

# St. James' Christleton

May Days

Rector's Letter

St. James' Open

Mothers Union

Cathedral Link

Nature Notes and  
Alternative Nature Notes

Palm Sunday Procession

The Road to Bysantium

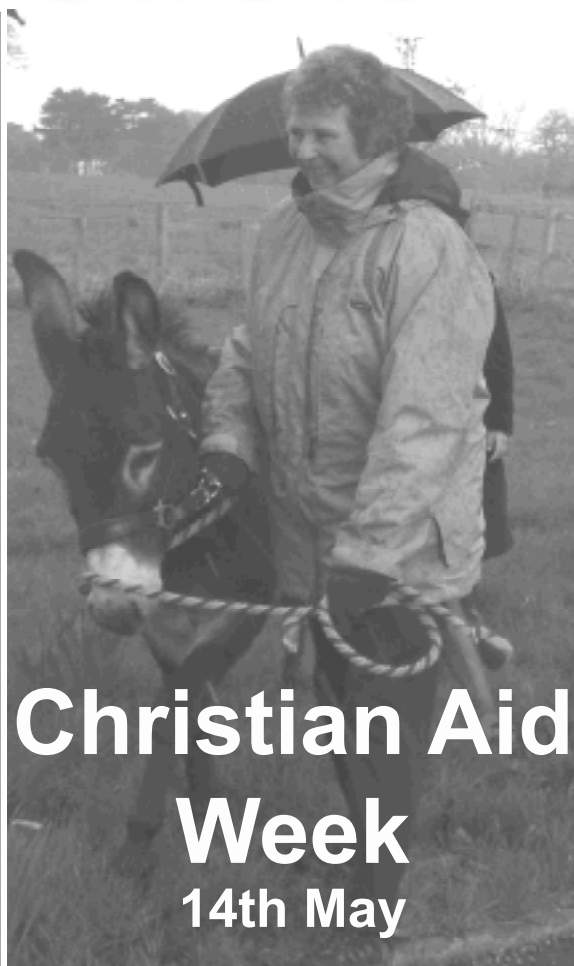
Parish Registers

The Burning Bush went  
out for a moment

Rambling Groups

Local Events Diary

Cricket Club



**Parish Magazine**  
**May 2006**

30p

# MAY DAYS

Wed	3	10.45 am	United Communion followed by refreshments
<b>Sun</b>	<b>7</b>		<b>The Fourth Sunday of Easter</b>
		8.00 am	Holy Communion - Order 2
		10.30 am	Sunday School - Parish Hall
		10.45 am	Parish Communion - Order 1
		6.00 pm	The Crew Youth Group
		6.30 pm	Evensong - followed by refreshments
			Prayer Link Road: Whitchurch Road
			Neighbourhood Link: Neville Meredith/Norman Goodwin
Mon	8	2.00 pm	Mothers Union - Parish Hall
		6.30 pm	Confirmation Group - Lady Chapel
		7.45 pm	PCC Meeting - Parish Hall
Wed	10	10.45 am	Holy Communion - followed by refreshments.
		11.30 am	Holy Communion at Birch Heath Lodge Nursing Home
Fri	12	6.30 pm	Choir Practice
			NB: Last day for contributions to June magazine, preferably earlier, to David Bull (332234).
<b>Sun</b>	<b>14</b>		<b>CHRISTIAN AID WEEK</b>
			The Fifth Sunday of Easter
		8.00 am	Holy Communion - Order 1
		10.45 am	Family Service
		6.00 pm	The Crew Youth Group - Parish Hall
		6.30 pm	Evensong
			Prayer Link Road: White Lane Neighbourhood Link: Janet
Milton			
Mon	15	9.30 pm	Deanery Clergy Chapter Meeting following Holy Communion at St James - Parish Hall
		6.30 pm	Confirmation Rehearsal
Tues	16	7.30 pm	Archdeacons Visitation - Eastham
Wed	17	10.45 am	Holy Communion - followed by refreshments.
		7.30 pm	Induction of Rev'd David Fisher as Vicar of Great Sutton
Fri	19	6.30 pm	Choir practice
			Evening Ramble and meal

<b>Sun</b>	<b>21</b>		<b>The Sixth Sunday of Easter</b>
		8.00 am	Holy Communion - Order 1
		10.45 am	CONFIRMATION with COMMUNION with Bishop of Chester
		6.00 pm	The Crew Youth Group
		6.30 pm	Evensong
			Prayer Link: Windmill Lane Neighbourhood Link: Pat Hodges
Wed	24	10.45 am	Holy Communion - followed by refreshments
		7.45 pm	Bereavement Support Group - Rectory
Thur	25	7.45 pm	Holy Communion for ASCENSION DAY
Fri	26	6.30 pm	Choir Practice
<b>Sun</b>	<b>28</b>		<b>The Sunday After Ascension Day</b>
		8.00 am	Holy Communion - Order 1
		10.45 am	Matins - followed by refreshments
		6.30 pm	Evening Communion
			Prayer Link Road: Woodfields Neighbourhood Link: Joyce Rydings
Wed	31	10.45 am	Holy Communion - followed by refreshments

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Front Cover



## **Palm Sunday Procession from Littleton to St James' Church.**

**L**ucius the donkey was busy on Sunday 9th leading processions of pilgrims at both Alvanley and Christleton, to celebrate Palm Sunday at the respective churches. The Christleton procession started at Littleton, and crossed the footpath between the villages leading along the township boundary towards the old Christleton Mill mound, and St James Church. The procession was led by four young children with palms and Lucius the donkey, followed by the Rector and the remainder of the congregation carrying their palm crosses. They were met near the churchyard by other members of the congregation before entering the church for a short service

DC

# The Rector's Letter

Dear Friends

## MISSION STATEMENT

*Jesus said:- "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all the nations, baptising them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have told you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."*

Nature is a parable of Easter at this time of year, as everywhere new life is bursting out of the old, and the stronger rays of the sun banish the cold of winter. On Thursday 21 May we celebrate Ascension Day as we remember how Jesus, after his resurrection appearances, ascended to God's right hand on high. Before Jesus left he met one final time with his friends, on a mountain in Galilee, to give them this mission statement – his final commission and teaching. It is the mission of the Church, which is all those who call themselves Christian, to carry on Jesus' work to carry the good news of his love, to those who do not yet know. The task we are given is to bring that new life of Christ to a cold and dying world.

One obvious example of this is Christian Aid Week, which this year is 14 – 20 May. Christian Aid has the slogan:- "We believe in life before death." Obviously Easter means that Christians believe in life after death, but for too long that was used as an excuse to claim we are not concerned about life before death – that somehow our faith is just "pie in the sky when you die." Nothing could be further from the truth. Jesus said:- "I have come that you may have life, and have life in all its fullness", and through his life he fed the hungry, healed the sick, and reached out to the rejected. This new life is the hallmark of the Christian faith. But, unlike secular, humanitarian interests, Christian Aid is not just personal altruism, but a response of love to the love shown us in Christ. It is not a human invention, but a divine imperative. We, who call ourselves Christian, have no alternative but to respond to the mission statement given us by the one whom we claim to follow. In 1 John 3:7 we read:- "If anyone has material possessions and sees his neighbour in need, but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him?"

Ascension means that the life of self-giving love shown by Jesus is affirmed as the principle underlying our world, and the nature of the God who created it. "All authority" is given to Jesus. Not the authority of pomp or politician or policeman, but the authority recognised by those who came to Jesus, as a self authenticating authority won by his self-giving love, lived to the full and to the end. It is that authority of Jesus Christ which has won people down the Christian Centuries, from the time he commissioned his first disciples to be his body on earth, and work for his Kingdom of love. That is the authority which members of our Church will accept and recognise as they come to be Confirmed by the Bishop of Chester on Sunday 21 May at 10.45 am. Please pray for them as they seek the gift of the Holy Spirit in the Laying on of Hands, and accept the commission of the Ascended Jesus Christ to a new and fuller life, as members of his Church.

As we rejoice in the new life of Easter, and celebrate the Ascension of Jesus Christ to the right hand of God on high, may we accept the commission of our Ascended Lord. May we as his Church, be seen to implement his Mission Statement and extend his invitation of love to all the world. And may we see in lives renewed with faith, hope and love, signs of his kingdom as colourful, fresh and lively as illustrated all around in nature.

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:**

*(Post Communion Prayer; Order 1; Common Worship)*

*Father of all,  
we give you thanks and praise,  
that when we were still far off  
you met us in your Son and brought us home.  
Dying and living, he declared your love,  
gave us grace and opened the gate of glory.  
May we who share Christ's body live his risen life;  
we who drink his cup bring life to others;  
we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world.  
Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us,  
so we and all your children shall be free,  
and the whole earth live to praise your name;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

**St. James Church  
Open all day Sundays,  
June, July, August and  
September 2006**

**S**ome of the comments written in the visitor book during last year's Sunday opening include these two from Christleton residents –

*"A very welcome opportunity, thank you"*

*"Lovely Church, very nice to find it open"*

Others from further afield include –

*"Passed here many times, lovely to be able to come in"*

*"Peace and joy to walk around"*

Some visitors came with a specific purpose such as to learn more about their family history, in one case to revisit the place of their marriage or simply out of curiosity.

**Thank you to everyone who made these visits possible by helping last year.** While the number of visitors was not great, those who came clearly enjoyed the experience. Publicity will be improved this time.

What a simple thing it should be to make ourselves available to share with others our place of worship. Last year about fifty of our congregation shared in pairs, two hour shifts; some did it twice and

one or two three times. It would be wonderful if this year a hundred volunteers took on the duty. Even if you are not able to welcome anyone, you will have company for a chat, an opportunity for quiet and reflection or a chance to learn more about our beautiful church.

**Forms for volunteers will be at the back of Church from the beginning of May. Please be one of the hundred.**

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## **MOTHERS UNION**

**W**e now have our programme for 2006 beginning on 8 May when Gwen Knight has kindly agreed to come as our speaker. Gwen's talks are always very enlightening and interesting and we look forward to her coming.

We have a speaker for June and in July our link Mothers Union New Brighton, will be visiting us for tea at Christleton.

In September our speakers are Barbara Capstick and Brenda Swift. June Hargraves visits us in October, and Norman Goodwin speaking on Adoption Matters in November.

Visitors are welcome to come to any of our meetings and church services.



## PLEASE WILL YOU HELP?

**House-to-house collection  
14 – 20 May 2006**

Once again an appeal for volunteers to help with the house-to-house collection for Christian Aid.

We rely very much on those who kindly help year after year, without them we would not be sending £3000 to Christian Aid each May. However, we always need new/extra volunteers, as some collectors will be away during that week, others may feel they are not able to help this year because of ill health or other reasons.

### **So we need YOU!**

The more volunteers we have the fewer houses each will have to cover. Please ring me (335663).

*Fiona Lee*

### **Congratulations**

Belated congratulations to Ben & Jean Williams of Bridge Drive who celebrated their Golden Wedding on Sunday 2nd April.

## **CHRISTLETON VILLAGE FETE**

**Saturday 24 June 2006**

Theme is "The Wild West"

1.00 pm – Parade from Village  
Green

Contact – Martin Thompson

Volunteers needed – 332651

### **CONGRATULATIONS AND BEST WISHES TO**

EILEEN BATE

who celebrates her  
90th Birthday  
on 19th May

### **THANK YOU**

Grateful thanks for a delightful Lalique "church" mouse, presented to me at the Annual Meeting, on completion of my 21 years as PCC Secretary.

*Margaret Croston.*

# CATHEDRAL LINK

## All change on 6.30 pm Sunday Services!

I write to report that Chapter have resolved to discontinue the weekly Sunday Services at 6.30 pm and to introduce a new series of themed services throughout the year, at least on the first Sunday of every month, at 6.30 pm instead. The new arrangements will begin after Easter.

As a result, the Cathedral Nave Choir will be adopting a much more varied pattern of contribution to the Cathedral's worship which our Organists will co-ordinate in consultation with Canon Humphries.

Please see below the planned set of themed services for the next 12 months.

The Dean

### New Themed 6.30 pm Sunday Services

30 April	Taizé	29 Oct	Taizé
7 May	Service of Wholeness and Healing	5 Nov	Sung Requiem
4 June	Music and Readings for Pentecost	3 Dec	Advent Carol Service
2 July	Service for Victims of Road Accidents	4 Feb	Plough Service
30 July	Taizé	4 March	Wholeness & Healing
6 August	Service in Refectory – Meditation on the Creation Window	1 April	Music & Reading for Palm Sunday
3 September	Hymns and Organ – a celebration	8 April	Music & Readings for Easter Day
1 October	Wholeness and Healing	29 April	Taizé

### Saints' Windows in the Cloisters

St Catherine of Siena (her name means the pure one) was the youngest child in a large family. At the age of 6 she had a vision in which Jesus appeared and blessed her. Her parents wanted her to marry,

but she became a Dominican Tertiary. She was a Mystic and Stigmatist and received a vision in which she was in a mystical marriage with Christ, and the Infant Christ presented her with a wedding ring. She became Counsellor to Pope Gregory XI and Pope Urban VI.

Born 25 March 1347 at Siena, Tuscany, Italy.

Died 29 April 1380 of a mysterious and painful illness that came on without notice, and was never properly diagnosed.

Patronage: miscarriages, nurses, nursing services, people ridiculed for their piety, sexual temptation, sick people.

## **Saints day 29 April**

### **The Cathedral Shop**

Over the next few weeks, a number of exciting products unavailable elsewhere in Chester will be introduced for sale in the Cathedral Shop. As far as possible everything will relate in some way to the Cathedral, its Mission or its life and story. Goods ranging from honey to bath essences, some produced by monastic communities will be available, thus supporting prayerful communities around the world.

New ranges of greetings cards have already been introduced, and books, music and other goods will soon follow, including a range of attractive hand made silver jewellery based on the Christian fish symbol.

We are also working on a range of gifts based on the decorative tiles in the Quire and Lady Chapel. All profit from the shop helps to support the Cathedral and its work so please do come and support us.

*Nick Fry*

# Alternative Nature Notes.

During February & March Beryl and I were fortunate to enjoy a wonderful holiday, exploring the superb scenery, and observing some of the magnificent wildlife along the east coast of Australia. We also visited family in Melbourne, and had a very enjoyable Christleton reunion with friends and former Primary School pupils during the Commonwealth Games. Whilst you were suffering from the freezing temperatures and snow we were enjoying moderate temperatures of 27-30C, and seeing migrating birds going north for the winter! Curlew, Whimbrel, Black Tailed Godwits, Royal Spoonbills, Pelicans and other waders were feeding up on the shore at Cairns as we walked along a beautiful boardwalk just a few metres away. An Osprey flew in to feed, followed by a flight of ten

pelicans, with Great white egrets, ibis, white necked and white faced herons stalking their prey nearby. Masked lapwings with yellow cheeks were parading very noisily near the superb lagoon, barbecue and children's play areas provided for local people, and could often be seen alongside, black & white shore larks which nested on a nearby lamp post, together with delightful small black birds with stiff wagging tails called Willy wagtails. Later that day we came across our first Laughing Kookaburra, a large form of kingfisher during a visit to a Botanical Garden, set around several lakes, a fast flowing river and acres of flooded Rain forest with superb board walks for us to use. They were necessary as we had 5 inches of rain in just over half an hour later that afternoon.

This magnificent wild area is at the edge of the city of Cairns, and is open to the public 24 hours a day. Most Australian mammals are fairly secretive and nocturnal, and I shall deal with those next month, but one creature we had to be aware of, even at the edge of the city was the estuarine crocodile. They lurk under the cloudy river water and in among the



mangrove swamps, and people in the area have to be aware that they are always around. We also learned that it was necessary to wear so

During our visit to Mission Beach we came face to face with an enormous bird called a Cassowary, (An emu with a colourful head),



called “stinger suit” over swimming costumes, when it was safe to swim in an area free from crocodiles, as a sting from both large yellow and small jellyfish can be fatal. Whilst visiting Cairns we travelled on a fast jet boat to experience the Great Barrier Reef and swam alongside turtles and a myriad collection of colourful fish and corals on the outer Agincourt Reef.

May - 2006

hundreds of chattering Rainbow Lorikeets, and saw a huge 5m long carpet python curled up in a palm tree just metres above our heads. Nocturnal walks in the Daintree Rain Forest between our log cabin and restaurant were amazing experiences with so many tree frogs, toads, cyclids and cycadas noisily competing for territory. A common sight flying in the forest were large

iridescent blue butterflies called the Ulysses, and green and yellow Cairns Lacewings. The area also held large numbers of large fruit bats also known as Flying Foxes, which flew from their roosts at dusk and looked as big as small birds of prey as they headed off to their feeding grounds among the thousands of fruit bearing trees in the rain forests.

On Fraser Island we saw six species of kingfishers, several Osprey, Wedge Tailed Eagles, Little Eagle, White Bellied Sea Eagles and Whistling, Black and Bra hammy Kites. We later saw two different male Peregrine Falcons flying within the city of Melbourne itself. However despite this wonderful collection of exotic sightings, the bird I enjoyed hearing most was a small dull brown bird called a Bell Bird. Just imagine someone tapping a china cup with a metal spoon, and hearing the sharp pinging sound. Well the bell bird made that sound but magnified a hundred times. They were just amazing to listen to in the undergrowth of an old quarry, and were accompanied by the noisy competing calls of a family of six Laughing Kookaburras.

DC

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*All of us could take a lesson  
from the weather. It pays  
no attention to criticism*

## Archbishop of Canterbury to visit Rome

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Rowan Williams, is to visit His Holiness Pope Benedict XVIth in Rome later this year. The visit will mark the 40th anniversary of the Archbishop Michael Ramsey's meeting with Pope Paul VIth in 1966 and the founding of the Anglican Centre in Rome in the same year. Dr Williams met the Holy Father's predecessor, Pope John Paul II, in the autumn of 2003; he travelled to Rome in April 2005 for the funeral of Pope John Paul II and returned for the Inaugural Mass of his successor.

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### May

*I feel a newer life in every gale;  
The winds, that fan the flowers,  
And with their welcome breathings  
fill the sail,  
Tell of serener hours –  
Of hours that glide unfelt away  
Beneath the sky of May.  
Fairer and brighter spreads the  
reign of May;  
The tresses of the woods  
With the light dallying of the west-  
wind play;  
And the full-brimming floods,  
As gladly to their goal they run,  
Hail the returning sun.*

J G Percival

# Nature Notes

**D**espite the severe cold weather -11C and snow, this month has seen the most unusually early arrival of migrant birds and butterflies. A beautiful yellow brimstone butterfly was in our garden on 25th March closely followed by the emergence of a small tortoiseshell and peacock which have probably overwintered in our garden shed. The news of a beautiful white egret at Hockenhull (a small white heron) at the end of March was followed by the sighting of a large group of swallows, and a smaller number of house and sand martins, feeding over the reservoir. Kestrels have taken over two of nest boxes provided for Barn Owls, but I was astonished to see nine buzzards in the air at the same time, in different parts of the sky from the Plough Lane direction to Tarvin Road, Stapleford Mill and Ford Farm, all calling and displaying to each other. Many people have reported seeing three buzzards together over the Village and near Vicars Cross in recent days, and I suspect that this is still a family group from last year. Our swans seem to have successfully nested despite the cold and wet weather, but the egg laying was later than usual, and the incubation stage only started around about the 4th April, which means that

the cygnets( if the eggs are fertile) should be hatching about the 10th May. While the eggs are being laid at a rate of one every two days, it's the cob who sits on the eggs, not the pen. She is feeding herself up during this period, and its only after the last egg has been laid, (usually eight at Christleton) that she takes total responsibility for the further 34 days of incubation. Good news from the wildlife hospital at RSPCA Stapeley Grange, is that CL26 one of last years cygnet's rescued from Southport Marine Lake, has recovered from the illness suffered by a large group of swans there (which also caused many deaths) and is now back on the Marine Lake in good health. The latest news I have about the swan affected by the strain of Bird Flu in Scotland, is that it was probably a migrating whooper swan, and not a local mute as first thought. No other swans seem to have been affected, and the advice is to carry on feeding and caring for wild birds as normal, but not to touch a dead bird if one is found, and to alert the authorities if anything seems suspicious, or if a group of more than three birds of the same species are found dead together.

DC





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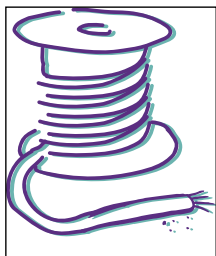
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## High days and Holy Days in May 1 May Day

May is the month when the ancient pagans used to get up to all sorts! The Romans held their festival to honour the mother-goddess Maia, goddess of nature and growth. (May is named after her.) The early Celts celebrated the feast of Beltane, in honour of the sun god, Beli. For centuries in 'Olde England' the people went mad in May. After the hardship of winter, and hunger of early Spring, May was a time of indulgence and unbridled merriment. One Philip Stubbes, writing in 1583, was scandalised: "for what kissing and bussing, what smooching and slabbering one of another, is not practised?" Henry VIII went 'maying' on many occasions. Then folk would stay out all night in the dark rain-warm thickets, and return in the morning for dancing on the green around the May pole, archery, vaulting, wrestling, and that evening, bonfires. The Protestant reformers took a strong stand against May Day - and in 1644 May Day was abolished together. Many May poles came down - only to go up again at the Restoration, when the first May Day of King Charles's reign was "the happiest Mayday that hath been many a year in England", according to Pepys. May Day to most people today

brings vague folk memories of a young Queen of the May decorated with garlands and streamers and flowers, a May Pole to weave, Morris dancing, and the intricacies of well dressing at Tissington in Derbyshire. May Day is a medley of natural themes such as sunrise, the advent of summer, growth in nature, and - since 1833 - Robert Owen's vision of a millennium in the future, beginning on May Day, when there would be no more poverty, injustice or cruelty, but in harmony and friendship. This is why, in modern times, May Day has become Labour Day, which honours the dignity of workers. And until recently, in communist countries May Day processions were in honour of the achievement of Marxism. There has never been a Christian content to May Day, but nevertheless there is the well known 6am service on the top of Magdalen Tower at Oxford where a choir sings in the dawn of May Day. An old May carol includes the lines:

*The life of man is but a span,  
it flourishes like a flower  
We are here today, and gone  
tomorrow*

*- we are dead within an hour.*

There is something of a sadness about it, both in words and tune, as about all purely sensuous joy. For May Day is not Easter, and the joys it represents have always been earth-bound and fleeting.

## CONGRATULATIONS

To Olga-Doreen Clayton who  
will be 80 on Sunday 21 May.



# THE ROAD TO BYZANTIUM

This Exhibition opened on 30 March in Somerset House and is on loan from the Hermitage Museum in St Petersburg. More than 160 works are on display, some from as far back as 40 BC. Many of them were discovered in tombs and burial sites in the Northern Black Sea area. These objects illustrate how ideas first developed in the 5th Century BC were admired, copied and re-interpreted by people of different cultures and religions. One curious object is a statue of Dionysos with the text of Psalm 28 v.3 engraved on his waist and two cross monograms on his chest and one on each thigh, evidently added when the pagan god was adopted by Christians.

There are amazing fragments of textiles from Egypt from the 4th and 5th Centuries stitched in wool – one shows King Solomon pursuing a demon in the form of a woman. The stitches are minute and in lovely colours. There are beautiful tiny cameos from the 2nd and 3rd Centuries, one with an anchor and two fish – Christian symbols. One of my favourite exhibits was a bronze head from 40 BC, one of finest “portraits” not only in the Hermitage collection but of any of the great museum collections of the world. Well worth a visit.

Coming away from there we called in at the Parish Church of St Mary Le Strand just outside. In 1549 this mediaeval parish church was pulled down by order of the Duke of Somerset so that he could build a palace known as Somerset House. By building this he created enemies, was accused of treason and in 1552 was executed in the Tower. The parishioners were left without a church and worshipped at the Savoy Chapel, electing their own minister and keeping separate parish records of births, deaths and marriages. But in 1710 there was talk of building 50 new parish churches and at the government's expense this church was built in the middle of the Strand. It was deliberately chosen so that the church would dominate the Strand, as it still does.

It was designed by James Gibbs who had trained under great architects in Rome. The foundation stone was laid on 25 February 1715, and the church consecrated on New Year's Day 1724. It has a magnificent ceiling. Though many buildings in the area suffered a lot of damage during the Blitz, St Mary's got off lightly apart from the destruction of Victorian windows in the sanctuary. These have been replaced by blue glass windows.

*Margaret Croston*

## Church of England opens virtual door on its documentary heritage

Information on the rich documentary heritage of the Church of England is now only a click away with the launch of a dedicated Libraries and Archives section on the Church of England's popular website. Information about Lambeth Palace Library, the Church of England Record Centre and the Library of the Cathedral and Church Buildings Division, as well as links to the major ecclesiastical libraries and archives throughout England, have been brought together in the new section, creating a single portal to the documentary heritage of the Church of England. While many of these libraries and archives have run their own websites for some time, only now can users visit a central starting point, appropriately hosted on the Church's main website that currently handles an average of more than 20,000 requests for pages of information each day. Information on how to access a diverse range of material - from medieval texts such as the 12th century Lambeth Bible, through to documents on church architecture, or the history of free education in England - can all be accessed via the new section.

"I hope that these pages will provide a gateway to the many and varied collections in the Church," said Declan Kelly, Director of Libraries, Archives and Information services. The new section is available at: <http://www.cofe.anglican.org/about/librariesandarchives/>

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### **May25 Ascension Day - Forty Days with the Risen Christ**

May continues the season of Eastertide, and 40 days after Easter comes Ascension Day. It may seem crazy to call it Eastertide when Easter is clearly over! - but these are the forty days during which the Risen Christ appeared again and again to his disciples, following his death and resurrection.

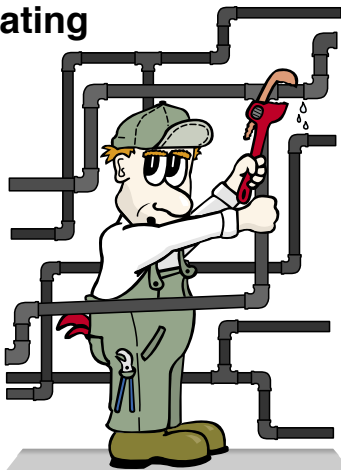
The Gospels give us little of Christ's teachings and deeds during those forty days. Jesus was seen by numerous disciples: on the road to Emmaus, by the Sea of Galilee, in houses, etc. He strengthened and encouraged his disciples, and at last opened their eyes to all that the Scriptures had promised about the Messiah. Jesus also told them that as the Father had sent him, he was now going to send them - to all corners of the earth, as his witnesses.

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## **JENNIE'S CATERING**

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# LOCAL EVENTS DIARY

## SUNDAY SCHOOL

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

## CHRISTLETON LADIES GUILD

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

## CHRISTLETON GARDENING CLUB

The next meeting will take place on **8 May** with a talk on the National Garden Scheme by Miss Marion MacNicoll.

## 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 10th May – Mystery Tour and Meal.

## CHRISTLETON W.I. MONTHLY WHIST DRIVE

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

## 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.

## MAGAZINE DISTRIBUTORS

**T**he June magazine will be available for collection from Church on **Sunday 28 May**.

# LOCAL EVENTS DIARY

## Christleton Local History Group

Please note that the walk planned for 31st May will now take place on the **7th June**.

**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.

Come and join  
Christleton WI for a

## COFFEE MORNING

In aid of

*National Osteoporosis Society*

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**Saturday 3 June**

10.00 am to 12 noon

Cakes/Raffle/Books/Bring & Buy

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**EVERYONE WELCOME!**

## MAGAZINE CONTRIBUTIONS

**P**lease ensure all items for inclusion in the **June edition** are sent to the Editor, David Bull, The Old Rectory, Plough Lane, as soon as possible **BEFORE Friday 12 May**. You can e-mail this to

**christletonmag@hotmail.co.uk**

# CHRISTLETON RAMBLING GROUPS



## **St James' Tuesday Rambling Group.**

### **Tuesday 23rd May**

The Peak District.

Tideswell & Chee Dale. Then visit the Plague Village at Eyam.

6miles [moderate]. Picnic & Pub Meal at finish.

Depart Church Car Park at 7.30am.

Further details from David Cummings 332410

### **Tuesday 20th June**

N 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

## **Bulkely Bluebell Ramble and Evening meal Friday May 19th**

This is a short 45min walk on Bulkely Hill though a bluebell wood down to the Bickerton Poacher for a meal together. Both gentle and energetic options are available for those needing to practice their cardiovascular fitness! I need to know numbers and menu choices 2 weeks before if possible which is not easy as I am away from 29.4 to 10.5! please contact me ASAP on this and hope to see you there.

Meet at 7.0 pm in the church car park.

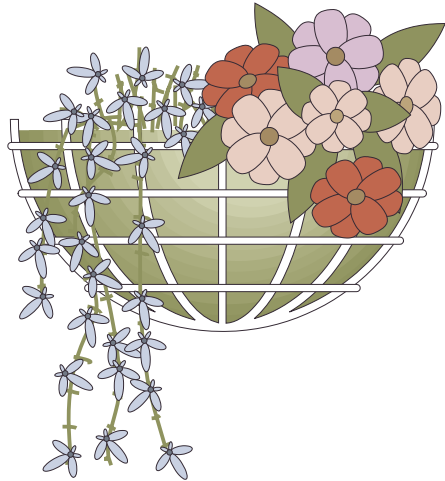
Liz McClure 01244- 409414

Another reminder to make a note in your diary

# Christleton Village Show

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

Schedules should now be available from Paul Jackson at the Post Office complete with entry forms with all instructions. Choosing a category can be difficult as there are so many covering - growing, sewing, painting; making; 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. We always listen for comments and take on changes to improve the show and this year is no exception with new categories to choose from. Hanging Baskets is again on the list and anyone in Christleton can join in, and you don't need to be an expert. 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.

# The Burning Bush went out for a moment

**T**he noise of the engine had droned on for well over four hours before the port wing of the plane dipped twenty degrees. A bright flash of light reflected from a ship entering the Suez Canal below and there in front of me was my first glimpse of the mighty Sinai desert. For the next twenty minutes I gazed out at this enormous waste of sand and mountains. The terrain changed from mountains of sand with tantalizing areas between them looking like riverbeds to great ranges of mountains of rock. As the plane was nearing its descent into the airport at Sharm el-Sheikh I saw a thin grey ribbon of road leaving the coast and meander and twist its way into the mountains until it disappeared.

Two weeks later and I was on a coach with some thirty odd other travelers thundering along the very same trail. The road is an amazing piece of engineering built by Israel. In the Suez-Sinai war and the Six-Day War Sharm el-Sheikh played an important role. The state that controlled Sharm el-Sheikh also controlled the entrance to Gulf of Aqaba. Hence it was vital for Israel, who had a strong need for access to the Red Sea. There are signs of a second carriageway being added

to the road as large lorries laden with stone tipped their load. The air conditioned and curtained vehicle motored on through the searing heat. Our guide was a young Arab man well versed in English. His dialogue was witty and entertaining and most importantly he knew when to shut up. He gave us warning of the Bedouin camps we would see. Rather foolishly I had this romantic vision of brightly coloured tents, camels, costumed Arab men and the women with only their eyes showing through their garments. There were indeed camels but the tents were replaced by block built dwellings. Huge satellite dishes sat on the roofs of these and our guide informed us the nearby tall mast was for good mobile phone reception. An accessory Bedouins do not like to be without.

Two and a half hours into the Sinai desert and we were nearing our destination. We had gone through five checkpoints. All but one of them had been Egyptian. An international force manned the other where the bus crept past towers on each side of the road manned by machine guns. The last check point and a guard looked at our Visas. A Visa is necessary if you intend to travel outside Sharm El-Sheikh and is available at the airport when you arrive priced about 12 pounds. There was a short stop before our destination.

*continued on page 24*

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We alighted from the coach and although the sun was shining out of a cloudless sky the temperature was low as our altitude had risen a lot since leaving Sharm El Sheikh. Fortunately I had long trousers on and a jersey. Many of my fellow travelers including Dai from South Wales had shorts and a tee shirt.

Our destination was St. Catherine's Monastery constructed by order of the Emperor Justinian between 527 and 565. It is built around what is thought to be the site of Moses' Burning Bush. Our coach made its way up the hill and parked alongside eleven others. There were people everywhere but most were following their leader. We were the tribe of First Choice. Our leader was Malachi who marched on with his blue clipboard held high. Every now and again he turned round to see if his flock were intact and cried out the rallying call "First Choice". To our left was the meek tribe of Thomson. To our right was the lost tribe of Sky Tours. The walk to the monastery we were told

was not for the infirm so we may wish to accept the offer of a camel. Undeterred up the hill we marched against a sea of souls descending. We were always vigilant for the crying out of your tribe name. When we reached a terrace beneath the monastery Malachi let us take a rest, some of us standing and others seated on a low wall. A quick count of his flock and Malachi found two missing. It was Dai in his shorts and his understanding wife. To give them time to catch up he gave us a quick and interesting talk. Dai eventually arrived puffing and panting. He quickly explained that his extended overweight appearance had been brought on very quickly when he stopped smoking which resulted in him putting on four stone. Off we set again, up some stairs and into an area where a lot of people were queuing. It was cover up the bare flesh time. A number of men from our tribe received cloths from an attendant to cover up their legs as they were wearing shorts. Then it was Dai's turn. Much to my surprise

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he was nodded through. In jubilation of not having to appear in a skirt he pronounced that this was due to his very long shorts coupled with his very short legs We entered The Charnel House piled with skulls. The scantiness of earth does not permit permanent graves so the monks buried in the cemetery are later exhumed and their bones places in the ossuary. Our brief visit was meant for us to meditate on life and death and consider the vanity of human and earthly matters.

Next was the monastery. One of the old gates had been blocked up. This is the one with a machicolation above it from which boiling oil was poured down on uninvited guests.



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The walls fortifying the monastery are immense built of huge hewn blocks of granite being very high and some 2 to 3 metres thick. We entered through another old narrow gateway. Still following our floating clipboard we arrived at the Burning Bush. Heavily clipped to stop you seeking a souvenir twig it grows high on top of a wall. Beneath is an Arabic sign which perhaps may or should read 'No Smoking', although a fire hydrant is strategically placed to expel any unexpected combustion. We returned the way we had come along a narrow alleyway threading and struggling our way against an oncoming sea of sightseers that rarely parted but eventually we reached Moses' Well. This had been covered over to stop visitors dropping anything down. The well sits on an underground spring where Moses met his future wife, Zipporah, after protecting her and her sisters from an aggressive group of local shepherds. The spring still supplies the monastery with water.

I was very disappointed that I was unable to visit the library as it contains the largest collection of early Christian manuscripts outside of the Vatican Museum. I was allowed to enter the main church made up a central nave and two aisles divided by colonnades of granite columns each carrying a different capital. Countless lanterns hang from the ceiling of the nave and the walls of the aisles are decorated



*St. Catherine's Monastery, Sinai Desert*

with early icons. The time you were allowed to gaze was far too short as a seated Greek orthodox monk flapped his hand impatiently at me. No talking was allowed and certainly no photography. A German couple broke both commandments.

Back into the bright hot sunlight and a chance to climb as far as you wanted to take an aerial photograph of the monastery. I was rarely free from young boys approaching with sad faces pleading I should buy something from them. To escape I started to climb up the mountain. A bit like a goat springing from boulder to smooth boulder. There were only three people higher than me now so not far to go. Surely I was high enough for a good

photograph. I turned round with my camera and there with me was a young boy with a sad face offering me some stone eggs.

When I descended I found many monks, arabs and tourists staring up to the sun through tinted pieces of glass. Only the aristocratic camels arrogantly did not look up. I had just happened to be in this amazing historical and biblical place at the time of an eclipse of the Sun. The phenomena, that can only happen at New Moon when the Moon passes between the Earth and Sun. It lasted for four minutes. Fortunately for mankind the 'burning bush in the sky' that keeps us all alive relit.

*Richard Nicholson*

# CHRISTLETON CRICKET CLUB



Christleton 1st X1 are looking forward to their first game against Nantwich.

Indoor nets were well attended and outdoor practise now takes place at Little Heath on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 6.30pm. New players are welcome.

Junior coaching for ages 7 years upwards is on Mondays and Fridays at 6.30pm. Three junior teams will play in the leagues this season. Any parents who would like to assist with juniors are welcome.

Christleton 2nd X1 are at home on the 22nd April against Sale and the 3rd team play Nantwich away. Competition for places in all teams is intense as several new players have joined the club. Expectations are high for all teams.

We need club umpires. Anyone who is interested please contact Brian on 01244 332326

Gareth Davies, Bill Malkin, RKQ 82 and Mick Rooney are

sponsoring our matches in April. We are grateful for their assistance. Maintaining the ground to such a high standard and competing at the highest level in Cheshire incurs heavy expenses. Sponsorship is vital to our continued success and also allows us to maintain our expanding junior section

Please note:  
Christleton Sport Club is available for parties and other functions  
Contact 332326 or 332982

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## PARENTAL EXCUSES

These are actual excuse notes from parents excusing their children from missing school (includes original spelling):

~ My son is under a doctor's care and should not take P.E. today. Please excuse him.

~ Please excuse Lisa for being absent. She was sick and I had her shot.

~ Dear School: Please excuse John being absent on Jan. 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, and also 33.

~ Please excuse Roland from P.E. for a few days. Yesterday he fell out of a tree and misplaced his hip.

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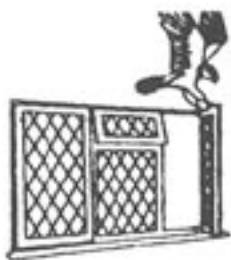
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Over 1400 years ago, in the year 597, St Augustine led a group of 40 monks to preach the the gospel to the heathen English. The Christian faith had been here before but had been practically wiped out by savage raiders from Denmark and Germany.

St Augustine was sent by Pope Gregory who had seen some English slave boys in Rome and had asked where they came from. On being told that they were Angles, he replied that they were not Angles but angels and became determined that their people should hear the good news of Christ.

The monks he sent landed in Kent and the king of that area, Ethelbert, gave them a house in Canterbury. When Ethelbert was baptised his people followed, and on Christmas Day 587 more than 10,000 people were baptised by Augustine in a local river.

Augustine became the first Archbishop of the English.

## CANTERBURY QUIZ

All the answers to these questions are words in the piece about St Augustine – when you have found them all rearrange the letters to give you something that you would see in Canterbury today.

1. Pope Gregory sent him
2. What the English were before
3. The king's name
4. The king gave them a house here
5. Not Angles, but .....
6. Where 10,000 were baptised
7. The raiders came from Germany and .....
8. The number that were baptised
9. The monks ..... in Kent



**When is water musical?**

When it's piping hot.

**How can you stop water coming into your house?**

Don't pay the water rates.



### **LEPROSY MISSION**

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

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

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### **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 March 2006*

### **The Wedding Service**

25th Nigel Charles Hibbert White Haven, Church Walks,  
Christleton & Jennifer Adams Flat 3 Belvedere House, Little  
Parkfield Road, Liverpool.

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

### **The Funeral Service**

13th William Albert Jones 26 Bridge Drive, Christleton.  
(Burial of Ashes.)  
17th Edith Jane Carline 12 Neville Road, Boughton, Chester.  
22nd John Clifford Jackson 4 Kingsley Terrace, Shed Lane,  
Boughton, Chester  
24th Evelyn Mabel Furness 24 Llewellyn Drive, Mynydd Isa, Mold.  
29th Edna Ada Price 40 Toll Bar Road, Christleton.

*"Grant them eternal rest"*

### **Offertories.**

<b>March</b>	<b>Cash</b>	<b>CSE</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2005</b>
5th	177-72	645-50	823-22	1022-93
12th	219-34	334-50	553-84	958-54
19th	245-55	837-60	1083-15	1020-10
26th	264-20	820-70	1084-90	1346-20
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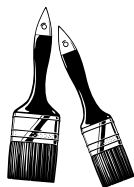
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<b>SUNDAYS</b>	8.00 a.m.	Holy Communion	
	10.45 a.m.	Parish Communion	1st & 3rd Sundays
		Family Service	2nd Sunday
		Mattins	4th & 5th Sundays
	6.30 p.m.	Evensong	1st, 2nd & 3rd Sundays
		Evening Communion	4th Sunday
		Songs of Praise	5th Sunday
<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
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	8 Old Mill Court, Mill Lane, Upton.....	378320
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Child Protection	Susan Alexander .....	335077

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