

St. James' Christleton



INTERNET EDITION



PARISH MAGAZINE

NOVEMBER
2005

Remember in November

Tues	1	5.30 pm	Installation of Rector as Canon of Chester Cathedral
Wed	2	10.45 am	United Communion - followed by refreshments
		7.00 pm	Retail Therapy Night - Parish Hall
Fri	4	6.30 pm	Choir Practice
Sat	5	10.00 am	Diocesan Synod - Bishop's High

Sun 6 **The Third Sunday before Advent**

		8.00 am	Holy Communion - Order 2
		10.30 am	Sunday School - Parish Hall
		10.45 am	Parish Communion
		6.00 pm	"The Crew" Youth Group - Parish Hall
		6.30 pm	ALL SOULS SERVICE. An opportunity to commemorate those whom we love but see no longer – followed by refreshments <i>Prayer Link Road: Haslin Crescent Neighbourhood Link: Ann Smith</i>

Mon	7	7.45 pm	Pastoral and Outreach Committee - Plough Lane
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Wed	9	10.45 am	Holy Communion - followed by refreshments
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		6.30 pm	Rehearsal for Remembrance Service
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Thur	10	2.30 pm	PCC Standing Committee - Rectory
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		7.45 pm	Faith & Worship Committee - Plough Lane
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Fri	11	6.30 pm	Choir Practice
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NB: Last date for contribution to DECEMBER Parish Magazine to David Bull (332234). Earlier if possible please.

Sat	12	10.00 am	Charity Christmas Cards - Methodist Church
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Sun 13 **The Second Sunday before Advent - Remembrance**

		8.00 am	Holy Communion - Order 1
		10.45 am	Remembrance Sunday Service including 2 minutes silence and wreath laying ceremony.
		1.30 pm	Church Ramble Group leave car park for Barrow
		6.00 pm	The "Crew" Youth Group - Parish Hall
		6.30 pm	Evensong & Offertory of Children's Society Boxes Preacher: Mrs Aelison Wilson <i>Prayer Link Road: Hawthorn Road Neighbourhood Link: Jayne Roscoe</i>

Mon	14	2.00 pm	Mothers' Union - Parish Hall
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		7.45 pm	Stewardship Committee - Lady Chapel
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Wed	16	10.45 am	Holy Communion - followed by refreshments
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		7.45 pm	Bereavement Support Group - Tarvin Road
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Thur	17	2.30 pm	Churches Together Committee Meeting - Lady Chapel
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Fri	18	6.30 pm	Choir Practice
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Sat	19	7.00 pm	David Cummings Talk in aid of Christmas Fair Charities Parish Hall
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Sun 20 **SUNDAY NEXT BEFORE ADVENT**

		8.00 am	Holy Communion - Order 1
		10.30 am	Sunday School - Parish Hall
		10.45 am	Parish Communion - Order 1
		6.00 pm	"The Crew" Youth Group - Parish Hall
		6.30 pm	Evensong: Robert Bisset will talk about the work of Chester Aid to the Homeless Prayer Link Road : Home Close Neighbourhood Link : Gertrude Wright



- Tues 22 9.00 am Ramble Group leaves church car park for Llangollen
 Wed 23 10.45 am Holy Communion - followed by refreshments
 Fri 25 2.00 – 4.00 pm
 Parish Hall open for preparation for Christmas Fair
 6.30 pm Choir Practice
 Sat 26 10.00 am – 1.00 pm
 CHRISTMAS FAIR (see poster) - Parish Hall
- Sun 27 ADVENT SUNDAY**
 8.00 am Holy Communion - Order 1
 10.30 am Sunday School - Parish Hall
 10.45 am Matins - followed by refreshments
 6.00 pm "The Crew" Youth Group - Parish Hall
 6.30 pm Evening Communion with offertory of CMS boxes
 Mon 28 7.45 pm Deanery Synod - St Thomas
 Wed 30 10.45 am Holy Communion for St Andrew
 7.45 pm PCC Meeting - Parish Hall

Front Cover: The standard bearer carrying the Legion banner into St. James' for the Remembrance Service in 1987

Parish Registers for September 2005

Baptisms

- 18th Samantha Bright daughter of Wayne Bright and Jackie Shortridge
 6 Bythom Close, Christleton.
 25th Edward John Bolton son of Brendon & Nicola Bolton
 14 Sandrock Road, Christleton.
"We welcome you to the Lord's family"

The Wedding Service

- 3rd Craig McKenzie Clark & Christine Mary Deacon
 30 Argyle Street, York.
 9th Jonathan Alan Hodgkinson & Samantha Coleman
 32 Cornhill Road, Davyhulme, Manchester.
 9th Adrian George Voykovich 149 Clovelly Road, Bucklands Beacon,
 Auckland, N.Z.
 & Frances Eileen Goulbourne 29 Reeves Road, Boughton, Chester.
 10th Paul Edward Bowes Davis 4 Sandrock Road, Christleton. & Kate
 Johnson
 13 Brookdale Avenue, North Greasby, Wirral.
 10th James Richard Weddell 4 Clarence Avenue, Vicars Cross &
 Petrina Elizabeth Chesters 2 Columbine Close, Huntington, Chester.
"Those who God has joined together, let not man divide."

The Funeral Service

- 8th Marie Louisa Randles, 260a Clifton Drive South, Lytham St Annes
 Lancashire.
 (Burial of Ashes.)
 17th Miss Cecilia Brierley, Birch Heath Lodge, Christleton. (Burial of Ashes.)
 18th Glenn Ford, 22 Ballater Crescent, Vicars Cross, Chester.
 26th Phyllis Edna Tapeley, 58 Belgrave Road, Boughton.
 27th Susan Margaret Brown, 12 Burgess Street, Hoole, Chester
 30th (Burial of Ashes of above.)
"Rest eternal grant unto them."

Offertories

September	Cash	CSE	2005	2004
4th	199.40	816.80	1016.20	1021.30
11th	282.90	688.10	971.00	948.14
18th	177.79	541.00	718.79	652.10
25th	270.65	749.50	1020.15	951.00

THE RECTOR'S LETTER

Dear Friends

Motive and Opportunity

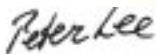
It will be a great privilege for me to be Installed as an Honorary Canon of Chester Cathedral. I find it something difficult to express, but it will emphasise my sense of belonging to the Church. The fact that it is to take place on All Saints' Day reminds me that all of us, as Christians, belong to the Communion of Saints – we are one with all those who have gone before us in the light and faith of Jesus Christ. This sense of belonging and identity is widened further as the next day is All Souls' Day as we include all those who have died in faith. Inevitably I shall remember my Father, Canon Gordon Robinson and all the other former Canons of Chester Cathedral whom I knew, and who supported and guided me in my ministry. It will be an occasion when I shall be particularly aware of those words from the Letter to the Hebrews:- "Since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith." What a privilege it is to be a Christian and become part of the great family of the Church throughout history and across the world – and what a responsibility!

As if that were not enough motive the following week is remembrance Sunday. As we remember, we do so in two ways. We remember with thanks the great sacrifice and heroism of those who gave their lives for our freedom. But we also remember the sin and evil of the world which brings wars, violence, hatred and oppression. Part of remembrance is to ensure we learn the lessons from the past and play our part today to stand against evil and relieve suffering to work for the future.

So our motive is clear and compelling. As Christians we have the example of 'that great cloud of witnesses' whose lives shone with the light of Christ in the darkness of the world. We have the mission entrusted to us by Jesus Christ to take up our cross and work for the building of God's Kingdom of righteousness and peace on earth as in Heaven. We also have the memory of what can happen when evil selfishness and hatred are allowed to take hold, and the sacrifice and heroism it takes to turn the tide.

I write against the background of the terrible earthquake in Pakistan and the surrounding areas, which follows the devastation of the hurricanes in the Gulf of Mexico. At the same time multitudes face starvation in Africa, and Iraq continues as an open wound on the conscience of the world. So the challenge is all around us, and it is immense. Sometimes we feel helpless against the chasm of need in the world. But we can play our part, and we can make a start. Already we can be encouraged by the response to the Asian earthquake, and as we see India and Pakistan put ancient hatreds to one side, if only temporarily. We also see the heartening humanitarian response of so many who have helped by going out with search and rescue and medical teams to help, as well as the much needed giving of money and equipment. Through November we have our own opportunities to respond to the challenges before us as a Parish. We have the offertory of our Childrens' Society boxes, to help reach so many young people in danger and distress in our cities and society. Then the proceeds of our Christmas Fair on 25 November will go internationally to the Mango Tree Trust, to help Aids orphans in Africa: nationally to the Church Urban Fund supporting youth and community projects throughout Britain: and locally to Chester Aid to the Homeless to help provide a training kitchen to support their clients. (see details elsewhere in the Magazine.) "Better to light a candle than curse the dark." Let us become more deeply aware of our motivation as Christians to respond to the opportunities we are given to be true to our calling as Kingdom builders.

Yours sincerely



Peter Lee

Prayer of the Month:

O God, you have measured us against this hour and the challenge is in simple, basic things which govern the way we think and live and pray. The needs are so vast and we are so weak that we despair of being effective servants. So we thank you for the knowledge that the work is Christ's and that we are members of his great body. Help us to be at one with the Lord of creation in the work of recreation. Help us to begin to join in your work. Help us to begin here. Help us to begin now; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PARISH CHURCH OF ST. JAMES CHRISTLETON

SUNDAYS	8.00 a.m.	Holy Communion
	10.45 a.m.	Parish Communion 1st & 3rd Sundays
		Family Service 2nd Sunday
		Mattins 4th & 5th Sundays
	6.30 p.m.	Evensong 1st, 2nd & 3rd
Sundays		Evening Communion 4th Sunday
		Songs of Praise 5th Sunday
WEDNESDAYS	10.45 a.m.	Holy Communion
SAINTS	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	
Wardens:	David Mercer, 13 Bridge Drive 336155 Lois Dickinson 8 Old Mill Court, Mill Lane Upton..... 378320	
Reader Emeritus	John Roberts, Cerisy, Birch Heath Lane 332207	
Verger	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	
P. C. C. Secretary:	Margaret Croston 335955	
Treasurer:	Cec Rydings 336483	
Stewardship Envelope:	Betty Dunning 335652	
Gift Aid Secretary	Martin Wheeler 336644	
Bellringers	Ian Braithwaite 300565	
Bellringer Vice Captains	Michael Phillips 01829 771357 Ian Crossan 332280	
Parish Hall Booking	David Mercer 336155	
C. M. S. Secretary	Janet Brown 335785	
Children's Society Sec.	Lesley Morgan 335088	
Visiting Group:	Gill Hibbert. 336544	
Library	Margaret Bass 335517	
Church Flowers	Olive Hammond 336562	
Magazine Editor	David Bull 332234	
Magazine Compiler	Richard Nicholson 336004	
Magazine Distributor	Margaret Dromgoole..... 341406	
Neighbourhood Link Co-Ordinator	Janet Bowden 335705	
Parish Resource Person for Child Protection	Susan Alexander 335077	

BAPTISMS, WEDDINGS & APPOINTMENTS
BY ARRANGEMENT WITH THE RECTOR 335663

Collecting Stamps for the Leprosy Mission

This year the Leprosy Mission has raised the wonderful sum of £53,300-22 from the sales of donated used postage stamps and collectables. The organisers Phil and Eileen Jarman thank everyone who has helped make this possible, and help them celebrate 21 years of collecting. "Work amongst those affected by leprosy can, at times, be difficult and distressing. However there are also great times of celebration- a person being cured of their illness; a hand previously of little use, now flexible again following surgery and physiotherapy; a school exam passed, when previously no lessons had been available; employment or their own business when previously there had been no physical or financial means of providing for a family. The above result will have helped The Leprosy Mission to provide some of these times of celebration". Members of St James' have the opportunity to help this excellent cause by donating used postage stamps to the Leprosy Mission. These can be left for collection in a box at the back of church near the Children's area. Further details of the project can be obtained from Mrs Vera Wood.

PILGRIM DAYS

For some years now, several of us from St James have helped out with Pilgrim Days at the Cathedral. Each autumn, children come in from various schools in the Diocese and enjoy a day of workshops. Once again we welcomed around 900 children who took part in stained glass, calligraphy, tapestry, hand bell ringing, drama, choir, clay tiles, mosaics, poetry, sign language, and this year – and innovation – heraldry. This prompted the Rev. Peris Williams, who concluded one day's worship, to produce Chester Football Club's banner! We all know what a fan he is, and he just couldn't resist this opportunity.

The children enjoy dressing up as little Benedictine monks in order to learn something of the monastic tradition and also take part in a role-play of pilgrimage. Judy Davies, the Education Officer at the Cathedral is always looking for volunteers – the more there are - the more the load is spread – so perhaps next year you might feel like joining in?

Margaret Croston

CONGRATULATIONS

To Mr & Mrs Edward and Mabel Kirk who celebrate their Diamond Wedding Anniversary (60 years) on 22nd November.



ANNUAL OFFERTORY SERVICE 13TH NOVEMBER AT 6.30 PM

We are delighted to welcome back to St James Mrs Aelison Wilson as our guest speaker at this year's annual offertory service.

'Changing times, changing needs'

Ever since Edward Rudolph founded the Church of England Central Home for Waifs and Strays in 1881 the Children's Society has constantly evolved to meet changes in society and in children's need for support. From pioneering residential homes and placing children for adoption, to its current focus on the most over looked children through direct work and national campaigns, each has been motivated by listening to children's needs. I do hope you will be able to take this opportunity to meet Aelison and hear more about the current work that the Children's Society undertakes.

Please could all you kind Box Holders make sure that your Box has been returned to church by the above date in order that it may be offered at the altar.

Many thanks – Lesley Morgan



AN INTERESTING HISTORICAL NOTE

Did Churches Together in Christleton exist in the 1920's? The following extract is taken from the Parish Magazine for May 1921. The Rector is writing about the annual meeting of the PCC, and in his minutes writes, "We must report some of its decisions later but much of the opening session was used in discussing different matters of general interest. It was agreed to arrange combined Open-Air Services with the Weslyans and Presbyterians as in other years, and to ask the Church people to help the Central Church Fund".

David Cummings

LOCAL EVENTS DIARY

CHRISTLETON W.I. MONTHLY WHIST DRIVE

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

OPEN HOUSE GROUPS

The Monday Afternoon Group meet on the 4th Monday of the month at the home of Rena Griffiths, 24 Hawthorn Road, Christleton. Contact Margaret Bass (335517) for further information.

CHRISTLETON METHODISTS

Warmly invite you

For Coffee & Home-Made Biscuits

On Saturday 12 November

10am – 12noon

Charity Christmas Cards

Cake Stall : White Elephant : Raffle

Proceeds to Fund for World Mission.

RETAIL THERAPY NIGHT

**WEDNESDAY 2 NOVEMBER
AT 7.00 pm in THE PARISH HALL**

Shoe-b-Do (Spanish shoes & handbags) - Costume Jewellery - Ladies Lingerie & fashions - Candles - Cake Stall
- A Chocolate & Wine Tombola - Coffee & biscuits

Admission £2.50.

Tickets Christine Abrams (335562),

Gillian Brackenbury (329346), Janet Milton (335469).

All profits will go to the Christmas Charities nominated by the PCC.

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 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 Chester 346497.

CHRISTLETON GARDENING CLUB

The next meeting will take place on 14th November with a talk by Mr Tony James on "Daffodils".

WINTER CHARITY TALK

**Saturday 19th November in the Parish Hall
7.00pm**

Beautiful Britain.

by David Cummings

This illustrated talk will take you on a whistle stop tour of Cornwall & Devon, The Malverns, The Brecon Beacons and The Gower, Yorkshire & Derbyshire Dales, Northumberland & Northern Scotland. and demonstrate the countryside at its best. Tickets £6 including light supper and a glass of wine/soft drink. All proceeds to St James' Christmas Charities. Please contact David or Beryl at church, or ring 332410 to confirm places, and to enable us to arrange refreshments.

CATHEDRAL LINK

Saints' Windows in the Cloisters

St Luke – Born to pagan Greek parents, and possibly a slave. One of the earliest converts. Physician, studying in Antioch and Tarsus. Probably travelled as a ship's doctor; many charitable societies of physicians are named after him. Legend has it that he was also a painter who may have done portraits of Jesus and Mary, but none have ever been correctly or definitively attributed to him; this story, and the inspiration his Gospel has always given artists, led to his patronage of them. He is also the saint of bachelors and doctors amongst others.

Saints Day 18 October

No Admission Charges on Sundays After 30 October!

There will be no admission charge to the Cathedral during the low season on Sundays starting from 6 November until 26 March inclusive. There will be no entry charge on any day during the whole of December.

Admission charges will resume again on 2 April 2006.



DIXON'S ALMSHOUSES

Avacancy exists for an upstairs flat at Dixon's Almshouses. Priority will be given according to the terms of the Trust. These state that they should be for residents of the ecclesiastical Parish of Christleton (Christleton, Littleton, Rowton, Cotton Edmunds and Cotton Abbots) who do not own any property. If there are no applicants who fulfil these criteria priority will be given to applicants who come closest to meeting them. The present Trustees are the Order of St John Care Trust based in Lincolnshire, but there is a local committee.

For further details phone the Rector (01244 335663) or Mr Nigel Bromage (01244 336119). Applications, indicating ways in which the applicant meets the terms of the Trust, should be sent to the Rector.



ST.JAMES CHURCH CHRISTMAS FAIR CHARITIES 2005

In a year of global disasters there are so many worthy causes to support. It is always a difficult task to make choices. The charities chosen by the PCC this year are all small Christian charities without any national funding and dependent completely upon charitable giving. They all provide effective practical Christian care in the communities in which they work, often through volunteers. We have followed the usual pattern of a local, a national and an international choice.

Local

CATH – The Church Association for the Homeless

This is a charity that we regularly support, but this is in answer to a special appeal to help establish a kitchen to feed the homeless

National

The Church Urban Fund

The Fund has supported thousands of community projects over the years, many of which require on going funding. Funding is used widely to help alleviate critical family problems, illness, homelessness and to provide accommodation often within Church premises to act as centres for volunteers to provide help, support and practical assistance.

APPEAL LODGED

The Freemasons Hall [Chester] Ltd, Cheshire View, Plough Lane, Christleton, Chester applied for a variation of a new premises licence to allow them to consume alcohol and provide entertainments and music for 6 days out of 7 a week until 2 am. This was granted at a Hearing on 16 August when many people are away on holiday and were, in any case unaware of the application, but some objections were lodged because of the possible noise, traffic and nuisance in the small hours. It is unclear as to whether all the objections were heard at the Hearing.

On the advice of our local Councillor, Brian Bailey, an Appeal has been lodged at the 11th hour to the Magistrates Court.



St. James' Annual Christmas Fair



THEME

The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe

Saturday 26 November 2005

Christleton Parish Hall

10.00 a.m. start

Entrance 50p

accompanied children free

Raffle Drawn at 12.15 p.m.

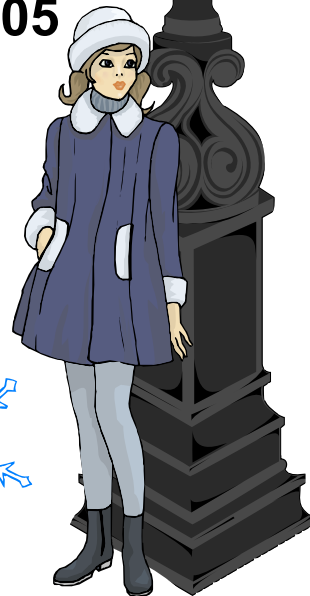
Opening by

Rose Queen Charlotte Seddon

Proceeds to The Mango Tree Trust
(International)

Church Urban Fund (National)

Chester Aid to the Homeless ((Local)



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CONCERT AT ST. JAMES'

The recent concert at St. James' Church by Rhos Male Voice Choir in aid of Hope House was a great success inasmuch as it raised almost elen hundred pounds for that Children's Hospice. The grateful thanks of the Committee is extended to all who attented and assisted in raising this magnificent sum. Our particular thanks go to Rev. Peter Lee and the P.C.C. of St. James' for allowing us the facilities of the church. Thank you again and may God Bless you for your kind help.

F. C. Davies

Chairman, Christleton Group Friends of Hope House

DOUBLE SEPTEMBER CELEBRATION

Congratulations to Peter and Joyce Davis of Sandrock Road. Their son Paul married Kate Davis at St James' on 10th September and on the 13th September they became grand parents for the first time when their daughter Sarah gave birth to Joshua.

International The Mango Tree Trust

The Trust supports Tanzanian orphans who have lost one or both parents, predominately to AIDS. The focus is on long-term development through education and vocational training, again making use of volunteers to cut costs and maximise effectiveness.

In the September issue of the Parish magazine we explained that this year rather than hold a "New to you Sale", we would like to place the fund raising efforts right in the middle of the parish community!

There do not seem to be many willing fund raising entrepreneurs out there!

The Retail Therapy evening is still to come, but so far it is not a very rosy picture for the designated charities. Events to date

The Barbecue after the Annual Corporate Communion raised £71.00.

Janet Milton and friends, a lunch party - £75.00

If you want to help or have ideas, please ring -



ALL QUIET ON THE WESTERN FRONT

An undergraduate's recollections of a visit to the WW1 Battlefields

I was ill prepared for what I was to see at the WW1 battlefields of Ypres, Arras and the Somme. Yes, I knew some of the politics, which countries were primarily involved, I knew about some of the major battles. I knew a bit about life in the trenches, I'd seen pictures in GCSE history books, I'd read "Birdsong". But on actually visiting the Western Front, I realised that for all I thought I knew about WW1, I had certainly not really understood what a whole generation laid down

WW1 escalated rapidly from the assassination of the heir to the Habsburg throne, Archduke Franz Ferdinand, in Sarajevo. As a result, Austria declared war on Serbia, to whose defence came Russia. Germany, in an act of

aggression borne out of a desire to prove her strength and superiority, declared war on Russia and France. Germany also invaded Belgium violating her neutrality, thus drawing Britain into the war on August 4th 1914. The Western Front, stretching from the Belgian coast on the English Channel right along the length of the Franco-German border was to be the scene of unprecedented carnage and destruction until November 11th 1918.

"Where the hell are we?!"
"Well according to this map we are on a road that doesn't exist ... But we're not lost, I'm sure we can retrace our steps ..."

This is Belgium, just outside Ypres. A vast grid of impossibly straight roads through extraordinarily flat fields of potatoes, maize, hops and sprouts. You can see for miles, but you can see, well, nothing. In addition to its world class beers and chocolates, Belgium boasts the best system of roads and signposts for anyone wishing to get completely and bewilderingly lost.

Eventually we find the Hill 62 Museum and Sanctuary Wood. The former is named by its height in metres above sea level (in this level-landed country, 62m represents a major strategic point). The latter is named literally because this wood was used as a sanctuary by soldiers who had become separated from their company. It was a safe place to meet and regroup – until, of course, it was ripped apart by warfare.

The museum is tiny and packed with artefacts. Few things are labelled, but few things need much explanation. There are bits of uniform, regimental badges, tin helmets, mud encrusted boots. There are bits of ammunition, shells, mortars, bullets, guns. The walls are covered, not an inch to spare, with photos taken in the Ypres salient during WW1, where some of the bloodiest and longest-sustained fighting took place. Many of these photos make grisly viewing, and there are some so horrific that, guiltily, I shy away from them, only looking through the corner of my eye.

At a table in the centre of the room, there are a dozen or so Victorian-looking stereoscopic photo boxes. You can sit at any one and look through the two round eyepieces at photos which have an alarming 3-D effect. Here I am not permitted to sideways-glance at the photos, some deemed too horrendous to make it to the history books. There is not the luxury of right or left, only head on confrontation. I feel quite tense as the next slide is rolled manually into focus: perhaps it would be a bunch of smiling comrades, or perhaps a fallen soldier lying in mud and blood, half his head in some other corner of a Flanders field. I think, 'What must it have been like to be confronted with this every day, uncertainty hanging like a heavy cloud, and mortality – not air - filling your nostrils?' I can scarcely begin to imagine.

The rear of the tiny museum opens into Sanctuary Wood.

A cursory glance and this looks like a woodland idyll, early autumn sunlight streaming through leaves beginning to turn and fall. Then I register the relief of the ground. It is pockmarked with shell holes, man-deep, already filling with mud after only one overnight shower. And I notice the aging tree stumps, bound with barbed wire to prevent them from falling apart, covered in remembrance crosses and poppies. These were once the only geographical features in no man's land. Although nature has done an impressive job of reclaiming this wood, the scars left here by the ravages of war are impossible to conceal.

Here there is a section of a preserved trench. In places it is already too muddy for our tentative trainers to tread. (How pathetic! Pte R A Colwell recalls from Ypres: 'The earth had been churned and re churned. It was simply a soft, slippery mess, into which you sank up to the neck if you slipped from the duckboard tracks ... pits of earth like simmering fat, brimful of water and slimy mud, mile after mile as far as the eye could see.') Walking through the trench is a strange experience – in parts deep enough to be claustrophobic, in others worryingly shallow. But, nearly 90 years on, I am sure it can only now give a sketchy impression of the reality of trench living.

We reach Tyne Cot along an unassuming little road, through seemingly endless arable land. It is late in the day, and the crisp shadows are lengthening every minute. I stand at the gate and imagine standing before the entire undergraduate population of Oxford University. But here, each individual is replaced with a gleaming, bright white headstone. This is the Tyne Cot Cemetery, which holds 12,000 burials of Commonwealth soldiers who fell in the Ypres salient. 70% of them are 'Known unto God'. Beyond the headstones, names carved in huge tablets of stone stretch in an arc around the whole of the far side of the cemetery, a memorial to the 35,000 soldiers who fell in the Ypres salient after August 16th 1917, and who have no known grave. (Those who fell before this date, some 55,000, are remembered on the Menin Gate in Ypres town centre). The tremendous human cost of this 'great' war is beginning to register. It is one thing to read an inventory of figures of which country had how many killed, how many wounded; it is another entirely to stand before them. And each one a son, a brother, a husband, a father. Indeed, one inscription reads 'Sacred spot, tread carefully, a mother's love lies here'.

Though strangely, this is not an unpleasant place to be. It is immaculately kept, with colourful flowers and shrubs planted on every row of headstones. It is a place of great dignity, and overwhelmingly peaceful, perfect for quiet reflection on what a nation's youth endured and gave. In fact, I am grateful to be able to silently contemplate what I see before me, and spend quite some time doing just that. Leaving behind flat, fertile Belgium, we head towards Arras, NE France. Just miles from here took place that most bloody and notorious battle, the Somme. An estimated 1.3 million casualties

– mostly British, German and French – were incurred at the 1st Battle of the Somme between July and November 1916. All for 5 miles of liquid mud.

We visit a German cemetery at Neuville St Vaast. The impact of this place is perhaps even greater than Tyne Cot: I cannot see where the long rows of iron crosses end, looking in every direction they blur into oneness. I look at a single cross. There is a name on both of its horizontal arms. I look at the other side ... two more names. My God, each one of these seemingly endless crosses represents four – four – soldiers. There are 44,000 burials here in total.

A contrast to the bright white stone and coloured flowered in Tyne Cot, here there is no colour. Large trees spread a canvas of shade over Neuville St Vaast so that even the grass looks dark green, not bright and verdant like at Tyne Cot. At Tyne Cot there was a sense of glorification of the soldieries who died proudly fighting for our freedom, they are honoured and ennobled. Here, without the perspective of the victor, I feel only the bare futility and desperate loss. Here, I feel I have reached the quick of the most basic and most terrible aspect of war.

So what did it all achieve? Well, Germany's aggressive attempt at expansion into territories to which she had no claim was rightly stopped. The freedom of France and the neutrality of Belgium were protected. So I will wear my poppy with pride and with gratitude to those who gave the highest sacrifice for the sake of freedom.

But this was achieved at a cost of 10 million dead, hundreds of thousands of survivors left mentally and physically wounded, and those on the home fronts on the brink of starvation. So I will also wear my poppy with hope that the lessons of war will one day be learnt. For this 'war to end all wars' did nothing of the sort. On every day of every year since 11th November 1918, somewhere in the world there has been armed conflict.

Katharine Schofield



The Obituary of LIONEL GARNETT Part 2

He turned his attention to the school, which in those days was condemned by Government Inspectors, and in getting rid of that school Canon Garnett showed wonderful tact. He purchased a public house, the old Ring O Bells, and substituted the present school, and in addition to that he obtained a piece of land, which formed an addition to the churchyard, and which had been a great boon in many



ways, opening out the view of the church, and affording new burial space which was much needed. (The old school was in the churchyard, adjacent to Christleton House, and the pub he bought The Old Ring O Bells, was on the site of the present Parish Hall. The addition to the churchyard was the lawned

area alongside Pepper Street, between the Yew Trees and the Road.) An incident which is related of the late Rector as illustrating his concept of the Parish Priest's duty, is that some years ago, a non conformist parishioner was lying sick with of smallpox, and the Rector was invited to go to see him.

He went to the infected patient immediately without hesitation, and contacted the disease himself. Canon Garnett's last visit to Christleton was at Easter when he



read the lessons in church. His former parishioners were delighted to see him, and hoped many more times to welcome him back to the place. It was in 1906 that the honorary canonry was conferred on Mr Garnett, and the distinction was pleasing to all the Canon's friends and to churchmen generally in Chester District. When Canon Garnett retired the living of Christleton, he was succeeded by the Rev G.M.V.Hickey, the present Rector. Canon Garnett some 29years ago, married a daughter of the late Mr John Thompson of Boughton Hall, Chester, and she survives him. Their children are Mr Claude Garnett who is in the army, Mrs Olive Clarke, wife of Captain Clarke of the Cheshire Regiment, and Mr Laurence Garnett who is ranching in Canada.

Canon Garnett as a Horticulturalist. (Extract) Canon Garnett was an original member of the Paxton Society, and was a regular exhibitor at its shows. The exhibits staged by Canon Garnett were always looked upon as being the result of a skilful cultivator and in the A Class, which is open to those employing professional gardeners he was always



a prominent prize winner. Canon Garnett was an authority on hardy fruits, but he was equally at home with hardy herbaceous flowers. It was always a treat to see his well kept, and beautifully arranged gardens during his residency at Christleton Rectory.

Christleton's sorrow.

Universal regret was expressed and a great gloom pervaded the village when it became known that Canon Garnett, who was for upwards of 40years its Rector had passed away whilst on a visit to his daughter in Belfast. The news was conveyed in a telegram to the Rector GMV Hickey, and the lowering the flag, to half mast, speedily spread the sad intelligence through the area. During his long residence in the village, he had done much valuable work for the church, the parishioners looked upon him as their friend and guide equally as their spiritual pastor. His loss to the village is felt to be a personal one, and great sympathy expressed for Mrs Garnett and her family in their bereavement. A Memorial Service will be held (today) Saturday May 4th 1912 at Christleton Church at 11 o' clock.

Notice of a memorial service for Canon Garnett is in the May 11th edition of The Chronicle.

Relatives who attended his interment at Wyreside, the family home in Lancashire include Mr Jack Thomson, Mr HG Rolt and *Mr LC Rolt. *Brother in law, and father of LTC Rolt, the famous Canal Engineer and writer. The Rolt Family lived for some time at "Holly Bank", the property now known as "Birch Heath Lodge". Annie Rolt was Lionel Garnett's sister and is commemorated by a bronze plaque on the south aisle of St James' Church.

This edition of "The Chronicle", also contains a cutting about the recovery of bodies from the wreck of the Titanic in Nova Scotia!!

David Cummings



THE ADVENTURES OF MICKEY

Regular readers will recall that the October Parish Magazine carried the story of how I was abandoned on Birch Heath Common and some of you will be concerned about my progress and/or survival.

At the time of writing I am unsure as to whether I will complete the return trip to Mr Nicholson's very hospitable residence with its copious supplies of buttered scones and bird seed, but I have to advise you all that the environs of Birch Heath are not particularly friendly towards little mice.

When Mr Nicholson left I was soon approached by a representative of the local Rodent Union who informed me that one of the houses nearby was home to a large cat, that another housed a dog and that the third had a collection of traps, rat, mouse mole etc., and a supply of blue coloured wheat which tends to play havoc with a mouse's digestion. There is also a resident population of Mr Cummings' friends – owls, hawks and buzzards who are not averse to a spot of pre-prepared instant mouse pie.

The Common itself is not a bad place to live as the contractor who cuts the grass tends to leave a fringe of long grass around the concrete stumps. These are ideal for mice but not too good for any passing motorist who pulls off to admire the view and finds the concrete hidden in the grass.

Perhaps it would be better if Mr Nicholson found a safer place to release future captives or it may be that one day, someone around Birch Heath will return the compliment as it were, with interest, in the shape of a live rat.

Where on earth could one leave a rat in a Conservation area?

I'll be glad to be back in Christleton as soon as possible, hopefully in time for the Harvest Festival in the Church – always a chance of a meal there.

That's all folks.

Mickey



CHRISTLETON CRICKET CLUB

2005 proved to be very successful. The 1st team ended the season with a powerful performance against Bowden, the 2004 champions. They declared with 9 wickets down, thus denying maximum points to the winners, Christleton, which would have ensured runners up spot. However 3rd place in the Premier Cheshire League is a fantastic performance for a village team. It is the highest position ever achieved by a Chester team in the County league. Preparations are in hand to strengthen our 1st team in an attempt to win the league in 2006. Unfortunately we cannot look forward to games next season against our local rivals Boughton Hall, who were relegated. We hope they can re-group and achieve promotion next season. Although we won both matches against them we looked forward to these exciting games.

The 2nd eleven also finished with a fine victory over Grappenhall. This was the 11th win of the season. The number of points gained with only 4 defeats would normally have been sufficient to win promotion. This year it was not enough. However with the same blend of youth and experience it is hoped it will be achieved next year.

The 3rd eleven finished runners up and were promoted, which means playing in the top division next season. Several young players are gaining experience at this level and should progress through the teams during the coming seasons.

Christleton Cricket Club has exceeded the expectations of the past 5 years. The rapid progress through the various Cheshire leagues has been amazing. However the success story is a testament to the efforts of many loyal members over the past 30 years including Gordon Williams, Doug Evans and the Dandy family. The support of the inspirational President Jim Partington and the guidance of Chairman Gareth Davies will ensure the continual success of the club in future years

For information about the Cricket Club please contact: Brian Wareing - 332326

LOCAL EVENTS DIARY

ST JAMES' TUESDAY WALKING GROUP

Tuesday November 22nd.

Llangollen. Valle Cruces Abbey, Eglwysig Rocks, Castel Dinas Fran and the Shropshire Union Canal. 7 _ miles (moderate) Pub Meal at the Sun Trevor Inn. Depart Church Car Park at 8.00am

CHRISTLETON VILLAGE HISTORY GROUP

Wednesday 23rd November 7.30pm at The Primary School

Speaker; Eileen Simpson The Grosvenor's of Eaton. In this illustrated talk, Eileen, archivist to the Estate, will outline the history of the family from 1086 to the present day. Everyone welcome.

Mothers' Union

Our Church Library is filled with loads of really great books, given over the years by much loved and respected friends who have worshipped and still worship at St James'. Many books are true stories about famous people and their beliefs, people such as Mother Teresa, Eddie Stobart and Delia Smith. A wonderful assortment and well worth reading. We all vowed to make more time for our Library and were very grateful to Margaret Bass who kindly came to our meeting to show us what we were missing.

At the end of November, Mothers' Union will as usual be running the craft Bric-a-Brac stall at the Christmas Fair and would be very grateful for any items for our stall. Please let Margaret Renner or Janet Brown know if you have any item which you like picking up, or bring them along to our next Mothers' Union meeting.

Peris Williams will be coming to speak at our next meeting, which will be on Monday 14th November at 2pm in the Parish Hall.

CHRISTLETON W.I.

COME TO A CHRISTMAS MORNING
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Distribution of Harvest Parcels

Christleton people have long been known for their generosity, and this harvest was no exception. Starting on Friday morning at the Primary School Harvest, goods poured into church. This was followed, by more generous donations on the Saturday morning, and at morning service on Sunday 9th October. The Rector led the Harvest Service supported by teachers from the Sunday School, and church members, and involved almost all of the children present. The focus of the service was the Lord of the Harvest and the Crowning the Year, with a large gold crown becoming full with a veritable cornucopia of vegetables and fruit by the end of the service.

The distribution of the produce started early on Monday morning with all the tins, packets, fruits and flowers being organised into 90 separate baskets, and a large number of pot plants and bunches of flowers made ready. At 10.30am the parcels were ready to be taken to all parts of the village and surrounding district by volunteers. I think that the most wonderful message that comes from this giving in God's name, is the response from the older members of the community receiving the goods. The gifts however small, are always received with smiles and gratitude, the fact that someone has remembered them. It is a joy to see their faces and to have their comments. I only wish that the children who brought their gifts, could see the faces of the friends who received them.

David Cummings



NATURE NOTES

The highlight of September was the visit of a tiny hummingbird hawk moth to our garden in Rowton. These are very rare visitors indeed, and although a medium sized moth, they resemble a hummingbird in both shape and behaviour, complete with a long pointed tongue for foraging into flower heads for food. I happened to be speaking at New Mills in Derbyshire and a similar moth had been seen there on the same day, indicating that a warm southerly wind had blown a number north from their usual Mediterranean habitat. The bird highlight in the village was the appearance for several days of a pair of ravens. They were seen in Quarry Lane, as well as appearing above the village and circling the church tower, calling with their distinctive raw "crawking" sound. A green woodpecker was also seen foraging in the churchyard. Several southern hawker dragonflies emerged at Hockenhull Platts in the late warm sunshine, as did several common darters, mainly males with their distinctive red colour. I've recently heard from recorders that our local barn owls have done well again this year, and one was seen feeding young near an ash tree site (Not the usual one in Cotton Lane). However both little and tawny owls have been scarce. The reed bed at Hockenhull, was cut by machine, and raked by volunteers from the Cheshire Wildlife Trust and Reaseheath College at the beginning of October, and a new footbridge and fence erected later in the month over the old river bed. There are still signs of mink appearing on the river bank and we assume that they are breeding there, but the most interesting breeding record was that of a pair of Carolina Wood ducks from America. These distinctive birds are probably escapees from a wildfowl collection, but were seen at one time with 8 ducklings near the bridges. This species have the unusual habit in their own country of nesting in tree holes, (like woodpeckers) but I suspect that this pair nested in the reed bed or near the river. Our cygnets began to fly at the end of September, and by the beginning of October the adult pair were left with only two cygnets, CL25 & 27. The other three cygnets have flown off but I spotted CL26 at the Groves last Sunday morning on my weekly swan count. However it had gone by Tuesday, when we had a ringing session there. One Cheshire cygnet has already been reported from Cavendish Dock, in Barrow in Furness, not bad for a first flight!

David Cummings



CHURCH CHRISTMAS CARDS & WILDLIFE CHARITY CARDS

David Cummings has produced a limited number of Christmas cards showing St James' Church in the snow, to raise money for the three Christmas Charities, CATH (Homeless in Chester), The Church Urban Fund and the Mango Tree Trust. The packs are on sale priced £2 for 5 of the same design. They can be obtained from Church or from David on 332410.

He has also produced and donated 400 packs of unique wildlife letter cards to be used to raise funds for The Hospice of the Good Shepherd in Chester and Hope House Children's Hospices in North Wales and Shropshire. These cards in mixed packs of five can be purchased from him on 332410 or the Hospices, priced £2.00 per pack. The packs include photographs of a kingfisher, swallowtail butterfly, banded aragon damselfly, Christleton Swans doing their mating dance etc.

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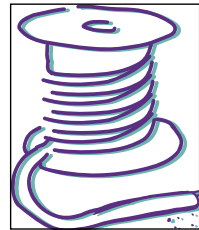
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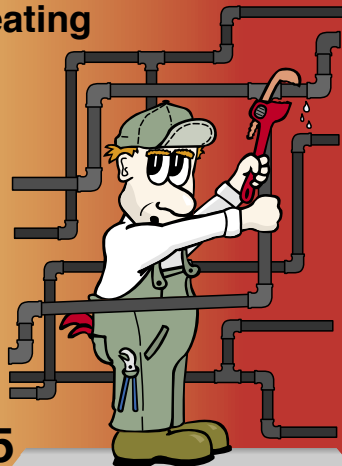
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