Christmas: Where did Christmas trees come from?

There are two early stories that mention fir trees. The first involves St Boniface, who went to Germany in the 8th century as a missionary and found people sacrificing a child to their god under an oak tree. Boniface was appalled, and rescued the child. He then chopped down the oak tree and found a tiny fir tree growing nearby. He gave this to the people and said: "This is a symbol of life. Whenever you look at this tree, remember the Christ-child who is the one who will give you life, because he gave his life for you."

The second early fir tree story involves Martin Luther in the 16th century. It is said that one year he decided to drag a fir tree into his home and to decorate it with candles. He used it as a visual aid, telling people that the candles symbolised Jesus as the light of the world, and the evergreen tree symbolised the eternal life that Jesus gives to us. Many of the people who followed Luther were struck by the idea, and took up the custom.

TEDDY BEARS

Are there any Teddy Bear or Soft Toy makers out there?

If so, I have quite a bit of FUR FABRIC material which will be FREE to anyone who collects it.

Please ring Jenny Ralfs on 01244 335693.

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN CHRISTLETON

On 6 November a coach departed from The Pitt with members of St James, Christleton Methodists and St Werburgh's. It was a dull, drizzly day but our spirits weren't dampened. An excellent guide from St Werburgh talked us through the journey to Shrewsbury. We stopped en route at Dobbies Garden World where tea and coffee were enjoyed. We arrived at noon to visit St Chad's Church, helped from the coach by Father Paul.

St Chad's circular church is a unique 18th century building consecrated on 19 August 1792 replacing the old St Chad's that was destroyed when its massive central tower collapsed in 1788. The flagstones from the main door to the altar mark the line of the old town walls which had to be demolished to make room for the new church. St Chad who was trained by St Aidan in Lindisfarne monastery on Holy Island became Bishop of Lichfield in 669.

There is a very large collection of Hatchments relating to people connected with St Chad's in the past and these locally painted armorial bearings of the dead person were carried in procession at the funeral. The pulpit is made of copper and brass, affectionately known as "the coal scuttle".

The bells were destroyed when the old church fell down and fourteen new bells were hung in 1798 and recast in 1914.

After this visit we all walked down into the town for a very agreeable lunch at The Lion Hotel and in the free time after lunch we were able to visit the town and meet again at 4 o'clock opposite St Chad's for the journey home with our very competent driver Howard.

Many thanks to all who organised this visit.

Margaret Croston.

CITY OF LONDON GUILDHALL

On a moonlit, cold evening on Saturday 3 November, we queued alongside many other people, all in evening dress, to enter the Guildhall for the 125th Anniversary Gala Banquet of the National Association of Master Bakers. We were guided below stairs to the cloakroom area where we could view the remains of the London Roman Amphitheatre. (Slightly smaller than Chester's).

We entered the Old Library for a champagne reception before dinner at 7.30 pm in the Great Hall. On display were a huge birthday cake and a wonderful selection of many kinds of breads made by the Bakery students. A band was playing, hardly heard above the chatter of 500 people!

The Great Hall is the setting for magnificent ceremonies, including state banquets, the annual installation of the Lord Mayor of the City of London and Sheriffs, key speeches by public figures and national festivities. Along the sides are monuments to Pitt the Younger, his father The Earl of Chatham, Wellington, Nelson, Churchill and the West Gallery is guarded by the statues of Gog and Magog, giants who represent the legendary pre-Christian conflict between ancient Britons and Trojan invaders. The arms of England, the city and the 12 great Livery Companies of the City of London are displayed: Mercers, Grocers, Drapers, Fishmongers, Goldsmiths, Skinners, Merchant Taylors, Haberdashers, Salters, Ironmongers, Vintners and Clothworkers.

We were in the presence of the Lord Mayor of the City of London, Alderman David Wootton and his wife Elizabeth, and two sheriffs with their wives, two MPs and the Chairman of the British Confectioners Association Mr James Freeman and his wife Debbie.

The Grace was sung:

"For these and all they mercies given
We bless and praise thy name O Lord
May we receive them with thanksgiving
Ever trusting in Thy Word
To Thee alone be honour and glory
Now and henceforth, for ever, Amen"

The Militaire Orchestra played throughout the meal with various well known tunes and selections from South Pacific and other shows, with everyone joining in with gusto at Jerusalem and Land of Hope and Glory. The finale was a very exciting Post Horn Gallop with two trumpeters, one in each gallery. The food and drink were memorable, including fillet of Castle of Mey beef, produced by kind permission of His Royal Highness the Prince Charles. After which, fully replete, we had the Toasts. Heralding each toast was a fanfare. We toasted the Queen and the Royal Family, the Rt. Hon the Lord Mayor and the Corporation of London, and the one hundred and twenty five years of the National Association of Master Bakers.

After all this, for those who could face it, real ale was being served until midnight. I'm afraid we chickened out and hailed a taxi.

Alf and Margaret Croston.

CHRISTLETON VICTORIAN STREET MARKET

Saturday December 8th 2012. 6.00pm
(Road Closed from approx 4.00pm)

The Victorian Street Market starts at 6.00pm and villagers living near the centre are asked to turn on their outdoor Christmas Lights at 6.50pm. The Village Stores, the Tree opposite the Shop and the Village Christmas Tree will be lit at the same time. The Primary School will be dressing the Village Christmas Tree this year, so please come in Victorian costume if possible and help create the mood of the evening.

There will be stalls selling Crafts, Village Christmas Cards & DVDs. Home made cakes, jams, chutneys etc. The Ring O Bells, & Christleton Institute will each have a BBQ, and be selling mulled wine, and there will be a spit roast, chestnuts, toffee apples, crepes, old- fashioned sweets and so much more. There will be Street Entertainers including musicians & singers from the Institute, an appearance by Father Christmas, and it is hoped that there will be a Welsh Choir* and carol singers. So please support this Victorian Street Market with as much enthusiasm as you have supported other events this Jubilee Year, and make this another memorable Christleton event.
*To be confirmed.

WHAT'S ON THIS MONTH

SUNDAY SCHOOL
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.
Wednesday December 12th
CHRISTMAS MEETING

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 January edition are sent to Janet Milton (335469), as soon as possible BEFORE Friday 14 December or you can e-mail this to christletonmag@hotmail.co.uk

MAGAZINE DISTRIBUTORS
The December magazine will be available for collection from Sunday 25 November

ASHLEY HOUSTON

All aspects of Tree Surgery
and Hard Landscaping

PATIOS - FENCING
BESPOKE PLANTERS
DECKING - TURFING
GATES

Tel01244 329456
Mobilie: 07763482896
www.ashleyhouston.co.uk

JENNIE'S CATERING

Too busy to cook?
Or perhaps you are thinking of planning a party. Why not try our freezer food? We have menus for you to choose from; and the food is delivererd to your door.
OR
If you have a party planned and need friendly help and advice
CALL 01244 330090
For our latest set of
BUFFET
FINGER BUFFET
and
COCKTAIL MENUS

White Walls
Village Road
Bed & Breakfast
In the Heart of the Village
Ensuite central heating
Colour TV
Tea & coffee making facilities
Full English breakfast
Please call
Brian & Hilary
Or drop in for coffee
Tel / fax: 01244 336033
E-mail
hilary-devenport@supanet.com

CHRISTLETON PARISH COUNCIL

will be holding a

Saturday Morning Surgery

At

The Ring O'Bells
Farmers Market

Saturday 8th December
9.30am – 12.30pm

Parish Councillors will be there to listen to problems and suggestions, to talk about current initiatives and to try to answer questions.

Please contact the Clerk, Sue Thwaite
(01244 318618, christletonpc@hotmail.com)
with any queries.

With parties and family visiting over Christmas in mind:

The times we find ourselves having to wait on others may be the perfect opportunities to train ourselves to wait on the Lord. Joni Eareckson Tada

He that gives his heart will not deny his money.

There are only two families in the world, the Haves and the Have-nots. Cervantes

Friends are God's apology for relations. Hugh Kingsmill

A noisy man is always in the right.
From acquaintances we conceal our real selves. To our friends we reveal our weaknesses. Basil Hume OSB

The highest privilege there is, is the privilege of being allowed to share another's pain. You talk about your pleasures to your acquaintances; you talk about your troubles to your friends. Fr Andrew SDC

Every large family has its angel and its demon. Joseph Roux

All happy families resemble one another; every unhappy family is unhappy in its own way. Leo Tolstoy

Old age, believe me, is a good and pleasant time. It is true that you are gently shouldered off the stage, but then you are given such a comfortable front stall as spectator, and, if you really have played your part, you are more content to sit down and watch. Jane Harrison

Constant kindness can accomplish much. As the sun makes ice melt, kindness causes misunderstanding, mistrust and hostility to evaporate. Albert Schweitzer

Going for Gold

(Inspired by the 2012 Olympics and the book of Job)

When He has tried me I shall come forth as gold
All of my past and journeys untold
The good and the bad, the joy and the pain
Only my Maker can make all thing plain.
When life is right or when it goes wrong,
Not knowing the answers, just holding on.
Sometimes it's sunshine but often it's rain
All I can do is cling to His Name.
His cross is the anchor when all sense has gone
And out of the ashes redemption is born.
Bought by a price of measureless love
To live with the King in glory above
Only by mercy and infinite grace
I'll stand in His presence, well meet face to face
My name in His scroll gently unfurled
I'm transformed not as silver or bronze but as gold.

By Megan Carter

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 the 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 and large print weekly notice sheets
Easy to follow Communion Service Books for Children
Access for wheelchairs

Please ask any of the Church wardens or Sidesmen if you need assistance in anyway

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 01244 336586 for further details.

MOBILE LIBRARY VAN SERVICE

We call every TWO WEEKS.

WEEK 1.
Quarry Lane at 3.15 to 6.00pm.
WEEK 2
Quarry Lane at 11.30 to 12.15pm.

Our NEW telephone is Chester 973700.

READERS

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

Parish Registers

SHOPPING & SERVICE GUIDE

ROCK HOUSE DENTAL PRACTICE

Village Road, Christleton

Damian Murphy

B.D.S. D.G.D.P. (UK)

and Associates with hygienists

❒ All treatments available adapted for the disabled

❒ Special interest in cosmetic and preventative dentistry

❒ Implant dentistry

www.rockhousedentalpractice.co.uk

01244 332162

JOHN GRIFFITHS

PAINTER & DECORATOR

Interior & Exterior Work Undertaken

30 Years Experience

For A Free Estimate Call 01352 756796

Advertising - contact: Ann Smith,Tel: 332434

ann.smith10@hotmail.co.uk

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

CONTRIBUTORS

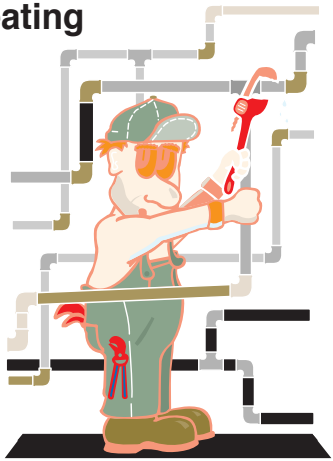
The best way to send in contributions to St. James' Parish magazine is to email the document. Attach your word document and email it to:

christletonmag@hotmail.co.uk

GORDON BROWN

Gas Safe Registered Gas Installer

- ❑ **Plumbing and Central Heating**
- ❑ **Installations and Repairs**
- ❑ **Boiler Replacements**



Sandiway,
Plough Lane,
Christleton
Telephone 01244 335785

Sunday Club: