



# St. James' Christleton

PARISH MAGAZINE

February 2016

[www.christleton.org.uk](http://www.christleton.org.uk)

35p

# FEATURES IN FEBRUARY

Mon	1	10.45 am	Holy Communion at Oaklands Nursing Home
		11.20 am	Holy Communion at Tarvin Court Nursing Home
		2.00 pm	Mothers' Union - Parish Hall
Wed	3	10.45 am	United Communion (BCP) - followed by Refreshments
		6.00 pm	Choir Practice
Sun	7	<b>Next Sunday before Lent</b>	
		8.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP) - followed by Breakfast in Parish Hall
		10.45 am	Sunday Club - Parish Hall
		10.45 am	Holy Communion (CW) - followed by re-Refreshments
		6.00 pm	The Crew Youth Group - Parish Hall
		6.30 pm	Evening Worship - (CW)
Wed	10	<b>Ash Wednesday</b>	
		10.45 am	Holy Communion BCP - followed by refreshments
		11.30 am	Holy Communion at Birch Heath Lodge
		6.00 pm	Choir Practice
		7.30 pm	Holy Communion for Ash Wednesday
Fri	12	<b>NB: Last date for contributions for March Parish Magazine to Janet Milton (325529). Or you can attach your Word document and e-mail this to christletonmag@gmail.com</b>	
Sun	14	<b>Lent 1</b>	
		8.00 am	Holy Communion (CW)
		10.45 am	Morning Worship (CW) - followed by
		3.30 pm	A Talk on a particular style of Spirituality Parish Hall No Evening Service

Mon	15	12.00 for 12.30pm Start Luncheon Club -Parish Hall	
Wed	17	10.45 am	Holy Communion (BCP) - followed by refreshments
		6.00 pm	Choir Practice
Sun	21	<b>Lent 2</b>	
		8.00 am	Holy Communion (CW)
		10.45 am	Holy Communion (CW) with Prayers for Healing
		3.30 pm	A Talk on a particular style of Spirituality - St James Church
		4.00 pm	Messy Church - Parish Hall
			No Evening Worship
Wed	24	10.45 am	Holy Communion (BCP) - followed by refreshments
		6.00 pm	Choir Practice
Sun	28	<b>Lent 3</b>	
		8.00 am	Holy Communion (CW)
		10.45 am	Sunday Club - Parish Hall
		10.45 am	Morning Worship )BCP) followed by re freshments
		3.30 pm	A Talk on a particular style of Spirituality - Parish Hall (Rev Stephen Southgate)
			No Evening Worship
Mon	29		Parish Retreat to the Northumbrian Community

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## 29th February - Leap year – when women can propose to men

An old Irish legend tells how it was St Brigid who first struck a deal with St Patrick to allow women to propose to men every four years. The arrangement was meant to ‘balance’ the traditional roles of men and women in a similar way to how Leap Day balances our calendar.

# Message from our Rector



Lent is quite early this year, with Ash Wednesday falling on 10 February. This date sees the start of Lent.

Lent. In simple terms it's that 40 day period leading up to Easter.....but it can also be seen as a season of contradictions

Lent is not really a religious word, in fact it's an old English word, it means "Spring, or lengthening" a time when the days grow longer, or Lentern.

And so in spring time you see flowers beginning to grow after the long dark winter.....but not in the church, because during Lent the church is bare of flowers.

We also think that Lent is a time to give something up, a time linked in to weightwatchers, or Jamie Oliver's healthy eating, but it's not, at least, not just that, it certainly is a time to perhaps give something up, as a focus for our minds, but it's also a time to take something up.

If we give up chocolate or cream cakes, then the money we would spend on these can be used to support a good cause or charity.....that is the taking something up.

We can stop reading newspapers, give up newspapers for Lent.....but with the time we set aside to read the papers, we take up some other discipline, perhaps spend the time in prayer, or reading of the Bible, or even doing a good deed for a friend or neighbour.

And the reason we give up so many things for Lent is a discipline, it's to allow ourselves to take stock of our lives.....it's a time of reflection and penitence.....of looking how our lives have been over a period of time, especially the parts we were not so proud of, and saying sorry.....but, and here is another contradiction, it's also a time of preparation, of looking forward, towards the great Easter victory of Jesus, when he rose from the dead.

So it's a time of spring time, but not quite new life.....it's a time of giving things up.....but also taking things up.....  
...it's a time of looking back.....but also looking forward.

It's a time to recognise that were not quite there.....

Our Christian journey begins with Holy Baptism, Baptism is quite similar when someone comes for Baptism, they have made it, .....well !!!!!!!!!!!!!, but not quite, because Baptism is not the end of the journey.....but the beginning.....if you look in most churches, the original font used in Baptism is situated near the door, the place where we come in, the start of our journey, and the Altar, the place where symbolically we meet with Christ in Holy Communion, is the farthest place from the door, and that journey through church replicates our life journey.

And for Parents and Godparents too.....after the busyness of the preparations for birth, arranging the Baptism, and no doubt the party afterwards, there can be a feeling of .....thank goodness that's over, .....But it hasn't .....it's only just begun, at least it has if you take seriously, the promises made during the service of Baptism, .....there is the promise to raise the child in the Christian faith, indeed the priest will ask, "Will you draw this child by your example into the community of faith"

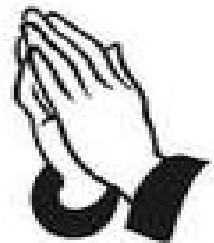
Again, there can be contradictions here, we can say "Yes" but actually mean "No" because it may mean coming to church, showing in our daily life that we are a Christian. With what we say and do.

And that is the tension that each of us must wrestle with, because, for some people, they, want a God who is all powerful, a God who will rise up and challenge the evils of the world, who will put an end to hunger, who will stop dictators in their tracks.....and yet they also want a God who is neat and tidy, a God who can be put away, until the next time we need Him, a God who doesn't interrupt our lives.

Lent can indeed be a time of contradictions, but it can also be a time of revelation, a time of seeing afresh the things we have always known

,And it can be a time of realising God loves each of us so much, that he sent His Son to die for us, that we might live. Amen

Your faithful servant,  
Malcolm





# 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. Further details may be obtained from the Secretary, Miss Ida Rogers, Chester 350060.



## 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 Club Secretary - 01745 856126.

## MAGAZINE CONTRIBUTIONS

Please ensure that all items for inclusion in the **March** edition are sent to [christletonmag@gmail.com](mailto:christletonmag@gmail.com) or , if you do not have access to e mail, please give or send them to Janet Milton(325529), as soon as possible **BEFORE Friday February 12th**

## MAGAZINE DISTRIBUTORS

The **February** magazine will be available for collection from Church on **Sunday 24th January**.

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## CONGRATULATIONS

Jane and Peter Warrington celebrate their 65th Wedding Anniversary on 3 February. Best wishes from all their friends in the village and at St James.

## Aspects of Spirituality

On Sunday afternoons during Lent we will be having a series of sessions looking at different ways of expressing spirituality. All but one of the sessions will be in the Parish Hall and begin with refreshments at 3.30 pm followed by a talk for approximately one hour. On these Sundays there will not be an evening service in St James' Church.

### 14th February

A look at 'Celtic' Christianity      Revd Elizabeth Inall

### 21st February (3.30pm in Church)

Taizè Worship      Tina Lightfoot

### 28th February

Franciscan Spirituality      Revd Stephen Southgate

### 6th March

Evangelical Spirituality      Sisters of Jesus Way

### 13th March

Using Icons      Revd Graham Green

All these sessions are free and open to anyone who would like to come!

More information from Elizabeth Inall ☎ 01244 336500

# The History File

## Christleton Families

Christleton Parish has always had a reputation of being a great place to live, but also has the wonderful heritage of families who have been part of the community for hundreds of years. e.g the Mayers family, who date back to the 1480's, when Thomas Mayor a woodcutter from Bavaria helped to build the second church at Christleton, one with a sandstone tower that still stands today.

Nancy Catherall (nee Mayers) who died in 2011, was one of the most recent members of the family to worship here, and was responsible for paying for a replacement wooden cross on the lychgate some years previously. Rev. Canon David Fisher now Canon Precentor at Bangor Cathedral is also a member of the extended Mayers Family.

When Joan Wright died in 2010, an active link with the Wright/Venables family ceased, the family dating from at least the time when James Venables opened The Red Lion (now the Ring O Bells) in 1817. Many members of the Wright Family still live in the area, and they are also linked by marriage to the Mountfield's and the Mosfords.

The delightful Lucy Partington who died recently was one of the last members of the Mosford Family who served as Village Butchers from about 1857, through John Mosford who married Mary Dutton. Mary's mother Mary (nee Venables) was a formidable lady who not only ran the butchers shop, but was also licensee of the Red Lion for over twenty years.

When I came to Christleton in 1972, Jim & Lucy Partington who ran the Butchers Shop adjacent to The Village Green (now the Dental Surgery) were the heart & soul of the village. Virtually everyone bought their meat there, and it was the place where you stopped to chat and pick up village "gossip". Jim was rightly known as "Mr Christleton" not



only for his butchering, but for his participation in village sports teams, his service to the village through the Parish Council, and the Church. He was only following the wonderful example of his mother Mary, “Mrs Christleton” who had been founder member of the WI, member of the Parish Council, Christleton Players, and an active member of the Fete Committee. The Partington Oak on the Village Green commemorates their wonderful service to the community.

During the summer I had the pleasure of meeting Glen & Alane Beyer from Canada, who was searching for her “Hodson” family connection with the village, and I was able to show her graves adjacent to the Lady Chapel where members of her family are buried who were born in the 1600’s. e.g. Catherine Hodson was” buried in woolens” in 1695. Another member of the family, Catherine Reece (nee Hodson) was the mother of Richard Reece who became President of the Methodist Conference in 1816 and 1835.



Jim & Lucy Partington

Richard also established a Methodist Chapel in Pepper Street, above what used to be Morgan’s General Stores. The most recent of their family graves at St James’ sited on the north side of the church commemorating Thomas & Arabella Pickering was erected in 1854.

This fine stone memorial was designed by Thomas Harrison, who is mainly known for designing the Grosvenor Bridge, opened by Princess Victoria in 1832, and most of the Greek revival buildings on the Castle Square. Members of the Harrison Family still live in the Parish.

The Pickering / Hodson Family mentioned above, who lived in Pepper Street were originally Gentlemen farmers, but were also involved with the Witter family in soap manufacture in Cuppin Street, Chester, and even had a Royal warrant to supply soap products to Queen Victoria!.

*David Cummings*

## **\*\*Fundraising Talk for the new Boiler Fund\*\***

At St James' Church

**David & Beryl Cummings presents**

The Heritage of Christleton Parish including the history of St James'

**7.30pm on Thursday 17th March 2016**

**Tickets; £6 adults; Young people free.**

Refreshments; Emma's Special Cakes/tea/coffee/soft drinks/wine  
Raffle.

## **\*Charity Talk for St James' Christian Aid Appeal 2016\***

Christleton Parish Hall

**David & Beryl Cummings presents**

A Norwegian Adventure. (To the land of the Midnight Sun)

**Saturday April 16th at 7.00pm**

**Tickets; £6 adults; Young people free.**

Refreshments; Emma's Special Cakes/tea/coffee/soft drinks  
Raffle.

## **CHRISTLETON GARDENING CLUB**

The next meeting will be on Monday 8 February at 7.30 pm in Christleton Methodist Church.

The Speaker will be Mr Mike Cook – Vegetable Growing through the Seasons.

*Judith Ferns*

## **Which man won?**

Little Charlotte was at her first wedding and was enthralled by the entire ceremony. When it was over, she asked her mother, "Why did the lady change her mind?" Her mother asked, "What do you mean?" "Well, she went down the aisle with one man, and came back with another one."

## **Miscellaneous observations:**

I'm supposed to respect my elders, but it's getting harder and harder for me to find one now.

If I agreed with you, we'd both be wrong.

A bus station is where a bus stops. A train station is where a train stops.

On my desk, I have a work station.

Why do Americans choose from just two people to run for President and 50 for Miss America?

To steal ideas from one person is plagiarism. To steal from many is research.

Where there's a will, I want to be in it.

In filling out an application, where it says, "In case of emergency, notify ..." I answered, "a doctor."

Since light travels faster than sound, some people appear bright until you hear them speak.

I didn't say it was your fault, I said I was blaming you.

## **Have you ever wondered....**

Why is it called lipstick if you can still move your lips?

Why is it that night falls, but day breaks?

Why is it that no word in the English language rhymes with month, orange, silver, or purple?

Why is it that when you transport something by car, it's called a shipment, but when you transport something by ship, it's a cargo?

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**APPEAL FOR FUNDS FOR A  
NEW HEATING SYSTEM  
at  
ST JAMES' CHURCH**

Our Central Heating System at St James is nearly 30 years old and coming to the end of its working life. We need to install a new Boiler and Heating System as soon as we are able to raise £10,000 in the next few months towards the cost.

Are you able to help us with a donation towards the cost?  
Any contribution will be welcome and should be sent  
directly to the Treasurers:

Brian and Loraine Lewis  
51 Parkfield Road  
Broughton  
CH4 0SE

Any cheques should be addressed to:  
**“Christleton Parochial Church Council”**.  
Thank you for your continued support to St James.  
*John Pearson*

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**CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF THE WI AT  
CHRISTLETON IN 2015**

We have had a most enjoyable and memorable year. It all started in January when we had our New Year Party with great entertainment by “The Hanky Panky Ukulele Players”.

A fun evening of quizzes, music and chat was most enjoyable as was an afternoon Tea Party held for family and friends.

We have had excellent guest speakers and a display of beautiful work of quilting. A humorous talk on being a “Wedding Photographers Wife”. Another guest and her friends recited their own stories and poems in “Words and Biscuits”. “A Whistle, a Truncheon and a Pair of Boots” (clue in the title) entertained us with stories of a bygone age as a Police Constable. Talk with slides on “Thank you/Mr Lever” - this was a history of Lord Leverhulme and his family.

One of our members has won First Prize for the second year running with her photography at the Cheshire Show. We have a Drama Group and for many weeks we were rehearsing an alternative version of “The sound of Music” in readiness to perform at Gorsworth in July – this I am proud to say was a great success!

Arrangements are well in hand to continue our good work in 2016.

*Sheila Pimbley*

## **Christleton Local History Group**

**Wednesday 25th February 7.30pm**

**at**

**Christleton Primary School**

**The Battle of Waterloo**

***Speaker*: Michael Crumplin MB BS MRCS FRCS (Eng and ED)  
FINS FHS**

**Michael Crumplin** is a retired consultant surgeon, and an honorary fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh. He has studied the medicine of the Republican, Napoleonic and other wars for over 45 years, and now devotes his time in writing, lecturing and giving support to students. He is a member of the Waterloo 200 Operating Committee, heading up the educational group for the Bicentenary of the Battle of Waterloo. He is the author of four books, including *The Bloody Fields of Waterloo*.

All welcome.

# ***A Spotlight on***

***a member of St James' congregation:***

***Name:***            ***Brian Inall***

***Lives:***            *Christleton since 2013*

***Nationality:*** *British, but flexible.*

***Originally from:*** *North West Kent, then Herts when married, and then Beds.*

***Occupation:*** *Computer Systems/ IT but retired in 2007 after 3rd redundancy.*



***Family:*** *Married to Elizabeth for nearly 45 years. Two daughters, one son. All three married; seven grandchildren; living in Norwich, Oxford and Chester. Younger brother and sister-in-law in Bedfordshire. Elderly Border Collie called Charlie who's struggling quite a bit now.*

***Interests:*** *DIY (just love drilling holes! ) & Electrics. Classical music. Music from the 60s. Gardening, but not the fiddly skilled bits. Playing with the computer. Drawing/designing. Curry. Wine. Tea. Coffee. Chocolate. Travelling. Interacting with people. Humour. Lists. Photography. Snooker. Sleeping (esp. during TV programmes).*

***Favourite Quotation:*** *" 42 - The Answer to Life the Universe and Everything " - it's amazing how often this becomes useful.*

***Things that may surprise the reader:*** *I went to Dartford Grammar School with Mick Jagger (yes - that one - he's a few years older than I am but our paths did cross for a couple of years before he was famous).*

*I was quite good at trampolining as a teenager. Ran a 5 minute mile. For many years I was a caller for a Country Dance Band.*



**No charge, donations welcome.**

# St James' PCC Update

As secretary I promised to put information here about what the PCC were doing on a regular basis to keep folk informed. In recent months the PCC has focussed mostly on buildings maintenance and finance and indeed our meeting in November was nothing but finance.

We do have some problems in that our income barely covers our normal running costs, so when special maintenance tasks come along - such as the repair work to the west wall & tower - then reserves are reduced and not easily replenished. The heating boiler needs to be replaced and that's another big expense coming up - hence the 'Boiler Appeal' that you may have seen. (Thank you to those who have donated to that appeal.)

We also need to resurface the car park and extend the churchyard for more burials of ashes, and then there's the Parish Hall which we don't own but which we control and have to maintain under a lease agreement. The hall is looking quite shabby and a lot needs to be spent here. There are plenty of other projects and maintenance tasks in the wings awaiting funds when available. Added to that the increase in our bills, especially the Parish Share that we pay to the Diocese, and with reduced income year on year then you can see the problem.

Of course we should be working on spiritual growth, Christian teaching, pastoral, evangelistic and outreach/community issues but, sadly, these seem to get squeezed out when bills need paying and the heating is at risk in the winter. On a more positive note, for 2016 we are already having some Spirituality talks during Lent, and a retreat up in Northumbria. Concerts in church are also being planned and no doubt we'll celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday with a festival. Check the Church Diary on the Christleton website.

We have our usual annual meetings coming up Sunday 25th April. That's at 11.45am approx after the morning service finishes and is held in church. There are two meetings, the short Meeting of the Parishioners (also known as the Vestry meeting) which all parish residents and

church members may attend, immediately followed by the main APCM meeting which only church members may attend. (Church members are those on the St James' electoral roll plus clergy.) The first meeting elects the Churchwardens, the APCM does everything else. Last year we had just 56 members attend out of a membership of 239. We need to do better this year - please put it in your diaries and come along.

We have some vacancies to be filled! Are you up for it? Treasurer (very important and prestigious job - can be done by a couple sharing the role); Parish Hall Lettings Secretary - to take hall bookings and respond to enquiries, etc; and not least we need a few more PCC members. Good skills are nice to have, but we really want people who are enthusiastic to join our team and help this church prosper and grow and represent the Body of Christ in this place. If interested, or you wish to find out more, then contact me (Tel: 336500) or the Rector (Tel: 335663).

Last year for the first time we gathered annual reports from groups linked to the church and made a pack of information available during the 2 weeks before the annual meetings. It was well received. So we plan to do it again this year. If you lead a group linked with St James then please prepare an annual report that's interesting and fairly brief and email it to me by 1st April - again contact me if you need further info.

*Thank you - Brian Inall. (Tel: 336500 or [brian.inall@gmail.com](mailto:brian.inall@gmail.com))*

## **GROSVENOR MUSEUM SOCIETY**

The Society's next lecture meeting will held at the Grosvenor Museum  
on

**Date/time : Tuesday, 17 February 2015 at 7.30pm.**

**Subject : Randolph Caldecott, Victorian artist and illustrator, born in  
Chester, 1846.**

**Speaker : Peter Boughton, Curator of Art, Grosvenor Museum.**

**Members free, Visitors £4, Students £2.**

*Membership details from Ken Holding ( tel. 312689 ).*

## SHROVETIDE

At Shrovetide to shroving go thresh the fatte henne  
if blindfelde can kill it then geve it thy menne  
Maides fritters and pancakes inough see ye make  
let slutte have one pancake for companys' sake  
{old English speak - hard to decipher, but 3rd line clear!}  
No sooner have we had Twelfth Night then Lent appears. Time to  
make pancakes again.

## TRADITIONAL LEMON

4 oz plain flour   a pinch of salt   2 eggs  
7 fl.oz. milk and 3 fl.;oz. water mixed together  
2 tablespoons melted butter   lemons  
some caster sugar and a heavy frying pan  
Make a batter by sifting flour and salt into a bowl whisking in the eggs  
and milk gradually.  
Melt a little lard in the hot frying pan and the butter and pour in 2  
tablespoons of batter  
covering the base of the pan and swirl round to cover the base. When  
pancake is brown  
beneath, flip it over - or toss it - and cook the other side. Serve with  
sugar and lemon. *MC*

## Christleton Wednesday Group

### Spring Lunch

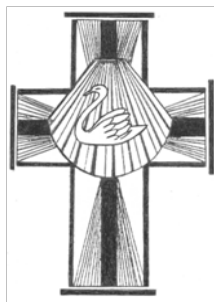
At Christleton Parish Hall on  
Wednesday 23rd March  
12 noon

Ticket price £10

(includes glass of wine/soft drink)  
available from members or phone 01244 336644  
In aid of Claire House Hospice



# **The Parish of St James, Christleton**



## **Parish Retreat**

**25th –28th April 2016  
at  
'Nethersprings' Felton, Northumbria  
and  
including a daytrip to Holy Island**

There may be a couple of places available on this retreat. If you would like to come with us or want more information please let me know ASAP

Elizabeth Inall

☎ 336500



## **CHRISTLETON WEDNESDAY GROUP NEEDS YOU!**

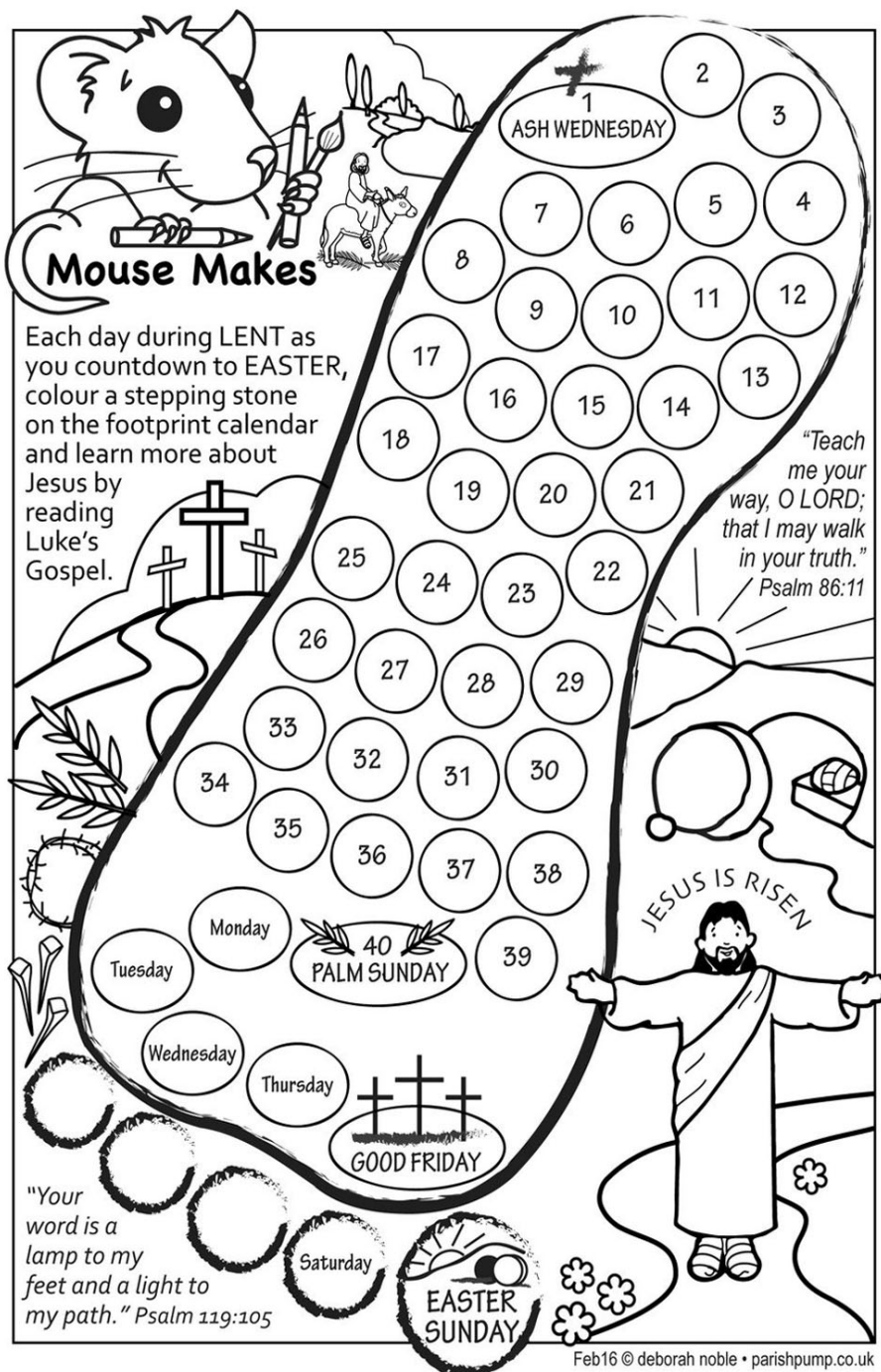
Would you like to help a group of local ladies to raise money for good causes? Our chosen charity in 2016 is Claire House Childrens' Hospice. The Group get together over a coffee once a month to organise fund raising events. Previously we have organised spring and festive lunches for 80-100 people, quiz nights, jumble sales and cookery demonstrations. If you would like to know more or join us – even if only on an ad hoc basis – we would love to hear from you. *Telephone Pat on 01244332234*

### **The Queen - a message from the Church Buildings Council**

With the approval and agreement of the Archbishops of Canterbury and York, the Church Buildings Council is encouraging every parish church in England to organise a festival on the weekend of 10-12 June 2016 to celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday and her role as head of the Church of England. This will coincide with official celebrations taking place in London. The variety of potential forms for the celebrations is huge, from flower festivals to organ, bell-ringing or choir festivals, food or even beer festivals! – and it is hoped that, wherever possible, every church will take part.

In addition, to coincide with the Queen's birthday we hope that every church will be able to organise an exhibition of the life of its parish over the previous 90 years. Such exhibitions should, by charting the changes in the lives of our communities since 1926, highlight the ways in which parish churches have been and remain the focus of those communities, and be a celebration both of our churches and of the people that they serve. We hope that most parishes will be able to find photographs, artworks and oral history connected with their church and the local area. Though the onus will be on parishes to arrange their events, the Church Buildings Council will act as a hub for ideas and as a central co-ordination point. We will soon be sending out guidance on the organisation of these events, and all relevant guidance will be available on the Church-Care.co.uk website.





# Holydays in February

**23rd Polycarp** - the faithful servant who would not deny his Lord Polycarp (c. 69 – c. 155) was one of the most important Christians in Roman Asia in the mid-2nd century, because of his link between the time of the Apostles and the earliest Christian Fathers. This disciple of John the Apostle became bishop of Smyrna and defended orthodox Christian belief against the heresies of Marcion and Valentinus, the most influential of the Gnostics.

Irenaeus of Lyons, who as a boy had known Polycarp, praised his gravity, holiness and majesty of countenance. Near the end of his long life, Polycarp paid a visit to Rome to discuss with the bishop there the possibility of agreeing a uniform date of celebrating Easter. When they found they could not agree, they amicably agreed to differ, and parted in good faith. Polycarp returned to Smyrna, where a riot broke out at a pagan festival.

The crowd suddenly turned on the Christians, whom they called ‘atheists’. Polycarp was on a farm nearby, neither provoking nor fleeing martyrdom. When his captors arrived, he invited them to eat a meal, while he prayed alone for an hour. Then calmly, he agreed to go with them to his interrogation. All the pagans’ threats and promises did nothing to shake Polycarp. When ordered to execrate Christ, Polycarp gave this dignified reply: “For 86 years I have been his servant and He has never done me wrong; how can I blaspheme my king who saved me?... I am a Christian: if you wish to study the Christian doctrine, choose a day and you will hear it.” The crowd were outraged, and cried first for the lions and then for Polycarp to be burnt at the stake. He was bound, but an official killed him with his sword before his body was burnt.

Later, grieving Christians collected his bones and buried them. They also wrote an account of his trial and martyrdom, which is the earliest authentic example of its kind. In England there are no ancient and only a few modern churches dedicated to this deeply courageous saint of the Christian Church.

## **24th Matthias the Apostle - the chosen one**

Have you ever been in the position where someone is desperately needed – and you fit the bill perfectly? It is almost as if all your miscellaneous qualifications that never made much sense before now make PERFECT sense. And you sense that you have been chosen by God for the task....

If so, then Matthias is definitely the patron saint for you! Matthias came into the picture shortly after the suicide of Judas. The early church was missing an apostle, and so the remaining 11 apostles prayed for guidance on who to choose as a replacement for this key role. The qualifications for the job were specialised: the person had to have been a follower of Christ from his Baptism to his Ascension, and a witness of the Resurrection. There were two possibilities: Joseph Barsabas and Matthias. How to choose?

Again, Matthias' experience may mirror yours: the decision was out of his hands, and up to others. In this case, the apostles drew straws – and the 'lot' fell to Matthias. He had been chosen to replace Judas! The tragedy of Judas' betrayal had led to an opportunity for service by Matthias – and he was well prepared for the task. Are you prepared for any task that God might suddenly open before you? Like the other apostles, Matthias had been in Jerusalem and had received the gift of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, and he went on to do a good job. It is said he preached the Good News first in Judea, and then maybe in Cappadocia and by the Caspian Sea. It is thought he was martyred by the axe or halberd, and his relics eventually ended up being taken to Rome by the empress Helen.

Matthias is an encouragement to us to be faithful in small things - because you never know what the future might hold!

## **\*29th Oswald - the saint for Leap Year**

There is a saint for Leap Year: St Oswald of Worcester, who died on 29th February 992. His family story was extraordinary, and full of some

surprising ‘leaps’, all by itself. It provides a tantalising glimpse of what happened to at least one of those pagan Viking warriors who settled in Anglo-Saxon Britain. For Oswald’s great-uncle had come to England c 865, as part of the ‘Great Heathen Army’ of Viking invaders. But his son, Oswald’s uncle, Oda, forsook paganism, and not only converted to Christianity, but actually ended up as Archbishop of Canterbury.

From there, Oda was in a position to help his nephew, Oswald, which he did. Oda sent young Oswald to be educated at the abbey of Fleury, then a great centre of learning. There Oswald absorbed the Benedictine ideals which would guide his later life and work. Back in England, he became bishop of Worcester in 961, and with the support of King Edgar, eagerly joined in major reforms of the Anglo-Saxon church. In 972 Oswald was made Archbishop of York, and seems to have taken a great interest in renewing the church in the Danelaw.

He founded Ramsey Abbey, which became one of the great Fenland monasteries. Oswald was a popular Archbishop, who was in the habit of washing the feet of the poor every day in Lent. On the 29th February 992 he had just completed this service at Worcester, when he collapsed and died. Later Oswald and his successor at Worcester, Wulfstan came to be the two chief saints of Worcester. You can see them together, for instance, flanking the tomb of King John before the high altar of the cathedral.

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## **Disturb us, Lord**

*Disturb us, Lord, when we are too well pleased with ourselves,  
When our dreams have come true, Because we have dreamed too little,  
When we arrived safely, Because we sailed too close to the shore.*

*Disturb us, Lord, when, With the abundance of things we possess,  
We have lost our thirst, For the waters of life;  
Having fallen in love with life, We have ceased to dream of eternity,*

*And in our efforts to build a new earth, We have allowed our vision,  
Of the new Heaven to dim.*

*Disturb us, Lord, to dare more boldly, To venture on wider seas  
Where storms will show your mastery; Where losing sight of land,  
We shall find the stars. We ask You to push back  
The horizons of our hopes; And to push into the future  
In strength, courage, hope, and love.*

*Attributed to Sir Francis Drake, 16th Century*

## **With Valentine's Day in mind....**

Marriage requires falling in love many times – always with the same person. - *Anon*

Marriage is like twirling a baton, turning handsprings, or eating with chopsticks; it looks so easy till you try it. - *Helen Rowland*

What woman, however old, has not the bridal favours and raiment stowed away, and packed in lavender, in the inmost cupboards of her heart? - *William M Thackeray*

Life has taught us that love does not consist in gazing at each other but in looking outward together in the same direction. - *Antoine De Saint-Exupery*

Oh, if it be to choose and call thee mine, Love, thou art every day my Valentine! - *Thomas Hood*

A woman is a man's solace, but if it wasn't for her, he probably wouldn't need any solace.- *P Burns*

Two heads are better than one. - *Homer (Illiad)*

The heart has its reason, which reason knows not, as we feel in a thousand instances. - *Blaise Pascal*

## HYMNS

When you come to church you hear hymns. Hymns are songs of

praise to God. Some are very old and some, like the ones you may sing at school, are new.

Have you ever wondered who wrote the hymns we sing? For example, one hymn writer was Mrs Cecil Frances Alexander, the wife of the Bishop of Londonderry.

She wrote a book called 'Hymns for Little Children' which was dedicated to her godchildren. The book was published in 1848 and contained hymns that we know well today; 'All Things Bright and Beautiful', 'Once in Royal David's City' and 'There is a Green Hill Far Away'. It is said that she wrote the last hymn because of the view from the Bishop's palace. The house looked out over the city walls to the green hills in the distance. So the words we sing today come from the view that Mrs Alexander had from her window.



## HYMN TITLES

All the following hymn titles have some words missing – can you fill in the blanks. All the hymns are from Mission Praise and the answers are below.

1. While \_\_\_\_ watched
2. Lead us, \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_, lead us.
3. Away in a \_\_\_\_
4. Forty days and \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_
5. Hark! The \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ sing
6. \_\_\_\_ has broken
7. \_\_\_\_ night, \_\_\_\_ night
8. There is a \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ far away
9. We plough the \_\_\_\_ and scatter
10. Amazing \_\_\_\_

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Didn't your teacher say your singing was heavenly? ☆  
Well, she did say it was like nothing on earth. ☆



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Answers: 1. While shepherds watched  
2. Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us  
3. Away in a manger 4. Forty days and forty nights 5. Hark, the herald angels sing 6. Morning has broken 7. Silent night, holy night 8. There is a green hill far away 9. We plough the fields and scatter 10. Amazing Grace.



# Parish Registers

Unavailable at the time of going to Press!!!

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**Lent is a time for spiritual self-examination....where do we stand with God?**

Holiness is not something to be received in a meeting; it is a life to be lived and to be lived in detail. D Martyn Lloyd-Jones

It is a great deal better to live a holy life than to talk about it. Light-houses do not ring bells and fire cannon to call attention to their shining – they just shine! D L Moody

Humility is to the Christian what ballast is to the ship; it keeps him in his proper position and regulates all his thoughts and feelings. Archibald Alexander

# PARISH CHURCH OF ST JAMES, CHRISTLETON

## REGULAR WORSHIP

SUNDAYS:      8.00am:      Holy Communion  
                 10.45am:      Holy Communion (1st & 3rd & 5th Sun  
   days)  
                                 Morning Worship - a less formal service  
                                 for all (2nd Sunday)  
                                 Morning Prayer / Mattins (4th Sunday)  
                 6.30pm:      Evening Prayer / Evensong (1st Sunday)  
                                 Holy Communion (2nd & 4th Sundays)  
                                 Evening Prayer / Evensong (BCP) (3rd  
                                 Sunday)  
                                 Evening services on a 5th Sunday vary -  
                                 see notices.

WEDNESDAYS:      10.45am:      Holy Communion (BCP)  
   (United service on 1st Wednesday)

Special services take place at festivals and at other times, and other variations occur, so please check the diary at the front of this magazine, also the church notices and the Christleton website. A 'United' service is where Churches Together in Christleton congregations come together.

'Book of Common Prayer' (BCP) services use the older traditional language, other services are 'Common Worship' using modern language.

Children are welcome at all of our services. Sunday Club, Messy Church and the Crew Youth Group also available for younger members. There is a good organist at St James and a robed choir sings at many of the services.

Refreshments are generally served after the 10.45am Sunday service in the Parish Hall across the road, and are also served in the church after the 10.45am Wednesday services. Once a month on the 1st Sunday breakfast is served in the Parish Hall from about 8.45am. These give splendid opportunities for fellowship and you are invited to join in.

## WHO'S WHO & CONTACT NUMBERS

Rector:	Rev'd Malcolm Cowan, B.Th. The Rectory, Birch Heath Lane, Christleton, CH3 7AP jandmcowan@gmail.com (The Rector's day off each week is normally Friday)	335663
Curate:	Rev'd Barbara King, B.Ed. 17 Cathcart Green, Guilden Sutton, CH3 7SR	300756
Administration:	Janet Milton (Janet is your initial contact point for Baptism, Wedding and Appointment requests)	325529
Other local clergy who may assist:	Rev'd Gill Hibbert Rev'd Elizabeth Inall, MA	336544 336500
Churchwardens:	Carl Cumiskey Bettie Gilliatt	330028 335645
Deputy Wardens:	Chris Platel Keith Smalls	332466 335688
Verge:	John Milton	325529
Sacristan:	Betty Dunning	335652
Organist:	Bob Owens	01928 724088
PCC Secretary:	Brian Inall	336500
PCC Treasurer:	Brian & Lorraine Lewis	534323
Gift Aid Secretary:	Nigel Seddon	335588
Planned Giving Envelopes:	Betty Dunning	335652
Deanery Synod Representative:	Berence Kirwan	336779
Electoral Roll Officer:	Brenda Bailey	335034
Churches Together Representative:	Jan Bowden	335705
Parish Safeguarding Co-ordinator:	The Rector	335663
Pastoral Worker / Visiting:	Berence Kirwan	336779
Sunday Club / Messy Church:	Berence Kirwan	336779
CREW Youth Group:	Mike & Tina Lightfoot	328436
Church Library:	Gwen Knight	336236
Church Flowers:	Olive Hammond	336562
Bellringers:	Nikki Dromgoole	351124
Bellringers' Secretary:	Nikki Dromgoole	351124
Parish Hall Bookings:	Clare Holland	332819
Children's Society Sec:	Lesley Morgan	335088
Church Missionary Society Sec:	Janet Brown	335785
Mothers' Union Branch Leader:	Janet Brown	335785
Magazine Editor:	David Bull	332234
Assisting Magazine Editor:	Huw Morgan	335088
Magazine Adverts	Ann Smith	332434
Magazine Distributors:	Jenny Davies, Valmai Griffiths	335884

(Phone numbers have Chester code: 01244 unless stated otherwise)



The late great Jim Partington - looking forward to Spring,



Looking back at Christmas

### **Financial situation...**

‘The budget should be balanced, the Treasury should be refilled, public debt should be reduced, the arrogance of officialdom should be tempered and controlled, and the assistance to foreign lands should be curtailed lest Rome become bankrupt. People must again learn to work, instead of living on public assistance.’ Cicero - in 55 BC