

St. James'

Christleton



PARISH MAGAZINE

January 2015

www.christleton.org.uk

35p

Jottings for January

Sun	4		Epiphany
		8.00 am	Holy Communion (CW) - followed by breakfast in Parish Hall
		10.45 am	United Covenant Service (HC)
		4.30 pm	Christingle Service
Mon	5	10.00 am	To be a Pilgrim - Grange House, Village Road
		10.45 am	Holy Communion -Oaklands Nursing Home
		11.20 am	Holy Communion -Tarvin Court Nursing Home
Wed	7	10.45 am	United Holy Communion (BCP) - followed by refreshments
Thur	8	12.00 noon	United Prayer Lunch - Methodist Church
Fri	9	6.30 pm	Choir Practice

NB:Last date for contributions for February Parish Magazine to Janet Milton (325529). You can attach your Word document and e-mail to: christletonmag@hotmail.co.uk or christletonmag@spraff.net

Sun	11		Epiphany 1 Baptism of Christ
		8.00 am	Holy Communion
		10.45 am	Morning Worship with Holy Baptism of Jack Oliver Bourne
		10.45 am	Sunday Club - Parish Hall
		6.30 pm	Holy Communion (CW)
Mon	12	2.00 pm	Mothers' Union - St James
Wed	14	10.45 am	Holy Communion (BCP) - followed by refreshments
		11.30 am	Holy Communion - Birch Heath Lodge N/H
Fri	16	6.30 pm	Choir Practice

Sun	18		Epiphany 2 - Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
		8.00 am	Holy Communion (C/W)
		10.45 am	Holy Communion (C/W)
		4.00 pm	MESSY CHURCH
		6.30 pm	Evening Worship (BCP)
Mon	19	12.30 pm	Monthly Luncheon Club - Parish Hall
Wed	21	10.45 am	Holy Communion (BCP) - followed by refreshments
Fri	23	6.30 pm	Choir Practice
Sun	25		Conversion of St Paul/Epiphany 3
		8.00 am	Holy Communion (C/W)
		10.45 am	Morning Worship (CW)
		10.45 am	Sunday Club - Parish Hall
		6.30 pm	Christleton Methodist Church - Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
Wed	28		Ash Wednesday
		10.45 am	Holy Communion (BCP) - followed by refreshments

New Year's Day Party

As in many homes on New Year's Day, Janet and Nigel, a happily married couple, faced the annual conflict of which was more important: the football match on television, or the lunch itself. Hoping to keep the peace Nigel ate lunch with the rest of the family, and even lingered for some pleasant after-lunch chat before retiring to the lounge to turn on the television. Some minutes later, Janet looked in to see how he was and graciously even bought a cold beer for Nigel. She smiled, kissed him on the cheek and asked what the score was. Nigel told her it was half time and that the score was still 0-0. 'See?' Janet said happily, 'You didn't miss a thing.'

Message from our Rector



I often have said that if all the children I have baptised would come back year after year into adult hood, with their parents and those who acted as godparents we would not only fill the church but also have queue a mile long waiting to get in. Sadly it is not so. We live in a time of great anguish. Many traditional values have broken down both in the Christian family and society. The Church was a model of respect and sound principles but a series of scandals have weakened the trust of its members. I

am sure that this has happened in all the various denominations.

Politicians often act recklessly and without integrity, leading us into unnecessarily pursuits even into wars which cost lives and cause despair so often. Authority and institutions that yesterday gave guidance and direction are now rife with division or constantly questioned. The massive number of ideas and opinions that we find in society today and in the Christian churches can leave us confused. We are unsure of the road before us. We don't know who to trust. Renewal is vital but when there is nowhere to turn except to ourselves, life can degenerate into chaos. We have much to discuss but few solutions to offer. There is a danger that church congregations become 'cosy clubs' shutting out the reality of the world around us. I'm alright Jack can be a motto for some faith groups. Yet this is all in denial of Christian belief. I think we still deserve that outburst from Jesus O generation unbelieving.

Yet it is the very bewilderment that we experience can be a springboard to a new and more authentic living of the Christian message. There is a passage in St Mark's Gospel, a father had brought his son to Jesus because he had a spirit within him which made him dumb. And when the spirit seized him it convulses him, he foams at the mouth and grinds his teeth. Today we would make an almost correct diagnosis of epilepsy. If ever you have seen a person having an epileptic fit – it's scary. There is nothing you can do except prevent the person hurting themselves when they fall or struggle. Mark records the father of the boy saying to Jesus He has been like this since he was a child. Often it throws him in to the fire or into the water for it is out to destroy him. If you can let your

heart be moved with pity, and help us. Jesus answer him “You say If you can – all things are possible to him who believes” How does Jesus cope with the situation. He seems to be thinking that he doesn’t know how ever he is going to change his disciples, but he does know how to help the boy. And he wants to get on with the present task – not to despair of the future. Again and again we fall into despair in our lives. I think of those people suffering because of the credit squeeze – which is not of their making – those who may lose their homes, those whose jobs are on the line. Those who may suffer because the cost of fuel in their homes is just more than they can pay, those who may find even basic foods to be too pricey. What can I do? Jesus tells us “get on with the tasks we know we can tackle” – God the loving Father will show us the way. All we can do is to tackle problems in our own small part of the Christian family. There is a verse in a poem by Charles Kingsley which I found many years ago and has often been my stay in moments of despair in the world around me:

Do the work that’s nearest -- Though it’s dull at whiles
Helping when we meet them -- Lame dogs over stiles

The surest way to avoid pessimism and despair is to take what immediate action we can- there is always something to be done. To the father of the boy, Jesus stated the conditions for a miracle – To him who believes - all things are possible It was as if Jesus said “The cure of your boy depends, not on me, but on you.” And at once the father of the boy cries out “I do believe. Help my unbelief” Expanding that a bit “If there is some discouragement in me, still some doubts, take them away and fill me with unquestioning faith” How many of us have used that sentiment in our lives at some stage or, for many of us, at frequent times in our lives Lord I believe help my unbelief. If you have never thought those words then truly you are blessed (or maybe you are not facing up to reality in your life) The Christian family may disappoint us at times, we feel let down by Church ; sometimes God’s servants on earth may disappoint us.

BUT when we battle our way to become face to face with Jesus Christ – he NEVER disappoints us.

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 **February** edition are sent to Janet Milton (325529), as soon as possible **BEFORE Friday 9th January** or you can e-mail this to: christletonmag@hotmail.co.uk OR christletonmag@spraff.net

MAGAZINE DISTRIBUTORS

The **January** magazine will be available for collection from Church on **Sunday 28th December.**

Nature Notes

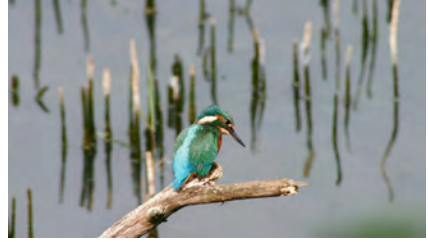
During the past few weeks, the Canal & River Trust has been working on the canal between Boughton and Christleton, and particularly the stretch between the Ring Road and Christleton Lock. On numerous occasions a flash of aquamarine blue has been seen streaking across the water, and then seen to perch on the front of one of the butty boats being used to collect the dredged mud from the canal. This exotic bird is the kingfisher, its splendid plumage often blending in with the blue nylon rope used to tie up the boats. It also has distinctive orange red underparts, and a white bib and neck. I suspect that it is often difficult to spot because it is much smaller than people imagine, being the same size as a greenfinch or chaffinch. It is well worth stopping



a while if you happen to spot it, because it often behaves in a predictable way, by flying fast to other perch positions along the canal, and then returning if disturbed. It catches fish by diving head first into the water, and I suspect that a number of small fish have been disturbed by the clearing of the mud and vegetation from the canal making it a good feeding spot at present. Winter is often the best time to see these magnificent birds and they can be seen anywhere along the canal between Tattenhall and Boughton, sometimes even in the city near Cow Lane Bridge.

Look out for the wintering thrushes in the yews at St James' Churchyard. Mistle thrushes in particular are foraging on yew berries, often joined by both song thrushes and blackbirds. Fieldfare and redwing are there too now that the weather has become colder. Look at where large numbers of yew berries have fallen on graves and footpaths, and then up into the canopy, and you will probably see them there in good numbers. There will also be lots of calls, thrrrr thrrrr and chack chack. You might also see tiny goldcrests, delightful little birds that

are smaller than a wren, with a bright orange/yellow flash on their heads. It is also possible that you might also spot a wintering butterfly. Red admirals have been seen flying around the churchyard in late November, and they with small tortoiseshell butterflies often



hibernate in the churchyard or even inside the church itself. In previous winters a small tortoiseshell has been seen flying around inside the church on a winter's morning, probably emerging due to the combination of sun streaming in through the Lady Chapel windows and the warmth of the radiators. There seems to be a general scarcity of small birds around at the moment, but I'm sure more will arrive in our gardens soon as the food source in the countryside become scarcer.

The swans on the canal seem quite content at present with about six or seven being seen each day between Chester & Egg Bridge Waverton. With the weather seemingly much warmer this year there are fewer of our really wild swans on the Dee Marshes, as on recent counts only three whooper swans from Iceland have been recorded, compared with 100+ of recent winters. DC

The History File

The story of Norman Wildig, one of our Forgotten Heroes from the 1914-18 War.

This poignant story was told at our Remembrance Day Service at St James on 9th November 2014. However a new twist to the story can now be told, as research on the Internet by researcher Nigel Meyrick has revealed even more amazing detail.

2nd Lieutenant Norman Wildig was born at Hawthorn House, Little Heath Road in 1899.

He was the son of Churchwarden Hugh and Mrs Sarah Wildig, and grandson of Joseph Mayers, Captain of St James' Tower

Bellringers. Norman attended Christleton Boys School before getting a scholarship to Chester Grammar School. Like any teenager he liked adventure, but in 1914 his world, like so many others was changed for ever. He left school and enlisted in the 22nd Cheshire Regiment, but when volunteers were needed to become pilots in the Royal Flying Corps, he volunteered to undertake Officer Training.

He was attached to No 20 Squadron in September 1917 for initial training, but in early 1918 he joined the newly formed 104 Squadron of the Royal Air Force which was being equipped to fly bombers to take the war to the enemy. After a short time of practice in the south of England the squadron transferred to France and from the 18th June 1918 until the Armistice were engaged in long distance bombing raids on Germany.



104 Squadron were equipped with de Havilland 9 bi-planes with single engines and open cockpits. Yet they carried bombs and their only defence was a machine gun operated by the co-pilot or observer from the rear cockpit. Hugh's career as a co-pilot lasted just four weeks, because on the 7th July his mother received the following message.

Dear Mrs Wildig,

It is with regret that I have to inform you that your son Lieutenant Wildig is missing. The machine your son was in was seen to go down behind enemy lines, under control, and there is every reason to believe your son is alive and unhurt. He fought gallantly all the way down, firing at the enemy following his machine. He was an excellent officer and a splendid fellow.

However the actual story of his death didn't become known until December 17th 1918, when Mrs Wildig received this letter from Norman's Pilot, Michael du Gray who had been a prisoner of war in Germany, and had arrived back in England and was a patient

at a Hospital in London. He wrote, I am writing to offer you my deep sympathy on the loss of your boy, who was my observer on that unfortunate raid. It might console you to know that he fought to the very end, and managed to send an enemy aircraft down in flames, before he was killed. When he had used up all his ammunition, he continued to fire on the enemy with very lights, so you can see there was no fear in him. He must have been killed instantly, and couldn't have felt any pain. The Germans assured me that he was buried with full military honours at Rixingen, the place where we were brought down.

Norman is buried in a Communal Cemetery in this small town in the Moselle Valley, which is still tended today by local families. His headstone says; Norman Hugh Wildig Killed in action 7th July 1918 aged 19.



The new part of Norman's story is that a description from 104 Squadron's diaries has been found. "On the 6th July 1918, the 104 Squadron bombed railroads and factories of Kaiserslautern. Second Lieutenant Wildig, was a rookie freshly landed in France. Despite encountering enemy aircraft and exchanged a few shots, the mission was a success. On the 7th July 1918 at 12.50, the mission was repeated with the same crew aboard a registered De-Havilland DH9 D2878. They arrived over Sarrebourg and were attacked by eight Pfalz German fighters. Lieutenant Sauermann of the Jasta 70 chases, with a 100 metres between each plane. Second Lieutenant Wildig continues to strife for their defence, but he was killed. Lieutenant Du Gray cannot escape the German fighter, and he crashes at Rixingen. Lieutenant Suaermann recovers the rudder of the aircraft as a war trophy". DC

With special thanks to Nigel Meyrick for his excellent additional material.

A HAPPY AND BLESSED NEW YEAR TO ALL OUR READERS

From Your Magazine Team!

Here are the deadlines for contributions to
the magazine this year 2015

Jan 9th - - - for Feb
Feb 6th - - - for Mar
Mar 13th - - for April
April 10th - - for May
May 15th - - for June
June 12th - - for July
July 10th - - for Aug
Aug 14th - - for Sept
Sept 11th - - for Oct
Oct 9th - - - for Nov
Nov 13th - - for Dec
Dec 11th - - for Jan 2016

New year's Resolution

Why not resolve to write an article for St James' magazine this year? Contributions of stories, reports, poems, prayers etc are most welcome - especially from new contributors.

The January cover

Front

A beautiful Christingle taken at a previous service at St James'

Back

Christingle

Pictures from our village historic collection, taken of the Primary School Choir taking part in 2005, and at the Christingle Service in 2008.

Christleton Local History Group

All indoor meetings at The Primary School,
Quarry Lane at 7.30pm

Wednesday 28th January 2014

Speaker Alan Robinson The Battle of the Somme

Alan Robinson from Great Boughton is a leading expert on topics related to World War I and in particular its Battles and Battlefields. He regularly takes parties around Battlefield Sites and has recently returned from tours of Belgium & France related to the Centenary of WWI. He will guide us around the Battle of the Somme, where so many Christleton men perished.

A Request from the Church Treasurers

If making a cheque payable for either the **Parish Hall, Parish Magazine or St James Church**, please make cheques payable to **“Christleton Parochial Church Council.”** Thank you.

Brian and Lorraine Lewis

AFTER 8 BREAKFAST CLUB SUNDAY 7 DECEMBER

This month's breakfast was a resounding success. 13 people sat down to a feast of croissants, pain au chocolat, homemade bread, preserves, fruit juices, a variety of teas and REAL coffee! There was a terrific buzz, great conversation and great company. If you haven't made a visit yet, please consider coming along in the near future, you won't be disappointed.

Next scheduled breakfast is Sunday 4 January 2015.

Mike and Tina

THANK YOU

The Monthly Luncheon Club would like to say a very big “Thank You” to Fran Claque who has donated a heated trolley for use in the Parish Hall Kitchen. It will be put to good use every month.

CHRISTLETON GARDENING CLUB

Talk by David Cummings

SCENERY & WILDLIFE OF THE PEMBROKESHIRE COAST

In The Parish Hall, Christleton
24 January 2015 at 7.00p.m

Tickets available from Garden Club members or
tel: 01244335296

Members £3.00 - Visitors £6.00

Please join us for a special candle lit celebrations at **4.30pm** on **Sunday 4th January** at **St. James' Church**, Christleton. Christingle - shining light into darkness for vulnerable children
Charity Registration No: 221124



FOOD BANK, PAYDAY, LOW PAY....!!!!

Quite a lot in the press during the run up to Christmas about Food banks, Payday lenders (and Credit Unions), Low Pay em-

ployment.....some of the things that reflect how the UK society is somewhat polarised between comfortable and poor (at least from a material viewpoint, although that probably holds as much, if not more so, from a spiritual and Faith viewpoint too!). Christmas is now behind us but unfortunately, notwithstanding all the good words and actions from our church leadership and others nationally and amongst us locally, these indicators of poverty and difficulty are still here and growing rapidly in many cases.

So why do we allow this to happen? The National Debt in the UK is about £1.5 trillion (that is £1,500,000,000,000) and in two years hence expected to be another £200 billion or so. It reflects the difference between the governments' owned assets, including money at the Bank of England, assets like services that have been sold off such as recently Royal Mail etc, and all the government borrowing and other liability. About two thirds of the net amount of the National Debt are the unfunded long term liabilities to pay State pensions in the future which government have to account for- so it is not all the money to be found today- fortunately!!

So are we bust as some politicians suggest (some also say: cut back on international aid to the poor and welfare in the UK as a direct correlation to this). If we are broke as a nation is that why Food banks have grown and there is an increase in Payday lending. Or is there another reason which we might term broader community 'complacency', these problems stop gapped by the relatively few, which reflect a question mark over how the professed Christian really witness his or her Faith.

Well, on the other side of the coin, the private assets owned by the UK population (net of all the consumer and bank borrowing) – reflected in the value of residential and commercial property & land, pension and insurance fund assets, liquid savings etc- is estimated at around £7.5 trillion. Against this amount of £7.5 trillion we have a collective debt of about £1.5 trillion. So on that basis the country is not bust at all and in fact quite wealthy. One issue is how the net wealth- the £7.5 trillion assets on the one hand and the £1.5 trillion liability on the other,

is spread between different groups of people and organizations (including of course the leading church denominations).

So, if we are a wealthy nation and we are professing to be a largely Christian nation (over 60% of the population, albeit not reflected in church attendance, nor in day to day witnessing in the community) why do we as a nation and as individuals tolerate the poverty and hardship which Food banks and Pay day loans characterise. Why do other major Faiths in the UK also tolerate it. The Children's Society report that around 30% of our school age children (and below) are below the poverty level (which is therefore also presumably reflected in adult groups too).

There are hundreds of thousands of projects and charities throughout the UK (and the world) that reflect Christian values. Yet, worldwide over 5 million children die of hunger each year, and in our own country, so many families face hardship & desolation is always very close at hand, whereas many others live in comfortable circumstance.

My question, therefore, is what change, including acceptance and support of such change by people, is required to really address the challenges enumerated above. What would a Christian led Transformation in society really require and look like (given the incidence of poverty or, are we just scratching the surface and at the moment?). What and how can transformation be exercised across all our communities here and abroad so that there is better understanding of how to bring about Christian ethos into our lives. Being a Christian is expressed in those values based on the Kingdom of God. How can we portray the Kingdom of God in our lives – starting with ALL the professed 60% of the population who call themselves Christian. What is really needed in order to raise the playing field for everyone, is to put the law Jesus Christ gave us about loving our neighbour and putting God first into practice. This can be achieved by Christian Witness throughout all our communities, and combining it with teaching and spiritual development. If the 60% or more of professed Christians in the UK, and those sitting on the

fence or lukewarm, liaised with other Faiths, stepped forward and collectively took action, what would the impact be? Bear in mind the collective economic position of the UK summarized above (which reflects developed countries in general); although there are certainly many issues to address, it also reflects a fair bit of excess and spare wealth capacity amongst many, perhaps in many cases more than could ever be really needed? Therefore, do we all do enough in word, deed and thought as many of us sit within our comfortable environment, or – perish the thought- are many of us in-active or lukewarm Christian when it comes to helping others as reflected in the Gospel of Matthew -25-v 31 to 46 and amongst many other sections of the Bible. Food for thought!!*Mark Evans*

Grudges

Ultimately, a man's grudge against another will destroy his life. Make no mistake about it, if you keep harbouring a grudge then it will eventually destroy you, if not physically, certainly emotionally and spiritually. It will make you a bitter and twisted person. The book of Job in chap 21 describes people who "Have no happiness at all, they live and die with bitter hearts." Do you really want that to be your epitaph?

The book of Colossians challenge you to make 2015 a significant turning point in your life .

"Bear with each other and forgive each other whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you" Col 3:13

God in those words is challenging us directly in this year of our Lord 2015 to give up our grudges. That is what the bible tell us forgive each other whatever grievances we may have against one another.

What's a grudge? A grudge is a deep ongoing resentment that we cultivate in our hearts against someone else. A grudge is an unforgiving spirit that leads to unforgiving attitudes and unforgiving actions.

Now we know what a grudge is and there should be no room for such attitude and behaviour in 2015. Harboursing a grudge is about nursing a dislike for someone. What we need to know is that grudges are dangerous because they are destructive.

Grudges destroy marriages.

Grudges break up families.

Grudges ruin friendships.

Grudges split churches.

Let's be honest enough to admit that one of the scandals of the Church is the grudges that Christians hold against one another. Today if you know you are holding a grudge against someone then God has something to say to you. He says "give it up."

Grudges are not just destructive they are also self-destructive.

When you hold a grudge against someone you will hurt yourself as much and perhaps more than you will hurt the person you are holding it against.

Jesus told a parable about the servant who was forgiven a huge debt by the king and then refused to forgive someone else a tiny amount? Jesus said his unforgiving spirit landed him in prison. Max Luxcado made this interesting comment in one his books. He says, "Unforgiving servants always end up in prison. Prisons of anger guilt and depression.

God says to you in His word "don't sentence yourself to prison." Set yourself free. Give up your grudges "forgive each other whatever grievances you may have against one another."

According to God's Word the way to give up a grudge is to forgive a grievance. Notice what God is saying here to you in this year of our Lord 2015. He isn't asking you to ignore whatever the person has done to you. He isn't asking you to pretend it did happen. He doesn't ask you to condone it, to pretend it didn't matter. What God asks you to do is to forgive the grievance. That means to acknowledge how wrong and painful what was done to you was but to decide to forgive the person who did the wrong to you.

It is the truth that in our community, parish and St. James church members, there are people who need to give up their grudges and forgive the grievance they have against someone else. Some of us need to forgive the grievance we have against

our parents for what they did or didn't do.

Some of us need to forgive our children for the same reason.

Some of us need to forgive our partners for emotional or physical abuse. Some of us need to give up the grudge we have against someone at work because of the way they have treated us. Some of us need to give up the grudge that stems from an argument we had with someone.

Some of us need to give up grudges we have against other people in this our congregation.

God says that that deep-seated resentment we have against another person has to go. What better time to make that difficult decision to forgive than the start of a new year?

Now lets us not think or say we can't forgive, because if Christ can forgive us our sins despite it involving the pain of the cross then surely we can give up our grievance whatever the cost in this year of our Lord 2015?

The question is will we do it as our New year resolution?

Remain Blessed

10 “New Year Resolutions from the Wisest Man Who Ever Lived”

All New Year's Resolutions basically fall into 3 categories which are:

1. Things to make us look better and live longer.
2. Things to make us have more.
3. Things that will help us to get along with everyone.

In a nutshell - Longevity, Prosperity and Peace.

We will always find an answer in God's word for any question or situation in our life if we would just look for it in the bible. So what is there in God's Word about New Year's Resolutions? Well they are not called New Year's Resolutions but in the book of Proverbs - Chapter 3 we can find all the tenets we need for a new year resolution. .

Solomon starts off this 3rd chapter with a very matter of fact statement.

1 My son, do not forget my teaching, but keep my commands in your heart, 2 for they will prolong your life many years and bring you prosperity.

Then He gives very specific details of 10 precepts or principles that we should live by in order to have long life, prosperity and peace. Some of these are rather simple, in fact all of them are simple to talk about, but when it comes to putting them into practice it becomes more difficult. If we adopt these principles and conscientiously live them out in this coming year, it would change our lives. It is not about giving lip service to them but conscientiously live them out. Every day in this new year if we make it a part of our life, it will change our lives.

Resolution 1: LET LOVE AND FAITHFULNESS NEVER LEAVE YOU vs 3-4

3 Let love and faithfulness never leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart. 4 Then you will win favour and a good name in the sight of God and man.

Resolution 2: TRUST IN THE LORD WITH ALL OF YOUR HEART. vs 5-6

5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; 6 in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight. [Or will direct your paths.]

Resolution 3: DO NOT BE WISE IN YOUR OWN EYES vs 7-8

7 Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD and shun evil. 8 This will bring health to your body and nourishment to your bones.

Resolution 4: HONOR THE LORD WITH YOUR WEALTH vs 9-10

9 Honour the LORD with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops; 10 then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine.

This starts with tithing - God's Law of harvest.

Resolution 5: DO NOT DESPISE THE LORD'S DISCIPLINE vs 11-12

11 My son, do not despise the LORD's discipline and do not resent his rebuke, 12 because the LORD disciplines those he loves, as a father the son he delights in.

Resolution 6: SEARCH DILIGENTLY FOR WISDOM AND FIND IT vs 13-24

13 Blessed is the man who finds wisdom, the man who gains understanding, 14 for she is more profitable than silver and yields better returns than gold. 15 She is more precious than rubies; nothing you desire can compare with her. 16 Long life is in her right hand; in her left hand are riches and honour. 17 Her ways are pleasant ways, and all her paths are peace. 18 She is a tree of life to those who embrace her; those who lay hold of her will be blessed. 19 By wisdom the LORD laid the earth's foundations, by understanding he set the heavens in place; 20 by his knowledge the deeps were divided, and the clouds let drop the dew. 21 My son, preserve sound judgment and discernment, do not let them out of your sight; 22 they will be life for you, an ornament to grace your neck. 23 Then you will go on your way in safety, and your foot will not stumble; 24 when you lie down, you will not be afraid; when you lie down, your sleep will be sweet.

WISDOM HAS TWO CHARACTERISTICS INFORMATION AND KNOW-HOW: An example is a farmer with a tractor in a field. He must have the right equipment and materials - gas etc. But he still must know what to do and what not to do with the tools - how to use them and how not to use them - when to use them and when not to use them - and where to use them and where not to use them - if he is going to be a successful farmer. vs 13-20 talks about the characteristics of wisdom that deal with knowledge, learning, information, intelligence, data, facts, intellect, and experience.

vs 21-24 talks about the characteristics of wisdom that deal with perception, discernment, judgement, reason, insight, prudence, discretion, and just plain ol' common sense.

Resolution 7: HAVE NO FEAR vs 25-26

25 Have no fear of sudden disaster or of the ruin that overtakes the wicked, 26 for the LORD will be your confidence and will keep your foot from being snared.

Resolution 8: DO NOT WITHHOLD GOOD FROM THOSE WHO DESERVE IT vs 27-28

27 Do not withhold good from those who deserve it, when it is in your power to act. 28 Do not say to your neighbour, “Come back later; I’ll give it tomorrow” — when you now have it with you.

Resolution 9: DO NOT PLOT HARM AGAINST YOUR NEIGHBOR vs 29-30

29 Do not plot harm against your neighbour, who lives trustfully near you. 30 Do not accuse a man for no reason — when he has done you no harm.

Resolution 10: DO NOT ENVY A VIOLENT MAN OR CHOOSE ANY OF HIS WAYS vs 31 - 32

31 Do not envy a violent man or choose any of his ways, 32 for the LORD detests a perverse man but takes the upright into his confidence.

Verses 33-35 ARE ADDITIONAL PROMISES FOR THE YEAR 2015 IF WE KEEP THE ABOVE 10 COMMANDS.

33 The LORD’s curse is on the house of the wicked, but he blesses the home of the righteous. 34 He mocks proud mockers but gives grace to the humble. 35 The wise inherit honour, but fools he holds up to shame.

Let us resolve today to pay close attention and adhere to these principles and God will perform wonders in our lives in this year 2015. *Remain Blessed.*

Remembering Sir Winston Churchill more than an eloquent voice

Fifty years ago, on 24th January, Sir Winston Spencer Churchill died aged ninety. He was buried at Bladon church, near Blenheim Palace, the Spencer family seat. Every year hundreds of visitors still come to the grave, many of them from overseas, to remember a remarkable man and leader of men. A soldier (in the Boer War), and then a controversial politician, he held several important offices of state, but it wasn’t until 1940 that his

unique gifts, both of leadership and oratory, became widely recognised. When Neville Chamberlain's government was replaced by a wartime coalition - a 'national government' - Churchill was appointed prime minister. From the first time he rose to his feet to address a tense and anxious House of Commons it was clear that a remarkable personality had assumed high office. At the end of his first wartime broadcast a few days later the whole nation knew that it had found its voice.

Churchill's wartime oratory was unique, both in its impact and its eloquence. Although showing no academic prowess at school, and without the advantages of a classical or university education, he revealed an absolute mastery of the rhythms and cadences of the English language. That, allied to an uncanny appreciation of the public mood and the responses of the human heart, enabled him to evoke a unique response from the British people. Whether it was after Dunkirk, when invasion seemed imminent - 'we will fight them on the beaches . . . we will never surrender', or in the aftermath of the Battle of Britain - 'never in all the field of human conflict has so much been owed by so many to so few' - his words breathed courage into a beleaguered nation. He ended one long speech, which realistically set out the military position at the time, with words that have a Shakespearian ring to them: 'Let us therefore brace ourselves to our duties, and so bear ourselves that, if the British Empire and its Commonwealth last for a thousand years, men will still say, "This was their finest hour".'

Many of my generation remember our parents or grandparents sitting spellbound around their wireless sets hanging on his every word. He was, quite simply, the voice of Britain, distinctive, eloquent, passionate, utterly committed to the national cause. If ever a sequence of speeches changed history, this was it. He was precisely the right man for those potentially catastrophic days, urging the nation to 'blood, sweat, toil and tears', but promising in the end victory for justice and freedom. At the end of the War he counselled 'magnanimity in victory', and then, unexpectedly, lost a general election and never again achieved the heights of those wartime years, though he did return as prime minister for four years from 1951. None however can doubt his place as one of the greatest Englishmen of all time.

Believing and Saying

The words of Romans 10:8, “But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach.” How does this compare with the words of Jesus in Mark 11:23? Paul’s writings to the Romans agree exactly with what Jesus told His disciples when He said, “Whosoever shall say ... and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe ... shall have whatsoever he saith.” We see here the basic principle inherent in the God kind of faith: believing with the heart and saying it with the mouth. Jesus believed it and He said it. God believed it and He said it, speaking the earth into existence.

Verses 9 and 10 of this same tenth chapter of Romans say, “That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.” A measure of faith is dealt to the sinner through hearing the Word. Then he uses it to create the reality of salvation in his own life.

When Christians are asked, “When were you saved?” They often answer by saying something like, “About nine on the night of July tenth.” They are mistaken, however, for God saved them nearly two thousand years ago. It only became a reality to them when they believed it and confessed it. Salvation belongs to everyone. Every man and woman in this world has a legal right to salvation. Jesus died for the whole world, not just for you and me. When the truth is preached to the sinner it causes faith to come. When he believes and confesses, he creates the reality of it in his own life by his faith.

Romans 10:13, 14, 17-18 For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. 14 How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? 17 So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

Just as faith comes from hearing the Word of God, so does any-

thing that we receive from God. The God kind of faith comes by hearing God's Word. In other words, God causes the God kind of faith to come into the hearts of those who hear. No wonder Jesus said, "take heed therefore how you hear" (Luke 8:18). You cannot let it go in one ear and out the other because that won't do any good. Faith won't come. If you act as if the Word of God were some fairy tale, faith will not come. But when you accept it reverently and sincerely, when you act upon it, faith comes. Paul wrote to the church at Corinth, "We having the same spirit of faith, according as it is written, I believed, and therefore have I spoken; we also believe, and therefore speak" (II Corinthians 4:13). Paul said that we have the same spirit of faith. And what belonged to the church at Corinth belongs to the church today. On no occasion did Paul or any of the apostles ever write to encourage the people to believe; never did they tell them to have faith. Our having to encourage believers to believe or have faith is a result of the Word of God's having lost its reality to us. We are believers! When our children are away, we don't have to write to them and say, "Be sure to keep breathing." They will continue to breathe as long as they are alive. Neither do we have to encourage believers to believe because that is what they are – believers.

How many of us realize that our words dominate us? "Thou art snared with the words of thy mouth ..." (Proverbs 6:2). Another version says, "Thou art taken captive with the words of thy mouth." A young man once told me that he was never whipped until he confessed that he was whipped. One writer put it this way, "You said you could not, and the moment you said it you were whipped." You said you did not have faith and doubt rose up like a giant and bound you. You are imprisoned with your own words. You talk failure and failure holds you in bondage.

Defeat and failure do not belong to the child of God. God never made a failure. God made us new creatures. We are not born of the will of the flesh or the will of man, but of the will of God. We are created in Christ Jesus. Failures are man-made. They are made by wrong believing and wrong thinking. I John 4:4 says, "... Greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world." Learn to trust the Greater One that is in you. He is mightier

than anything in the world. God created the universe with words. Words filled with faith are the most powerful things in all the world.

The key to the God kind of faith is believing with the heart and confessing with the mouth. Our lips can make us millionaires or keep us paupers. Our lips can make us victors or keep us captives. We can fill our words with faith or we can fill our words with doubt. We can fill our words with love that will melt the coldest heart, or we can fill our words with hate and poison. We can fill our words with love that will help the discouraged and broken-hearted, with faith that will stir heaven. We can make our words breathe the very atmosphere of heaven.

Our faith will never rise above the words of our lips. Jesus told the woman with the issue of blood that her faith had made her whole. Thoughts may come and they may persist in staying. But if we refuse to put those thoughts into words, they die unborn. Cultivate the habit of thinking big things. Learn to use words that will react upon your own spirit. Faith's confessions create realities. Realization follows the confession. Confession precedes possession.

Memory Text: "But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith which we preach" (Romans 10:8).

Faith in Action: "But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only" (James 1:22). *Kenneth E. Hagin*

2015: How can you help change things for the better?

Here's a great challenge for local churches choosing their New Year Resolution for 2015: There can only be a revival of Christianity in England if there is a revival of prayer. So believes the Archbishop of Canterbury, Archbishop Welby. In several recent speeches he has made clear his conviction that prayer really does change things. "There have been 105 Archbishops in Canterbury; the first one was in AD 597. In all that time, there has never been a renewal of Christian life in this country without there first being a renewal in prayer... There is only one source of true reconciliation in this world, and it is the power of Jesus Christ working through us by his Spirit."

Parish Registers (November)

The Baptism Service

30th Timothy Nicholson Carr son of David James Nicholson
Carr & Alice Emily Carr 10 Heron Close, Steeton, West
Yorkshire

“We welcome you into the Lord’s Family”

The Marriage Service

15th Robert Bell & Jacqueline Poole 12 Elstree Avenue, Vic-
ars Cross, Chester

“Those whom God has joined, let no man divide”

The Funeral Service

3rd Anne Elizabeth Boss Oaklands Nursing Home,
Tarvin Road, Littleton 97yrs

7th Richard Gilbert Dodds Thurnby Greenfields Lane,
Rowton 67yrs

28th Harold Joseph Wheatley Plas Rhosnesi Nursing Home,
Wrexham 94yrs

28th Ivy Wheatley Plas Rhosnesi Nursing Home, Wrexham
91yrs (Burial of cremated remains)

“Grant them eternal rest”

Offertories

November	Cash	C.S.E.	2014	2013
2nd	156-07	702-00	858-07	844-45
9th	699-46	677-40	1,376-86	1,629-82
16th	125-55	619-00	744-55	637-27
23rd	131-58	519-77	651-35	724-36
30th	204-53	623-02	827-55	--- - -
Totals			£4,458-38	£3,835-90

“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

January 2015



Cross section of attendees at St. James Christingle service 2008



Christleton Primary School Choir in Christingle service in 2005.

Why?

A young couple invited some people to dinner. At the table, the mother turned to their six-year-old daughter and said, "Would you like to say the blessing?" "I don't know what to say," the girl replied. "Just say what you hear Mummy say," the father answered. The daughter bowed her head and said, "O Lord, why on earth did I invite all these people to dinner?"

January 2015 @ St. James, Church Christleton