

St. James' Christleton



PARISH MAGAZINE
September 2013

www.christleton.org.uk

35p

Journal for September

Sun	1	8.00 am	Holy Communion
		10.45 am	Holy Communion
		6.30 pm	Evening Worship (CW)
Mon	2	10.45 am	Holy Communion at Oaklands Nursing Home
		11.20 am	Holy Communion at Tarvin Court
Wed	4	10.45 am	United Communion -followed by Refreshments
Thur	5	12.00 noon	United Prayer Lunch - Methodist Church
Fri	6	6.30 pm	Choir practice
Sun	8	8.00 am	Holy Communion
		10.45 am	Sunday Club - Parish Hall
		10.45 am	All Age Service
		6.30 pm	Holy Communion
Mon	9	2.00 pm	Mothers' Union - Parish Hall
Wed	11	10.45 am	Holy Communion - followed by refreshments
		11.30 am	Holy Communion - Birch Heath Lodge
Fri	13	6.30 pm	Choir Practice

**NB: Last date for any contributions for October Parish Magazine to Janet Milton (335469). Earlier if possible please.
You can attach your Word document and
e-mail to: christletonmag@hotmail.co.**

Sun	15	8.00 am	Holy Communion
		10.45 am	Holy Communion
		6.30 pm	Evening Worship (BCP)

Wed	18	10.45 am	Holy Communion - followed by refreshments
Fri	20	6.30 pm	Choir Practice
Sun	22	8.00 am	Holy Communion
		10.45 am	Sunday Club - Parish Hall
		10.45 am	Morning Prayer followed by Baptism of William James Heywood and Olivia June Heywood
		6.30 pm	Holy Communion
Wed	25	10.45 am	Holy Communion - followed by refreshments
Fri	27	6.30 pm	Choir Practice
Sun	29	8.00 am	Holy Communion
		10.45 am	Sunday Club - Parish Hall
		10.45 am	Holy Communion
		6.30 pm	Evening Worship (CW)

THE PRAYER LIST

As many of you know, prayers are read out each week for particular people from our church family who are unwell and have requested prayer either for themselves, or on behalf of others.

In some cases, it is appropriate that those on the list have their names removed, for whatever reason; either for an indefinite period or temporarily.

We would therefore like to suggest that people are on the list for a period of up to four weeks, after which we request an update to the Rector or a member of the Visiting Group on the situation.

Please note however, that anybody who would still like to be 'permanently' included, will not be refused.

Message from our Rector



We live in a technological age, which is either the best time to live, or the worst.

In the past few weeks, we have heard and read of the tragic events of young people committing suicide because they have been subjected to relentless and horrible cyber bullying. Or the annoyance of constant pre recorded telephone calls trying to sell us solar heating panels or loft insulation.

Yet, used in the right way, it allows us not only to speak with friends and relatives in many parts of the world, but also to see them, via our computers or mobile phones. There are so many new drug treatments which cure illnesses or prolong life, which are literally, lifelines, to those desperate for such treatments.....but then we are told that the cost of them is far too expensive for the benefit they would provide.

If governments insist on the communication companies policing their service, they are accused of being heavy handed, and subjecting us to nanny state policies. If communication companies allow free unhindered access, they are accused of being reckless.

Such ethical issues have tested the wisdom and courage of legislators throughout the ages, on issues such as slavery, (which was abolished as recently as 1833 in this country), child labour, (when even as recently as 1940, we had children working down coal mines or on the

land), although the list could go on and on.

Life is about freedom, freedom to live and love and to be who we are and what we are.....but with freedom, or rights, also comes responsibilities. To treat others as we would want to be treated ourselves, even in being treated with respect and dignity and love.

Hindsight is of course, the best sort of sight, and as we reflect on times past, we can immediately see the wrongs slavery or child labour, and yet these were seen, not only as acceptable, but essential for the prosperity of the country.

In time, we may see a way through the fog which obscures our vision and prevents us from seeing clearly just how to embrace new technologies, whilst also ensuring we do not exploit or exclude the weak, vulnerable or needy in society.

Until that time comes, perhaps the best hope we have is to show by word and example just how best to live and love and be.

Jesus often called the children to himself, they were the weak and vulnerable and needy of His society and taught those who came to hear his word and said "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these".

If the Kingdom of Heaven belongs to them.....how much more the kingdoms of this world.

Your faithful servant,
Malcolm.



Thank you!!!

Dear Everybody,

Thank you for such a warm welcome!

Thank you to all who prepared such a delectably delicious feast.

Thank you for the Daily Bread Bible and my card.

All very special

This whole time has been very special from the beginning in 2007 when I found again that God does have a sense of humour as He was asking me to become ordained, all through the studying, assignments, the challenges, making new friends and the refining fire that eventually lead me, dazed but delighted to St. James.

It was good to meet so many of you over the lunch, apologies that I did not get to talk to everybody. Jesus thoroughly approved of meeting over meals, sharing food and fellowship. It is through that fellowship that relationships can begin to be built. I am looking forward to meeting more of you and beginning to build those relationships that hold us together in God's family, to learn more about you and share laughter and tears.

I am a retired (early!) Primary School teacher with 33 years experience in 3 different schools, starting in Kent then moving 'up North' to be with my family when my marriage ended. I had 19 wonderful years with my mother living with me. She died in 2009 and I lost my best friend, prayer partner and critic. My brother and sister-in-law live in Tarvin and I am lucky to have my youngest niece and her family close by so when my head needs re-adjusting I can play with her two boys, aged 3 and 1. My little house is filled with prayers and is my peaceful retreat where I can

garden, cook, embroider, (anyone else like cross-stitch?) paint, make cards, read, do crosswords, listen to music and, very importantly, welcome friends.

I am learning fast but I am also very good at forgetting. I find I get a lot of exercise climbing the stairs, not doing what I went up to do, going down and then having to climb them again! I hope I will remember your names ... but if I look a little blank, please be kind and refresh my memory! Friedrich Nietzsche wrote “the advantage of a bad memory is that one enjoys several times the same good things for the first time.

I have bought a new phone for working in the parish. I will try and be efficient but if I don't answer it quickly either I have forgotten where I put it or can't remember which button to press!

My 'L' plates are very new and shiny. It is all exciting, awe inspiring and scary! I feel tremendously blessed to be among you. I read recently that it is not so much what God can do through you as what you will allow God to do to you that determines the measure of effectiveness for Him. Well, God has done a lot to me recently! I pray he continues to work at me and through me to enable me to serve you... you can let me know how effective I am!

In love and light,
Barbara.

Cover Picture

Rector Revd. Malcolm Cowan with our new curate Revd. Barbara King outside church after being introduced to the Congregation at her first morning service on 28th July.

WHAT'S ON THIS MONTH

SUNDAY CLUB

Held in the Parish Hall from 10.45 am – 11.45 am each Sunday during term-time, except when Family Service is held at St James. For further details please contact Berenice Kirwan, 336779.

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 Lilian Hopley. Telephone Chester: 676683.

MAGAZINE CONTRIBUTIONS

Please ensure all items for inclusion in the October edition are sent to Janet Milton (325529), as soon as possible **BEFORE Friday 13th September** or you can e-mail this to: christletonmag@hotmail.co.uk

MAGAZINE DISTRIBUTORS

The August magazine will be available for collection from Church on **Sunday 25th August.**

CHRISTLETON GARDENING CLUB

The first meeting of the new session is on Monday 9 September at 7.30p.m in the Methodist Hall. Speaker is Richard Lewis - "Putting Your Garden to Bed" New members welcome £12 per year

APPEAL FOR A NEW PARISH HALL KITCHEN

We plan to install a brand new kitchen in the Parish Hall with work starting in AUGUST 2013.

The current kitchen has served us well over the years, but a new kitchen will reflect the greater use in recent times by our wider community, but we do need a new modern cooker, large restaurant style dishwasher, large fridge/freezer and modern hygienic worktops & store cupboards. A working team has completed a study for a brand new kitchen and the cost will be just over £15,000.

We are asking all at St James to consider donations for this important cause, and all those organisations who regularly use the Parish Hall if they will host a fund raising event to help finance the new kitchen. The work is due to start in AUGUST with a view to completion in early September.

We would be grateful for your support and donations by cheque should be made to St James PCC or cash donations given to Janet Milton, Liz McClure, Christine Abrams, the Rector or Church Wardens.

Thank you for your help and support in our church activities.

Flower Service

The 2013 Flower Service was held on a warm sunny morning on the Church Green. After the entrance of the Rose Queen Sophie Brown and her retinue, the traditional service was led by the Rector and many familiar & favourite

hymns were sung. Members of the Crew told stories about St James, his life and times, and everyone was asked to write a short note on a paper sunflower petal to reveal a saying or thank someone who had inspired them during their lives.

The younger children created the seeds in the centre of the sunflower whilst the adult's contributions were added later. The theme of inspiration and legacy used to promote the Village Show was continued by this short activity, and a list of some of the inspirational writings can be found at the end of this report.



At the end of the service, bunches of flowers were taken to family or untended graves by children and their families, continuing the fine tradition started by Rector Canon Lionel Garnet in the 1870's. Many people stayed on after the service to enjoy excellent fellowship and wonderful food provided by the Parish Catering Team. Congratulations to them on their efforts.

Some of the “inspiring” messages

My dad said, “You can do it. Always be honest and true to yourself”

My grandma “taught me to appreciate all that God has given us”

“Be kind and thoughtful to others”

“Never give up. Keep trying, always do your best to respect others”

“Being taught to sing, and still learning at 73”

“To enjoy everything if I can”

“An appreciation that the natural world is a beautiful place that should be treasured”

“I was inspired by teachers to love the wonderful world of choral music”

“Never give up, keep trying, always do your best, respect others”

“Always see the best in others”

“My mother, who passed on her Christian faith to me”.

“Live in the present”

“Appreciate family and friends”

“That family, be it blood, church or friend is important in life and faith”

“To be kind and always share with others”

My mum and mum in law, “devoted to caring for family and the wider community”

Christleton Local History Group

Winter Programme 2013-14

The Group meets monthly at 7.30pm on Wednesdays
at the Primary School in Quarry Lane.

Admission £3 - All welcome.

Wednesday September 25th.

A short AGM followed by a talk.

Speaker:- David Cummings

The Day the Sky Fell In. The Story of Vesuvius, & the effect of its volcanic activity on the Roman Cities of Pompeii & Herculaneum. This talk will provide a link to the current exhibition taking place at The British Museum in London.

Full details of all the winter programme can be obtained from David Cummings 332410 or found on the Christleton
website www.Christleton.org.uk.

St James Christleton



Harvest Community Faith Lunch Wednesday 9th October in the Parish Hall 12 for 12.30.

All welcome, please bring families, friends, children and anyone you feel you would like to share in this.

Menu (provisional)

Soup of the season
Stew/cottage pie/vegetarian option
Fruit pie and cream.

To be really spoiled and to join in this celebration, please contact

Janet Milton (01244 325529)
Liz McClure (01244 409414)
Christine Abrams (01244 335562)

Offers of help for this and our planned more frequent occasions, please get in touch as we need to build up a good number of helpers.

To attend, either contact us or sign the list at the back of Church.

Donations of money will be used to fund the lunch, surplus on this occasion going to fund the kitchen development and to Alzheimers Society.

Any donations of appropriate food and veg also gratefully accepted.

Are you a member of St. James' Church?

Have you heard of Messy Church?

You are invited to come to a presentation
to find out more.

Join us on **19th September at 7.00 p.m.** in the
Church / Parish Hall.

We will watch a DVD and have a chance to
ask questions and discuss.
Light refreshments included.

We hope this will be a new and exciting way
to share our faith with the wider community.

Mark Smith 8 SEATER TAXIBUS



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Christleton Village Show 2013

Another successful village show was held in the Parish Hall on Saturday 13th July. Thanks to everyone who entered and took part. Without you we can't continue.

Congratulations to all the prizewinners.

Results:-

Best Exhibitor-	Edward Elliott
Best Exhibit-	Angela Haswell
Rose Bowl-	Dorothy Checkley
Wine/Drink-	Diane Greenwood
Produce Award-	Emma De Winter
Baking Award-	Judith White
Fruit & Vegetables-	Jim Ferns
Best Plant-	Peter Thompson
Floral Art-	Jayne Jenkins
Children's Overall-	Luke Sturgess
Most Successful Flowers-	Judith Edwards
Craft Award-	Judith Ferns
Best 3 Exhibits-	Ve Warriner
Best Photograph-	Roger Croston
Best Exhibit by a child.-	Sophie Wade
Best Hanging Basket-	Edward Elliott
Best Group Baskets-	Edward Elliott
Best Premises-	Christleton Institute
Theme Shield-	Angela Haswell
Millennium Trophy-	Karen Warrington
Best Newcomer-	Kathryn Hall
Jubilee Award-	Sarah Donald
Jim Siddall Award-	Simon Gelder
Junior Veg/Fruit Grower-	Kai Courtney Davies

A date for your diary

David Cummings

presents

The 2013 Jim Partington Memorial Talk

The Heritage of Christleton & Wildlife in Close Up

Saturday 5th October 7.00pm

Parish Hall Christleton

Tickets £6 adults £3 children

Interval refreshments. Coffee/Tea & Cakes

All proceeds to The Jubilee Village Sign Fund.

People in the News

Ian Large

Congratulations to Ian a former pupil of both Christleton Schools who has recently been awarded the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in the Army. Ian was always prominent in outdoor activities as a student.

Skiing, mountaineering and sailing were all part of his early learning and he has continued this during his career in the army, being responsible for the training of troops using the skills he learned early on in his life. Everyone in his family and friends are delighted with his promotion. Ian begins his training at the Royal Military Staff College on 1st August.

Nicky Bolton

Congratulations to Christleton resident Nicky Bolton, who has been awarded the ECO Award of the year in the Chester Dee 106.3 Local Hero Awards. This award recognises her continuing work for conservation and for the environment.

Nicky has been at the forefront of work in schools to highlight the importance of how we look after our planet, and has worked with many overseas partners, Chester Zoo & Chester University to bring ecology alive into school classrooms. Her school at Overleigh was also awarded A Green Flag for all their excellence in Conservation, thanks to all the hard work put in by Nicky as the lead Teacher.

Alex Clifton

Alex returned to Chester again this summer as Director of the Open Air Theatre in Grosvenor Park. As well as being responsible for overseeing the whole programme, he is personally directing “Midsummer Night’s Dream” and “Othello”. He and his team have once again chosen an excellent group of actors to bring these plays to life in the delightful park setting, where the emphasis is bringing the action close to the audience and involving them in the play.

The relaxed picnic atmosphere helps enormously, and it was wonderful to see young children enjoy in the case of “Midsummer Nights Dream” a very complicated plot. Alex brought the play to life with his imaginative interpretations, and the liberal sprinkling of fairy dust kept everyone on their guard. The Grosvenor Park Open Air Theatre now in its fourth year has been an outstanding success, thanks to the efforts of Alex and his hard working team.

Malcolm Allen

Parishioners will be sad to learn of the death of Malcolm on Saturday 3rd August at a Nursing Home in Chester. Malcolm had been ill for the past two years, but before that was someone everyone would have seen in and around the village each day. He was the brother of Beryl Whetnall, who with husband Harold contributed a great deal to the life of St James’ Church.

Malcolm was a resident at the Dixon's Houses for as long as most people can remember, and would regularly be seen around the village Green, or at the Sports Centre wearing his Wrexham Football Club tracksuit & scarf, and carrying a briefcase & umbrella. He attended both chapel and church, and with his impish grin will be fondly remembered by all with whom he came into contact. We send condolences to his brother family.

THE ORDINATION OF DEACONS

Nine men and three women (including Barbara King, our new Curate) were ordained as deacons at 10.0 am on Sunday 21 July 2013 in the Cathedral at Chester. Expecting to stroll in, Alf and I were staggered to see a multitude of people filling the pews from the altar back to the base of the West window, with north and south aisles full, and an overflow into the South Transept. Fortunately we knew one of the sidesmen who managed to squeeze us into a row by one of the back pillars.

The service began with the choir, processing from the west end, singing the introit "Jesu the very thought", the congregation standing as the long procession came down the aisle. The Bishop greeted the people. (It was unusual to see the mitres of three bishops in a row!)

After the Confession, each Ordinand was presented and the Bishop prayed for the candidates.

The Vicar of Barnston, the Rev Peter Froggatt read from Samuel and the choir then sang the Benedictus. A passage from Romans 12 was read by the Rev Magdalen Smith, Assistant priest of Wilmslow and Assistant Dioc-

esan Director of Ordinands.

Following the hymn “Rise and hear, the Lord is speaking”, the congregation remained standing for the Gospel. The former Bishop of Winchester, the Rt Rev Michael Scott-Joynt, gave the sermon.

The ordinands moved to stand before the Bishop of Chester, who addressed the congregation and the ordinands directly (who kneeled) and silence was kept.

After the Ordination Prayer, the Bishop laid his hands on the head of each ordinand, saying “Send down the Holy Spirit on your servant for the office and work of a deacon in your church”. (We were startled to see a large black bird flying down the nave – the Holy Spirit?) The newly-ordained were then dressed as appropriate to their order. Afterwards the Bishop gave a New Testament book to each of them.

Eucharist followed The Peace and during the hymn “All my hope in God is founded” the collection was taken, the monies being for the benefit of the Chester Clergy Family Charitable Trust.

During the distribution of the communion (Alf and I received from the Bishop of Chester and the Vice-Dean) the choir sang “Magnificat” George Dyson in F (1882-964) Laudate Dominum, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791).

At the end of the service the bishops led out the newly-ordained deacons followed by the clergy (including our own Rector Malcolm) and the choir. The organist was Benjamin Chewter and the Director of Music Philip Rushforth.

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NOTE FROM JULIE COXALL!

I would just like to say thank you very much for the lovely gift that David Cummings gave me last week, it was very kind of you all.

The photograph is wonderful and how David managed to get all cygnets to look at the camera is amazing!

Many thanks once again, **Julie**

(This note is from **Julie Coxall** our previous magazine compiler in response to our thank you gift - a framed photograph. Thank you again, Julie, for your tireless work over so many editions of our magazine. Ed) “

Many thanks indeed

Nature Notes

Summer has come at last and our colourful butterflies have slowly emerged. There were hundreds of large and small whites about in July, but it wasn't until the beginning of August that comma, tortoiseshell, peacock, red admiral and painted ladies appeared in local gardens.

Also speckled wood, meadow brown, gatekeeper, small copper and small skippers were all to be seen at Hockenhull. Things had been so bad that I had begun to fear the worst, of seeing few butterflies on the wing this year.



Thankfully they might now be able to feed up, lay eggs and prepare for next years breeding season. Dragonflies and damselflies have done extremely well, and there are more about then ever. I've seen as many as twenty five brown hawkers in a day, including three female's egg-laying at the same time on the pond at the Plattts, with several of the bluer southern hawkers also giving elegant flying displays.

The colourful banded demoiselles have also done extremely well and provided visitors with great excitement seeing their elegant flying displays. I've also been fortunate to have close up views of scarce emerald damselflies and rarer black darters at a pond in Delamere. One of the highlights of this and virtually every summer I've ever known, was being taken on a visit to listen to the song of at least ten singing skylarks on a hay meadow in a remote part of the county.

This magical evening was perhaps the sound of things to come as, if more farms are turned over to a more natural way of harvesting we may all see the return of these beautiful songbirds. Sadly the best site that I know around the parish to hear the skylark is currently being turned into a huge lake. Whilst this might have benefits for some species I doubt if the skylark will be one of them. Some of our migratory species have already left for winter in Africa, but there are still young birds about, including spotted flycatchers, whitethroats and chiff chaff.

Young swallows seem to be quite scarce at present, but there were a large number of house martins and swifts feeding frantically in the skies above Cotton Edmunds at the weekend. Our swans can still be seen along the canal and all three cygnets are growing fast and doing well. Another exciting sighting last month was a pair of red kites above Rowton Hall. T



he saddest tale is about the demise of the barn owl in the district. At the last count, with 290 boxes being checked only five contained young owlets. This is terrible news, and the result of our very cold winter and spring with deep snows covering their main food source until well into May. Most nest boxes had no sign of any nesting having taken place, with just a few pellets on the floor!

DC



General Synod votes to restart the legislative process to allow women to become bishops

The General Synod has this summer reaffirmed its commitment to women bishops and called, less than a year after the previous proposals were rejected, for new draft legislation to be introduced. It will be considered by the Synod in November 2013, with the aim of reaching the stage of Final Approval in July or November 2015.

This was the first time Synod members had met since November 2012, when the previous draft legislation narrowly failed to secure the requisite majority in the House of Laity, despite enjoying the support of 73% of the Synod's members overall.

The House of Bishops had recommended that draft legislation be prepared on that basis described as 'option one' in the report of the Working Group established by the House to consider possible ways forward.

That involved:

- a measure and amending canon that made it lawful for women to become bishops;
- the repeal of the statutory rights to pass Resolutions A and B under the Priests (Ordination of Women) Measure 1993, plus the rescinding of the Episcopal Ministry Act of Synod 1993; and
- arrangements for those who, as a matter of theological conviction, are unable to receive the ministry of women bishops or priests, set out either in a declaration from the House of Bishops or in a new Act of Synod.

Accepting the proposal made by the House, the General Synod passed the motion, by 319 votes to 84.

HOLY DAYS IN SEPTEMBER

2 St William of Roskilde - standing up for social justice

Here is a saint for anyone who thinks Christian leaders should stand up for justice – even at the risk of angering secular powers. It all began when William was an English priest serving as chaplain to Canute, king of England, (1016-35), who decided to visit Scandinavia.

William went along, and was so shocked by the ignorance, idolatry and superstition that he stayed on to help preach the Gospel. Eventually he became bishop of Roskilde (Zeeland), working tirelessly among the people as a beloved pastor. But William's main challenge came in his determination to improve the conduct of the king, Sweyn Estridsen.

The king had had some criminals killed without trial and in a church, violating sanctuary. William then forbade him to enter the church next day until he was absolved from the guilt of shedding blood unjustly. Courtiers drew their swords, and William showed himself ready to die. Instead, Sweyn confessed his crime and donated land to Roskilde church as a peace-offering. Thenceforward until the king's death Sweyn and William worked together to foster Christianity in Scandinavia.

8 The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

In both eastern and western churches, Mary has always been held as pre-eminent among all the saints. The unique, extraordinary privilege of being the mother of the One who was both God and Man, makes her worthy of special honour.

Thomas Aquinas believed she was due hyperdulia, or a veneration that exceeds that of other saints, but is at the same time infinitely below the adoration, or latria, due to God alone. The gospels of Matthew and Luke give Mary most mention. Luke even tells the story of Jesus' infancy from Mary's point of view. Her Song, or Magnificat appears in Luke 1:46-55.

The virginal conception of Christ is clearly stated in the gospels. But after Jesus' birth, Mary fades quietly into the background. During Jesus' public life, she is mentioned only occasionally, as at the wedding at Cana.

She reappears at the foot of the Cross (John's Gospel), and is given into John's care. In the early chapters of Acts, Mary is with the Apostles, and received the Holy Spirit along with them on Whitsunday. But her role was not the active one of teaching and preaching. Mary's significance grew with the centuries. By the fifth century she was called Theotokos, The Mother of God, and from the seventh century onwards, she was given four festivals: the Presentation in the Temple (2 February), the Annunciation (25 March), the Assumption (15 August) and her Nativity (8 September).

Marian devotion has played an enormous role in the church down the years. Mary has been the object of countless prayers, accredited with performing many miracles, and the subject of thousands of artistic endeavours. She has had hundreds of chapels or parish churches named after her. During the Reformation many images of Mary were destroyed.

The Second Vatican Council 1962 made an extended statement on her, stressing her complete dependence on her Son, and regarding her as a model of the Church. Principal

Marian shrines of today include Lourdes (France), Fatima (Portugal), Walsingham (England), Loreto (Italy), Czesochowa (Poland) and Guadalupe (Mexico).

11 St Deiniol of Bangor – bringing disagreeing bishops together

St Deiniol was a 6th century monk of Wales who came to be the ‘first bishop of Bangor’. And a mighty bishop he was, too: Deiniol founded the two monasteries of Bangor Fawr (on the Menai Straits) and Bangor Iscoed (Clwyd), which, according to Bede, became the most famous monastery of British Christianity and came to number over 2,000 monks.

Sadly, they were defeated at the battle of Chester by the pagan Aethelfrith, king of Northumbria. Deiniol is also remembered for his skill in getting disagreeing bishops to come and talk things over at a Synod... surely a skill which his 21st century successors have had to put to great use! He died about 584 AD.

18 St Joseph of Copertino - the awkward saint

Joseph of Copertino (1603 – 63) should be the patron saint of all awkward people who mean well, but drive those around them to distraction – especially their church leaders. Joseph began life in a garden shed, because his father had sold the house to pay debts.

Then he grew up wandering about open-mouthed – his mother despised him and called him ‘The Gaper’. Young Joseph’s intense devotion to God led him to try and join the Capuchin monks – but he drove them crazy: forgetting to do what he was told, dropping piles of plates on the kitchen floor, and neglecting to tend the all-important kitchen fire. He was finally accepted by the Franciscans as a ser-

vant, and grew so religiously fervent that he was accepted as a novice in 1625, and ordained a priest in 1628.

As a priest he was devout, but apt to do anything – much to the irritation of his superiors. One problem was his repeated levitations, of which there were 70 reported instances.

The most spectacular stories are of his flying to images placed high above the altars and helping workmen to erect a Calvary Cross 36 feet high by lifting it into place while he was hanging in mid-air himself. Such feats earned him the name of ‘the Flying Friar’ by admiring locals, but gave his superiors headaches. They were also disturbed by his habit of going into states of ecstasy, from which nothing could wake him. Joseph’s reputation for flying about and for occasional ecstasy drew the crowds: they were all eager to see what would happen next.

What did happen next was that his superiors kept him in virtual isolation for many years, eager to contain this intensely emotional and erratic priest. In 1767 he was canonised, not for his levitations, but for his extreme patience and humility.

21 St Matthew

Matthew was one of 12 apostles. But he began as a publican i.e. a tax-collector of Jewish race who worked for the Romans, before he left all at the call of Christ. From earliest times, he was regarded as the author of the first of the four Gospels. The Gospel of Matthew is in correct, concise style, very suitable for public reading. His usual emblem as an evangelist is a man, because his genealogy emphasised the family ties of Christ. In art, he has been represented as either an evangelist or as an apostle.

As an evangelist, he has been depicted sitting at a desk, writing his gospel with an angel holding the inkwell. In the Middle Ages he was even given a pair of spectacles.

Matthew was martyred by a sword or a spear, some think in Ethiopia.

29 St Michael and All Angels

Michael is an archangel, whose name means ‘who is like unto God?’ He makes various appearances throughout the Bible, from the book of Daniel to the Book of Revelation. In Daniel, he is ‘one of the princes’ of the heavenly host, and the special guardian of Israel. In Revelation, he is the principal fighter of the heavenly battle against the devil.

From early times, Michael’s cult was strong in the British Isles. Churches at Malmesbury (Wiltshire) , Clive (Gloucestershire) and Stanmer (East Sussex) were dedicated to him. Bede mentions him. St Michael’s Mount in Cornwall was believed to commemorate a vision there in the 8th century. By the end of the Middle Ages, Michael had 686 English churches dedicated to him. In art Michael is often depicted as slaying the dragon, as in the 14th century East Anglican Psalters, or in Epstein’s famous sculpture at Coventry cathedral.

Or he is found (in medieval art) as weighing souls, as at Chaldon (Surrey), Swalcliffe (Oxon.), Eaton Bishop (Hereford and Worcester), and Martham in Suffolk. Michael’s most famous shrine in western Europe is Mont-Saint-Michel, where a Benedictine abbey was founded in the 10th century. The ‘All Angels’ bit of this feast-day was added in 1969 when Gabriel and Raphael were included in with Michael.

CONGRATULATIONS

Belated greetings to Chris Alderton on her 70th birthday on
Friday 2 August from all her friends at St James,
Christleton.

Belated congratulations to Pat & Tom Dewhurst on their
Diamond Wedding Anniversary on 15th August.
Best wishes from all their friends & family.

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READERS

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Parish Registers for July

Holy Baptism

- 7th Katie Angell Mallon daughter of Andrew & Clare
Mallon, 16 Marbury Road, Great Boughton
- 21st Dexter James Neild son of Paul & Laura Nield
11 Sandrock Road, Christleton
- 21st Carl Edward Horton Leigh son of Carl & Samantha
Horton Leigh, 1 Sandrock Road, Christleton

"We welcome you into the Lord's Family"

The Marriage Service

- 4th Benjamin John Howlett & Sarah Louise Challinor
Apt 19 Boundary Court, Tarvin Road, Chester

"Those whom God has joined together, let not man divide"

The Funeral Service

- 5th Rex Green Birch Heath Lodge Nursing Home, Village Road.
95yrs
- 11th Margaret Jean Macklin 33 Heath Road, Upton by Chester
81yrs
- 12th Margaret Jean Macklin (Burial of cremated remains)
- 31st Hilda Elizabeth Tattam Birch Heath Lodge Nursing Home,
Village Rd 95yrs

Errata - The entry for the May Magazine should have read:
9th Edward (Tony) Jones 10 Marion Drive Gt Boughton.
77yrs. *Apologies for our error.*

"Grant them eternal rest"

Offertories

July	Cash	CSE	2013	2012
7th	115-90	647-50	763-40	786-70
14th	170-50	464-50	635-00	584-89
21st	162-20	533-50	695-70	718-41
28th	160-55	633-00	793-55	833-50
				797-30
Totals			£2,887-65	£3,750-30

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Hopefully people will be prepared to **sponsor Liz, Ron and Kelty** on a limited route but it would be much more exciting if others would like to join.

Easy to access on the Ride and Stride Cheshire Website for information.

Many thanks.

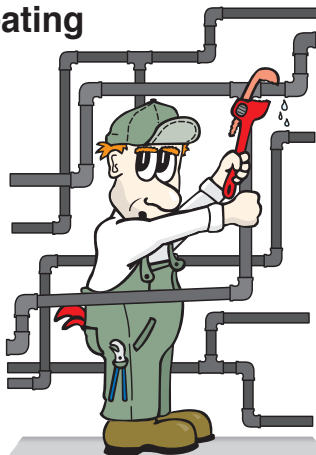
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	10.45 a.m.	Parish Communion	1st & 3rd Sundays
		Family Service	2nd Sunday
		Mattins	4th & 5th Sundays
	6.30 p.m.	Evensong	1st, 2nd & 3rd Sundays
		Evening Communion	4th Sunday
		Songs of Praise	5th Sunday
WEDNESDAY:	10.45 a.m.	Holy Communion	
SAINT'S DAYS:	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion	

WHO'S WHO & WHAT'S WHAT

Rector: The Rev'd. Malcolm Cowan, B.Th
The Rectory, Birch Heath Lane, Christleton
01244 335663

All baptisms weddings and appointments by arrangement with Janet Milton - 325529

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	Carl Cumiskey	330028
Deputy Wardens:	Alan McAllester	335494
	Chris Platel	332466
	Keith Smalls	335688
Reader:	Wayne Morris	01978 263389
Verger:	John Milton	325529
Sacristan:	Betty Dunning	335652
Pastoral Worker:	Berenice Kirwan	336779
Sunday Club:	Berenice Kirwan	336779
Mothers' Union Branch Leader:	Janet Brown	335785
Organist & Musical Director:	Steve Roberts	815277
P. C. C Secretary:	Betty Gilliatt	335645
P. C. C Treasurer:	Brian & Lorraine Lewis	534323
Stewardship Envelope:	Betty Dunning	335652
Gift Aid Secretary:	Nigel Seddon	335588
Bellringers:	Ian Braithwaite	300565
Bellringers Secretary:	Nikki Dromgoole	351124
Parish Hall Booking:	Clare Holland	332819
C. M. S Secretary:	Janet Brown	335785
Children's Society Sec:	Lesley Morgan	335088
Visiting Group:	Berenice Kirwan	336779
Library:	Gwen Knight	336236
Church Flowers:	Olive Hammond	336562
Person for Child Protection:	Alastair Holland	332819
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