

St. James' Christleton

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Parish Magazine
MARCH 2005

30p

Mark In March

Wed	2	10.45 am	United Communion - followed by refreshments
		11.30 am	Lent Lunch for CMS – Parish Hall
		7.45 pm	United Lent Programme: Methodist Church “My Faith and Education” - The Rev'd Frank Earle
Thur	3	4.00 pm	Charity Organ Tour Recital by Stuart Wilks
Fri	4		WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER
		10.30 am	St Andrews United Reform Church
		7.30 pm	Christleton Methodist Church
Sun	6		The Fourth Sunday of Lent – Mothering Sunday
		8.00 am	Holy Communion - Order 2
		10.45 am	Mothering Sunday Family Service with flowers for children to give to their mothers
		6.00 pm	The Crew Youth Group
		6.30 pm	Reflective Worship for Lent: Reflections on Dietrich Bonhoeffer Prayer Link Road: Rowan Park Neighbourhood Link: Edie Haywood
Mon	7	10.45 am	Holy Communion at Tarvin Court Nursing Home
		11.30 am	Holy Communion at Oaklands Nursing Home
		2.00 pm	PCC Standing Committee - Rectory
		7.30 pm	Churches Together in Chester AGM - Hoole Lighthouse Centre
Wed	9	10.45 am	Holy Communion - followed by refreshments
		11.30 am	Holy Communion at Birch Heath Lodge Nursing Home
		7.45 pm	United Lent Programme: Methodist Church “My Faith and Ethical Issues.” - David Bowden
Fri	11		NB: Last date for contributions for April Parish Magazine, preferably earlier, to David Bull (332234).
Sat	12	7.00 pm	David Cummings Charity Talk - Parish Hall
Sun	13		PASSION SUNDAY
		8.00 am	Holy Communion - Order 1
		10.30 am	Sunday School - Parish Hall
		10.45 am	Parish Communion - Order 1
		1.30 pm	Church Ramble leaves car park for Frith Valley
		6.30 pm	Reflective Worship for Lent: World Wide Worship Prayer Link Road: Rowton Lane Neighbourhood Link: Karen Smalls

Mon	14	2.00 pm	Passiontide Meditation Child Protection Meeting - Parish Hall
Tues	15		Mothers' Union Wave of Prayer
Wed	16	10.45 am 7.45 pm	Holy Communion - followed by refreshments United Lent Programme - Methodist Church "My Faith and Theology" - Dr Wayne Morris
Sun	20		PALM SUNDAY
		8.00 am	Holy Communion - Order 1
		10.45 am	Parish Communion - Order 1
		6.00 pm	The Crew Youth Group - Parish Hall
		6.30 pm	Holy Week Devotion in Words and Music Prayer Link Road: Rowton Bridge Road Neighbourhood Link: Angela Haswell
Mon	21	7.45 pm	Compline and Meditation
Tues	22	8.00 am 7.45 pm	Parish Ramble Group leaves car park for Derbyshire Compline and Meditation
Wed	23	10.45 am 7.45 pm	Holy Communion - followed by refreshments Compline and Meditation
Thur	24	7.45 pm	Maundy Thursday United Communion
Fri	25		GOOD FRIDAY
		10.45 am	Family Service
		2.00 pm	One Hour Devotion
		7.30 pm	United Service - Cathedral
Sat	26		HOLY SATURDAY
		6.30 pm	Easter Vigil
Sun	27		EASTER DAY
		8.00 am	Holy communion - Order 2
		10.45 am	Family Communion
		6.30 pm	Festal Evensong Prayer Link Road: Sandrock Road Neighbourhood Link: Margaret Wheeler

The Rector's Letter

Dear Friends

Finding the Spring

In his book "A Season for the Spirit" Martin Smith tells the story of how, in the last months of his schooldays, he followed up his interest in local history, by investigating the therapeutic wells and springs of Worcestershire. One day he decided to see if he could find a holy spring, which an Edwardian expedition had failed to locate. In the Middle Ages pilgrims, with eye diseases, had gone there to seek healing. He spent hours probing and searching the fields where tradition located the spring. Then he noticed cows standing in a stinking mud patch, and having moved them away, he probed with his spade. Eventually his spade grated on stone, and he uncovered a carved platform with a wooden pipe. Pure water flowed out in a steady stream. He had found the spring: the place of pilgrimage and healing. The fastidious Edwardian seekers had failed to find the spring, because they hurried past the stinking mud patch, the huddled beasts and the swarming flies. So, Mark Smith points out, we pass over the place of the spirit's indwelling, that "unpromising and murky place of our own guts ... and look in vain for the spirit in the cleaner world of thought and piety." Jesus said: "the water I give, will become an inner spring of water, welling up to eternal life."

Sadly, so far this year, there seems to have been serious illness in so many parishioners and friends, and a continuous procession of funerals. It is certainly not a situation anyone would seek. Yet it is a very humbling experience, and I consider it to be one of the greatest privileges of being a priest, to share with family and friends in these times of deep emotion. As people share life stories with me, I am constantly surprised and humbled, by the depth of spiritual experience they reveal to me. It is often from the experiences we least seek in life that we learn the most. This was reflected very much in Dr Liz McClure's talk on 'My Faith and Medical Experience', in our United Lent Series. (No doubt it will in others as well, but I have not heard them yet!)

Where is God when we are faced with personal tragedies or disasters such as the Tsunami, or the hate and violence in Iraq? Why does God allow this? I do not know, and I try to avoid any easy platitudes. But I can say that the Cross is at the heart of our faith. We do not believe in a god who is remote and unconcerned, nor one who is to be found in some philosophical escape from the realities of the world. We believe in God who became man in Jesus Christ, to share our life, our suffering and even our death. As we come through

Lent to Holy Week and Easter, we follow God's only Son, who alone lived a perfect life, as he steadfastly follows the path of suffering to Jerusalem and the Cross. Like the therapeutic wells of Worcestershire, our faith and spiritual strength, is to be found in the blood and the sweat, the pain and the tears of life. For it is there that we find Jesus sharing, and somehow transforming and redeeming that situation, by his self-giving love. And as we share the human experience of that self-giving love, and plumb its depths, perhaps it is there too, that we uncover the inner spring welling up for eternal life.

When I was a young, and very green, Curate a man came up to me and asked me to explain exactly what would happen to him in the first twenty minutes after he died. I struggled to answer in a way which was honest both to intellectual integrity and personal faith. 2 weeks later I took that man's funeral. I remember wishing him to come back and give me the answer to his question himself. We shall not finally know that answer till we ourselves die. (What the Theologians call 'eschatological verification'!) But, until then, it is my personal experience, and that of so many who have told me their story, that there, in the abandonment of self, to the blood and sweat, the pain and tears, as well as the joy and fulfilment, of the reality of life, that we find that spring welling up for eternal life. For Jesus also came to break the power of death by that transforming, self-giving love, which triumphed on the Cross, and rose as the new dawn of Easter Day. For "Easter is the Springtime of the soul", and "It is always Springtime in the heart that loves God".

Yours sincerely

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

Prayer of the Month: (Martin Smith)

Spring of life, I can only truly surrender to you if I recognise that you flow in me. If I call upon you from afar, or worship you at a distance, I am still evading the terrible and wonderful truth, that you have made your home within my depths. I need to learn from the first page of Scripture that you belong over the face of the waters of chaos, that you are the shaper, the reconciler, the healer, the consecrator through grace, of the forces of our nature. I need to dare to worship and love you where you are – in my self, that is (if I am true to the words of Christ) in my gut, in my womb. Give me the courage today, not to look up to you but to look steadily within myself, and adore you there, supremely at home where there is so much brokenness. Amen.

COVER PICTURE.

A detail from the Millennium Window in the Lady Chapel at St. James' which was dedicated during the Village United Service on 5th January, 2003. The Rector's Letter that month said "To dedicate the Millennium Window means to set it aside for the glory of God, in its own particular place, within the setting of our Parish Church of St James. It is, in itself, an illustration of the dedication of so many lives throughout the last millennium. The different figures are representative of the people of Christleton over 1,000 years, who responded to Christ's invitation: "Come unto me", and found in that response both comfort and conviction".

THE LEPROSY MISSION

Many thanks to all those who supported the Society locally by collecting and leaving used stamps at the back of church. The Society celebrated its twenty first anniversary of stamp collecting this year, and express their grateful thanks to all their loyal supporters, who have helped raise the magnificent total of £53,300- 22p by their efforts. Donations of used stamps on

paper are always needed, and are a valuable source of revenue for the Society, so please help if you can by ensuring stamps are trimmed from letters with a maximum of 5mm(1/4inch) single thickness paper border around each edge. A smaller border is acceptable, but please do not trim them so close that the perforations are damaged as this renders the stamps worthless.

Vera Wood.

PARISH GROUPS

St James' is a thriving, lively Church with a friendly congregation and is at the hub of many and varied activities within the Parish. Most of these are mentioned somewhere in the Magazine, and some are regularly reported in detail. Others, perhaps more "behind the scenes" activities however, do not get the same publicity, so that newcomers (and sometimes even "old comers") may not be aware of all that goes on. Perhaps this magazine is the appropriate arena to give a fuller picture, so we hope to have a series of articles describing some of the regular Parish activities. Last month Andy Putt contributed a

first article about the Crew Youth group and this month we have this article about the Visitors' Group.

VISITING GROUP

The principle function of this group is to try to keep in touch with previously regular churchgoers who for some reason find they are unable to continue to attend as regularly as they would wish. Since most of these parishioners are house-bound the main task of the group members is to undertake regular visits, but they often find they are able to be helpful in other ways as well, and friendships are made/cemented.

The group meets informally, about four times a year, for the purposes of co-ordination, feedback and support. It is of course not always possible for all the visitors to come to this meeting but they are usually able to make prior contact, so the meeting acts as an extremely useful means of keeping up to date with the needs of parishioners. At the same time it gives the visitors themselves an opportunity to get together over 'a cuppa'. We are also aware that many people keep

'informal' contacts with others, but it helps us to know about these, so we can concentrate on those who are not otherwise covered. If you would like to help in this group please contact Gill Hibbert on 336544

CHESTER CATHEDRAL PILGRIM DAYS

This year this event will be from Monday 26 September – Saturday 1 October excluding Thursday 29 September, as usual. Education Officer Judy Davies is looking for more helpers. Helpers welcome the children, take mobile workshops around the Cathedral, help in or lead one workshop, man the information desk. This is very interesting and rewarding work. If you are interested please contact Judy for more information on Chester 324756 or Fax 01244-341110 or E-mail: davies@chestercathedral.org.uk.

LIFE IN CHRISTLETON

100 YEARS AGO

Find social history fascinating, and a study of the Parish Magazine for January/February 1905 provides a wonderful example of the way the people of Christleton led their lives, well before the era of mass entertainment, TV, Film and Video Games. Reprinted below are extracts from the Parish Magazines of January/February 1905. The magazine was written and compiled by the Rector, Canon Lionel Garnett.

Fire. 7th Dec

A serious fire occurred in the kitchen of Garden Lodge, Littleton Hall. The family escaped through a window, thanks to the prompt assistance of neighbours, who also succoured the homeless family, so effectively so that they came to no harm. The fire was extinguished before the Chester engine arrived. (This would have been horse drawn, and there was probably no telephone available to call it up!)

Lecture

A very interesting Lecture was given at the Institute, by Mr Angus

Tulloch of Newbold. The subject, "Some scenes in Switzerland and Italy," was illustrated by beautifully taken lantern pictures. Much useful information was given about glaciers and the wonderful city of Venice.

A hearty vote of thanks was given, with the hope that bye and bye he will come again.

Closure of the old shop

I feel sorry to see that the old shop, (at the corner of Windmill Lane and Pepper Street) so familiar a feature in our village is being transferred. There is a great sentiment about it, for it has been the village shop for over 100years. We shall be sorry to see it pulled down, and a new dwelling place built in its place, but the Chapel House adjoining will provide better accommodation. It is I believe one of the oldest houses in the village.

(This building remained until the 1970's, but the Methodists who had previously used the upstairs room as a chapel had already moved out in 1888, to their present building in Little Heath Road.)

Christmas Dance

The Christmas Dance on Monday Dec 26th, was very much enjoyed. Everything seems to have gone as smoothly as the dancer's feet on the polished floor. Great credit is due to the committee who carried out the arrangements. Parish Tea Parties.

The Parish Tea, on Monday 2nd January, reminded me of the old times when this was the most popular of all our entertainments. With the platform up we had just comfortable accommodation for our company, which was augmented after tea, so that the room was quite full when the curtain went up at 7.30pm

I do not remember an entertainment, which pleased me more. In the first part the singing of the Masked Minstrels, conducted by Mrs Reginald Potts, was a novelty which gained great applause, as did the fun provided by Messrs. Temple and Day, while we welcomed the old friends with equal cordiality. Mr Earlam's (The Headteacher) topical song caused great laughter, while Mrs James Fleet (The Blacksmiths wife) showed that she can still sing as well as ever, though she brought a big son to play the violin.

March, 2005

In part II we had the principal thing; a most amusing play called "Freezing a Mother in Law"; performed with exceptional ability by Mr E S Giles, Mr Noel Ealand, Mr R Williams, with Miss Hilda Rolt and Miss Ellis Duke. It was the best of its kind that we have seen in Christleton.

On the following Wednesday, January 4th, the Sunday Scholars were entertained at Tea; after which there was a noble Christmas Tree with gifts for the children. Mr S Dobie of Heathfield Gardens presented the tree. Mr Townsend Currie sent from London a lot of beautiful toys; Mrs Fleming sweets, Mr Towers oranges; Mrs T Johnson cakes; Mrs Millward bags of sweets and oranges; Mr H Martin, nuts and oranges; while others helped with gifts of money. It seemed to me that the children enjoyed themselves.

The Institute Supper took place on Tuesday 17th January at 7.30pm. Thanks to the excellent arrangements everything went most successfully. The company numbered about fifty, and kept the ball rolling until nearly 12 o

continued overleaf

clock.

Offertories for February.

Church Expenses	£4.17.11d
For the Poor	18.5d
UMCA	8s.6d
S.P.G	7s.0d
Thank Offerings	6s.0d
Total	£6.17s10d

The pattern of church services is also fascinating;

There were services at 8.0am on the 6th, 8th, 22nd, 25th and 29th , at 10.45am on the 1st & 15th, and at 6.30pm on the 29th, when the above offerings were collected. Baptisms on the 1st and 8th were followed by a wedding on the 26th. There was also the funeral of a young man Thomas Baker on Sunday 15th, when over eighty of his friends and fellow workmen attended. Canon Garnett writes we lose a young man of good character, highly esteemed. He had a sudden illness of two to three days, and had died at the Infirmary after an operation.

David Cummings

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

This will be held in the Parish Hall on Monday 18 April at 7.45 pm. All parishioners will be very welcome – the meeting will be followed by cheese and wine. There will be election of Church Wardens, five representatives to the PCC for a three year period and any mid-term vacancies. Also four representatives to the Deanery Synod for a period of three years. To be elected to the PCC a lay person must have been on the Electoral Roll for at least 6 months.

THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY

Thanks, once again!

The Children's Society has thanked us for our generous gift of £640.48 raised at the Christingle Service held in January. They say:

“Our important work with over 50,000 children throughout the country could not continue without your generous contribution.

Your valuable support helps children whose needs may be
Christleton Parish Magazine

ignored and overlooked by other services and enables them to deal with life's harshest challenges, to develop their own self-belief, and to face the future with confidence.

Sally, a former run away who was kept out of jail through the support of the Children's Society, would like to express her thanks:

It meant so much to know that there was someone I could talk to whenever I needed to. I can now spend Christmas with my family. I'm back on my feet again and have been given a second chance by the Children's Society and I'm not going to waste it. You can be sure of that".

Lesley Morgan.

LENT LUNCH FOR CMS

This year's Lent Lunch is in the Parish Hall on

Wednesday 9th March
between
11.45 am – 1.15 pm

£2.50 pay on door. Raffle
All welcome.

BIBLE MATTERS

In the February edition of the Parish Magazine there was a challenging poem entitled "My Bible".

I know from personal experience how valuable systematic Bible study is and had to agree with the sentiments expressed in the poem. The Church Library has a number of books on effective Bible Study, and also contains the complete Bible on tape for those who prefer to listen. There are also, of course, several types of Bible study notes available from Christian bookshops, and we have recently had Church Bible Studies – on Ruth and Amos – and no doubt will have more. All of these resources help us to get to grips with this "crown of writings", the study of which can be a life changing experience.

It would be a pleasure to advise anyone or obtain material for them, should they so wish.

Margaret Bass.

ON MINORITY

“Have you ever thought what it’s like to be a Christian living in Israel?” So the Vicar of Nazareth greeted a group of us visiting the Holy Land in 1993. He was not referring to racial or political tension, contrasts of poverty and wealth, nor even having a witness about acts of violence – more to being a member of a minority faith group in that country. And the country where Jesus Christ was born!

Brought up as a Quaker when the Society of Friends had but 20,000 members in Great Britain and now an Anglican, while in many areas church attendance and active membership is in decline, I can empathise with our friend in Nazareth. Yet that minister was not complaining, he was not seeking our sympathy, rather he was emphasising the exciting privilege that God had given him.

Taking us across the courtyard to the Church of England school attended by pupils of varying faiths, he did not need to say any more. There, in a school at the heart of Galilean Biblical history, the purposes

of Christian witness were clear.

During the last two years of violence in Iraq, the number of Christian churchgoers there has more than halved, and they were in a substantial minority before. Moreover, as I saw in Poland in 1959, it had been difficult for worshippers even to get to church without being watched or listed for adverse political reasons.

Of course, as I scurry to church past the majority of houses having no regular contact with Christian worship, I sometimes dream how nice it would be if more of my friends and neighbours attended church. I can even remember the days when they did.

It is so easy for the word “minority” to be associated primarily with ‘race’, ‘immigration’, or political and social unrest. Yet we are all members of minorities in one way or another. How many of us are stamp-collectors, embroiderers, or even cake-makers these days? There is no fear of intimidation from having a harmless minority hobby or interest.

Until that day, if it ever returns, when most of us again attend church, synagogue, or temple,

let us have courage in our numerical minority. Let us grow in respect for those faiths and racial groups who remain small in numbers in whichever nation or society they reside, whether in peaceful locations or threatening.

Our smallness is easy. Just think of Jewish refugees entering Britain in 1938 safe yes but without possessions, little English, and brothers and sisters often separated in different families up and down the country. After the Tsunami on Boxing Day, we have prayed with all our hearts for those who perished, but how does a surviving little girl cope with all her parents, sisters, brothers, and closest friends dead?

THAT is minority.
John Carruthers.

Musings on daily life

A day without sunshine is like, well, night.

I have kleptomania, but when it gets bad, I take something for it.

I am in shape. Round is a shape.

I plan on living forever. So far, so good.

I am having an out of money experience.

The Cross

*For me he hanged, for me he
wore the crown,
Beneath the darkened sky black
lay the town;
For me he drooped, was
pierced, was taken down.*

*His body women-tended gentle
Bride
The head thorn red-scarred and
lance-pierced the side
Washed for the garden-sepul-
chre to bide.*

*For the three days within the
tomb he lay
Till rose the sun and danced
with joyful ray
O'er mountains and the hills and
far away,
On Crucifying Sunday, Easter
Day.*

*O Cross of Christ, thou are my
mighty shield,
Beneath thy shade my sins and
wounds are healed,
The door to life is from the tomb
unsealed.*

*From Poems of the Western
Highlanders*



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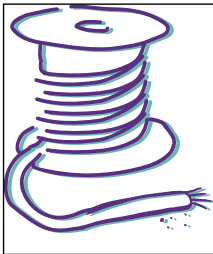
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AN INTERESTING COMMENTARY ON IRAQ

1. The garden of Eden was in Iraq.
2. Mesopotamia, which is now Iraq, was the cradle of civilization!
3. Noah built the ark in Iraq.
4. The Tower of Babel was in Iraq.
5. Abraham was from Ur, which is in Southern Iraq!
6. Isaac's wife Rebekah is from Nahor, which is in Iraq.
7. Jacob met Rachel in Iraq.
8. Jonah preached in Nineveh – which is in Iraq.
9. Assyria, which is in Iraq, conquered the ten tribes of Israel.
10. Amos cried out in Iraq!
11. Babylon, which is in Iraq, destroyed Jerusalem.
12. Daniel was in the lion's den in Iraq!
13. The three Hebrew children were in the fire in Iraq (Jesus had been in Iraq also as the fourth person in the fiery furnace!)
14. Belshazzar, the King of Babylon saw the "writing on the wall" in Iraq.
15. Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon, carried the Jews captive into Iraq.
16. Ezekiel preached in Iraq.
17. The wise men were from Iraq.
18. Peter preached in Iraq.
19. The "Empire of Man" described in Revelation is called Babylon, which was a city in Iraq!

And you have probably seen this one. Israel is the nation most often mentioned in the Bible. But do you

know which nation is second? It is Iraq! However, that is not the name that is used in the Bible. The names used in the Bible are Babylon, Land of Shinar, and Mesopotamia. The word Mesopotamia means between the two rivers, more exactly between the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers. The name Iraq means country with deep roots.

Indeed Iraq is a country with deep roots and is a very significant country in the Bible.

No other nation, except Israel, has more history and prophecy associated with it than Iraq.

And also This is something to think about! Since America is typically represented by an eagle. Saddam should have read up on his Muslim passages.

The following verse is from the Koran (note the verse number!)

Koran (9:11) – For it is written that a son of Arabia would awaken a fearsome Eagle. The wrath of the Eagle would be felt throughout the lands of Allah and lo, while some of the people trembled in despair still more rejoiced: for the wrath of the Eagle cleansed the lands of Allah: and there was peace.

ENDING THE SILENCE

Further to my recent article on Domestic Violence you will be interested to know that the Chester Deanery has become involved in an ecumenically backed project named “Ending the Silence” which is funded by “Opportunities for Volunteering” through the Department of Health and Churches Together England. Jo Pemberton has been appointed as Domestic Violence Project Worker and she has written to describe her plans.

“I hope to work with parish groups to offer training and support developing a network of volunteers to forward this important work, to tackle domestic violence with Christian compassion and responsibility. The project aims to ultimately provide a genuine commitment to engage, improve prevention, protect and providing solutions to Domestic Violence within a visionary church environment. “Ending the Silence” aims to recruit, train and deploy church volunteers to raise awareness of DV at local level and provide support for families. Ultimately, this will be delivered using a

resource pack for parishes developed in partnership with survivors and volunteers.

- Raise awareness of the issue of Domestic Violence at a local level
- Provide support for victims & survivors of DV
- Resource local churches to be more effective in their response to DV
- Develop Partnerships and strengthen links between churches, agencies and groups within the community

I do not intend to duplicate existing provision, but intend to strengthen the churches’ contribution, to work in co-ordinated and creative way to develop ways of improving the health of women and their children.”

Jo can be contacted either by telephone Mob 0783 482 9074 or E mail jo.pemberton@anglican.chester.org

Liz Evans

NATURE NEWS

A number of friends have commented on how few small birds they have seen in the village recently, except for the huge flocks of field fare and redwing. My local records also show a gradual decline in both species and numbers, and my checklist for the Big Garden bird watch was embarrassing. However I am delighted to report that one species on the increase at long last is the song thrush, as I have recorded at least six males singing for territory on recent walks. I remember Frank Poston saying to me in the 1980's, "David where have all the throistles gone" as they were in deep decline then. However he would be pleased to learn that there are two singing males in the churchyard at St James'. I recently came across my wildlife diary for early 1985 and am amazed by the richness of the bird life seen then, compared with today. 3/1/85 An exhausted gannet was found on the canal bank at Christleton. 3 curlew, 5 snipe flew over Hockenhull Platts. A lesser spotted woodpecker was also seen at the Bridges, with a kingfisher, 3 tufted duck and

a common sandpiper on the R Gowy. Flocks of yellowhammer, a pair of grey wagtails, marsh tit and a stonechat were also seen on the reserve. 1000+ lapwing and 50+ golden plover were on fields at Cotton Farm. 60+ snipe near Dolly Peg Hall, and others were flushed up from almost every field. 400 fieldfare & redwing in two main flocks feeding on the hawthorn near the canal at Christleton. There were large groups of great and blue tits in the village, together with both greater spotted and green woodpeckers in Quarry Lane. A tawny owl hooted from the trees in the Primary School grounds, a barn owl was seen flying towards Bridge Drive and two little owls were seen at Rowton. A woodcock was seen in Plough Lane, and blackcap, bullfinch, dunnock were seen in the hedgerows. There were also a pair of dabchicks (little grebes) on The Pit.

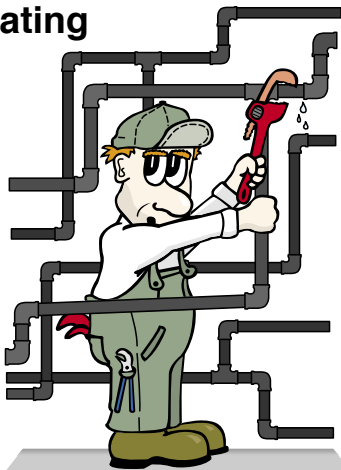
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LOCAL EVENTS DIARY

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, 375076.
All very welcome.

CHRISTLETON W.I.

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 9th March

'Easter Makings'

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.

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
C h e s t e r 3 4 6 4 9 7 .

MAGAZINE CONTRIBUTIONS

Please ensure all items for inclusion in the **April** edition are sent to the Editor, David Bull, The Old Rectory, Plough Lane, as soon as possible **BEFORE** Friday 11 March.



LOCAL EVENTS DIARY

CHRISTLETON GARDENING CLUB

The next meeting will take place on 14 March when Mrs Joyce Johnson will speak on "Plant hunting in SW China"

CHARITY TALK IN THE PARISH HALL

on

Saturday 12th March. 7.00pm

CHRISTLETON W.I. MONTHLY WHIST DRIVE

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

Please note the March Whist Drive has been cancelled

David Cummings presents Islands of Flowers. A travelogue visiting the beautiful islands of Samos, Ikaria, Maderia, Capri and Ischia Tickets £6, which includes a buffet and a glass of wine. Proceeds towards purchasing trees to plant in the village.

Mothers' Union

Liz Evans was our scheduled speaker on Monday 14th February. Throughout the year we are hoping to have talks by: David Cummings, Margaret Bass and Peris Williams. On March 14th we will be holding our Lenten Quiet Hour in Church at 2pm and our Wave of Prayer is scheduled for Tuesday 15th March.

MAGAZINE DISTRIBUTORS

The March magazine will be available for collection from Church on Sunday 27 March 2005.



**Parish Rambling
(Tuesday) Group**

Tuesday 22nd March

Peak District. Bakewell, Chatsworth & River Wye. 8 miles moderate. Leave Church Car Park at 7.30am. Pub meal in Derbyshire. This walk is mainly in the grounds and surroundings of Chatsworth House. There should be lots of wildlife to see, and spectacular views. Leader; David Cummings Tel.332410

CHRISTLETON LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

At Christleton Primary School Wednesday March 23rd. 7.30pm An evening of nostalgia with Les George, Canon Lawrie Skipper and friends. Host; David Cummings. You are invited to join an informal evening, meeting up with two of the main people responsible for the growth and success of the village in the late 1950's and 60's, through their work with young people, the church and with The Christleton Players. I hope we will be joined by other friends for this special occasion, which is bound to be interesting and memorable. Admission; £2.00, which includes a glass of wine and light refreshments.

**Barrow & Littleton
Twinning Association**

Annual Meeting & Dinner Join us on Friday, 11 March 2005 at 7.30p.m. in Barrow Village Hall Tickets £10, to include glass of wine on arrival. Bookings by 7 March, please, to:- Ann Faulkner: 01829 740242 or Rosie Ely: 01244 335563

GLENTHORNE RAMBLING FELLOWSHIP

Weekend June 10-12th, 2005

Mid payment is now due and I shall need to send this early March. Please let Liz McClure (409414, 135 Queens Rd, Vicars Cross, Chester CH3 5HF) have £30 per person ASAP. Tell all your friends we have a twin room (optional extra bed settee) still available for late bookers.



Make a note in your diary

Christleton Village Show

**Is on Saturday 9th. July
In Christleton Parish Hall**

This annual event is the main occasion in the village when the skills and abilities in our village community can be seen and appreciated. As in previous years we've listened to comments made after last years show and made changes to reflect changing interests so there are some new categories as well as the old favourites.

Hanging Baskets is once again on the list and anyone in Christleton can join in, and you don't need to be an expert. The theme this year is "**SPORT**" and the Theme Trophy will go to the exhibit(s) which best portray this. There are a number of items on the schedule which are marked *** signifying the Sport theme.

Schedules will be available from Paul Jackson at the Post Office after Easter so get a schedule, choose some categories and start planting, sewing, painting etc. etc. 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 – 33542
June Pearson - 335101, Judith Butt – 335296
Iris Foster, Sue Rees.



CHRISTLETON WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

PROGRAMME 2005

9 March	-	"Easter Makings"
13 April	-	"Resuscitation" - St John's Ambulance
11 May	-	"The Story of Lace" – Sue Wilson
8 June	-	Birthday Party
13 July	-	To be arranged
14 September	-	Members' Night
12 October	-	"History of Chester Zoo"
9 November	-	"Liverpool – City of Culture" – Stephen Guy
		Annual General Meeting
14 December	-	Christmas Meeting

CHRISTLETON WEDNESDAY GROUP

Invites you to a
SOUP & SWEET SPRING
LUNCH

At Christleton Parish Hall on
Wednesday 9 March 2005
12.00 noon – 2.00pm
in aid of local MS Support
Group

Cost: £6 per person [includes
glass of wine]

Tickets available from any
member

Frith Valley Ramble

4-5 miles of exploration in rather untamed countryside, starting underneath Frith viaduct, ridiculously unspoilt and teeming with little birds, hopefully also spring flowers as we come into March. Shetland ponies, sheep (hopefully lambs), a fair amount of mud and much much more! Reminds Ron of Cold Comfort Farm by Stella Gibbons. Best to wear stout footwear, as a bit muddy but no serious gradients. More information – Ron or Liz McClure – 01244 – 409414 meet in church car park 1.30 pm.

POVERTY HASN'T GONE AWAY

Two reports published recently, comparing poverty-related social ills a century ago with the situation today, indicate that social deprivation is still unacceptably prevalent in Britain.

One, from the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, acknowledges that today's 'poverty line' of 60 per cent of median household income is much higher (in simple terms of purchasing power) than the measure used by Seeborn Rowntree in 1899 (which was based on the minimal cost of food and housing). But if one measures by average current earnings, the picture is depressingly similar.

The biggest single group living in poverty is those households with a working adult on a low or irregular wage, but there are now fewer households in this category (down from 55 per cent to 31 per cent). On the other hand, the number of main wage earners out of work in this sector has risen from two to nine per cent. And although illness or old age as a key cause of poverty among wage earners was just two per cent a century ago, the figure now is 26 per cent.

The poor families interviewed by Rowntree a century ago were all
March, 2005

tenants, whereas today only 25 per cent of British households are renting. Now many poor households are owner-occupiers with a large mortgage, not benefiting from subsidised 'social housing' rents. Progress is being made, but increasingly polarised pay-scales in an ever more cut-throat global economy threaten to undermine short-term successes. An ageing population could require more social spending, leading to tax increases and thus reducing the political will to fund anti-poverty policies.

The other report, commissioned by Barnardo's to mark the centenary of Dr Barnardo's death, finds that while 600,000 children have been lifted out of poverty since 1999, three and a half million are still classed as living in poverty – now assessed by a complex formula based on household income and what an average home contains (appliances, car, TV etc). Infant mortality is still 70 per cent higher in low-income areas than in more affluent places.

As Dr Barnardo said to his wife as he lay dying in 1905, "there is still much to do."

The Month of March, 2005

1 St David's Day

1 March is St David's Day, and it's time for the Welsh to wear daffodils or leeks. Shakespeare called this custom 'an honourable tradition begun upon an honourable request' - but nobody knows the reason. Why should anyone have ever 'requested' that the Welsh wear leeks or daffodils to honour their patron saint? It's a mystery!

We do know that David - or Dafydd - of Pembrokeshire was a monk and bishop of the 6th century. In the 12th century he was made patron of Wales, and he has the honour of being the only Welsh saint to be canonised and culted in the Western Church. Tradition has it that he was austere with himself, and generous with others - living on water and vegetables (leeks, perhaps?!) and devoting himself to works of mercy. He was much loved.

In art, St David is usually depicted in Episcopal vestments, standing on a mound with a dove at his shoulder, in memory of his share at an important Synod for the Welsh Church, the Synod of Brevi.

* *

6 Mothering Sunday

There is an old Jewish saying:

God could not be everywhere,

and therefore He made mothers.

Mother Church, Mother Earth, Mother of the Gods - our human mothers - all of them have been part of the celebration of 'Mothering Sunday' - as the fourth Sunday in Lent is affectionately known.

In Roman times, great festivals were held every Spring to honour Cybele, Mother of all the Gods. Other pagan festivals in honour of Mother Earth were also celebrated. With the arrival of Christianity, the festival became honouring Mother Church.

During the Middle Ages, young people apprenticed to craftsmen or working as 'live-in' servants were allowed only one holiday a year on which to visit their families - which is how 'Mothering Sunday' got its name. This special day became a day of family rejoicing, and the Lenten fast was broken. In some places the day was called Simnel Day, because of the sweet cakes called simnel cakes traditionally eaten on that day.

17 St Patrick's Day

Everyone has heard of St Patrick - the patron saint of Ireland. If you've ever been in New York on St Patrick's Day, you'd think he was the patron saint of New York as well... the vast, flamboyant parade is full of American/Irish razzmatazz.

It's all a far cry from the hard life of this 5th century humble Christian
Christleton Parish Magazine

who became in time both bishop and apostle of Ireland. Patrick was born the son of a town councillor in the west of England, between the mouth of the Severn and the Clyde. But as a young man he was captured by Irish pirates, kidnapped to Ireland, and reduced to slavery. He was made to tend his master's herds.

Desolate and despairing, Patrick turned to prayer. He found God was there for him, even in such desperate circumstances. He spent much time in prayer, and his faith grew and deepened, in contrast to his earlier years, when he "knew not the true God".

Then, after six gruelling, lonely years he was told in a dream he would soon go to his own country. He either escaped or was freed, made his way to a port 200 miles away and eventually persuaded some sailors to take him with them away from Ireland.

After various adventures in other lands, including near-starvation, Patrick landed on English soil at last, and returned to his family. But he was much changed. He had enjoyed his life of plenty before; now he wanted to devote the rest of his life to Christ. Patrick received some form of training for the priesthood, but not the higher education he really wanted.

But by 435, well educated or not, Patrick was badly needed. Palladius' March, 2005

mission to the Irish had failed, and so the Pope sent Patrick back to the land of his slavery. He set up his see at Armagh, and worked principally in the north. He urged the Irish to greater spirituality, set up a school, and made several missionary journeys.

Patrick's writings are the first literature certainly identified from the British Church. They reveal sincere simplicity and a deep pastoral care. He wanted to abolish paganism, idolatry, and was ready for imprisonment or death in the following of Christ.

Patrick remains the most popular of the Irish saints. The principal cathedral of New York is dedicated to him, as, of course, is the Anglican cathedral of Dublin..

20 Holy Week begins

This year, Easter Day falls on 27 March. The week leading up to it, which begins with Palm Sunday on 20 March, is very special in the church year, and is known as Holy Week.

Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday, the day when the Church remembers the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem. The gospels tell us that He had gone up to Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover, and that when He entered the city, the crowds gave him a rapturous welcome, throwing palm fronds into his path. On this day churches worldwide will distribute little crosses

made from palm fronds in memory of Jesus' arrival in Jerusalem.

The next highlight of Holy Week falls on Maundy Thursday. Maundy Thursday focuses on one of the final acts concerning Jesus to be related in John's Gospel – the washing of the disciples' feet by Jesus. The ceremony of the 'washing of the feet' of members of the congregation came to be an important part of the liturgy (regular worship) of the medieval church, symbolising the humility of the clergy, in obedience to the example of Christ.

'Maundy' is an unusual word, and relates to this medieval practice of foot-washing. In the Middle Ages, church services were held in Latin. The opening words of a typical service on this day are based on the words of Jesus recorded in John 13: 'A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.' In Latin, the opening phrase of this sentence is 'mandatum novum do vobis' The word 'mundy' is thus a corruption of the Latin 'mandatum' (or command).

In England, in by-gone years, as an affirmation of humility, the monarch would wash the feet of a small number of his or her subjects. This has now been replaced by the ceremony of the 'Maundy money', in which the Queen distributes specially minted coins to the elderly at cathedrals throughout England.

Good Friday is the day on which Jesus died on the cross. It is the most solemn day in the Christian year, and is widely marked by the removal of all decorations from churches. In Lutheran churches, the day was marked by the reading of the passion narrative in a gospel, a practice which lies behind the 'passions' composed by Johann Sebastian Bach (1685 – 1750). Both the St Matthew Passion and the St John Passion have their origins in this observance of Good Friday.

The custom of observing a period of three hours' devotion from 12 midday to 3 pm on Good Friday goes back to the 18th century. The 'Three Hours of the Cross' often take the form of an extended meditation on the 'Seven Last Words from the Cross', with periods of silence, prayer, or hymn-singing.

Lent ends with Holy Saturday. The Eastern Orthodox churches hold the 'Paschal Vigil' – a late evening service which leads directly into the following Easter Day.

25 Lady Day - the Annunciation of Our Lord to the Blessed Virgin Mary.

This story (Luke 1.26-38) takes place in Nazareth, when Mary is already betrothed to Joseph. The Archangel Gabriel comes to Mary, greets her as highly favoured, tells her not to be afraid, that she will

bear a son Jesus, and that her elderly cousin Elizabeth is already pregnant (with John the Baptist).

The church calendar is never quite as neat as some would like it. To celebrate the Annunciation on 25 March does indeed place the conception of Jesus exactly nine months from his birth on 25 December, but the latter part of March almost inevitably falls during Lent. But the birth and death of Jesus are intrinsically linked - he was born to die, and thus fulfil God's purposes.

The Annunciation is a significant date in the Christian calendar - it is one of the most frequent depicted in Christian art. Gabriel's gracious strength and Mary's humble dignity have inspired many artists. Certainly Mary's response to the angel has for centuries been an example of good faith in practise - humility, enquiry of God, and trusting acceptance in his will for her life.

Speak easy

As a Reader, I sometimes give talks to local church women's groups on my hobby, which is visiting the great Cathedrals of Europe. One night after I spoke to a group, the lady who ran it thanked me profusely and gave me a cheque for £20.

I felt very embarrassed, and ventured: "Could I donate the money to one of your causes?" "That would be wonderful," she gushed. "Our programme could use the help. We're trying to raise money so we can afford better speakers."

March, 2005

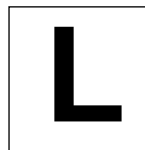
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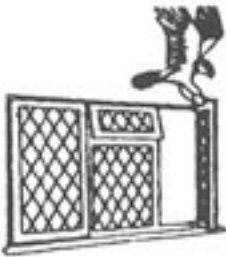
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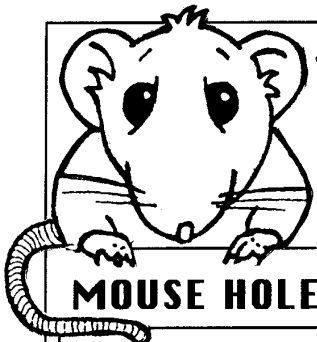
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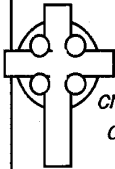
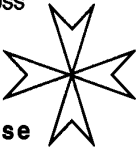
As Christians, we use the **cross** as a symbol of our faith...



Latin Cross

Greek Cross

The eight points on the **Maltese** cross remind us of the eight 'blessings' of Jesus in Matthew 5.

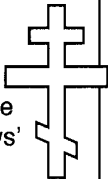


The circle on the **Celtic** cross is a picture of God's never ending love.

The **Russian** Orthodox cross has a cross bar where the notice 'King of the Jews' was nailed.

The lower bar is the foot rest and points to the good and bad thieves.

Read Luke 23:26-43



+THE CROSS+
is a symbol of **DEATH**

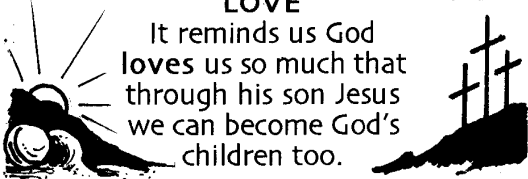
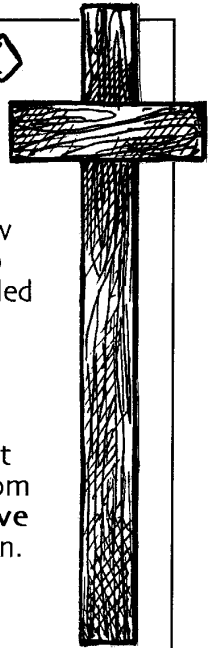
It reminds us how Jesus was put to death by being nailed to a cross.

+THE CROSS+
is a symbol of **LIFE**

It reminds us that Jesus has risen from the dead and is **alive** with God in heaven.

+THE CROSS+
is a symbol of **LOVE**

It reminds us God **loves** us so much that through his son Jesus we can become God's children too.

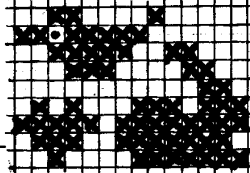


HAPPY EASTER!

"God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not die but have eternal life." John 3 verse 16

Criss-Cross Pictures

Cross stitch is a popular form of stitching on canvas. Pictures and patterns are made by stitching lots of small **x** shaped stitches. Look out for an easy **x** stitch kit and have a go!



If you don't like stitching draw 'cross stitch' **x** patterns and pictures onto graph paper. **x**

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 LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

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

MOBILE LIBRARY VAN SERVICE

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READERS

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Parish Registers for January 2005

Baptism

16th Emily Louise (Milly) daughter of Graham & Alexandra Rustom
23 Melrose Avenue, Vicars Cross, Chester.

"We welcome you to the Lords Family"

The Funeral Service.

4th Gerald Welbourne "Fleetwood" Brown Heath Road, Christleton.
7th Margaret Violet Robinson 15 The Park, Christleton
17th Andrew Michael Cooper 4 Regents Close, Vicars Cross, Chester.
21st Phyllis Mary Widdowson Birch Heath Lodge, Christleton.
25th Peter Herbert Croome 40 Vicars Cross Road, Vicars Cross, Chester.
27th Ethel Blanche Jones 32a Toll Bar Road, Christleton.

"Rest eternal grant unto them"

Offertories

January	Cash	CSE	2005	2004
2nd	169.45	623.21	792.66	701.78
9th	1415.39	559.00	1974.39	1027.73
16th	256.73	612.00	868.73	809.80
23rd	178.94	486.50	665.44	996.18
30th	203.55	762.50	966.05	696.88
Totals			£ 5,267.27	£ 4,232.37

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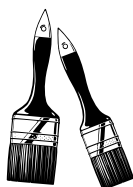
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	10.45 a.m	Parish Communion	1st & 3rd Sundays
		Family Service	2nd Sunday
		Mattins	4th & 5th Sundays
	6.30 p.m	Evensong	1st, 2nd & 3rd Sundays
		Evening Communion	4th Sunday
		Songs of Praise	5th Sunday
WEDNESDAYS	10.45 a.m.	Holy Communion	
SAINTS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

WHO'S WHO & WHAT'S WHAT

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The Rectory, Birch Heath Lane, Christleton 335663

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	John Pearson, 2 Badgers Close	335101
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Vergers	David Ellis	336879
Sacristan:	Betty Dunning	335652
Sunday School:	Berenice Hogg	336779
Mother's Union Branch Leader	Margaret Renner	332005
Organist & Musical Director:	Steve Roberts	815277
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Treasurer:	Cec Rydings	336483
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Magazine Editor	David Bull	332234
Magazine Compiler	Richard Nicholson	336004
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**BAPTISMS, WEDDINGS & APPOINTMENTS
BY ARRANGEMENT WITH THE RECTOR 335663**