



# St. James'

## Christleton

PARISH MAGAZINE

January 2016

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

# JOTTINGS FOR JANUARY

Sun	3	<b>Epiphany</b>	
		8.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP) followed by breakfast in Parish Hall
		10.45 am	United Covenant Service with Holy Communion
		6.30 pm	Evening Worship
Mon	4	10.45 am	Holy Communion -Oaklands Nursing Home
		11.20 am	Holy Communion -Tarvin Court Nursing Home
		2.00 pm	Mother's Union
Wed	6	10.45 am	United Holy Communion (BCP) - followed by refreshments
		6.00 pm	Choir Practice
Fri	8		

**NB: Last date for contributions for February Parish Magazine to Janet Milton (325529). You can attach your Word document and e-mail to: [christletonmag@gmail.com](mailto:christletonmag@gmail.com)**

Sun	10	<b>Baptism of Christ</b>	
		8.00 am	Holy Communion (CW)
		10.45 am	Holy Communion (CW)
		4.30 pm	Christingle Service
			No service at 6.30 pm
Wed	13	10.45 am	Holy Communion (BCP) - followed by refreshments
		11.30 am	Holy Communion - Birch Heath Lodge N/H
		6.00 pm	Choir Practice

Sun	17	<b>Epiphany 2</b>	
		8.00 am	Holy Communion (CW)
		10.45 am	Holy Communion (CW)
		4.00 pm	<b>MESSY CHURCH</b>
		6.30 pm	Evening Worship (CW)
Mon	18	12.30 pm	<b>Monthly Luncheon Club - Parish Hall</b>
Wed	20	10.45 am	Holy Communion (BCP) - followed by refreshments
Sun	24	<b>Epiphany 3</b>	
		<b>Week of Prayer for Christian Unity</b>	
		8.00 am	Holy Communion (CW)
		10.45 am	Morning Worship (BCP)
		10.45 am	Sunday Club - Parish Hall
		4.00 pm	<b>Chester Cathedral Service for week of Prayer for Christian unity</b>
Mon	25	7.30 pm	PCC Meeting -St James
Wed	27	10.45 am	Holy Communion (BCP) - followed by refreshments
		6.00 pm	Choir Practice
Sun	31	<b>Presentation of Christ in the Temple</b>	<b>Candlemas</b>
		8.00 am	Holy Communion (CW)
		10.45 am	Holy Communion (CW)
		10.45 am	Sunday Club - Parish Hall
		6.30 pm	<b>A Service of Reflection and Praise for Candlemas.</b>

# Message from our Rector



There is a novelty in anything new,..... buy a new car, and the chances are you will spend each Saturday morning washing and polishing it, and the same applies to anything we acquire,.....there is that initial excitement .....but of course, after that initial excitement, the novelty begins to wear off, and we treat this new possession just as we had treated the old one. Sometimes we need to be reminded of how precious the things we

have, actually are. But move away from the material possessions, and begin to think about those Spiritual gifts we have received, and it's easy to see just how they are taken for granted. ....we conduct on average about 70 Baptisms here in this parish each year.....and a rough estimate would say about 3 or 4 of those Baptism families actually make that commitment to come along to Church, to engage with the Christian faith.....to grow into the faith into which they have been Baptised.....for those who come as parents or Godparents, they make a declaration within the service, that they will encourage and support the child in the Christian faith.....for adults, they make the declarations for themselves.

Speak with the families of those being Baptised, before the service and in the majority of cases they will talk of their faith and how important it is for the child to be Baptised.....and yet once the service is over.....in the majority of cases, there is almost no contact with that family, .....until the next child is born.

They slip back into their old ways, of a lie in on a Sunday, .....or a relaxing Sunday morning reading the newspapers. Saint Peter wrote to new Christians scattered throughout towns and cities in Asia, encouraging and supporting them. Reminding them of their Baptisms, of their taking off of the old self at that time.....discarding the old clothes of sin and corruption.....and how they put on those new clothes, .....as

if they had just stepped out of Burton's shop window.....and he reminds them of how they felt at that time.....special

And Peter says, all those things which are now closing back in on you, Malice.....Envy.....Hypocrisy ..... Deceit.... Rather than reaching out to them.....reach out in the opposite direction, .....seek those things which brought you to that point of Baptism.....remember them, and continue to seek those things out.....like Spiritual milk.....that drink which builds us up, makes us strong,

In certain parts of the church, there was a custom, that as those being Baptised came up out of the waters, they were given a drink of milk and honey.....a type of messianic food leading to a sacramental connection with Christ.

The Christians are encouraged to come to him, the living stone.....a reference to that spoken of in Isaiah chapter 28 which refers to the foundation stone laid by God, in Zion.....here called the cap stone or the corner stone.....depending on which translation is used.....but the significance is the same.....it's the stone necessary for holding and supporting each and every building

And as the Christians here are being reminded .....the building is all Christians gathered together, working to further the Kingdom where they are.....knowing that they are held together.....supported and sustained by Christ

As Christ is the supporting stone, it rightly implies that of course, there are many other stones.....each one dependant and reliant upon the central stone.....living stones built up into a spiritual house .....not a building of cold, hard, dead clay.....but rather stones which enrich their environment, which pour out love and forgiveness.

There are two trains of thought in respect of this term "Royal Priesthood".....that at the moment of crucifixion as Christ cried out, .....the curtain in the temple, behind which only the priest was allowed



to pass .....was torn in two, The curtain was to separate the people from God.....God one side of the curtain, the people on the other side.....with the priest passing back and forth, taking offerings, prayers and petitions to God, on behalf of the people.....but with the tearing of the curtain, the people of God had direct access to God, no longer was an intermediary needed, all people could come direct to God with their prayers, with their praise and with their offerings.

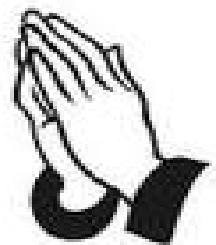
Mother Teresa, that Albanian born nun. Small in stature, but huge in love.....her only rule was that that the love of Christ should be shown to all people.....as she arrived in Calcutta, she saw the poverty, the misery, the dying, and in each and every person there, she saw Christ and reached out the Christ in that person, offering comfort, offering love.....

No pre conditions that they must be of the same faith, or that must be prepared to receive the Baptism of Christ.....and of course, initially there were those who were sceptical those who wondered what was behind the scheme..... but she simply and quietly got on with her ministry and slowly but surely the doubts subsided, the fears eased .....

Throughout all ages people have been encouraged to have that unshakable confidence in the success of practical demonstrations of true Christian loving and living, to stand firm to resist all temptation of what is wrong.....to keep new and fresh that excitement of our Baptism.

To stand firm, as part of that living temple, with all Christian people, with that firm foundation of Jesus Christ upholding and sustaining us throughout all that we do, and in that knowledge may we strive to live our lives worthy of our Baptism and our calling.

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: 07803964548.

## MAGAZINE CONTRIBUTIONS

Please ensure that all items for inclusion in the **February** edition are sent to **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 January 8th**

## MAGAZINE DISTRIBUTORS

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

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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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## FULL HOUSE

Tickets were in great demand for the Christleton Wednesday Group Festive Lunch on December 2nd. Over 100 people enjoyed lunch and good company. The raffle raised over £300 which, together with ticket receipts, will be donated to the chosen charity of 2015 -LIVE! - a local group based in Newton providing activities for young people with disabilities.

A big thank you to all our volunteers, donors and supporters. PP



# Congratulation

Congratulations to Sheena Cumiskey whose work has been recognised by the award of NHS Chief Executive of the Year at a ceremony at the Grosvenor Court Hotel, London, on Wednesday 17 November, in the presence of 1700 guests..

Sheena is a regular member of our congregation at St James, and the wife of Church Warden Carl. She is the daughter of Sybil and the late Dr Austen Elliott, the highly regarded GP and long-time Chairman of the Hospice of the Good Shepherd at Backford.

## The History File

### **Christleton Villages; Great War Voices Book**

I am delighted to announce that after weeks of frustration, due to technical problems, that the Heritage Lottery Funded book, Christleton Villages; Great War Voices Stories has been published. As I write at the beginning of December we expect to have copies by the 15th of the month, and I hope to have been able to distribute as many as possible before Christmas. Copies priced £9.99 will then be available from myself, on 332410, at Farmers Markets at the Ring O Bells, Drakes Hairdressers, and I hope at the Christleton Village Stores\*, Waverton Post Office & at village events throughout the year. (\*to be confirmed)

The book contains 112 pages of text and illustrations in full colour/black & white where appropriate, and contains the stories of as many of the 51 men we have now identified, who were killed in action, or died of injuries received whilst on active service for their country, as possible. The book has been researched by members of the Local History Group and friends, using all the resources available to us. Illustrations from rare archive photographs/letters/artefacts belonging to Village families help to tell the story. The book not only tells the story of the men, but also the conflicts they fought in, the village they left behind, and especially the amazing efforts of the women and children to support the war effort. The discovery of a bound volume of Parish Magazines collected by

the late Rector, Rev'd Lionel Garnett's wife has been an invaluable resource, with stories written by Rector GMV Hickey giving us a month by month account of the happenings in the village and on the war front. We have been privileged to be able to research and tell a previously untold story, of amazing bravery and courage faced not only by the men at the front, but the men, women and children left behind. The Heritage Lottery grant has enabled us to work throughout the community, and with young people from the High School taking an active part. 500 free copies are being made available to the participants, and to the surviving families of the men & women involved in these poignant stories, many still within the parish, but others spread throughout the world. All proceeds from the remaining sales will go to local or service charities.

*David Cummings*

## CHURCHES TOGETHER

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, January 18 - 25, 2016

As last year, there will be a time of coming together for quiet reflection and worship in our local churches, in both Christleton and Waverton and at St Werburgh's, at 12 noon each day:

Monday 18th,	WEF
Tuesday 19th,	St James
Wednesday 20th,	St Peter's ? - TBC
Thursday 21st,	Rowton Methodist church
Friday 22nd,	Christleton Methodist church
Saturday, 23rd,	St Werburgh's

And finally, on Sunday, 24th at 4pm at Chester Cathedral, this year Churches Together in Chester have invited Lord Leslie Griffiths as speaker.

We shall be delighted to see as many of you as possible!

*Jan Bowden, pp Churches Together in Christleton*

# Aspects of Spirituality

We are all different. We like different things, we like different ways of doing things. We all have different personalities. And that difference is expressed in the way we choose to worship and pray. What excites one person is a real put off to another. That's the way it is.

So, there are different ways we can express our spirituality. And we thought it would be interesting to explore some different aspects of Christian Spirituality with a short series of sessions led by people who like to follow a particular expression of Christian Spirituality. All of which are actively used in their prayers by people today.

There will be five short sessions on Sunday afternoons from February 14th to March 13th in the Parish Hall (the one on February 21st will be in church) The topics we hope to cover will be Franciscan Spirituality, Taizé, Early British(Celtic) Christianity, Icons/contemplative prayer and Benedictine Spirituality. This is still in the planning stage and might change! Sessions will begin with tea and cake at 3.30 and then a talk of about an hour at 4.00pm. They are of course open to anyone who is interested.

There will be more details in the February magazine but make a note in your 2016 diary now. *Elizabeth Inall*

## GROSVENOR MUSEUM SOCIETY

The next lecture meeting will be held on WEDNESDAY, 13 JANUARY 2016 at the Grosvenor Museum, at 2.30pm. (NB starting time) The lecture entitled The Last Surrender of the American Civil War in Liverpool, will be given by Leonard Ellison, who has researched and lectured on the War for over fifty years.

Visitors are welcome. There will be a charge of £4 payable at the door; £2 for students. Members go free.

*Further details from Ken Holding, tel: 01244312689*

## Wooden Ice Skates

Can anyone remember Clarke's tool shop at the Cow Lane Bridge end of Frodsham St? It was originally a Hardware shop and Tinsmiths selling utensils to farmers attending the cattle markets which were held on the Gorse Stacks. The markets were relocated to Bumpers Lane when St Oswald's Way was built. Regrettably one of Chester's Georgian Houses was demolished at the same time, a rather fine building, where the roundabout is now, a Doctors Surgery if I remember rightly. About this time Clarke's became a tool shop expanding backwards into what must have been part of the workshop, they eventually closed due to competition from the likes of B & Q.

I can remember Gordon, the last proprietor of the shop, saying that when he first started to work there, upstairs, was a box full of wooden ice skates. Mr Clarke if he had some spare money in the summer would buy them to sell in the winter. Wooden ice skates are roughly milk bottle shaped split in two length ways, a steel blade is embedded in the round side and leather straps attached to the back and front. Presumably as most people at the time they were used, wore boots, ankle support was not a problem.

One Winter when I was about 9 one of the other village boys found a pair of wooden skates belonging to his grandfather and we went with two friends into the fields where there was a flooded marl pit about the size of the one in Christleton Village. We spent the afternoon skating on its frozen surface. Our next door neighbour at the time was a farmer's daughter from Stoak and she said that when she was a girl the Gowry used to flood and people would come from around the district to skate on the frozen flood water.

We don't seem to get Winters like that any longer. I can remember when the canal froze and David Wain drove a car along it. The Dee above the weir was frozen and the poor swans were flying about - who says they can't take off without a run. Landing was the problem and one seemed to have broken its leg. *Ben Williams.*

## **C of E partners with Twitter to launch new @ChurchLive Service**

The Church of England is partnering with Twitter UK to broadcast services across the world, using mobile technology.

ChurchLive, was created in conjunction with Twitter UK as a way of showcasing a broad range of live church services to global audiences, simply and accessibly, through use of a smartphone. ChurchLive could be the first taste of Church for those unfamiliar with church services and an introduction to the best of worship, preaching and prayer.

ChurchLive will also enable other people to rediscover church in a new way or for those in other countries to learn more about Church of England services.

The Rev Arun Arora, Director of Communications for the Archbishops' Council said: "This is a project designed to bring Church of England services from Malton to Miami, Middlesbrough to Milan and Manchester to Mumbai. Those who may not make it to church on a Sunday for all sorts of reasons will have the opportunity to be part of a service. The ability to join in worship shouldn't be restricted to geographical constraint. We know that Periscope users are a global audience and we expect that there will be as many watching services broadcast via Periscope as are physically present at the services themselves."

Earlier this year parishioners at one village church, St Radegund's Church in Grayingham, in the Diocese of Lincoln, were joined by another 350 people around the world for their regular traditional Sunday service after becoming the first to experiment with Periscope. Julia White from Twitter UK, said: "Periscope gives people and communities the opportunity to live broadcast everything from on-the-spot breaking news through to individual reflections. It's great to see the Church of England taking the best of what they have to offer and using Periscope to show it live across the world." Tallie Proud, Digital Officer for The Archbishops' Council of the Church of England said: "It could be someone too ill to attend, a family who want to 'attend' even when on holiday or someone who just wants to know what the church is like

before they make the sometimes scary step of walking into the building for the first time.” “@ChurchLive” will see a different church in the Church of England broadcast a live weekly service to global audiences via the Periscope app over the course of a year. (P P)

**\*\*Dates for your Diary\*\***

Charity Talk in aid of “ Rods money for Myeloma.CO. UK”  
Saturday 30th January 2016 at 7.00pm.  
Christleton Parish Hall.

**David & Beryl Cummings presents**

Celebrations of Christleton - In black & white and colour  
& Hockenhull Platts Wildlife Trust Reserve 1972-2015.

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

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

Tickets from David 332410

**\*\*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.



# A very Happy and Blessed New Year to all our readers and contributors from your magazine team

Your new year resolution!!! Simple  
Just send your article to the parish magazine at  
[christletonmag@gmail.com](mailto:christletonmag@gmail.com)

## CHRISTLETON PARISH MAGAZINE CALENDAR 2016

Deadline date	Month of Edition	In Church for distribution
January 8th	FEBRUARY	January 24th
February 12th	MARCH	February 28th
March 11th	APRIL	March 27th
April 8th	MAY	April 24th
May 13th	JUNE	May 29th
June 10th	JULY	June 26th
July 15th	AUGUST	July 31st
August 12th	SEPTEMBER	August 28th
September 9th	OCTOBER	September 25th
October 14th	NOVEMBER	October 30th
November 11th	DECEMBER	November 27th
December 9th	JANUARY 2017	December 25th

# Paul the man of God

Holding the clothes while Stephen was stoned  
Breathing out fire and filled with hate  
Determined to stamp out the Christian message  
Imprisoning all he found in his wake.

Thrown to the ground on the way to Damascus,  
A voice from heaven and Paul was made blind  
'Who are you Lord?' the reply was given  
'I Am Jesus the one that you have denied'.

He was sent to the Gentiles to open their eyes,  
To turn them from darkness into the light,  
God's plan was to graft them into the vine  
Which Paul then embraced with all his might.

Shipwrecked and beaten and left for dead  
He never abandoned the path he trod  
Faithful in all until the end  
We're so grateful for Paul the man of God.

*By Megan Carter*

# THE MONTHLY CHRISTLETON LUNCHEON CLUB


IN PARISH HALL

Now in our 3rd year!

Next Lunch:

*Monday 18th Jan 2016*

... after that: 15th Feb 2016; 21st March; etc.



12 noon for 12.30 serving

All welcome.

Book a place by calling:

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

No charge, donations welcome.



## St James, Christleton

Some particular services in January  
that may be of interest.

**Sun 3rd Jan 2016 (Epiphany):** 10.45am: Covenant Service. This is the annual Churches Together in Christleton united Communion service in St James with the Christleton Methodist Church & St Werburgh's Rowton at which we jointly renew our faith and commitment.

**Sun 10th Jan:** 4.30pm: Christingle Service. This service celebrates the work of the Children's Society with the symbolic Christingle Oranges with candles that are given out to the congregation.

**Sun 31st Jan (Candlemas):** 10.45am: The Holy Communion service celebrates Christ's Presentation in the Temple, or Candlemas, and will be in a distinctive **Celtic** Style. **All welcome.**

**We look forward to seeing you ...**

## CHURCH DIARY on the WEB



**INFORMATION in this magazine** - is set a month at a time during the earlier part of the previous month, so how do you get the latest information or a longer term view?

**Elementary** - You go to the Christleton website, and there half way down the home page there's a big link to the Church Diary. This is a 'pdf' document which you can view or print out, and it is updated twice a month or more.

Of special note for January is the series of lunch time short acts of worship run by Churches Together in Christleton, and Waverton, from Monday 18th January & through the week. Very popular last year. (Brian Inall)

**[WWW.CHIRSTLETON.ORG.UK](http://WWW.CHIRSTLETON.ORG.UK)**

## Holy Days in January

### **2nd January Basil and Gregory – lives of costly discipleship**

‘Discipline’ is now virtually a banned word, along with ‘risk’, ‘problem’ and ‘failure’. They seem to have been replaced respectively by ‘focus’, ‘safety’, ‘challenge’ and ‘opportunity’. On the occasions when we do recognise and applaud the virtue of discipline, it’s usually in the lives and activities of soldiers, police officers, dressage horses and the dog. But every year the Church Calendar remembers (on 2nd January) the lives of two outstanding leaders of the fourth century Church, Basil and Gregory. The hall mark of their lives was an iron self-discipline. Life-long friends since they were students together, they committed themselves to an almost ferocious austerity. In fact, both died early from the long-term consequences of extreme self-denial.

Bishops in the Eastern Church, they looked more to the new city of Constantinople than to Rome, but they both faced powerful opposition. Basil’s unwavering commitment to the faith earned him many enemies, not only from secular sources (political and even imperial) but also from within the Church. Gregory, a less robust character, faced similar insults and even physical violence when he set out to reform the church at Constantinople.

Eventually this opposition cost him his bishopric. Basil was an activist, Gregory a contemplative, yet their lives followed a similar path of costly discipleship. Basil was born into a wealthy and influential family, but during a time of famine he felt it was his Christian duty to distribute the entire family inheritance in the form of food for the poor in his city. From then on he lived an austere, even frugal life, and died at the age of 49, worn out by disease and physical weakness. Gregory too had poor health, largely through self-imposed poverty.

In the declining years of the Roman Empire and in an atmosphere of moral laxity they believed that as Christian leaders they should set an example. ‘Do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord’, says the Bible. Perhaps modern Christianity is a little too quick to see discipline

in terms of subjection and punishment. But ‘those whom the Lord loves he disciplines’. Basil and Gregory, whatever we think of their lifelong regime of self-denial, were clear that their life of discipline was motivated by love of the same Lord who in love disciplined them. Without going to the extremes that they did, perhaps a little godly discipline might help us to build a healthier relationship with the God we try to ‘trust and obey’.

## **6th - Epiphany, where did the Wise Men come from?**

Magi from the East – it isn’t a lot to go on. The Magi had originally been a religious caste among the Persians. Their devotion to astrology, divination and the interpretation of dreams led to an extension in the meaning of the word, and by the first century the Magi in Matthew’s gospel could have been astrologers from outside of Persia. Some scholars believe they might have come from what was then Arabia Felix, or as we would say today, southern Arabia. Certainly in the first century astrology was practised there, and it was the region where the Queen of Sheba had lived. She of course had visited Solomon and would have heard the prophecies about how one day a Messiah would be born to the Israelites and become their king. Matthew’s gospel (chapter 2) is clear that the Magi asked Herod: ‘Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him.’ So it is possible that in southern Arabia the Queen of Sheba’s story of how a Messiah would one day be sent to the Israelites had survived. Certainly there are a number of other early legends that connect southern Arabia with Solomon’s Israel. To many people this makes sense: that the ancient stories of a Messiah, linked to later astrological study, prompted these alert and god-fearing men to the realisation that something very stupendous was happening in Israel. They realised that after all these centuries, the King of the Jews, the Messiah, was about to be born.

One more interesting thing that gives weight to the theory that the magi came from southern Arabia is this: if you study any map of Palestine as it was during biblical times, you will find that the old Arabian caravan routes all entered Palestine ‘from the East’.

## **14th Felix of Nola (d 260) – saved by a spider’s web**

Felix was born to a Syrian soldier who had retired to Nola, near Naples in Italy. When his father died, Felix gave his property and money away, and was ordained by St Maximus of Nola. Felix went to work with him, ministering to the people of Nola. Then Decius, the Roman Emperor, began another persecution of the Christians. Maximus escaped to the mountains, but Felix was arrested and badly beaten. Legend has it that he was rescued – and freed from captivity – by an angel. In any case, Felix followed Maximus and found him sick and in need. Felix hid him in an empty building, and prayed for God’s protection. The soldiers were out looking for the two men, but then a spider arrived at the door of the building where they were hiding. The spider spun such a magnificent web across the door that it fooled the imperial soldiers into thinking the building was long abandoned. The spider save Maximus and Felix that day, and the two men stayed on the run until Decius’ death in 251. After that, the people of Nola wanted Felix as their bishop. But Felix refused, and returned to farming his lands; giving the poor most of the food that he managed to grow. Though Felix went on to die naturally, he was still thought of as a martyr, or ‘witness’ because he had suffered torture, imprisonment and privations in the persecution. Felix did not mind: he served a King who was not of this world, and he looked forward to a better future life with that King in a new heaven and a new earth.

## **25th The Conversion of St Paul**

A Jew, born as ‘Saul’ at Tarsus and brought up by the rabbi Gamaliel as a Pharisee. A devout, fanatical Jew, Saul persecuted the Christians, and watched with satisfaction the first Christian martyrdom, the stoning of Stephen. Then on his way to Damascus Saul had a vision of Christ that stopped him, literally, in his tracks. He realised that this Jesus whom he was persecuting was in fact the Messiah for whom he had longed. Saul changed overnight. He took a new name, Paul, and became an evangelist for the cause of Christ. He became a leader in the early Church, and his special calling was as an apostle to the Gentiles. He wrote many epistles to the young churches he founded – and thus, inadvertently, wrote a great part of the New Testament.



Life as the greatest apostle was hardly full of perks: he was stoned, beaten, mobbed, homeless, hated, imprisoned, and finally martyred. Tradition has it that he was beheaded in Rome during the persecution of Nero in AD 64, and buried where the basilica of St Paul 'outside the walls' now stands. His mighty faith in Christ has kindled similar belief in many hundreds of millions of people down the centuries.

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## **Next time someone tells you that Jesus did not exist...**

Recent research in England revealed that 40% of people do not realise Jesus was a real person. Among 18-34 year olds, 25% think Jesus was a mythical or fictional character. They probably have no doubts about other famous people from the past. Of course, it matters more when the authenticity of Jesus is questioned. If Jesus was as 'real' as the Christian creeds imply, then the whole purpose and destiny of humanity are changed. There's a lot at stake. How do we know that Jesus actually existed? For that matter, how do we know any historical figure existed? We need to look for corroborative evidence. In any other historical investigation we would examine all literary sources. However, as sceptics often discount biblical material because they suspect the writers distorted the facts, we look outside the New Testament to non-Christian authors for clues.

First, to Roman historians. Tacitus (56-117 AD) wrote "Christus was put to death by Pontius Pilate, procurator of Judea in the reign of Tiberius". Suetonius (69-130 AD) wrote of "Chrestus" and of his followers having been persecuted by Nero. In 112 AD a Roman Magistrate, Pliny the Younger, sought advice from the Emperor Trajan, having failed to force Christians to renounce Christ whom they "worshipped as a god", when worship was due exclusively to the emperor. The Jewish historian Josephus (37-100 AD) referred to James as, "the brother of Jesus the so-called Christ." None of these authors questioned Christ's existence. Even-handed enquirers would also want to know what the New Testament has to say. By comparison with texts of other ancient literature

now available, we have infinitely better records. Over 5,000 separate manuscripts are now available. One complete New Testament in the British Library is over 1600 years old. A substantial collection of New Testament documents is dated mid-3rd Century and is split between Dublin, Michigan and other locations. Much of the Gospel of John is in a document dated 200 AD or earlier. Modern translations of the Bible result from studying all these manuscripts. It is false to suggest that they suffer from multiple translations.

Let historian Michael Grant have the last word, "...if we apply to the New Testament, as we should, the same sort of criteria as we should apply to other ancient writings containing historical material, we can no more reject Jesus' existence than we can reject the existence of a mass of pagan personages whose reality as historical figures is never questioned..." (P P)

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## **“Logos Hope” visits Myanmar as nation enters historic new chapter**

Logos Hope, the ship that has been called ‘the world’s largest floating book fair’, recently visited Myanmar, just ahead of the recent elections there. This was the first visit of an OM ship since Doulos in 2002, and it was met by “incredible” enthusiasm. “The book fair was full all the time and shelves empty every night!” reported the Rev. Dr. Go Chin Zam, leader of OM’s partner organisation in Myanmar.

“Thousands of people queued for hours just to meet the international crew and to access the books on board.” Altogether 102,195 people visited the ship, 124,195 books were purchased (of which 29,902 were Bibles or other Christian literature) and 6,183 people attended programmes on board. One of these was a special event for around 100 monks and nuns from a Buddhist school. A major milestone was reached during the visit when the five millionth visitor to Logos Hope since her launch in 2009 climbed up the gangway in Yangon. Local taxi

driver Mr. U Tin Hla, and his family of four, were startled by a VERY warm welcome at 11:30am local time on Tuesday, 6 October 2015. Logos Hope has now left Asia, after four “remarkable” years, and is currently bound for Africa. (P P)

## **Celebration of Life for Renee Stalker**

We are holding a ‘Celebration of Life’ on Sunday the 3rd January for Renee Stalker, who passed away on 14th December. 3rd January would have been her 83rd birthday and Sunday was Renee’s favourite day of the week! Thank you to Malcolm Cowan, Vicar of St James, for so kindly agreeing to this date!

As this is a celebration of Renee’s life, we would love to see as many people as possible who knew her to join us in remembering her. At 1.15pm, family and friends who would like to join us will walk from her home in Haslin Crescent, via the foot bridge over the canal and along Faulkner’s lane to St James Church; the journey she has made many, many times-her favourite walk to her favourite place. If you would like to join us, please gather at her house, 39 Haslin Crescent, Christleton, CH3 6AN, by 1.15 pm.

At 2pm the Celebration of Life service will be held at St James Church, Christleton; this is the church that Renee has attended since 1974. We would love to see you there-all are welcome! Shortly after the service, Renee’s Burial will be held in St James Church Yard for all those who would like to join the family.

All are welcome to join us for Afternoon Tea in the Parish Hall situated directly opposite St James Church. This is an open invitation to all to join us! If you would prefer not to attend the burial, please go straight to the Parish Hall after the service.

On a final note- we ask that black not be worn-Renee loved colour!

Many, many thanks

*Diane Muir and Penny Bernard-Smith (Renee’s daughters)*

# Henry Claude Lyon Garnett

A few weeks ago, as part of my continuing research of the war years, I came across the fascinating story of Henry Garnett who was born in 1913, the year after his grandfather the late and much loved Rector of Christleton, Canon Rev'd Lionel Garnett had died, and who inherited the family seat of Wyreside Hall, Dolphinsholme near Lancaster, after the death of his father Claude and his Uncle Lawrence in WWI.

Henry was educated at Eaton and Sandhurst, and commissioned in the Royal Horseguards. After five years service and a short spell in the city, he served with distinction in the Second World becoming the leader of the Household Cavalry Armoured Car Troop responsible for the safety and immediate protection of the Royal Family. He then served as ADC to Generals Harding & O'Connor, and became Commander of the Army Group Leave Centre in Brussels.

After the war he joined Gillette Industries, the razor blade company, and worked in both Australia and America before becoming Chairman of the company in both the U.K. and Europe. In 1978 on retirement he became Chief Executive of the National Society for Cancer Relief and was instrumental in setting up the Macmillan Nursing Service.

He devoted fourteen years of his life to this organisation, keeping it financially sound in difficult times. Newspaper reports suggest that Henry was tall and glamorous, always immaculately dressed, a distinguished man about town, and it seems he married three times.

The National Society for Cancer Relief was founded by Dorothy Macmillan in 1911, and its active service to people in the heart of a community as Macmillan Nurses, continues apace today. Henry was recruited by the Duchess of Roxburgh in 1972 and during his tenure as manager, deputy chairman and chief executive, transformed its role and performance.

Inspired by the early pioneers of the hospice movement, Henry also

set up a number of hospices and day centres throughout the country, with the initial cost being met by the Cancer Charity, but on the condition that financial responsibility would be adopted by the relevant local authority.

He was rightly awarded the CBE for his service to the country, following the wonderful example given by both his grandfather, Rector of our village for 43years, and both his father Claude and Uncle Lawrence who died on the battlefields at Amara in Iraq, and at Brandhoek near Ypres respectively. The devotion to service of this family went back even further as his great grandfather also Henry Garnett JP DL, had been High Sherrieff of Lancashire and Chairman of Lancashire Quarter Sessions.

Henry Claude Lyon Garnett was also Patron of St James' Church, an ancient role in the Church of England, but the Garnett Patronage of our church seems to have ended after his death, and all Rectors since that time; Archdeacon Rev'd David Garnett, Canon Rev'd K Peter Lee and Rev'd Malcolm Cowan, have been invited to become incumbent by the current Patron, The Bishop of Chester in consultation with the Church Wardens and representatives from the PCC.

*David Cummings Dec 2015*

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## **Answer to prayer**

A small boy badly wanted a baby brother, so his dad suggested he pray every night for one. The boy prayed earnestly, night after night, but his prayers seemingly weren't answered. So after a few weeks, he didn't bother to ask any more.

Some months later, his dad said they were going to see Mum in the hospital and he was going to get a big surprise. When they got to the room, the little boy saw his mother holding two babies. The little boy stood still for a moment, and then cautiously observed: "It's a good thing I stopped praying when I did."

## **Miscellaneous observations on life...**

It's easy finding reasons why other folks should be patient.

Families are often like fudge - mostly sweet, with a few nuts.

**Some cause happiness wherever they go. Others, whenever they go.**

I sat up all night thinking about the sun. Then it dawned on me.

It is said that if you line up all the cars in the world end to end, someone would be stupid enough to try to overtake them.

You can't have everything - where would you put it?

Latest survey shows that 3 out of 4 people make up 75% of the world's population.

Love is grand. Divorce is a hundred grand.

Advert in newspaper: Home computer, as new. Never been figured out.

Be nice to your kids. They'll choose your nursing home.

The trouble with referees is that they just don't care which side wins.



# Parish Registers (November)

## Holy Baptism

- 04 Oct Mia Elizabeth Mackarel daughter of Thomas and Roxana Mackarel (2 South View, Plough Lane, Christleton)
- 04 Oct Riley Arthur Holloway son of Thomas and Katrina Holloway (46 Quarry Lane, Christleton)

## Funerals

- 23 Sep Stuart Arthur Dawson 2 The Orchard,, Plas New ton Lane, Chester (St James)
- 25 Sep Jane Elizabeth Mallinson (Cremation at Blacon Crematorium)
- 06 Oct George Leonard Shallcross 34 Marina Drive, Up ton, Chester (Cremation at Blacon Crematorium)
- 13 Oct Lucy Partington Birch Heath Lodge, Birch Heath Lane, Christleton (St James)

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## Allegedly taken from actual medical records, dictated by doctors.....

On the second day, the knee was better and on the third day it had completely disappeared.

The patient has been depressed ever since she began seeing me in 1983.  
Discharge status: Alive but without permission.

She slipped on the ice in early December and her legs went in separate directions.

The patient was released to the outpatient department without dressing.  
She is numb from the toes down. (*Source: Grove Jokes of the month*)

# 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:	Berenice Kirwan	336779
Electoral Roll Officer:	Brenda Bailey	335034
Churches Together Representative:	Jan Bowden	335705
Parish Safeguarding Co-ordinator:	The Rector	335663
Pastoral Worker / Visiting:	Berenice Kirwan	336779
Sunday Club / Messy Church:	Berenice 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 Children's Society

## Celebrate Christingle with us!



Please join us for a special candlelit celebration

**Sunday 10th January at 4:30pm**  
**St. James' Church, Christleton**

Help us to be there for vulnerable children in this country  
Charity Registration No. 221124



A cross Section of the Christingle  
Service. (*Details of the service above*)

*January 2016 @ St. James, Church Christleton*