

The cover features a photograph of a churchyard. In the foreground, there is a large field of purple and white crocuses. In the middle ground, a stone cross stands on a pedestal. In the background, a church with a prominent tower and a stone archway is visible, surrounded by trees and a wooden bench on the right.

St. James' Christleton

PARISH MAGAZINE

February 2015

www.christleton.org.uk

35p

Features for February

Sun	1	Presentation of Christ in the Temple	
		8.00 am	Holy Communion CW - followed by Breakfast in Parish Hall
		10.45 am	Holy Communion CW
		10.45 am	Sunday Club - Parish Hall
		6.30 pm	Evening Worship CW
Mon	2	10.45 am	Holy Communion at Oaklands Nursing Home
		11.20 am	Holy Communion at Tarvin Court Nursing Home
		2.00 pm	Mothers' Union - Parish Hall
Wed	4	10.45 am	United Communion - followed by refreshments
Thur	5	12 noon	United Prayer Lunch - Methodist Church
Fri	6	6.30 pm	Choir Practice

NB: Last date for contributions for March Parish Magazine to Janet Milton (325529). Earlier if possible please, or you can attach your Word document and e-mail this to christletonmag@hotmail.co.uk or christletonmag@spraff.net

Sun	8	Second Sunday before Lent	
		8.00 am	Holy Communion
		10.45 am	Morning Worship - followed by refreshments
		6.30 pm	Holy Communion - CW
Wed	11	10.45 am	Holy Communion BCP - followed by refreshments
		11.30 am	Holy Communion at Birch Heath Lodge
Fri	13	6.30 pm	Choir Practice
Sun	15	Next before Lent	
		8.00 am	Holy Communion CW
		10.45 am	Holy Communion CW

		4.00 pm - 6.00 pm	Messy Church - Parish Hall
		6.30 pm	Evening Worship (BCP)
Mon	16	12.30 pm	Monthly Luncheon Club - Parish Hall See Parish Magazine
Wed	18		Ash Wednesday
		10.45 am	Holy Communion with Imposition of Ashes- followed by refreshments
		7.00 pm	United Service of Holy Communion with Imposition of Ashes at St Werburgh RC Church
		7.30 pm	Holy Communion with Imposition of Ashes St James
Fri	20	6.30 pm	Choir Practice
Sun	22		Lent 1
		8.00 am	Holy Communion - CW
		10.45 am	Morning Prayer - CW
		10.45 am	Sunday Club- Parish Hall
		6.30 pm	Holy Communion - CW
Wed	25	10.45 am	Holy Communion - followed by refreshments
Fri	27	6.30 pm	Choir Practice

Cover Pictures

Front Cover

The Village Green.

A late February picture of crocus on the Village Green.

Back Cover

St James' Church at 12 noon on Christmas morning 2014. A rainbow lights up the dark sky behind the church with a shaft of sunlight shining on the Cross on the Tower.

Christmas Eve 2014. Carols around the Tree on Christmas Eve.
Another traditional Christleton scene.

Message from our Rector



There's a huge growth industry in mediation services. Perhaps we see it most often in the field of marriage, when couples facing difficulties in their relationship go to a third party — a counsellor or person trained in conciliation skills — in order to get help in dealing with the underlying issues which are causing problems in their marriage. However, couples are not the only people who avail themselves of such services: sometimes it is parents and children who need help, or professional

assistance is needed to resolve disputes between employers and employees or their unions; sometimes an outside agency is brought in to settle disagreements between neighbours. We all understand the need for third-party intervention and assistance in our lives — for the help of someone who is objective, dispassionate and skilled in dealing with conflict management. Chapter 18 of Matthew's Gospel, is sometimes called the "Community Rule Book". It gives instructions on how people within the family of the Church should relate to one another. In the chapter, Jesus' gives instructions on how to deal with conflict within the community. The basic principle is: do everything you possibly can to reach a reconciliation, to keep the lines of communication open. Today, we would call that arbitration or mediation.

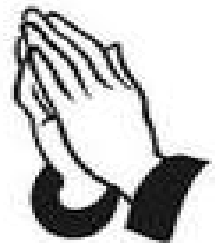
First try to deal with the issue informally, just between the two of you. Then — presumably because the issue is serious enough — get some witnesses. This brings the issue into the public arena, but it is also a way of ensuring clarity. In other words, check out your facts and your thinking, to ensure that this isn't just a case of both sides being unreasonable, or blinded by anger or resentment. It's about caring enough to point out a painful truth to your neighbour, your "brother". It is not by chance that this passage follows on from the teaching about the shepherd who goes out in search of the lost sheep. Finally, you bring the matter to the whole Church — to the wider community. If people persist in wrongdoing in the face of a clear rejection of their action by the whole community, then they are in fact separating themselves from the Church,

cutting themselves off. And this needs to be acknowledged. Not to punish — but to bring the perpetrators back to the path of right. Such an attitude might seem a little harsh, but the purpose is reconciliation, not vengeance. The prophet Ezekiel has the same mentality when he stresses the importance of speaking the truth — “Wicked wretch, you are to die.” Better to speak the truth even though it is painful, than to keep the peace and thereby allow someone to die in their sin. We often hear phrases such as “tough love” and “speak the truth in love”. Though these may have become somewhat clichéd, they do reflect an important truth: that being a Christian is not the same as being nice.

Peace is not the highest value that there is. Injustice and wrongdoing have to be actively named and opposed, not simply ignored or wished away. That is why justice and peace are always linked together — because without justice there can be no real peace, only appeasement and compromise, which are simply ways of allowing evil to triumph. Christians have a duty to be people of love: “Love is the one thing which cannot hurt your neighbour. It is the answer to every one of the commandments,” as Paul tells us. That sounds simple and clear-cut, but it isn’t.

Love cuts both ways. It is relatively easy to love when that means being generous, caring and compassionate. But the deeper love is one which cares enough to confront, challenge and, if need be, oppose. Genuine love of neighbour refuses to collude with wrongdoing through silence or inaction. Such love requires real courage, because it is liable to be misunderstood and can easily lead to hostility and rejection. As a Church we are called to bind and to loose: to bind the forces of evil which enslave people, to loosen the bonds of oppression which prevent people from living the fullness of life of God’s kingdom. Whether that means opposing individuals or governments, a society’s values or sinful economic structures, the challenge of the gospel means Christians need to love enough to speak uncomfortable truths — in humility, but with courage. And when we do that, we know that Christ promises to be there with us. 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 Secretary, Mrs Lilian Hopley. Telephone Chester: 676683.

MAGAZINE CONTRIBUTIONS

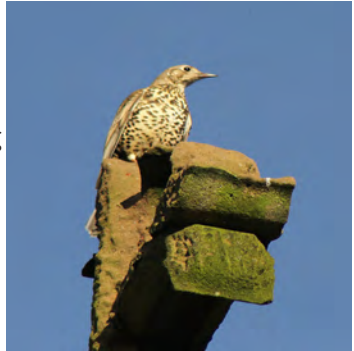
Please ensure all items for inclusion in the **March** edition are sent to Janet Milton (325529), as soon as possible **BEFORE Friday 6th February** or you can e-mail this to: christletonmag@hotmail.co.uk OR christletonmag@spraff.net

MAGAZINE DISTRIBUTORS

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

Nature Notes

What a start to the New Year for nature enthusiasts in the village. The area has been a great place to see wintering thrushes, and the mistle thrush shown is just one of ten or so feeding in the churchyard. Male & female black caps have appeared in Birch Heath Lane, and a wintering chiff chaff reported near the Common. Kestrels, sparrowhawks and buzzards have been seen regularly, as have tawny, little and barn owls. The highlight of the season to date at Hockenhull has been the appearance of both little egret, a small pure white, heron like wader, and a male golden eye duck, but even that pales into significance with the report and photograph of a pair of otters swimming along the Gowy just beyond the middle bridge at 8.30am on Sunday 4th January. I checked again last weekend but with no luck, but did find a large number of both otter and water vole tracks along the riverbank.



As I walked along I flushed out a common snipe and heard two water rails calling. A great spotted woodpecker was going hammer and tongs on one of the poplar trees, and a large number of starlings flew from their roost. Several goldfinches were calling with their delightful bubbling song from a hawthorn bush, and a party of twenty or so long tailed tits fed nearby. At this time of year it is common to see large parties of long tails together in family parties. As breeding time gets closer they part and find their own nest sites, and build the most wonderfully enclosed nests, using grasses feathers and moss. I'm also delighted to say that the large group of lapwing, 300-400 or so in number, that we've seen throughout last year are still performing their brilliant displays, usually because they have been disturbed from their roost by a bird of prey, or even gulls and cormorants. I watched two weeks ago as a peregrine falcon attacked them, but their twisting and turning in the sky as a large flock seemed to defeat even this speedy performer. DC

Promises

As Christmas has passed I have a quiz for you! Only 8 questions

1. Where do you find 'I promise to pay the bearer ...'?
2. In which service do people promise to 'love and to cherish'?
3. What is the sign of God's promise after the flood?
4. Whose poem 'Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening' has the line 'but I have promises to keep'?
5. Who was promised by God that his offspring would be as many as the stars in the sky?
6. God has promised us victory over what?
7. Who wrote 'everyone's a millionaire where promises are concerned'?
8. In which Shakespeare play would you find the line He was ever precise in his promise keeping?

Promises are important. How many times do we promise to keep in touch with people? How often do we say I promise I'll do that tomorrow and tomorrow never comes? I am not going to mention the promises you may have made as Big Ben sounded in 2015! I am hopeless at New Year Resolutions. A bit like diets too, they always start on Monday. We keep trying!

One promise I made to myself, which I did achieve last year was to go down to London and visit two very elderly cousins as well as other members of my family. It was wonderful! It took 4 years to come to fruition as I found many reasons why I couldn't go, most of which were unfounded fears. I did all that I wanted and managed to see the very moving display of poppies at the Tower of London.

John Green wrote in his novel, 'The Fault in our Stars' 'Some people don't understand the promises they are making when they make them. But you keep the promise anyway. That's what love is. Love is keeping the promises anyway.'

I am very thankful that God keeps his promises. Despite the mess I make of things as I bumble around, God is always there for me to pour out my woes and silly mistakes, to share in my joy and always, always giving me the strength to do what he wants me to do.

I have made promises to Him and all I can say at the end of each day is 'Here I am Lord.' He has made wonderful promises for me and for you and He, whatever I do, whatever you do, will keep them because 'love is keeping the promises anyway.'

May I wish you all a peaceful and blessed time for the rest of this year. Hope you did well in the quiz!

Barbara

DIXON'S ALMSHOUSES

Vacancies exist for two Ground Floor flats at Dixon's Almshouses. Priority will be given according to the terms of the Trust. These state that they should be for residents of the ecclesiastical Parish of Christleton (Christleton, Littleton, Rowton, Cotton Edmunds and Cotton Abbots) who do not own any property.

If there are no applicants who fulfil these criteria, priority will be given to applicants who come closest to meeting them.

For further details please contact the Rector (01244 335663). Applications, indicating ways in which the applicant meets the terms of the Trust, should be sent to the Rector (The Rectory, Birch Heath Lane, Christleton, Chester CH3 7AP).

**Churches Together
in
Christleton**

LENT LUNCH

(Inc. homemade soup)

Thursday 5th March,

12 noon – 1.30 p.m.

Methodist Schoolroom

Proceeds to Christian Aid

ALL WELCOME

First Woman Bishop arrives in the Church of England

The Rt Revd Libby Lane became the first woman to be consecrated as a bishop in the Church of England on Monday, January 26. At a York Minister service presided over by the Most Revd Dr John Sentamu, Archbishop of York, Libby became the 8th Bishop of Stockport, a suffragan (assistant) bishop in the Diocese of Chester. Speaking at Stockport Town Hall, when her appointment was first announced on 17 December, 2014, Libby Lane said: "I am grateful for, though somewhat daunted by, the confidence placed in me by the Diocese of Chester. This is unexpected and very exciting. I am very conscious of all those who have gone before me, women and men, who for decades have looked forward to this moment. But most of all I am thankful to God. "The Church of England is called to serve all the people of this country and, being present in every community, we communicate our faith best when our lives build up the lives of others, especially the most vulnerable. I am excited by the possibilities and challenges ahead."

Libby Lane was ordained priest in 1994 and served a number of roles in the North of England. She served her curacy in Blackburn Diocese and, in York Diocese, served as a hospital chaplain and as a chaplain in further education. Moving to the Diocese of Chester, Libby served as a team vicar in Stockport before becoming Vicar of St Peter's Hale and St Elizabeth's Ashley, in 2007. In 2013, Libby was elected by the North-West dioceses as one of the first eight clergy women to sit as Participant Observers in the House of Bishops of the Church of England. She also served as Family Life Officer in York and as Chester's Assistant Diocesan Director of Ordinands, advising and supporting people thinking about ministry in the Church of England. January 2010 saw her take on the role of Dean of Women in Ministry in Chester Diocese. When the new Bishop of Stockport was announced, the Archbishop of York predicted that Libby would "exercise her episcopal ministry with joy, prayerfulness, and trust in God." The Archbishop of Canterbury, the Most Revd Justin Welby, said: "Her Christ-centred life, calmness and clear

determination to serve the church and the community make her a wonderful choice.”The Bishop of Chester, the Rt. Revd Dr Peter Forster, who led the nomination process, confirmed: “As the first woman bishop in the Church of England she will face many challenges as well as enjoying many opportunities to be an ambassador for Jesus Christ. I have no doubt that she has the gifts and determination to be an outstanding bishop.” Bishop Libby succeeded the Rt. Revd Robert Atwell, now the Bishop of Exeter. Her husband, George, with whom she was ordained in 1994, is Coordinating Chaplain at Manchester Airport. They have two grown up children. Between episcopal duties, the Rt Rev Libby Lane hopes to continue learning the saxophone, supporting Manchester United and doing cryptic crosswords.

Eric and Sandra Read write from The Philippines

Organic Farming – We have had surprise visits from the agricultural department to check on how we are doing organic farming. When we expressed our desire to help other farmers around by organising informative meetings they showed interest in working with us. This is a very important link to tap into! Another good piece of news is that the guava trees that we had, which were the wrong variety, have been checked over by the supplier, who has agreed to replace them – 350 in all!

Disappointments and Opportunities – Our concern to be an agent of transformation in the community has been discouraged as meetings with church leaders and training sessions have been postponed from September to January next year. So we have decided that we must start this on-the-go process by ‘doing it ourselves’ rather than just envisioning and training others to do it. So we have started:

A weekly Bible Study with our workers and neighbours

A ‘Reading Corner’ for children – sourced by ideas from Atiyah and some donated books

Thank you for your prayers and blessing to you all!

“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).”

Christleton Local History Group

Meeting at Christleton Primary School in Quarry Lane

Wednesday 25th February 7.30pm

Speaker Martin Thompson

Travelling the Land of Bhutan by Bullet!

Martin is a member of the Local History Group and recently undertook an exhausting journey through the Kingdom of Bhutan on a motorbike. He will regale us with his stories and stunning pictures of this remote kingdom.

Answers:- Quiz on pg 8

1. Bank of England note.
2. Marriage service.
3. rainbow.
4. Robert Frost.
5. Abraham.
6. death.
7. Ovid.
8. Measure for Measure.



THE MONTHLY
CHRISTLETON

LUNCHEON CLUB IN PARISH HALL



Monday
16th February

No charge, donations welcome
12 noon for 12.30 serving

All welcome. Book a place by calling:

Liz: 409414, or Janet: 325529, or Chris: 335562, or sign the list in Church

Christleton Wednesday Group

Soup and Sweet Spring Lunch

on

Wednesday 25th March

In

Christleton Parish Hall

At 12.00 Noon.

Tickets £10 available from members

or

phone 01244336644

(Includes a glass of wine)

In aid of LIVE!

At New Scene Youth Centre

Heb 13:7 “Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of their conversation.”

Trees

Trees are a blessing to all mankind.

Beautiful, scented permanent.

A silent wordless hymn, sensitive to sun, wind and rain, time and tide.

Each type adding a new dimension to life.

A rock against misfortune and a shelter to countless numbers of lifes creatuers.

Prolific, abundant and majestic.

A harvest for all seasons and a cure for many ills.

The workers best friend and one of lifes building blocks.

Bonding the earth, trees filter the sun and are lifes greatest oxygen power house.

A store house against want, its branches can provide a sturdy staff for the weary traveller regardless of race, creed or colour.

Graciously standing.

Graciously bending.

Graciously flowering, their shapes never ending.

Trees cover the earth, there to be seen, and there to be touched.

There to be used without complaint .

An inspiration to artist and poet in every generation

Trees are uncommonly beautiful, uncommonly strong and uncommonly useful.

Each leaf a new creation, similar but not quite the same.

Some have been standing from the time of the Pharoahs.

A living lesson in history, and a never ending cycle of growth and decay.

Like you and me, subject to many ills, but always searching for the light, good at hanging on.

Colours to suit all seasons, trees shed their leaves like golden rain to feed their younglings, as they push up about their, feet and life is renewed.

A hope for genrations to come.

Trees to inspire, trees which grow higher, trees to help man since life began.

As the old song reminds us, the world was made for human beings like me but only God could make a tree. *Neville Williams*

Nuggets of Wisdom

TO IMPROVE EFFICIENCY, a company hired a consultant, who called a meeting of all personnel. Stressing the need to listen to experts, he said, “Imagine you’re on the Titanic, and it’s sinking. You climb into a lifeboat. Which direction would you row?” Then he asked, “What if you had the ship’s navigator with you? Now which way would you go? You’d row the way the navigator told you to, right?”

There were murmurs of agreement until a guy in the back piped up, “Well, I don’t know. He’s already hit one iceberg!”

You need discernment concerning whom you’ll take advice from. The book of Proverbs urges us to get advice from the wise (1:2-7). Wisdom in the Bible is “skill for living.” Some people know how to make a living but don’t know how to make a life, which is a shame for it is better to make a good life than a good living.

The book of Proverbs is about godly wisdom, how to get it and how to use it. It’s about priorities and principles, not get rich-quick schemes or success formulas. It tells you, not how to make a living, but how to be skillful in the lost art of making a life.

The first seven verses of chapter one reveal the purpose of the book. It was written to teach wisdom by applying wisdom to life instead of simply theorizing about it. The entire book was intended to be of great practical benefit to the obedient listener. It’s wise practical teaching leads the understanding man who fears the Lord to wisdom.

Wisdom is a word of enormous importance in Proverbs. [Wise & wisdom are used at least 125 times.] A purpose of the Proverbs is that the reader might “know wisdom” and allow it to govern his or her life. God crafts wisdom into a life so that one learns how to live skillfully, or successfully before Him. The emphasis is not on theoretical information but on a proper discernment for decisions between choices, to know good from evil, and right from wrong. People with wisdom have the skill to face life honestly and courageously and manage it successfully so that God’s

purposes are fulfilled in their life. Wisdom orders and directs life for proper purpose. It brings us into harmony with the priorities and principles of God. The result of true wisdom is the enacting of wise behavior, righteousness and equity. The wisdom purposed in Proverbs is more than enlightenment of human reason through means of comprehending reality as it is. It is for “wise behavior” or for moral achievement. It is worth remembering that man may “take in” (receive) knowledge till he is ignorant. No matter how enriched one is with science and philosophy, he is a fool if he does not practice righteousness, justice, and equity,

Righteousness implies right believing, right thinking, and right action. Justice is the understanding and application of right and wrong. Equity is to know what is fair and balanced. The great philosopher Locke said the goal of education “is not to perfect a learner in all or any of the sciences, but to give his mind that disposition and those habits that may enable him to obtain any part of knowledge he will apply himself to or stand in need of in the future course of life.”

Management expert PETER DRUCKER once wrote that too often people focus on efficiency (doing things right), instead of on effectiveness (doing the right thing). “There are few things less pleasing to the Lord and less productive,” Drucker says, “than an engineering department that rapidly turns out beautiful blueprints for the wrong product. What areas in our life, community, church and work with God are we doing just that. Working on the right things is what makes. . . work effective.” Those are wise words for anyone seeking success, and for those trying to live a good life.

Are you busy trying to get everything done in life? It would be wise to first see if you are living the right kind of life. How can we be sure we are doing the right thing—that which is truly valuable--instead of doing the wrong thing in an efficient way? Solomon wrote his Proverbs so that his sons would “receive the instruction of wisdom, justice, judgment, and equity.” Or, as one translation puts it, to acquire “a disciplined and prudent life, doing what is right and just and fair” (NIV).

Through His Word and the guidance of the Holy Spirit, God will

teach us what is right and enable us to do it. Our most important task is doing what is grounded in “justice, judgment and equity!

“A wise man” is described here as one that is still learning. The Hebrew word learning means “taking in.” But before learning occurs a wise man is attentive, he will hear. The mental and spiritual ears of some are so heavy that they do not hear the voice of wisdom. The ears of others are so full of the rush of the world that truth even when it cracks like thunder rolls beyond their grasp unheard.

So a wise man is described as an improving man, one increasing in learning by knowing truth and God better. He discards what is less adequate for what is more accurate. “It’s what we learn after we know it all that counts.”

A wise man is also a “man of understanding”, literally knows the ropes. He knows who to tie himself to in order to better guide himself through life. A wise man is one who grasps divine truth through wise counsel. Wise counsel literally is steering (like the tackle for directing a ship) and suggests moving one’s life in the right direction. He has the discernment to steer a right course through life.

When was the last time you admitted your were wrong? Why is that so hard to do? What have you learned recently from another believer? The best way to make room for wisdom is to get rid of know-it-all pride. The most annoying type of person is the know-it-all, a person who has a dogmatic opinion on most everything. They are closed to learning because they think they already know. Don’t be a know-it-all. Learn from the wisdom of God and from those who walk in God’s Word. Only God truly knows it all.

The desire to learn about our physical world is commendable. But nothing is more important than to increase our knowledge of God’s Word. We will never get to the place where we can say, “I know it all. No one can teach me anything that I haven’t heard before.”

A wise person never stops learning about God and His world. Increase your knowledge of God’s Word, For in it you will find The wisdom that you need for life which comes from God’s own

mind.

The more we learn the more we realize how much we need to learn. The book of Proverbs is not only for the naive-but also for the wise. It is for anyone who realizes that he has further to go.

The following are some things you should know about PERSONAL GROWTH.

(1) Growth isn't automatic. You're only young once, but you can be immature indefinitely.

Each year the lobster is forced to shed its shell; it's a pity we aren't! Come on, if you don't make personal growth your responsibility it will never happen. The road to anything worthwhile is always uphill, so the sooner you start climbing the closer to reaching your God-given potential you'll be.

(2) Growth today brings success tomorrow. What you sow today determines what you reap tomorrow. Oliver Wendell Holmes said, "Once stretched by a new idea, a man's mind never regains its original dimensions." So what are you doing today to become wiser, more truly successful tomorrow?

(3) Growth is your responsibility. When you were a child your parents were responsible for your growth, now you are. Robert Browning wrote, "Why stay we on earth except to grow?" Good question! Yet few of us dedicate ourselves to the process. Why? Because growth requires **change** and most of us are uncomfortable with change. Gail Sheehy writes, "If we don't change we won't grow, and if we don't grow we're not really living. Growth demands the temporary surrender of security. It means a giving up of familiar but limiting patterns, safe but unrewarding work, values no longer believed in, relationships that have lost their meaning. Taking a new step is what we fear most, yet our real fear should be the opposite." Other than going to Hell, can you think of anything worse than living a life devoid of spiritual growth and improvement?

In verse 6 Solomon propose a challenge to the reader of the book. "To understand a proverb and a figure, The words of the wise and their riddles." A genuine learner is described as an interpreter. The deep things of God need to be interpreted (1 Cor. 2:9,10). A proverb is a description by way of a comparison. The words of the wise are thought provoking words and riddles are thought provoking questions which need interpretation.

The goal of learning should be to better know God and out of that knowledge to love Him, and to become like Him that we may possess true virtue and wisdom.

ch 1 Verse 7 conveys the book's theological foundation and that the basic contrast between wisdom and folly. "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; Fools despise wisdom and instruction."

Here is the foundational truth on which the book rests. Without this basic preparation or characteristic the reader disqualifies himself from obtaining true knowledge and wisdom. The knowledge needed for wisdom begins with "the fear of the Lord." The single essential to finding eternal knowledge is the fear of the Lord.

In God's eyes natural man is a sinner living in rebellion against His revealed will and thus meriting eternal separation. Those that know this fear will not remain strangers to the Word of God nor the Family of God. They will fling themselves upon God's mercy, begging for His forgiveness and cleansing, trusting only in Jesus' substitutionary sacrifice and ransom payment on the cross for their sin and sinfulness.

"Fear" is respect for legitimate authority. God is the absolute final authority of everything and everyone. Wisdom begins with a submissive reverence to God Almighty, recognizing who He is. Once His greatness and holiness is reverend, lives will be lived in obedience to His revealed will. To too many people God is an after-thought, not the first thought. Therefore most do what is right in their eyes, with little or no concern for God's will or way or word.

This fear of the Lord is where knowledge begins. Satan has intellectual knowledge but true knowledge, spiritual knowledge, the knowledge of self, the universe, eternity, Christ and man comes from God. For knowledge to become an eternal building block in one's life it must be based on this reverent acknowledgment and submission to Almighty God.

Today it seems that the fear of man is what is prevalent. There are many people who profess a belief in God but demonstrate by attitude and lifestyle a total disregard for His wishes and complete disdain for His Word. They show by their unwise behavior that the God they believe in has not been discovered through fear. God demands His due recognition of His sole right to be

Lord of life, every life. With telling forth rightness' Solomon describes those who deny God in speech, attitude and action. "Fools despise wisdom and instruction." A fool is not one who lacks intelligence, but one who is **obstinate** (13:16; 17: 10) and **stubborn** (1:7; 17:28; 20: 3; 22: 15). The root of his foolishness is not intelligence but spiritual blindness. He begins his downward journey by rejecting the fear of the Lord and determines to go his own way (v. 31) shutting God out of his life. So fools are those who despise wisdom's instruction. They are morally bankrupt, fleshly, and practically ignore the greatest truths in the universe. They trifle with the serious and gamble away the joys of eternity for the lusts of time. Though their intelligence may be great their logic is faulty and inconsistent.

Don't believe the faulty logic of fools. "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge!" Education may make you smart, but only God makes you good. A man may fill his mind with facts until it overflows, But without wisdom he's a fool unless he embrace wisdom. Foolishness is a liar and promises pleasure, peace, and prosperity. But, as its victims discover, it delivers the opposite. After the pleasure is a gaping void and inescapable pain. Wisdom, however, delivers more than we could hope for. wisdom says from the beginning her way is hard. She demands our respect and requires discipline on our part. But in return she gives her children freedom, security, and joy. These jewels of wisdom are thrown away from him who has no heart for them. Achieving wisdom may seem difficult. But the end result is worth it. The fear of the Lord is the starting point and essence of wisdom. In this age of information, knowledge is plentiful, but wisdom is scarce. Wisdom means far more than simply knowing a lot. God's wisdom guide us in how to live our life right. It grows out of a daily walk with the Lord. The foundation for this knowledge of true wisdom is the fear of the Lord. Wisdom begins by honoring and respecting God, by living in awe of His power, and in obedience to His Word. Faith in God's revealed wisdom should be the controlling principle for our understanding of the world, our attitudes, and our actions. Trust in God and He will make us truly wise. Amen. *Remain Blessed.*

churches
together

2015

LENT GROUPS

Churches Together in Christleton are running Lent House Groups for 5 weekly sessions starting in February. Everyone is welcome, no cost, refreshments provided.

There will be sessions on:

- Tuesday evenings 7.30pm from 24th Feb.
- Wednesday afternoons 2pm from 25th Feb.
- Thursday mornings 10am from 26th Feb.

Each for 5 weeks. Choose whichever suits you.

For more details and to book a place see the notice at the back of St James' Church.

Topic: "Walking and praying with Christians of the Middle East"

Learn about Christians in the Middle East their stories and the critical and complex issues they face today. Biblical reflections.

Points for discussion. Prayers from the Christians living in the region, and prayers for them.

St James' Church, Christleton; Methodist Church Christleton;
Methodist Church, Rowton; St Werburgh's Church, Chester.



The History File

Christleton Villages Voices: Remembering our Forgotten Heroes of WWI

Part 1; Percy Dobie of "Heathfield House" Tarvin Road, Littleton

During our research for information about Village heroes from WWI we have come across the grave at St James' Churchyard of Percy Dobie. This simple flat red sandstone grave gives us the following information about the people buried there.

John Harold Wynne Day b 16/05/1881 - d 20/08/1952

Edith (Bunty) Day wife of the above d 13/09/1959

Percy Dobie Brother of Edith b. 22/12/1888 - d 27/01/1971

Late Royal Engineer & Royal Scottish Fusiliers Ypres 1915-16 Arras 1916-

Ypres and Arras were famous battle sites in WWI and further research has revealed an amazing amount of information about **Percy and his sister Amy**, the only lady from the Parish we can find to date who served during WWI. This is their story.

Their home Heathfield House was originally built in 1845 for Thomas Wilcoxon a candle manufacturer, who later sold the property to Mr Samuel Dobie in 1895. The firm "Dobies of Chester*" Seed Merchants was well known throughout Britain, symbolising high quality seeds for garden flowers or vegetable plot. They had the nurseries next door for seed trials and development, and stored seed in the centrally heated barn behind Heathfield House. They also rented other fields in the area for their business and sold the property in 1941, as Percy Dobie is then listed as living at 122 Vicars Cross Road.

***In 1970 a large transporter arrived at Heathfield, and horses and a carriage were unloaded by descendants of the Dobie Family, who had arrived to celebrate the centenary of the firm. They dressed up in Victorian Costume, harnessed the horses

and drove the carriage into Chester to present the Mayor with a single red rose, named "Deva" developed by Dobies for the occasion. Samuel Dobie died in 1908, but Mrs Dobie lived on at Heathfield for many years and Percy is said to have had two brothers and five sisters. We pick up the accounts of his war story from the Parish Magazine and reports in the Chester Chronicle.

April 1917. Parish Magazine

The Rector GMV Hickey writes "Percy Dobie is reported wounded and missing".

May 1917 Parish Magazine

Prisoner of War

The Rector reports the news that "Percy Dobie who was listed as wounded and missing appears to have been the only member of a raiding party to reach the German trenches. There, he was last seen surrounded and fighting desperately with those who overpowered him. He lost an eye and suffered other severe injuries, but is alive and we hope to have him back soon".

Report Chester Chronicle 31st March 1917.

2nd Lieutenant Percy Dobie wounded

2nd Lieutenant Percy Dobie youngest son of the late Mr Samuel Dobie of Manchester & Mrs Dobie Heathfield House near Chester, is reported missing. He was born in Manchester in 1888 and educated at Kings School Chester and Liverpool University. He joined the University detachment of the L F R E in 1909 and was mobilised at the outbreak of war. In March 1915 he was granted a commission in the 1/1 Cheshire Field Company Royal Engineers, and went to Flanders the following June. He took part in the famous Liverpool Scottish attack at Hooge and was mentioned in despatches. Later he transferred to the Royal Scots Fusiliers and returned to the front three months ago.

Report Chester Chronicle April 14th 1917.

2nd Lieutenant Percy Dobie

No definite news has been received concerning the fate of 2nd Lieut. Percy Dobie, who was reported wounded and missing on March 22nd. However Miss Dobie has received several letters from brother officers. The writer of one of them states that Lt Dobie was detailed one of four officers with a party of men to

carry out a raid on the Hun lines. The raid took place against a strong part of the enemy lines. The other officers did not see 2nd Lieut Dobie after the attack began. "All accounts agree says the writer of the letter" that Percy was wounded in the face. Some of the men mention that they saw him after he had been wounded, making for their own lines, but that story must now be discredited for we should have heard about him by this time"

What appears to be a reliable account is that he managed to get through the Huns wire, and was last seen fighting 3 or four Huns with a rifle and bayonet. That happened to be the last anyone saw of him. You may be rest assured that we have done our best to get the best information possible. It is almost possible that he has fallen into the hands of the enemy, and there is the hope, and we all hope that it is the case, is that he is wounded. I wish to extend my deepest sympathy in your anxiety and hope that you may soon receive news that Percy is a prisoner of War. That is the best we can hope for. We all miss his presence in the mess very much. He was always bright and cheery. All the officers who took part in the raid have received the highest praise. I personally have heard some of the men who took part describe Percy as a hero, and much of the success of the raid was due to the splendid example set by your brother. To be continued. DC

Church of England Primary Schools Lead 2014 League Tables

Church of England primary schools have recently secured some of the best results in the country, according to league tables released by the Department for Education. Six of the top ten performing schools and over half of the top 100 performing schools were Church of England primary schools. Chief Education Officer, the Revd Nigel Genders said: "I'm delighted that Church of England primary schools are leading some of the outstanding practice going on in schools across the country, and congratulate the pupils, teachers, support staff, parents and communities who have worked together to secure success."

Parish Registers (December)

The Baptism Service

28th Hugo Nicholas Hughes son of Nicholas Peter & Hilary Andrea Hughes Malt Kiln Farm, Woore Road, Buerton, Nantwich

“We welcome you into the Lord’s Family”

The Funeral Service

2nd Deborah Cynthia Nicholle 4 Bewley Court, Caldly Valley, Gt Boughton 50yrs
15th John Stanley Thwaites 7 Barley Court Caldly Valley, Great Boughton 83yrs (Burial of Cremated Remains)
15th Muriel Dunbabin 8 Glamis Close, Vicars Cross, Chester 74yrs (Burial of Cremated Remains)
17th Bertha Violet Bull Cedar House, Cedar Court, Great Boughton 100yrs (Burial of Cremated Remains)
18th Edith Haywood Pinetum Nursing Home, Chester 95yrs
23rd Joan Patricia Blythin 1 Belgrave Road, Great Boughton 76yrs

“Grant them eternal rest”

Offertories

December	Cash	C.S.E.	2014	2013
7th	112-63	502-00	614-63	702-94
14th	107-08	532-00	639-08	561-00
21st	129-65	530-50	660-15	719-60
28th	899-14	806-01	1,705-15	1,056-12
25th	-----	125-00	125-00	1,056-12
Totals			£ 3,744-01	£4,095-86

“Of your own do we give you”

PARISH CHURCH OF ST. JAMES, CHRISTLETON

SUNDAYS:	8.00 a.m.	Holy Communion	
	10.45 a.m.	Parish Communion	1st & 3rd Sundays
		Family Service	2nd Sunday
		Mattins	4th & 5th Sundays
	6.30 p.m.	Evensong	1st, 2nd & 3rd Sundays
		Evening Communion	4th Sunday
		Songs of Praise	5th Sunday
WEDNESDAY:	10.45 a.m.	Holy Communion	
SAINT'S DAYS:	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion	

WHO'S WHO & WHAT'S WHAT

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

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

Church Wardens:	Carl Cumiskey	330028
	Bettie Gilliatt	335645
Deputy Wardens:	Alan McAllester	335494
	Chris Platel	332466
	Keith Smalls	335688
Curate:	Barbara King	300756
Vergers:	John Milton	325529
Sacristan:	Betty Dunning	335652
Pastoral Worker:	Berenice Kirwan	336779
Sunday Club:	Berenice Kirwan	336779
Mothers' Union Branch Leader:	Janet Brown	335785
Organist & Choirmaster:	Steve Roberts	815277
P. C. C Secretary:	Mark Evans	950596
P. C. C Treasurer:	Brian & Lorraine Lewis	534323
Stewardship Envelope:	Betty Dunning	335652
Gift Aid Secretary:	Nigel Seddon	335588
Bellringers:	Ian Braithwaite	300565
Bellringers Secretary:	Nikki Dromgoole	351124
Parish Hall Booking:	Clare Holland	332819
C. M. S Secretary:	Janet Brown	335785
Children's Society Sec:	Lesley Morgan	335088
Visiting Group:	Berenice Kirwan	336779
Library:	Gwen Knight	336236
Church Flowers:	Olive Hammond	336562
Person for Child Protection:	Alastair Holland	332819
Magazine Editor:	David Bull	332234
Magazine Distributors:	Jenny Davies & Valmai Griffiths	335884
Magazine Compiler:	Ike Efobi	336072

February 2015



St James' Church at 12 noon on
Christmas morning 2014



Christmas Eve 2014
Carols around the Tree on Christmas Eve

Heb 13:17 “Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you”.

James 1:19 “Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath:”