

# PARISH MAGAZINE

December 2009 35p

## CHRISTMAS GREETINGS



*And the word was made flesh  
and dwelt among us.....*

*St. James' Church, Christleton.*

# Countdown to Christmas

Wed 2 10.45 am United Communion - followed by refreshments

Thur 3 12.00 noon Prayer Lunch - Methodist Church  
7.45 pm Compline (Night Prayers) and Advent Meditation

Fri 4 6.30 pm Choir Practice

NB: Last date for contribution to January Parish Magazine to Janet Milton (335469). Earlier if possible. You can attach your Word Document and e-mail to: christletonmag@hotmail.co.uk

## Sun 6 **The Second Sunday of Advent**

8.00 am Holy Communion (Order 2)  
10.45 am Parish Communion (Order 1)  
10.45 am Sunday School (Parish Hall)  
10.45 am The Crew Youth Group (Outing)  
6.30 pm Evensong - followed by refreshments  
Prayer Link Road: Little Heath Road and Pearl Lane  
Neighbourhood Link: Judith Edwards and Liz Evans

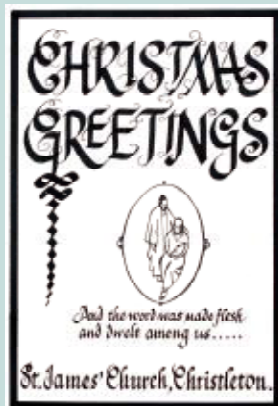
Mon 7 7.00 pm High School Carol Service

Tues 8 9.00 am Church Walking Group. Contact David Cummings (332410)

Wed 9 10.45 am Holy Communion - followed by refreshments  
11.30 am Holy Communion at Birch Heath Lodge Nursing Home

Thur 10 7.45 pm Compline (Night Prayers) and Advent Meditation

Fri 11 6.30 pm Choir Practice



*Our thanks to Phil Hodges for his pen and ink drawing for this years Christmas Card and the front cover of the December edition of St. James' Parish Magazine*

|             |           |          |  |
|-------------|-----------|----------|--|
| <b>Sun</b>  | <b>13</b> |          | <b>The Third Sunday in Advent</b>  |
|             |           | 8.00 am  | Holy Communion (Order 1)   |
|             |           | 10.45 am | Family 'Toy' Service followed by refreshments<br>You are invited to bring wrapped Christmas gifts of toys (labelled with the appropriate age and sex) to be given to less fortunate children in the Chester area |
|             |           | 6.00 pm  | The Crew Youth Group (Parish Hall)   |
|             |           | 6.30 pm  | Evensong<br>Prayer Link: Littleton Lane and the Bypass<br>Neighbourhood Link: Judith Willacy   |
| <b>Mon</b>  | <b>14</b> | 2.00 pm  | Advent Meditation  |
|             |           | 6.30 pm  | First 'get-together' for anyone (11+ age group) interested in Confirmation (Lady Chapel)   |
| <b>Wed</b>  | <b>16</b> | 10.45 am | Holy Communion - followed by refreshments  |
| <b>Thur</b> | <b>17</b> | 2.00 pm  | Primary School Christmas Service   |
|             |           | 6.00 pm  | Primary School Christmas Service   |
|             |           | 7.45 pm  | Compline (Night Prayers) and Advent Meditation   |
| <b>Fri</b>  | <b>18</b> | 6.30 pm  | Choir Practice   |
| <b>Sun</b>  | <b>20</b> |          | <b>The Fourth Sunday of Advent</b>   |
|             |           | 8.00 am  | Holy Communion (Order 1)   |
|             |           | 10.45 am | Parish Communion with Baptism  |
|             |           | 10.45 am | Sunday School Christmas Party (Parish Hall)  |
|             |           | 6.30 pm  | FESTIVAL OF CAROLS AND CEREMONY OF LIGHT<br>Prayer Link Road: Moor Lane and Chapel Close<br>Neighbourhood Link: Gwen Knight  |
| <b>Wed</b>  | <b>23</b> | 10.45 am | Holy Communion - followed by refreshments  |
| <b>Thur</b> | <b>24</b> |          | <b>CHRISTMAS EVE</b>   |
|             |           | 7.00 pm  | Carols round the Tree  |
|             |           | 11.30 pm | Midnight Communion (Order 1)   |
| <b>Fri</b>  | <b>25</b> |          | <b>CHRISTMAS DAY</b>   |
|             |           | 8.00 am  | Holy Communion (Order 2)   |
|             |           | 10.45 am | Christmas Family Service   |
|             |           | 11.45 am | Holy Communion (Order 1)   |
| <b>Sun</b>  | <b>27</b> |          | <b>The First Sunday after Christmas - St John</b>  |
|             |           | 8.00 am  | Holy Communion (Order 1)   |
|             |           | 10.45 am | Matins   |
|             |           | 6.30 pm  | Evening Communion<br>Prayer Link: Pepper Street and Windmill Lane<br>Neighbourhood Link: Ann Wareing   |
| <b>Wed</b>  | <b>30</b> | 10.45 am | Holy Communion - followed by refreshments  |

Dear Friends

### **Down to Earth**

Canon Vanstone was a former Canon of Chester Cathedral who died some years ago. In his book 'Love's Endeavour, Love's Expense' he wrote of preparing for Christmas in the Church where he was then Vicar. The quiet light of the candles enhanced the tranquillity and beauty of the Church. But a dull thud disturbed him and there against the glass door of the church a face was pressed and grotesquely distorted. It belonged to a young man who was an alcoholic and whose life was the experience of conflict and squalor. That night Canon Vanstone had a dream where a rubbish collector showed him a huge pile of cans, and all kinds of waste rubbish. Then the man touched his arm and said: "But what am I to do? For deep within the pile, buried at the bottom of it, I have seen a living face." And Canon Vanstone knew that was the face of Christ.

Perhaps we find it difficult to prepare for Christmas this year or to catch its meaning. We are surrounded by so many problems reflected in the media and on faces around us in the crowd. How can we celebrate Christmas with daily reminders of tragedies in Afghanistan, with the failure of international politicians to confront the issues of global warming, poverty and pollution, with moral confusion in public and private life and economic gloom causing personal crises in redundancies and insolvencies? So many people carry the burden of personal problems that obliterate any hope of celebration. But this season of Advent, before Christmas, and that face at the bottom of the pile of rubbish, call us to search deeper for the real meaning of Christmas. Something inside us tells us there must be more to life, and that if we search for meaning we shall find it is worthwhile. If we would find Christ at Christmas we must search in our own lives for meaning. Traditionally Advent has been the time to consider the 'Last things' or the ultimate realities. Sadly, it is sometimes only when we face tragedy or trauma in our personal lives, that we realise what really matters to us and we discover our priorities. Too often we mistake the wrapping for the gift; the ephemeral for the eternal; the transient for the transcendent; the celebration for the cause. The search for meaning is the search for Christ. For some it will come as a flash of insight as it did to the shepherds as the angels appeared to them. For others it will come after a long and hard search as it did for the Wise Men. Christmas is the marvellous discovery that God is at the heart of our life with his love and richness. Our faith does not whisk us away to an island of dreams; it does better than that. As he did in Bethlehem, so many years ago,

Christ appears in the middle of all the hopes and fears, the pressures and the worries, the loneliness and the failings and transforms them by his presence. Christmas puts the sanctity into life and means that the common is holy, that every day is a special day, that all of life is touched by God, that the face at the bottom of the pile of rubbish is of infinite value as a child of God. The search for meaning, which makes us look far and wide, is right where we started, in our life as we have it. May we use this season of Advent and never give up the search for meaning and never give up hope. We do well to start with the lines of the Carol:

He came **down to earth** from heaven  
Who is God and Lord of all,  
And his shelter was a stable,  
And his cradle was a stall;  
With the poor and mean and lowly  
Lived on earth our Saviour holy.

Now that is something worth celebrating at Christmas! A very happy Christmas to you all.

Yours sincerely

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

**Prayer of the Month:**

*(Advent Readings from Iona: Brian Woodcock and Sutch Pickard)*

*Holy and gracious God, what I look forward to each year, is your coming; your love born again, as if never before. But save me from thinking that this is just happening to me. Or to my family. Or to a family of like-minded people called Christians. Remind me that Advent is about everyone, with or without beliefs, or presents, or hangovers. And remind me too, that Advent is not just for individuals, but for the world, and everything in it; for cultures and nations and peoples; for justice and equality; and for enough care of the planet to make the hills sing with joy. Remind me most of all, holy and gracious God, that Advent is about you, and your reign over all things. Remind me of how you changed the history of the world; and hold time and space in your hands. Help me to see just how big this party is! And whatever else you do God, please save me from making a fool of myself by pretending that it is my party, or the celebration of the faithful few. Amen.*

# St. James Church

Open all day Sundays,  
June, July, August and September 2009

One hundred and eighty-four people (117 in 2007, 167 in 2008) visited St James' Church during the Sunday opening time between morning and evening services. Again this is a minimum number as not all the attendance boxes were filled in, zero or otherwise. Despite the greater number of visitors, there were more sessions when there were no visitors. Special thank you to those who were in attendance then. This equates to an average of 10.8 visitors each afternoon (6.88 visitors in 2007, 9.3 in 2008). June and September were the quietest months. How wonderful that there are more and more who wish to share the beauty and peace of our Church.

Many, many thanks to those who volunteered to welcome the visitors. Approximately sixty-five volunteers (67 in 2007, 62 in 2008) helped to greet our visitors. Approximately thirty-four (23 in 2007, 26 in 2008) did duty two or more times and this load was therefore shared slightly more equally. Special thanks to them. More duties forgotten this year and it wasn't necessarily the seniors!

Some of you will have had quiet sessions. Others enjoyed the company of visitors who had come for a variety of different reasons. I am sure they all appreciated your help and attention. This is such a straightforward form of outreach. Our Church should be open for anyone who wishes to call in for whatever reason. We should be there to make it possible. Please, will you help next year?

*David Bowden*

# People in the News

Congratulations & very best wishes to **Mary Jackson** on her 90th Birthday on 17th December.

Congratulations to **George Garner** of Haslin Crescent on his 90th Birthday.

Also to **Phil Hodges, Edward Elliott, Iris Foster**, all three members of the village community who were prize winners in the **2009 Chester in Bloom Competition**.



Also to **Charles Clubbe** from St James' Choir who added to his success of last year when he was a winner of the Dean's Award, by achieving the **Bishop's Award in 2009**. He was presented with this prestigious medal at a special service organised by The Royal School of Church Music in Chester Cathedral on the 3rd November.





## Christleton Players & Nativity Plays on the Village Green

Christleton Village Players were one of the most dynamic drama groups in and around the Chester area for over 50 years, entertaining the village and surrounding areas with superb productions. This was especially so under the leadership of Cheshire County Council's Drama Advisor the late Peter Dornford May. The group itself was formed at The Scout Hut in 1928 by a Colonel Shaw, who wrote and produced their first play *Babes in the Wood* performed in December of that year. Later plays were held at The Boys School and The WI Hall. However it was the arrival of Peter Dornford May, and the opening of Christleton Secondary School in 1958 with its new stage and facilities, together with the enthusiastic support of Headteacher Les George, that saw the group reach new heights of achievement. Prominent amongst these were the outdoor productions at Eaton Hall under the patronage of Anne Duchess of Westminster, in aid of the NSPCC. Princess Margaret was a regular visitor to these productions which included *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, (1964) *The Wakefield Cycle of Mystery Plays* (1965) *As you like It* in 1966 and *Twelfth Night* in 1968. The Players also put on *The Cheshire Saga* at Chester Castle in 1974 and celebrated their Golden Jubilee in 1979 by performing *Chester Tales* at Chester Cathedral. Both the latter plays were written by Hilary Egan and produced by Peter Dornford May. For many years the Players presented the Nativity Scene from the Mystery Plays on the Village Green, and during the Festival of British Villages in 1975 produced a traditional English Mummers Play. The producer of that play was young Mark





Dornford May. However it was the successful large scale productions at Eaton Hall and in Chester which brought the Village Players to the peak of their achievements and to the notice of a much wider audience. Sadly after the death of Peter Dornford May aged 58yrs in 1984 the activities of the Players more or less came to an end, but they had been a great influence in village life for more than fifty years, and had provided live theatre for generations of local people.

Mark Dornford May continues the family tradition in the theatre, and his productions have won countless awards all over the world. He is now based in Soweto in South Africa, but for the last two years has produced highly acclaimed productions in the West End of London and also won a prize at a recent Berlin Film Festival. Stewart another son also has the theatre in his veins and has been involved with the stage management of many of the recent productions of the Chester Mystery Plays. The picture shown is the Crib Scene on the Village Green from a production in the 1970's.

# Churches Together in Christleton

## Carols & Readings at Oaklands and Birch Heath Lodge

*Two dates to remember:*

Thursday 10 December – Oaklands

Monday 14 December – Birch Heath Lodge

2.00pm for 2.15pm (lasting 45 mins – 1 hour)

As in previous years, there will be a mixture of carols and readings. If you have a specific poem or reading (not too long) which you feel would be suitable for Birch Heath Lodge on the 14th, please let me know.

Do come – these two afternoons are always very enjoyable, and much appreciated by those who can no longer get out and about with ease. It is a very small thing we do to help them still to feel part of Christmas.

*Jan Bowden – 335705*

## Antiques Evening

A very big thank you to all those who came along to the evening in the Parish Hall with Peter Ashburner and Nick Hall. Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves and I think learned a lot about what goes on when making the antique programmes for TV and also learned something about antiques themselves.

Thank you also to the 'team' who helped out on the evening. The sum of £379 was made which will go, together with the profits from the Christmas Fair, to the international, national and local charities chosen this year by the PCC.

*Janet Milton*

# BERYL DIMMER

**B**eryl was born in 1915 in Birkenhead. Her mother died when she was nine and her father when she was 24 so she had to stand on her own two feet early on in life. She died recently aged 93.

In her youth she belonged to the Holiday Fellowship and enjoyed many walking and climbing holidays. The family are happy to grant her wish of having her ashes scattered on the top of Haystacks in the Lake District, her favourite mountain.

During the war she was in the ATS and you can read of her escapades in the book of her wartime letters to a friend, "My dear Marie".

Beryl married George in 1945 and they moved into High Walls, where George had a jewellery and silversmith business. The Chester shop is where Pykes is now in the Row. High Walls garden now accommodates The Rectory and other residences.

It is hard to remember all Beryl's commitments and activities – here are a few. Running a Brownie pack for over 20 years, being an Assistant District Commissioner for Girl Guiding, a member of the Cheshire Forest Trefoil Guild, a member of Christleton MU and the WI, an active member of St James, and an accomplished bridge player.

George died in 1984 and Beryl moved to Coventry to be near her son Peter. Peter was a Sidesman at St James and helped to run the Choir Boys' Football team. In 1998 she moved to Buckden, round the corner from her daughter Jane and lived with her granddaughter Sarah. She was involved in the Church there and continued to play bridge. Many will remember her "Not So New" stall at our Christmas Fairs when she would have jewellery and silver for sale that George had handed over to her that he didn't need, so you can imagine there was always a queue to get a bargain!

*Margaret Croston*

# NATURE NOTES

David  
Cummins

There were several very late sightings of painted lady butterflies in the churchyard at the end of October and also a number of common darter dragonflies at Hockenhull Platts. The much awaited recent rain has helped top up the water level at the Pit, where there have been almost permanent sightings of herons & cormorants looking for an easy lunch, well breakfast, dinner and supper as well it seems. There are just so many fish in the Pit, and whilst walking past recently we saw a “huge” orange coloured fish come completely out of the water, and fall back in with an enormous splash!. No doubt it was one of the new species of fish found there by the Environment Agency



when netting the fish some years ago. They described it as a carp/crossed with a fan tailed goldfish. Clearly the fish we saw is doing well, and it made a great impact on those watching.

A n o t h e r

welcome visitor to The Pit in October was a delightful grey wagtail which could often be seen feeding at the water's edge.

In the village itself there have been numerous sightings of the comical, tumbling, pink and buff coloured long tailed tits which have been passing through in large parties of up to 30 or so. These family parties are made up of many youngsters gathered together by several adults who seem to fly close to each other for protection and no doubt help them hunt for supplies of food. My observations at Rowton seem to suggest that there are fewer garden birds around this month. We've had the occasional visit from a robin, wren and blue tit but that's all. I know from

reports that the situation is much better in gardens at Littleton for example, I suspect that this is because there is a great deal more tree cover, and plenty of natural food in the hedgerows. Great spotted woodpeckers also seem to be quite common visitors to gardens there, I have also been made aware of, and seen for myself sightings of both barn and tawny owls around the village, particularly over the fields between Littleton and Christleton and on the south side of Rowton. The tawny owls have also been very vocal, no doubt young birds looking for and sounding out new territories. There have also been numerous sightings of buzzards in and around the village with some people getting very special close up views of these birds on their garden fence posts. I'm also pleased to report that good numbers of fieldfare and redwings have arrived from Scandinavia and are currently busy devouring the plentiful supplies of berries on trees and in the hedgerows.



One of the questions I've been asking myself recently is "How do The Pit swans know where to meet up again after being parted for several weeks?" I still don't know the answer, except that they have met up again and could be seen preening together on the canal near the Trooper at the end of October. However at a time when we might have expected there to be peace between the two pair's on the canal, several damaging fights have taken place. After one fierce encounter, the older Christleton cob (normally the victor in such battles) feigned death in a ditch adjacent to the towpath to avoid further damage. He then waited until the younger cob had given up and moved away back towards Waverton, and when he thought the coast was clear, sneaked back onto the water and headed back towards the village where the Christleton pen was patiently waiting for him!.

# The Churchyard Health and Safety Inspection

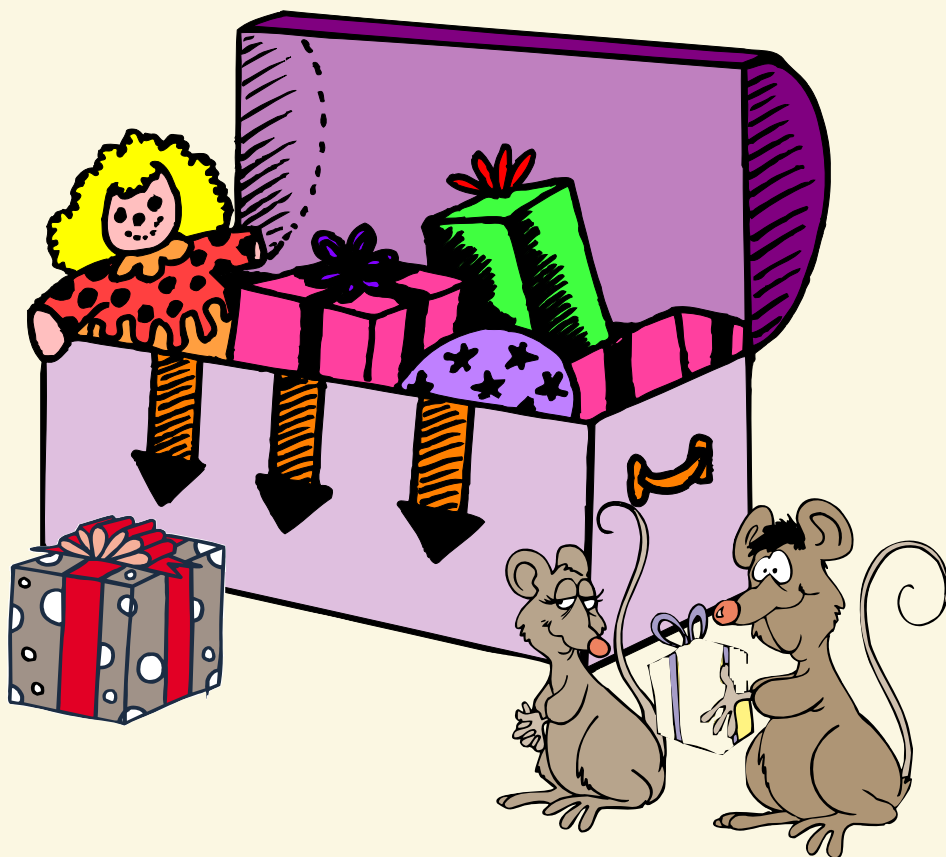
**T**he PCC wish to apologise for any distress caused by the recent health and safety inspection in the Churchyard which has led to many of the head stones being laid down as deemed unsafe. There is an obligation on the PCC to have such an inspection, and on the professional inspectors to make safe any gravestones found to be unsafe as defined by the regulations. We appreciate that this is upsetting, but once the inspection has taken place the inspectors are not allowed to leave any stones in an unsafe condition. Many of the gravestones are relatively new and people will justifiably wonder why they are regarded as unsafe. In most cases this is because of a change in the regulations which now insist on 'ground anchors' going down through the base. Most of the stones which have been laid down have no such rods and the vertical headstone is only joined to the base by a layer of cement so that the stone is in danger of falling over under any pressure.

Families whose stones have been laid down will need to contact a stonemason to arrange for the stone to be re-erected in a safe condition. If you have any queries please contact Churchwarden Keith Smalls (01244 335688). The PCC hopes that you will understand that it is only out of consideration for everyone's safety that stones have been laid down, and that it is our obligation to enable the inspectors to make the stones safe. May we also point out that, of course, we had no way of anticipating what the result of the inspection would be and were also surprised at the result.



# Family 'Toy' Service at St. James'

Sunday 13th December  
at 10.45 am



You are invited to bring wrapped Christmas gifts of toys  
(labelled with the appropriate age and sex) to be given  
to less fortunate children in the Chester area.

# WHAT'S ON

## SUNDAY SCHOOL

Held in the Parish Hall from  
10.45 am – 12.00 noon each Sunday  
during term-time, except when Family  
Service is held at St James. For further  
details please contact  
Berenice Hogg, 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 WEDNESDAY GROUP

### FESTIVE LUNCH on

**Wednesday 2 December,  
at Christleton Parish Hall,  
12.00 noon.**

Tickets £9, available from members.  
(includes a glass of wine)  
In aid of Claire House  
Children's Hospice

## CHRISTLETON W.I.

Meets on the second Wednesday of the  
month at 7.15 pm in the Parish Hall  
Next Meeting  
**9th December**  
CHRISTMAS MEETING

## CHESTER FLOWER CLUB

Meetings are held in Christleton Parish  
Hall on the 3rd Wednesday of the  
month at 1.30 pm. Details of any events  
can be obtained from the Secretary,  
Trish Pollard  
Telephone: 01829751140

## CHRISTLETON W.I. MONTHLY WHIST

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

**'TOY' SERVICE**  
**Sunday 13th December**  
**St James' Church**  
**10.45 am**  
(See page 16)

# THIS MONTH

## CHRISTLETON LOCALHISTORY GROUP

Meets at the Primary School in Quarry  
Lane

Admission £2.50

**Wednesday 27th January**  
**7.30pm**

Speaker. Ray Buss Chester  
Canal Heritage Trust  
Subject **Chester & the  
Canal Age.**

*Building an 18th Century  
Super Highway through  
Christleton*  
**All wecolme.**

## ST JAMES WALKING GROUP

**Tuesday January 26th**  
**Cheshire Delamere Forest**  
Rating; Moderate 9miles.

A winter walk through the Forest.  
Pub Lunch at The Goshawk at  
Mouldsworth.

Depart Church Car Park at  
9.00am

## CHRISTLETON PRIMARY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS FAIR 2009

**Saturday 5 December**  
**2.00pm – 4.00pm**

Raffle, crafts, café, lots of stalls and  
Father Christmas too!

Adults 50p OAP's and children free

## GROSVENOR MUSEUM SOCIETY

The following lectures will take  
place at the Grosvenor Museum,  
Chester, starting at 7.30pm.

**Tuesday, 12th January :**  
David Cummings : “2000 years in  
the Life of Bridge Street, Chester”

**Monday, 8th February :**  
Penny Rudd :  
“Chester Zoo - The Beginnings and  
Now”.

Admission : Members free; non-  
members, suggested donation, £4.  
Students, £2.

Membership details from  
Ken Holding, Tel: 312689

## THE CHESHIRE AREA OF NAFAS

*Presents*

### THE MAGIC OF CHRISTMAS

A Feast of Floral Delight  
at

CHAPEL HOUSE FARM,  
THE GREEN

POULTON near CHESTER  
CH4 9EE

Donations will be given to  
The Children's Society and  
Macmillan Nurses

**Wednesday 9th**

**to Saturday 12 December 2009**

**10.00 am – 4.00 pm**

**Admission is £7**

Including tea/coffee or mulled wine

An evening visit with a glass of

Mulled Wine by appointment only

All coaches to be pre-booked

A Ploughman's Lunch will be  
available, but must be prebooked.

This will be served at

Brookside Farm, Poulton

For further information about this Christmas

Happening

Contact Diane, Tel: 0780 396 4548

## CHESTER LECTURE SOCIETY

The Society does not meet during December. Lectures begin again on 7 January when Rodger Burgess will give an illustrated lecture on "Maritime Canada". The National Geographical Society will also attend this meeting. Members are admitted free, visitors £4 on door. Lectures are held in the Grosvenor Museum each Thursday at 7.30 pm Contact Chester 335955.

**14 January**

Tony Ord will give a photographic  
Miscellany of People,  
Places and the Natural World

**21 January**

John Harrison "Adventures of the  
Amazon"

**28 January**

Brian Martland "The Magic of  
Skye"

## CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

Chester Bach Singers

Conductor: Martin Bussey

**Sunday**

**13 December**

**Tattenhall**

**Parish Church**

**7.30 pm**

**Saturday**

**19 December**

**St Mary's**

**Handbridge, Chester**

**7.30 pm**

Tickets: £10 (concessions £9, students or schoolchildren £5)

Price includes seasonal refreshments. CBS tickets: 0151 677 3137

Tourist Information Centre: 01244 402111

## Worshipping Angels



In this final chapter on our series about angels, we come to consider the major role, not just for Angels but for all whom God has created, that is to worship God our creator.

Within a few weeks from now we will be singing hymns of praise celebrating the birth of Christ, God made man. Angels glorifying God will be in abundance in our hymns of praise

But this is Advent.

On Christmas Day we can look back in celebration of the glorious events that took place 2009 years ago but for now, we must look forward and prepare ourselves for when he comes again in glory. It is the book of revelation which provides us with a glimpse of what that might be like.

The book of Revelation is difficult to interpret and understand. It is written in apocryphal language which the readership at the time would be used to hearing. It was written at a time when the Roman emperor Domitian demanded to be called lord and god and would persecute those who questioned him. It was written to the Churches to warn them but also sustain them.

George Carey writes:

John's is a realistic vision. He knows the weakness of the Churches, yet believes that God can sustain them. He knows the power and glory of

Rome, yet discerns in it the evil of a totalitarian force and the deceptiveness

of economic prosperity. He knows how great are the forces of evil which

ravage the earth, but he has a clear picture of the ultimate triumph of the cross of Jesus

Totalitarian forces? Economic prosperity? It sounds as though it could be very relevant for us today.

But what about Angels.

Well, angels are to be found on virtually every page in the book of revelation.

Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels,

Numbering thousands upon thousands,

And ten thousand times ten thousand.

They encircled the throne and the living creatures

And the elders.

In a loud voice they were they were saying:

Worthy is the lamb who was slain

To receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength

And honour and glory and praise

The angels are there to serve and worship God but as well as singing hymns of praise, they are very busy and clearly have a pivotal role, it would seem in restoring Eden: there are angels preaching, angels warning, angels with trumpets, plagues, bowls and scrolls. They clearly look awesome and important. So much so that at one point, John falls down to worship at the feet of the angel who had shown him such wonders.

But the angel tells John to worship God. If we understand nothing else, that is sufficient.

Angels worship God and we, like the angels are also called to share in that worship

When Christ comes again, we will worship God alongside the angels, until that time comes, we are called to worship God in our daily lives but what does this mean?

To worship is to give God honour. The early Christians worshipped with grateful and joyful hearts. Paul tells us to

Sing psalms, hymns and sacred songs; sing to God  
with thanksgiving in your hearts

Joy should certainly be a fixed feature in our worship. But to worship God in Church, on a Sunday simply isn't enough, we are also called to worship him in our daily lives. The angels worship God in their 'busyness' and so



must we.

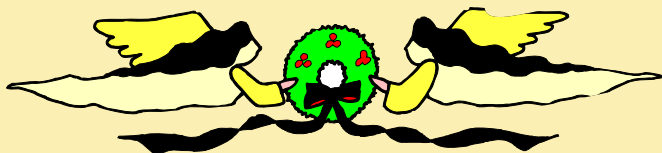
The trivial round, the common task,  
Will furnish all we need to ask;  
Room to deny ourselves, a road  
To bring us daily nearer God

How hard it is to equate the worshipping life of the Angels with mopping the kitchen floor, ironing shirts, answering emails, preparing the evening meal. We may long to receive a vision of God's glory, to be visited by angels and to be given a noble task. Yet it is in this very ordinariness of our lives that we are called to worship and it is through undertaking our routine tasks filled with the joy of God's love which will reveal his love to others. Have you ever heard of a grumpy angel?

Throughout scripture, angels have provided us with a link between us and our creator. Over the last few months we have looked at a number of occasions when individuals have encountered angels and considered what we might learn from such encounters.

We may never encounter an Angel but behind, around, underneath and through the day to day world that we inhabit is the song of the angels. It is beautiful, endless, joyful and terrible. It will be sung whether we join in with it or not but imagine the sensation of stepping into that angelic harmony and being caught up in its power and majesty. This is what the angels invite us to do. They long to teach us their song, so that we, with them, can sing a hymn of praise to the glorious universe and its maker.

Sing choirs of angels  
Sing in adoration  
Sing all ye citizens of earth and heaven  
'Glory to God in the Highest'



### **LEPROSY MISSION**

#### **Stamp out leprosy!**

Please donate your used stamps so that money can be raised for Leprosy Mission. Stamps should be trimmed to quarter inch border around the stamp, and can be left at the back of Church.

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

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

#### **AVAILABLE AT ST JAMES CHURCH**

"Loop" system, for the hearing impaired  
Large print books for the visually impaired & large print weekly notice sheets

Easy to follow Communion Service Books for children

Access for wheelchairs

Please ask any of the Churchwardens or Sidesmen if you need assistance in any way.

### **CHRISTLETON UNDER-FIVES**

#### **COMMUNITY PLAYGROUP**

#### **Registered Charity 1022817**

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

#### **MOBILE LIBRARY VAN SERVICE**

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.

#### **READERS**

Please remember to support our magazine advertisers and mention where you have read their name.

### **MAGAZINE CONTRIBUTIONS**

Please ensure all items for inclusion in the **January** edition are sent to Janet Milton (335469), as soon as possible **BEFORE Friday 4th December** or you can e-mail this to  
[christletonmag@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:christletonmag@hotmail.co.uk)

### **MAGAZINE DISTRIBUTORS**

The **January** magazine will be available for collection from Church on **Sunday 27th December**

### **STAMP NEWS**

#### **THE LEPROSY MISSION 2009**

It is now 25 years since we took over the running of Stamps and Collectables for The Leprosy Mission. We wish to thank everyone who either donated gifts or purchased them from us. Together you have made a special record-breaking year by contributing to the annual total of £66,518 and during the past 25 years over £700,000 has been raised, and we are most grateful for your generous support and help.

### **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](mailto:christletonmag@hotmail.co.uk)

# Parish Registers for October 2009

## Holy Baptism

- 18th James John McQuaid son of Barry & Katherine McQuaid  
Brainstone Road. London N8 8TN
- 25th Harvey William Hibbert son of Nigel & Jennifer Hibbert  
“Radcliffe” 17 Arkwood Close, Spital Wirral
- 25th Lincoln Charles Hibbert son of Nigel & Jennifer Hibbert  
“Radcliffe” 17 Arkwood Close, Spital, Wirral

*“We welcome you into the Lord’s Family”*

## The Marriage Service

- 3rd Christopher Neil Jones & Lisa Anne Morrey  
2 Lea Newbold, Chapel Lane, Bruera, Chester

*“Those whom God has joined together, let not man divide”*

## The Funeral Service

- 1st Nora Mary Hassell Oaklands Nursing Home, Littleton
- 22nd Cecil James Rydings 32 Woodfields Christleton
- 23rd Eric George Norman Clayton 54 Rosslyn Road, Vicars Cross
- 23rd Andrew Muir Foster Christleton House, Pepper Street, Christleton

*“Grant them eternal rest.”*

## Offertories

| Oct.    | Cash   | CSE    | 2009      | 2008       |
|---------|--------|--------|-----------|------------|
| 4th     | 136-81 | 807-50 | 944-31    | 748-68     |
| 11th    | 343-81 | 904-00 | 1247-81   | 1201-65    |
| 18th    | 515-88 | 635-50 | 1151-38   | 675-20     |
| 25th    | 242-90 | 531-00 | 563-90    | 907-75     |
| Totals. |        |        | £3,907-40 | £ 3,533-28 |

*“Of your own do we give you”*

## PARISH CHURCH OF ST. JAMES, CHRISTLETON

|                     |            |                   |                        |
|---------------------|------------|-------------------|------------------------|
| <b>SUNDAYS</b>      | 8.00 a.m.  | Holy Communion    |                        |
|                     | 10.45 a.m. | Parish Communion  | 1st & 3rd Sundays      |
|                     |            | Family Service    | 2nd Sunday             |
|                     |            | Mattins           | 4th & 5th Sundays      |
|                     | 6.30 p.m.  | Evensong          | 1st, 2nd & 3rd Sundays |
|                     |            | Evening Communion | 4th Sunday             |
|                     |            | Songs of Praise   | 5th Sunday             |
| <b>WEDNESDAYS</b>   | 10.45 a.m. | Holy Communion    |                        |
| <b>SAINT'S DAYS</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>Churchwardens:</b>  | John Pearson .....  | 335101       |
|                        | Keith Smalls .....  | 335688       |
| <b>Reader</b>          | Wayne Morris .....  | 01978 263389 |
| <b>Reader Emeritus</b> | John Roberts .....  | 332207       |
| <b>Verger</b>          | David Ellis .....   | 336879       |
| <b>Sacristan:</b>      | Betty Dunning ..... | 335652       |

|                                 |   |        |
|---------------------------------|---|--------|
| Sunday School:                  | Berenice Hogg .....                     | 336779 |
| Mother's Union Branch Leader    | Janet Brown ... ..                      | 335785 |
| Organist & Musical Director:    | Steve Roberts .....                     | 815277 |
| P. C. C. Secretary:             | Brenda Bailey .....                     | 335034 |
| P. C. C. Treasurer:             | David Mercer .....                      | 336155 |
| Stewardship Envelope:           | Betty Dunning .....                     | 335652 |
| Gift Aid Secretary              | Nigel Seddon .....                      | 335588 |
| Bellringers                     | Ian Braithwaite .....                   | 300565 |
| Bellringer Vice Captains        | 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:                 | Berenice Hogg .....                     | 336779 |
| Library                         | Lois Dickinson .....                    | 378320 |
| Church Flowers                  | Olive Hammond.....                      | 336562 |
| Magazine Editor                 | David Bull.....                         | 332234 |
| Magazine Compiler               | Richard Nicholson .....                 | 336004 |
| Magazine Distributors           | Jenny Davies and Valmai Griffiths ..... | 335884 |
| 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**

