures we step back and see it in all its fullness and meaning. We see our faith as indeed, three dimensioned light. The first dimension is God as the Father, Creator of the world. This gives us the light of understanding: an explanation of our world as derived from, and dependent upon, our creator God. Sometimes we make our God too small – as though it is our private possession and just about our own personal feelings. God is not only Father of all people, he is creator of the whole universe for time and for eternity – the explanation of all that is. God the Father is set over us giving authority to our faith, not just as personal opinion and preference, but as the ground of our being: the rules underlining our existence.

The second dimension is God as Jesus Christ the Son. Jesus is ‘the word made flesh’, who came to live among us’, and gives us the light of love. God is not just an explanation of our existence, not just the artist behind the beauty of nature, but the reason to love our neighbour and the challenge of responsibility to bring fullness of life to all God's people. In Jesus we see the expression of God in a human life – when we look at Jesus we see what God is like, and are given a standard to live by. And in Jesus we can enter into a personal, living relationship with God, which gives reason, meaning and value to our life.

The third dimension is God as the Holy Spirit – the light of purpose and power. Whitsunday, which this year is 4 June, is one of the most undervalued days of the Christian year. The story of the coming of the Holy Spirit to the first disciples is one of the most exciting and dramatic stories in the Bible, yet how many could immediately find it in Acts 2? If God the Father is God above us; and God the Son is God alongside us; then God the Holy Spirit is God inside us. Our faith is not just about an explanation of our world, nor just a moral standard by which to live, it is equally about a dynamic force inside us to empower and motivate us to be God's people in God's world. Just as God's Spirit came to the valley of dry bones in Ezekiel's vision and brought them to life, and just as the Spirit came as fire and wind to drive the first disciples out to tell people of all nations the wonderful things God was doing, so today the Holy Spirit comes to enthuse us to be his people in our world, and to bring new life and hope to all his people.

May the Holy Spirit come to each of us today, and to God's Church, to give us light to guide us, courage to support us and love to unite us, that we may know God more clearly, follow him more nearly and love him more dearly, day by day. For our faith truly is three dimensional light!

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Peter Lee". The signature is written in dark ink and is underlined with a single horizontal stroke.

### **Prayer of the Month:**

*God the Father, God beyond us, we adore you.  
You are the depth of all that is. You are the ground of our being. We can never grasp you, but you grasp us.; the universe speaks of you to us, and your love comes to us through Jesus.*

*God the Son, God beside us, we adore you.  
You are the perfection of humanity. You have shown us what human life should be like. In you we see the divine love and human greatness combined.*

*God the Holy Spirit, God around us, we adore you.  
You draw us to Jesus and the father. You are the power within us. You give us abundant life and make us the men and women we are meant to be.*

*Father, Son and Holy Spirit; God beyond, beside and around us;  
we adore you. Amen.*

## CATHEDRAL LINK

### God Cares for Carers

All are welcome to a special service in Chester Cathedral on Sunday 4 June at 3.3.0 pm when the preacher will be the Bishop of Stockport, the Right Reverend Nigel Stock.

### Saints' Windows in the Cloisters

St Dunstan, son of Heorstan, a Wessex nobleman and nephew of Saint Athelm, was educated at Glastonbury by Irish monks. He was a Hermit Monk an expert goldsmith, metal-worker, and harpist. Appointed abbot of Glastonbury in 944 by King Edmund. He rebuilt the abbey, introduced the Benedictine Rule, and established a famous school. He was a close advisor to King Eadred and King Eadgar. He was Bishop of Worcester, and of London and became Archbishop of Canterbury in 960. Spiritual director of Saint Wulsin, he reformed church life in 10th Century England. As advisor to King Edwy he advised the king on his profligate sexual ways – which caused the bishop to be exiled. In 978 with the ascension of King Ethelred the Unready, he retired from political to Canterbury. He was born 909 at Baltonsborough, Glastonbury, England, and died 988 at Canterbury, England of natural causes; entombed in Canterbury; his burial site was lost for years, but re-discovered by Archbishop Washam:

destroyed during the Reformation.

Saints Day: 19 May. Patronage: Armourers, blacksmiths, blind people, goldsmiths, jewellers, lighthouse keepers, locksmiths, musicians, silver workers, swordsmiths. The International Music Festival 16-18 June

There are four international choirs taking part: Orpheus from Ukraine, Inger Alb from Rumania, The Madras Musical Association from India and the Ebenezer Choir from Bratislava.

We now have sufficient beds offered, but if anyone could onate foodstuffs to be prepared by the Refectory staff or a hot dish for several people (as we have to provide three cooked evening meals) we would be very grateful. Please contact Janet Walker with any offers on 01928.733326

### Loyal Service

We said goodbye to Audrey Palin, Refectory Manager on 7 April. Audrey started work with us 20 years ago and was a very successful Refectory Manager. She was able to keep the business side of things in a healthy state while maintaining a happy, welcoming atmosphere at all times. And ...

Deborah Blythin has left us after 10 years service working in the Refectory, assisting Audrey and had a reputation for being very friendly and helpful with staff and customers alike. St. James' Christleton Parish Magazine

All of the above take with them a wealth of knowledge and experience and we thank them for their very loyal and devoted service, and wish them well for the future. Also...

Anthony Sproston, who has been with us for 13 years, started as an apprentice electrician and has been through some of our major building projects (the renewal of the Nave floor and the Song School) has left to set up his own electrical business. His special skills will be greatly missed.

### **Recognition for Pilgrim Days Volunteers**

Chester Cathedral Pilgrim Days volunteers have been given an award by the Chester Volunteer Bureau under their Certificate Award Scheme for Volunteers, in recognition of the amazing work they have done to enable Pilgrim Days to happen for the last nine years. As there are over 70 volunteers, a small, representative group of those who have been involved since the beginning will receive the award at a ceremony in the Town Hall on Thursday 1 June. Congratulations to all of the Pilgrim Days volunteers on achieving this recognition of your commitment to the week.

*Judy Davies, Education Officer*

## **HAPPY BIRTHDAY, LUCY**



Congratulations and best wishes to Lucy Partington who celebrates her

80th birthday on 10th June.

***Many happy returns from family and all friends***

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## **GOLDEN WEDDING**

Congratulations to Joan & Neville Williams. They will celebrate their Golden Wedding on 9th June. They married in Upton and have three happily married sons and five grandchildren.

Their daughter Dawn sadly died in 1985 aged 14.

They have both been lifelong Christians and have attended St James since returning to Chester four years ago.

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*A successful marriage isn't finding the right person; it's being the right person.*

# STONEYDALE REVISITED

I moved to Stoneydale in Pepper Street, Christleton in July 1977 with my parents Cuthbert and Dilys. It was a few years later that a gentleman knocked at the front door. He told us what life was like at Stoneydale many years ago. He was able to point at a wall and say 'there used to be a door just there'. He continued with remarks like 'the staircase has moved' and 'there was a corridor here' All these comments about the changes to the house you had to imagine until he produced a photograph showing Stoneydale with a second floor. We were aware there had been a second floor and that Mr. Witter removed it in the 1950's but to now actually have a photograph was amazing. Many years have since passed but in the late summer of last year the very same gentleman Mr. Antony Barrington Brown again knocked at the front door of Stoneydale. He was with his wife Althea. This time Dorothy was able to hear as well some of the tales of his childhood at Stoneydale. The information was just too much to take in but Antony promised to put pen to paper and write it all down. This he has now done. I hope you enjoy it and find it as fascinating as I do.

*Richard Nicholson*

## Memoir of ANTONY BARRINGTON BROWN

I was born in Christleton (strictly speaking at the Westminster Nursing Home in Chester) in 1927. My mother Betty was living with her parents, Harold and Dorothy Dolphin who rented Stoneydale from 1923 till 1951. It was owned by Major Currie. My sister Mava was born two years later at Five Oaks, then an isolated house in Littleton. My earliest memory there was being carried outside to see an airship passing just overhead – must have been R101 or R100. We moved briefly to Salisbury : in the Depression my father, a geologist, was out of work for a time before getting his job back in Peru and Ecuador. In 1934 my mother and sister joined him, leaving me at Stoneydale.

At age seven I went to Hampton House School – now the Fire Brigade headquarters. I had a governess, Miss Olney. I think I went alone on the bus and walked down Stocks Lane. Miss Olney came to meet me after school, waiting at the end of the lane by a greengrocers; I would badger her, seldom successfully, to buy me a tuppenny tin of peas for tea. Sometimes we would walk home instead of going in the bus.

When I was nine (1936) I went to The Leas School at Hoylake as a boarder. My mother and sister came back the next year and also lived at Stoneydale during my four years at The Leas. This brought us into the St. James' Christleton Parish Magazine

beginning of the war. I remember crossing Handbridge one day to hear a newsvendor shouting "Last City Echo - 176 Hun planes shot down !" An exaggeration of course, but what a thrill ! We then left Christleton for Salisbury and lived near there for the rest of the war; I went to boarding school at Oxford. But we did return to Stoneydale for two weeks twice a year.

Stoneydale was quite a grand establishment in those days; The Hall and Old Hall were empty. Mrs Porrit lived in The Grange and Will Cullimore next the church, his brother Charles at the corner of Faulkners Lane. The Dolphins had a cook, parlourmaid, and housemaid. Harold Whalley was chauffeur / gardener at £3 a week. Came the war, went the housemaid. The Dolphins were part of Chester society, dining with the Frosts and Mayhews, Rae Andersons and Judge Richards. They played a lot of bridge after the frequent dinner parties. Mrs Parsonage always came to help with the washing up. The ladies also played bridge in the afternoons ; Mr Guest Williams was often invited to make up the number.

Harold Dolphin was a very imposing figure, perhaps the most imposing I have ever known. Quite a contrast in appearance to his fellow churchwarden Rupert Grainger of Littleton Hall who was slender and immaculate. Our family sat in the front pew on the left; the memorial tablet to Lucy Anne Ince is engraved on my memory to this day. Rupert Grainger first sat a few rows back on the right, but later moved up

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to the front. He and grandfather read the lessons. He was manager of the copper works at Widnes; each day Whalley would drive him to the station at 8.15 and collect him from there at 5.15. On alternate Saturdays he drove himself to Widnes, crossing the transporter bridge (a great excitement for me when once he took me with him). The other Saturdays he went shooting. My grandmother never seemed to do very much : in those days ladies became prematurely old at about forty and sat around a lot, reading. She got three books at a time from Boots subscription library (underneath Browns) and read one a day. She suffered from asthma and often had recourse to an oxygen cylinder. She was very keen, and knowledgeable, about the garden – but Whalley did most of the work under her direction. The large garden produced masses of fruit and vegetables as well as flowers. It was much more extensive than now, incorporating what we called the 'Far Garden' which was later bought by the Salvatoreans for their principal. The whole of the end where now that house is was a peach house; not very prolific for those, but producing huge quantities of tomatoes. The gazebo was, surprisingly, only used for storing flowerpots and the like. One of the episodes in my life of which I am most ashamed was – aided by a teatime friend – throwing down a large quantity of flowerpots from the roof. Adjacent was a small yard without access but with a lean-to shed; my grandfather attempted to make a small business growing mushrooms in it, with scant reward.

We children (my sister Mava and I) lived apart from the grownups, even my mother when she was there. We lived in the 'nursery'- later 'playroom' - under the charge of a governess, newly engaged in each school holidays so we did not get to know her well ; one we particularly hated. One was very pretty but left all of a sudden due, I think, to my grandfather's attentions – though whether it was her decision or my grandmother's I know not. There were few boys of my age in the village, to my regret. Curiously, in such a class-conscious environment, Whalley's two youngest sons Cyril and Hubert were allowed to come for tea in the playroom sometimes. When first I knew them the family lived in some squalor in a cottage right under Quarry Bridge, all very dark and adjoining the quarry which was then part full of water and the home of rats. They then moved to a rather fine cottage opposite Stoneydale's yard belonging to the Cullimores.

Stoneydale was of three storeys then. It was lit and heated by gas, though in 1939 my uncle John had electricity installed in the drawing room only. The kitchen range was fuelled by coal, the drawing-room fire by coal, peat and logs. There was mains water but apart from the bathroom, water for washing was brought to rooms by the maids. There was a separate WC next the bathroom and one in the cloakroom downstairs. The servants' WC was in the outbuildings. There were several brick sheds for garden, coal, etc and a gardener's/groom's room of two

storeys. At the top of the large cobbled yard were workshops with hayloft above, and a garage with a room above it. In 1939 this was occupied by an evacuee family from Liverpool – a mother with two small children. The Garth replaced the further end of this range of buildings and must have been built when the enormous barn along the street was demolished.

It was owned by the elder of the Morgan brothers – TR who was the baker and WE who ran the village shop and Post Office. This occupied the corner of Windmill Lane. The PO counter was across the top end of the shop, with counters along the left-hand side of a very long upwardly sloping floor and the bacon counter on the right as one entered. Against the front of the grocery counter were various dry goods in open sacks, from which the products were taken out in scoops to be weighed. Not many houses had a telephone – ours was Christleton 16 with a candlestick instrument. The village operator plugged in connections by hand. My grandmother patronised some shops in Chester : Gerrard's for meat and Duttons' for groceries, a visit to which was always exciting for us children as they had a cable system by which cash canisters from the counter would be whizzed overhead along the wires to a central cashier and the change whizzed back. Beyond the Eastgate was Marks and Spencers, which my grandmother thought hardly acceptable; Littlewoods further out, definitely not so. There were seven cinemas ; the Tatler only showed

news and shorts, and one, whose name I misremember, was barred as 'too scruffy'. We went to a cinema at least once a week. The first I went to was 'Drake over England' which I couldn't follow at all. There was always a second film – the B picture – with a newsreel in between, and in some cinemas an organ interlude.

My memories of Stoneydale were happy ones, in that those were care-free times for a boy. I had an airgun – I still have it, though ineffective – with which I shot at starlings and sparrows on the gutters. Mrs Harris the cook would dash out shouting to scare them away from me. I visited the kitchen often, not in search of food but to chat. Mrs Harris gave me a piece of advice which I have always remembered: "Master Antony, always keep in with the cook!" Indeed, ever since I have always been friends with what the Dolphins might think of as 'the lower orders' rather than social equals, and preferred my church-mouse other relations in a run-down Wiltshire rectory – within a few yards of which I now live.

As the war progressed life changed in the familiar way. I remember at the time of Dunkirk our garden, like many others, was open for exhausted soldiers to lie on the lawns, be peaceful and have a cup of tea. Saughton camp held a series of different troops of several nations – I particularly remember the Czechs. Most Sundays soldiers or airmen would come just to rest and enjoy the garden. The ladies of the village

would receive each week large bags of holey socks which were diligently darned and sent back. We had an air-raid shelter in the garden to which we went when the sirens sounded, but the target was Liverpool and Chester was not attacked. After a few weeks we stayed in bed and hoped for the best. There was great excitement when a Heinkel crashed at Farndon; everyone bicycled over there (there were no cars) to pick over the wreckage. I collected several small objects to start a 'museum'.

Mrs Garnett still lived in old age at High Walls. She taught me to play Mah-Jongg with her. Living in The Glass House was Major Brown, who had a Russian wife and daughters of about our age, Tatiana and Sonia, with whom we played. Their parents came to dinner quite often because my grandfather was convinced he was spying for the Russians and he tried to trap him into revealing that he knew things he ought not – it was in the early days of radar and the big secret involved 'bending the beams' by which the Germans used to pinpoint targets, and the British sought to deflect. Other people I remember were Mr Hayward of Christleton Lodge, who was particularly loving towards us. He gave us each ten shillings (ten or even twenty pounds today) when we went on holiday to Brittany in 1938. In his drawing room he had a huge picture of Venice which he claimed was by Canaletto. Nobody believed him. On his death it went for a song – but was later revealed as genuine.

My mother's brother John was a frequent visitor, very dashing always with the latest sports car. After a three-wheel Morgan he advanced to an SS Jaguar, and then in the war he had successively two armour-plated Railtons (one would be worth half a million today) in which, among other things, he distributed Tommy-guns to the commanders-elect of the underground resistance to the expected German invaders. As a Colonel he commanded a secret unit near Welwyn which devised novel weapons including two-man submarines and folding motorbikes for paratroops. One day he showed us one of the first Biro-type pens, and a tiny (for that time) radio the size of a brick. After the war he invented the Chopper bicycle, and ultimately became Engineer-in-Chief for Harwell, Aldermaston and Winfrith.

Operations Executive concerned with undercover work in occupied Europe) spending the rest of the war in Baker Street London mostly making escape maps. So we left Stoneydale and lived at Fordingbridge in Hampshire. My grandparents left Christleton in



When the war began my father was prospecting for oil in Newfoundland. My mother decided that her 'war work' – everybody had to do something – would be cooking, so after a training course somewhere in North Wales she went to be a cook at Western Command. When my father returned he immediately sought a military job (he was then 55); eventually he joined SOE (the Special

about 1948 at the time of their golden wedding. When I visited Stoneydale many years later I was amazed to find that the top story had been removed ! I have just returned for the second time (summer 2005) but apart from a great many new houses and the secondary school I found the village much as I remembered it.

*Antony Barrington Brown*  
MBE MA FRPS

## Long Service!

**A**t our Annual Parochial Church Meeting special mention was made of Margaret Croston and Cec Rydings, who have served our Parish as Parochial Church Council Secretary and Treasurer each for 21 years! They have each, in their own way, carried out their respective office with remarkable diligence and dedication and have contributed so much to the smooth and efficient running of the Parish. We were able to make a presentation to Margaret at the Annual Meeting as an expression of our thanks to her, but Cec had gone AWOL so his had to be postponed! We were able to put this right at the first meeting of the new PCC which started with a presentation to him. We wish them both well and thank them for all they have done. Churchwarden David Mercer has seamlessly succeeded Cec as treasurer, and we thank him for taking this on as an extra to all he already does. Brenda Bailey has agreed to take over from Margaret as Secretary, and has been co opted to the PCC in order to do this. We thank them both for agreeing to do this work and offer them our support as we wish them both well.

## Leprosy Mission Stamp Appeal.

**T**hanks to everyone who has helped this appeal locally by depositing used stamps in the box at the back of church. These stamps trimmed with no more than 5mm of border around them can be sold very quickly, and together with gifts of old cigarette cards, matchbox collections and medals have raised more than £61,560 in 2005. Despite improvement in medical research and treatment, the work among leprosy sufferers is far from over, and they still need practical, social and spiritual support. So please continue to help the appeal by depositing any used stamps at the back of Church. Thank you.

*Vera Wood*

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### ORDINATION

Kathie McAteer (daughter of Gordon and Dorothy Robinson) is to be ordained Deacon on 24th June in St Columb's Cathedral, Derry and will serve her curacy in the parish of Cornwall Union with Gartan in Co. Donegal. She would be very grateful if the parishioners of St James' would remember her in their prayers.

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### CONGRATULATIONS TO

Barbara and David Mercer will be celebrating their 40th Wedding Anniversary on the 4th June.



# Christleton Parish Hall

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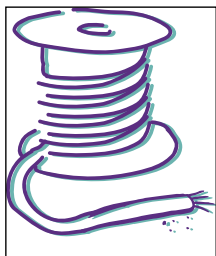
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# Nature Notes

This has unquestionably been one of the best months for the arrival of migrant birds for many years, with the warblers at Hockenhull taking centre stage. The distinctive sound of common whitethroats, sedge & willow warblers, black cap, and chiff chaff have been everywhere, and have been lately joined by the exciting and evocative call of the cuckoo. I was waiting quietly at the Bridges early one morning when a magnificent male cuckoo called from a nearby tree, and to my amazement, a female flew towards him from the opposite direction fluttering her colourful fan like tail, before offering herself to him. These magnificent birds are not easy to spot, looking like black & grey kestrels, and with a slightly longer tail, but they can usually be recognised in early season, as they tend to fly in a low straight line, between perches with the male calling "cuckoo, cuckoo, etc in flight. The female has a strange gurgling call as part of her vocal repertoire, usually when she's laying an egg in some unsuspecting smaller birds nest. It used to be in the nest of reed buntings at Hockenhull, but since these are now rare, I'm not sure what bird's nest they use. It just might be that of a sedge warbler, which are to be found in good numbers

again after disappearing to be" oil seed rape warblers" in other years. I was also fortunate to watch a food pass by a pair of kestrels that morning, with the male flying low towards the nest box, weighted down by carrying a vole in his claws. He perched momentarily on a nearby branch, to present the female with her breakfast, before flying off back over the "big meadow" to continue his hunting. Some early mornings can be just magical at "The Bridges", and these rare sightings were followed by seeing an even rarer woodcock and a redpoll.

The Pit swans haven't yet hatched their cygnets at the time of writing, but the news from the Chester District is quite alarming, with only 7 of 14 regular nest sites occupied, and only 5 unringed swans on the River Dee at the Groves, when there would usually be between 40 - 50 at this time of year. No clear pattern of any problem has yet been established, although there are regular sightings of mink, I doubt if this would account for the loss of adult mature swans. Fleets of mallard ducklings have recently appeared on the canal, with at least three broods of over ten ducklings born on one small stretch of water, yet all with absent fathers, leaving mother duck to cope on her own in each case!!

## A SPANISH EASTER

**E**aster 2006 was very different for us, as we usually are at home and attend about seven services at St James. This one was spent with our elder son and his wife, as a birthday present from them.

High up in El Torcal, the mountain region of Southern Spain that we reached after countless hairpin bends was an isolated small hotel where we stayed for a week. It had a vista of vast mountain ranges and countless olive groves climbing up the hillsides – sheep and goats with their shepherds. Villages we passed on the way were full of flowers, roses, hydrangeas, oranges on the trees lining the roads, and the weather was warm. What a change from leaving our cold climate with no leaves on the trees.

The El Torcal range is composed of very eroded limestone in fantastic shapes and a walk there was more of a scramble – not a level surface anywhere. The Spanish families seem traditionally to spend Good Friday amongst those rocks which are about the height of Ben Nevis.

Everywhere closed down from Maundy Thursday until the following Monday to celebrate Easter. Each village and town had its own procession at different times and the tronos (floats) were lovingly

decorated by the women with masses of fresh flowers, roses, carnations, lilies, and candles. The Virgin Mary statues wore vast mantles of blue velvet elaborately embroidered, except for the one we saw in Cordoba which was white. These floats were prepared and remained in the churches before processing. Most of them needed 50 – 80 bearers to carry them resulting in frequent stops to rest. One couldn't see the people carrying them as they were beneath the statues and closed in with curtains. It must be very claustrophobic. In one of the churches I couldn't believe my eyes when I saw a visitor helping herself to red carnations from one float, putting them in a plastic bag and walking out with her fellow.

We were only able to see one procession and that was on Easter Sunday in Cordoba. We heard the sound of drums and solemn music and hurried to the street where the action was. The many walkers ranged from toddlers to grown ups, and were dressed in long white satin robes with royal blue sashes and tiny blue buttons down the front and on the sleeve cuffs. Their heads were enclosed in tall white Ku Klux Klan-type cones with two slits cut in the cowl for eyes. Their gloved hands were covered in wax drippings from the tall lighted blue candles they used as staffs. Some carried elaborate silver staffs to St. James' Christleton Parish Magazine

bang on the ground as instructions to stop and start, and some bearers of Christ's banners walked barefoot.

It was spectacular to see the swaying tronos. It appeared to be the custom for onlookers to hold out a piece of card or something onto which the candle bearers could drip some wax presumably as blessings.

*A & M Croston*

---

### **Church opposes any move to extend Sunday trading hours**

The Church of England has rejected proposals to extend trading hours for large retail outlets on Sundays. In a response to a Department of Trade and Industry consultation, the Bishop of Southwark, the Rt Revd Tom Butler, pledges that the Church would "resist any further attempts to erode what still exists in legislation to safeguard the special nature of Sunday". The document also questions whether major retailers actually want to extend opening hours, pointing to research revealing little enthusiasm amongst retailers for unrestricted opening hours, and a belief that volumes of trade arising from any additional trading hours may not compensate for the increased costs in doing so. In the submission's conclusion, the Bishop comments: "The costs to work-life balance, family life and stability, health of employees and the contribution of small retailers to community cohesion outweigh any potential benefits of further deregulation."

### **Cathedrals grow in popularity**

More than 1.5 million people were expected to attend Church of England services over the Easter weekend, and statistics from last year suggest that cathedrals are experiencing an increase in the number of people joining worship over the festival. "The significant draw of major festivals is a welcome sign of the wider success of the year-round ministry of cathedrals," said a spokesperson in the Church of England's Research and Statistics department. "We know that many people feel an innate connection with their local cathedral as a symbol of the spiritual life of their community. Cathedrals are increasingly leading that latent spiritual quest into participation in the worshipping community through innovative events and outreach work."

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### **Young men like their home comforts**

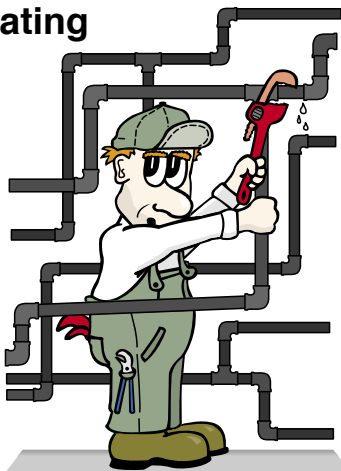
Young men often tend to live at home, while young women move out, according to recent Government figures. An impressive 57% of men in the UK, aged 20 to 24, still live at home. This compares to only 38% of women. But both these figures have increased by six percentage points since 1991. For those aged 25 to 29, the gender differences remain: 23% of men are still living at home compared with only 11% of women.

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E-mail  
keith@hardingk.fsnet.  
co.uk**

# 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 **12 June** with a visit to Mr and Mrs Shillabeer's garden followed by a Pub Supper.

## 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.

## 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. The next meeting will be on 14th June – Birthday Party.

## CHRISTLETON W.I. MONTHLY WHIST DRIVE

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

## MAGAZINE DISTRIBUTORS

**T**he July magazine will be available for collection from Church on **Sunday 25 June**.

# LOCAL EVENTS DIARY

## Christleton Local History Group

**Wednesday June 7th.  
6.30pm**

Historical Walk along the Shropshire Union Canal, through the Old Port & along the banks of the River Dee, using the new river walkway where possible. Meet in the County Hall Car Park near the gateway to St Mary's Church.

Led by David Cummings

**Wednesday 28th June**

Visit to Hardwick Hall & Gardens Derbyshire. (NT)  
Depart Christleton (Church Car Park) at 9.30am  
Further details from David Cummings 332410

**Come and join  
Christleton WI for a  
COFFEE MORNING**

In aid of  
**National Osteoporosis Society**  
The Old Farm, Christleton

**Saturday 3 June**  
**10.00 am to 12 noon**  
Cakes/Raffle/Books/Bring & Buy  
£1.50  
**EVERYONE WELCOME!**

## HOSPICE OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

*(Christleton/Waverton Support Group)*  
*You are invited to join us for*

**STRAWBERRY TEAS BY THE CANAL**

**on Saturday, 10th June  
at Egg Bridge, Waverton. 11am  
to 3pm**

*Tea and scones served from canal boat  
Book, Plant and bris-a-brac stalls.*

## MAGAZINE CONTRIBUTIONS

**P**lease ensure all items for inclusion in the July edition are sent to the Editor, David Bull, The Old Rectory, Plough Lane, as soon as possible **BEFORE Friday 9 June** or you can e-mail this to

**christletonmag@hotmail.co.uk**

# CHRISTLETON RAMBLING GROUPS



## **Tuesday Rambling Group.**

**Tuesday 20th June**

North Wales Coast.

Point of Air RSPB Reserve, Wild Orchids at Gronant, & along the coastal path to Prestatyn. 6 miles [easy]. Picnic needed.

Depart Church Car Park at 9.00am

---

## **Churton / Sibbersfield Ramble**

*second try, hope for no snow!*

A 4 mile flat ramble on well marked paths/tracks/minor roads with views of the Sandstone Ridge and Welsh hills. Meet at 2.0pm in the Church car park Sunday, 25th June. Further details contact Liz McClure 409414

---

## **VETERANS LAPEL BADGE**

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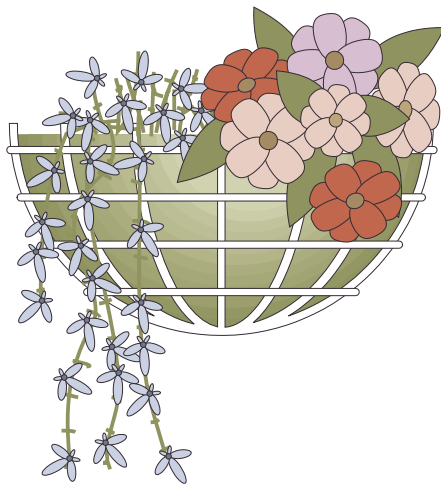
You will receive your badge within a week.

**Its next month!!**

# **Christleton Village Show 2006**

**Saturday 17th July  
In Christleton Parish Hall**

**I**t's nearly here and there is still time to prepare for the occasion in the village when the skills and interests of our village talent can be seen. Your Hanging Baskets should be well on the way to their annual splendour and adding to the overall beauty of our village, anyone in Christleton can join in, and you don't need to be an expert. Schedules are still available from Paul Jackson at the Post



Office so get two (one for your neighbour), choose some categories and start sewing, painting etc. etc or giving much TLC to your plants and flowers - whatever is your thing. It doesn't cost much, is great fun and you could win a trophy – there are lots of them. If you have any queries or if you would like to help on the day (PLEASE) ring any of the committee below.

David or Beryl Cummings - 332410, Janet Brown – 335785.

Charles Smeatham – 335209. Margaret Croston – 335955

Sue Haywood – 01829 741814, Chris Marsland – 335424

June Pearson - 335101, Jane Pickering -, Judith Butt – 335296

Sue Rees; Christine Abrahams; Iris Foster.

# CHRISTLETON VILLAGE 'WILD WEST' FETE SAT 24<sup>TH</sup> JUNE



PARADE LEAVES VILLAGE GREEN - 1.00 PM  
FETE OPENS AT PRIMARY SCHOOL - 1.30 PM

[www.christletonfete.co.uk](http://www.christletonfete.co.uk)

# The WI Mystery



Members of the Christleton WI were delighted to discover that their Mystery Tour on the 10th May was a cruise aboard 'The Jackie' on the River Dee starting from the Groves in Chester. It was a lovely sunny Spring evening. Twenty-two members were wined and dined during the trip

## CONGRATULATIONS TO

John and Janet Milton  
who celebrate their Ruby Wedding  
Anniversary on  
Sunday 18th June

## THANK YOU

Very many thanks for my Retirement  
Gift on completion of 21 years as  
Treasurer to the PCC. It is much  
appreciated and will be well used.

*Cec Rydings.*

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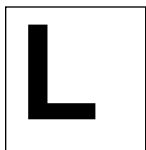
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## PESTS

I was interested to read in the April edition of the Magazine an item about Pests.

May I draw readers' attention to the Pest Control Service offered by the City Council. This deals with all the pests mentioned and what is more the Service is now free to pensioners.

For further information they should ring 402477.

## 24th June

### Midsummer's Day

**A** Canticle for Brother Sun  
Praised be You, My Lord,  
in all Your creatures,  
Especially Sir Brother Sun,  
Who makes the day and  
enlightens us through You.  
He is lovely and radiant and grand;  
And he heralds You, his Most High Lord.

*St Francis of Assisi*

*The tongue must be heavy, indeed,  
because so few people can hold it.*

To forgive is to set the prisoner free and  
then discover the prisoner was you.

*You have to wonder about humans,  
they think God is dead and Elvis is alive!*

You'll notice that a turtle only makes  
progress when it sticks out its neck.

## Alternative Nature Notes

In last months article I told you about the wide variety of wildlife in the Daintree Rain Forest of Northern Queensland. However the largest and most impressive creature is undoubtedly the Estuarine Crocodile. These creatures can be up to seven metres (21feet) long and live in the rivers and estuaries along the coast. They emerge from the waters each day to lounge on sand or mud banks along some of the Daintree creeks, and are one of the areas main tourist attractions.

The species is sometimes known as the "Saltie" or saltwater crocodile but it is equally at home in fresh water. They are opportunistic feeders, taking a variety of prey such as crabs, fish, wallabies, feral

pigs, cats and domestic dogs- and occasionally humans. They often lurk in the shallows near fruit bat (flying foxes) colonies, which are in the mangrove swamps that make up a large part of the estuarine vegetation. They have been known to scavenge carcasses of dead animals and pull them through the forest to their haunts by the river. The aborigine peoples relate many of their legends

to the crocodile, and we heard some of these in a story of "Dreamtime" at an aboriginal cultural evening. The crocodile is said to exist from the age of the dinosaurs, and the species we see today are little changed. There are 13 species worldwide, but the Daintree Croc is one of the largest and most dangerous. No wonder the long beautiful beaches are empty of people, with very obvious signs saying, "Beware of the Crocodiles" Anyone travelling to Australia should also consider visiting The Steve



Irwin Australian Zoo situated on the outskirts of Brisbane, where there are excellent displays of these beautiful creatures, which can increase our knowledge and understanding of the crocodiles in the wild.

*DC*

Further Reference.

Daintree Rain Forest "Jewel of North Queensland" by Lloyd Nielsen

# CHRISTLETON CRICKET CLUB



**H**igh scoring games have been a feature of early games this season. The first team game at Nantwich was cancelled due to a water logged ground. However, a fine win at Oxton saw Darren Cruikshank register his first century for the club. A close game at Neston with 500 runs scored on the day resulted in a narrow defeat. A superb '90 not out' by Captain Jim Gillson just failed to secure a win. Maroof Khan has been in India for two weeks, but returns against Hyde. A full strength Christleton team will be hoping to register another win. The 2nd X1 have had a mixed start with one win and two narrow losses. Several talented young players, namely Andrew Sissons, Chris Hollindale and Ben Turner will return from university soon, adding considerable playing strength, which will particularly benefit the seconds. The 3rd team have only played one match so far resulting in a draw at New Brighton. Christleton Junior section continues to thrive. Three teams play in leagues and new members are welcome.

Friday coaching sessions are for 7 – 11 yrs and Monday coaching sessions 12 – 16 yrs. Contact Richard 332104. Any other enquiries, including hiring the club for functions, contact Brian 332326.

Christleton CC would like to thank the following who have sponsored matches so far this season: Gareth Davies, Bill Malkin, RKQ 82, Mick Rooney, Brian & Hilary Davenport, Towry Law, Walker Smith Way, Kemira Growmore, Health Diagnostics Ltd. We appreciate the support, which helps us maintain the Cricket Club at such a high standard.

---

## Apples

Up at the head table in the cafeteria, one of the nuns had placed a big bowl of bright red, fresh, juicy apples. Beside the bowl, she placed a note which read, "Take only one. Remember, God is watching." At the other end of the table was a bowl full of freshly baked chocolate chip cookies, still warm from the oven. Beside the bowl lay a little note scrawled in a child's handwriting which read, "Take all you want. God is watching the apples."



## ST PETER

One of the first disciples called to follow Jesus was Simon, who together with his brother Andrew was a fisherman when he first met Jesus beside the Sea of Galilee. He was called away from his nets to become a fisher of people for Jesus.

The name 'Peter' is the Greek word for 'rock' (petra) which translates into Aramaic as the nickname Cephas. Jesus called Simon his 'rock' and so we know him as Peter. The Bible shows Peter as the leader of the apostles, chosen by Jesus. We know that his mother-in-law was cured by Jesus and he was sent with John to prepare for the last Passover before Jesus' death. His name is first on every list of apostles.

Peter wasn't perfect – he walked on the water in faith, but sank in doubt (Matthew, chapter 14). He swore at the Last Supper that he would never deny Jesus, and then told servant girl that he never knew the man (Luke, chapter 22). But Jesus said to him "you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church".

## FISHY PUZZLE

All the answers to this Bible quiz are about fish...

1. How many days was Jonah in the belly of the giant fish? (Jonah, chapter 1)
2. How many fish were there to go with the 5 loaves to feed the 5,000? (Mark, chapter 6)
3. Who lit the fire to cook fish and bread for breakfast by the Sea of Tiberias? (John, chapter 21)
4. In the story of creation, on what day were the fish made? (Genesis, chapter 1)
5. What was in the mouth of the fish that Jesus told Peter to go and catch? (Matthew, chapter 17)



**What fish only swims at night?**

A starfish.

**What's the best way to get in touch with a fish?**

Drop it a line.



**What's the difference between a fish and a piano?**

You can't tuna fish.



Answers: 1. three days 2. two fishes  
3. Jesus 4. fifth day 5. a coin

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

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### **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.

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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 April 2006

## Baptisms.

- 23rd Molly Kate Williams daughter of David & Paula Williams  
2 The Pryors, Tarvin, Chester.
- 30th Lynda Claire Disley  
20 Ring Road Great Boughton.
- 30th Amber Lois Katherine Disley daughter of Mark & Lynda Disley  
20 Ring Road, Great Boughton.
- 30th Luke Nicholas Edward Disley son of Mark & Linda Disley  
20 Ring Road, Great Boughton.

*"We welcome you into the Lords Family"*

## Weddings

- 1st. Mark Andrew Underhill 2 Belle View Terrace, Penymynydd Road,  
Penyfordd & Emily Roberta Hogg 7 Badgers Close, Christleton.

*"Those who God has joined together, let not man divide"*

## Funerals

- 19th William Miles Reade, 33 Toll Bar Road, Christleton.
- 20th Rosalind Lucy Williams 25, Greenfield Road, Waverton.
- 24th David Arthur Yorke 1a Sandown Terrace, Boughton, Chester.
- 27th Ruby Isabel Croome Birch Heath Lodge Nursing Home, Christleton.

*" Grant them eternal rest."*

## Offertories.

April.	Cash	CSE	2005	2006
2nd	173.24	578.40	751.64	669.83
9th	244.75	773.70	1018.45	835.66
16th	620.29	938.50	1558.79	856.10
23rd	202.99	587.10	790.09	821.00
30th	300.26	623.50	933.76	647.35
<b>Totals</b>			<b>£5,052.73</b>	<b>£3,829.94</b>

*"Of your own do we give you"*

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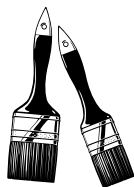
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## PARISH CHURCH OF ST. JAMES, CHRISTLETON

<b>SUNDAYS</b>	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
<b>WEDNESDAYS</b>	10.45 a.m.	Holy Communion	
<b>SAINTS</b>	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion	

### WHO'S WHO & WHAT'S WHAT

**Rector:**                                **The Rev'd Canon K. Peter Lee, M.A.**  
**The Rectory, Birch Heath Lane, Christleton .... 335663**

<b>Wardens:</b>	David Mercer, 13 Bridge Drive, .....	336155
	Lois Dickinson,	
	8 Old Mill Court, Mill Lane, Upton.....	378320
<b>Reader</b>	Wayne Morris.....	01978 263389
<b>Reader Emeritus</b>	John Roberts, Cerisy, Birch Heath Lane.....	332207
<b>Verger</b>	David Ellis .....	336879
<b>Sacristan:</b>	Betty Dunning .....	335652
Sunday School:	Berenice Hogg.....	336779
Mother's Union Branch Leader	Margaret Renner ... ..	332005
Organist & Musical Director:	Steve Roberts .....	815277
P. C. C. Secretary:	Brenda Bailey .....	335034
P. C. C. Treasurer:	David Mercer .....	336155
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Gift Aid Secretary	Martin Wheeler.....	336644
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Visiting Group:	Gill Hibbert.....	336544
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Magazine Distributor	Pat Nilssen .....	336013
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Parish Resource Person for		
Child Protection	Susan Alexander .....	335077

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