

# St. James'

## Christleton



PARISH MAGAZINE

July 2015

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

35p

# Journals for July

Wed	1	10.45 am	United Communion (BCP) - followed by Refreshments
Thur	2	12.00 noon	United Prayer Lunch - Methodist Church
Sat	4	10.00 – 12.00	Village Show Coffee Morning - Ring O Bells
		12.30 pm	Wedding -Andrew Parkinson/ Claire Simm
Sun	5		<b>Fifth after Trinity</b>
		8.00 am	Holy Communion (CW ) followed by Breakfast in Parish Hall.
		10.45 am	Sunday Club - Parish Hall
		10.45 am	Holy Communion
		6.30 pm	Evening Worship (CW)
Mon	6	10.45 am	Holy Communion at Oaklands N Home
		11.20 am	Holy Communion at Tarvin Court
		2.00 pm	Mothers Union
Wed	8	10.45 am	Holy Communion (BCP) - followed by refreshments
		11.30 am	Holly Communion - Birch Heath Lodge Nursing Home
Fri	10	12.30 pm	Wedding - James Davies/Lauren Carter
		7.00-9.00 pm	Non perishable exhibits in the Village Show to be delivered to Parish Hall

**Last day for contributions to August Magazine, to Janet Milton (335469). You can attach your Word document and e-mail to [christletonmag@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:christletonmag@hotmail.co.uk) or [christletonmag@spraff.net](mailto:christletonmag@spraff.net)**

Sat	11	9.00-10.30 am	Exhibits in Village Show to be delivered to Parish Hall
		2.00 pm	Village Show
Sun	12		<b>Sixth after Trinity</b>
		8.00 am	Holy Communion (CW)

		11.00 am	<b>Morning Worship - Flower Service with the May Queen - followed by Barbeque. All welcome</b>
		6.30 pm	Holy Communion (CW)
Wed	15	10.45 am	Holy Communion (BCP) - followed by refreshments
Sun	19		<b>Seventh after Trinity</b>
		8.00 am	Holy Communion (CW)
		10.45 am	Holy Communion (CW) with healing and Baptism of Luca Jones
		4.00 pm-6.00 pm	Messy Church - Parish Hall
		6.30 pm	Evening Worship (BCP)
Mon	20	12.30 pm	Luncheon Club - Parish Hall
Wed	22	10.45 am	Holy Communion (BCP) - followed by refreshments
Sun	26		<b>Patronal Festival</b>
		8.00 am	Holy Communion (CW)
		10.45 am	Holy Communion (CW)
		6.30 pm	Evening Worship
Mon	27	7.30 pm	PCC Meeting - St James
Wed	29	10.45 am	Holy Communion (BCP) - followed by refreshments

### **Bible Verses:**

Matthew 5:43-45 "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust"

Deuteronomy 29:29 "The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but the things that are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law". AMEN

# Message from our Rector



There have been so many requests for Holy Baptism recently, but what does Baptism say or mean for those who come, and especially their parents and godparents. Baptism is the start of a Christian journey, it is a lifelong journey, not just for a brief period with some nice photographs and a party.

Whenever, I meet with Baptismal families, I begin by asking them what Baptism means for them, and how they intend to try and live out the Baptismal promises they will make on behalf of their child. Parents are rightly, so concerned about their children, their health, their safety, and their education, so much so, that estate agents now identify on sales particulars of houses, details of catchment areas for schools.

But for Holy Baptism, despite parents saying they intend to bring their children to church, or Messy church, sadly, very few do. They all say they enjoyed the Baptism service and are appreciative for the ministry they received, but sadly, few return.....until the birth of their next child.

Another question I ask, is why.....why Holy Baptism. Over the years, many priests will tell you, that they have received some eye opening (but truthful) answers, “Granny will be so upset if we don’t” .....will God not be upset if you make promises, you will not keep, or, “What if something happens and the baby isn’t Baptised” this can never be the God we believe in, who would reject a child because they haven’t been Baptised.

Baptism in the church is a right, but as we often say, with rights come responsibilities. For the church (and here I mean the whole worshipping community) the responsibility is to welcome the child and their family, to ensure they know they welcome and are very much part of this family. The church has the responsibility to pray for the child and their family, to lift them to God in prayer, and also to walk that journey of faith with them.

For those coming for Baptism, or bringing their children, they have responsibilities, to live out the promises they make for and on behalf of

those thy bring for Baptism, to put the same effort and dedication into their Christian life, as they do in every other area of their life, health, education, welfare. Think back over our own lives – most of us can recall a time when we had to make an important decision – which could be accepted or rejected. To accept is to succeed; to reject or shirk the decision, is to FAIL.

A drifting life can never be a happy life.. **And a voice came from heaven: You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you**

Some of our Baptismal families bring a bottle of water to the Baptism service, water from the river Jordan, and ask if that can be used for their child's (or god child's) baptism. There is still a place for baptism on the banks of the Jordan.

In the New Testament a baptism is a sign of our repentance and God's promise of forgiveness and a NEW spiritual life, People who suffer from an **identity crisis** are often tempted to create a new identity – by having a make over, or by changing career or moving house. But just as Jesus was assured of his identity as God' Son so every Christian is assured that he has a new identity **as a child of God**. Our baptism is a sign of it and confirmation reinforces it.

WE may still suffer from doubts As we wonder of God's plans for our lives, especially so when God's plans seem at odds with our own plans.....where we will be led, who will we be asked to minister to, and with.....but in the doubts and concerns, we can be sure that those same words spoken of Jesus, are also spoken of us..... This is my child whom I love and with whom I am well pleased.....

So wherever that journey may take us, through good times or ill, may we learn to know and love the God who walks every step of that journey with us.-

The God who is our Way and our End.

Your Faithful Servant,  
Malcolm.



**Bible Verse:**

Matt 28:19 "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit",

# 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: 07803964548.

## MAGAZINE CONTRIBUTIONS

Please ensure all items for inclusion in the **August** edition are sent to Janet Milton (325529), as soon as possible **BEFORE Friday 10<sup>th</sup> July** or you can e-mail this to: christletonmag@hotmail.co.uk OR christletonmag@spraff.net

## MAGAZINE DISTRIBUTORS

The **July** magazine will be available for collection from Church on **Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> June**.



# Nature Notes

May wasn't a particularly kind month to our wildlife with cold winds and little sun. However as most birds were probably brooding young during this time, it doesn't seem to have had a damaging effect. Suddenly baby birds are everywhere, the last days of May and early June has seen a veritable explosion of youngsters in the hedgerows and along the canal. Our pair of swans produced six healthy cygnets which were soon onto the water near the Trooper. Nest boxes with cameras seem to have been very productive, and friends tell me that blue tits in particular have been very successful. Two pairs of great spotted woodpeckers produced at least six young between them at Hockenhull, and the story on the reserve is of good numbers of young chaff chaff, whitethroats, sedge warblers, blackcaps, reed buntings, robins, goldfinches, linnets and long tailed tits. A family party of at least thirty long tailed tits were foraging in the hawthorn bushes on 7th June. Rare spotted flycatchers can now be seen in the poplar plantation, but I haven't yet seen any young. Overhead young swallows, swifts and house martins seem to have emerged all within the last few days, and the sky dotted with these superb flying machines. Swifts with their screaming sounds, were hunting insects over the reservoir, and can nearly always be seen at this time of year flying over the village. Just look up and see their distinctive black colour and scimitar shaped wings as they fly at great speeds through the sky. Swallows and martins are much smaller,



slower in flight, and are probably best seen over farm fields, the canal or at The Pit. I was delighted to get some good close up shots of some baby swallows near Birch Heath yesterday, and whilst swallows can still be seen in good numbers, house martins

seem to be scarce again this year, a really worrying trend. I'm often asked if I had heard the cuckoo yet. I have, but it was whilst walking in Woburn forest in Bedfordshire, and then only one sequence of the familiar "cuck-oo, cuck-oo, cuck-oo" call. It is so sad that this harbinger of spring seems to be in real decline, not only in Christleton but in the UK generally. One mammal species that seems to be on the increase is the brown hare. I've seen more this year than any year that I can remember, and several friends who walk the countryside around the village tell me it's their experience too. Several groups of leverette's have already been seen, a really good indicator of success. We saw this hare from very close range a week ago. He was a real poser, and I got several excellent shots. DC

## **Visit of Eric and Sandra Read (with Peter and Atiyyah) to Christleton on Sunday 31st May**

Eric and Sandra are our Church Mission Society Link in the Philippines. They live on Mindanao Island (about 22m inhabitants), the agricultural basin of the Philippines, and the second largest of over 7000 islands. It suffers earthquakes and typhoons and has active volcanos. It was lovely to welcome Eric and Sandra who were very happy to be with us again. They really value our support as they continue their work growing organic produce, mainly guavas and calamansi. They also distil citronella oil. The farm is a means of financial support, but it also forges good working relationships with local communities and the local churches. Their main concerns are for more rain, more sales outlets and for a new project which involves providing facilities, such as accommodation, computers and books, for rural children. On their return in August the Read family will be spending some time in Manila to settle Peter and Atiyyah in boarding school and to develop more marketing possibilities for their farm produce. They value our prayers for all these things. GMK





## **NEWS of Relief Work from Paul Wright in NEPAL**

Paul spent all last week away in Gorkha and was largely out of contact for the week. He arrived back in Kathmandu on Sunday evening and wrote on Facebook:

“Well, it’s really way too late and I really must go to bed, but I just wanted to share what the boss at NCRS, the little NGO I’ve been working with here in Nepal, said when I rang to inform her of my return to Kathmandu. I’ve been in Gorkha for the last 6 days helping with a distribution of rice, daal, oil and salt to 900 families in Saurapani VDC, about 3.5hrs walk from the epicentre of the 7.3 quake on 25 April. All the houses there are uninhabitable at best, a pile of rocks, wood and dust at worst. Too many were graves for people and livestock.

The distribution did not go well. Problems with transport resulted in me leaving my quarters on Friday at 8am, walking several miles, sitting out in the hot sun and carrying 25kg bags of rice around (in the dark, mostly) until midnight, when I stopped for my evening meal and went to sleep in the local school at 1am (somebody kindly arranged a mat and a blanket - and a sack of daal for a pillow!).



I had been soaked in sweat for most of the evening (I personally moved over 250 25kg bags of rice). Up the next morning at 5ish, the distribution started at 8am and continued all day until 5.30pm. I managed to get lunch around 2.30pm. Meanwhile the NCRS staff suggested we run away before the distribution ended, fearing repercussions because the rice distribution was mishandled and not all households got some. I told them I couldn’t do that, so they left me to it!! I eventually returned to my quarters by 6.30pm. I had not washed, shaved, brushed my teeth (ugh!) or changed since leaving 34hrs earlier. A cold bucket shower had never seemed so good! Unfortunately my clothes

were not all dry by this morning (having had to wash them) but I wore them anyway. We caught the bus at 8.30am and arrived at Mugling at 1.30pm, standing up for 4.5hrs! Google maps give this as 65km - 3hrs 'without traffic' (:D lol). I eventually arrived back 'home' in Ktm at 6.30pm and rang the NCRS coordinator to tell her of my arrival. She thanked me for my input and suggested I take some rest before coming into the office. I thought this was very thoughtful of her until she suggested 10am tomorrow was early enough!!! (there isn't an icon for hysterical laughter, is there?). Needless to say there is lots for NCRS to learn from this....! " GMK

## **DO TODAY'S WORK TODAY**

If you have a kind word, say it  
Throbbing hearts soon sink to rest  
If you owe a kindness pay it  
Life's sun hurries to the west

Can you do a kind deed? Do it  
From despair a soul to save  
Bless each day as you pass through it  
Marching onward to the grave

If some grand thing for tomorrow  
You are dreaming, do it now  
From the future do not borrow  
Frost soon gathers on the brow

Days for deeds are few my brother  
Then today fulfil your vow  
If you mean to help another  
Do not dream it – DO IT NOW

Anon  
(Taken from an old school hymnal)

# **A note for your diary**

## **Christleton Village Show 2015**

**Is on Saturday 11th of July**  
**In Christleton Parish Hall**

This year the show theme is An English Country Garden, reflecting the many beautiful gardens in our village. We're also hoping a special effort will be made with Hanging Baskets. It is good to see the Pump House resplendent with flowers each year and we're hoping this example will be followed throughout the village – there's also a trophy to won in the Hanging Basket competition.

Schedules are now available from Christleton Village Stores, the Ring O Bells as well as St James Parish Church, Christleton Methodist Church and committee members.

As usual there are new categories to choose from as well familiar ones so there is great choice to start planting (its time to start your Hanging Baskets), 'crafting', sewing, painting etc. It doesn't cost much, is great fun and there are lots of trophies to win. You will also be helping with a good charity, after last year's show we donated to Claire House Children's Hospice; Hospice of the Good Shepherd and North West Air Ambulance. Once again Drakes Hairdressers (see Hayley ) has agreed to be a collecting point for completed Entry forms, making getting your forms in on time so much easier. This is in addition to the Entry form collection point of Judith Butts house –Greenmantle, Plough Lane. There will also be a Coffee Morning on 4th July in the Ring O Bells for entries to be made.

If you have any queries or if you would like to help on the day (PLEASE) ring any of the committee below.

David or Beryl Cummings - 332410, Janet Brown – 335785.  
Charles Smeatham – 335209. Margaret Croston – 335955, Sue Haywood – 01829 741814, Chris Marsland – 335424, June Pearson - 335101, Judith Butt – 335296, Sue and Lewis Rees; Christine Abrams -335562, Edward Elliot - 336659; Sarah Donald, Jim Ferns and Claire Gelder.

## The Lying Tongue

Many Christians do not look on lying as the grievous sin that it is. At the place of work, people do not mind misleading others... in the name of good business. A manager heard his clerk tell a customer, "No, ma'am, we haven't had any for a while, and it doesn't look as if we'll be getting any soon." Horrified, the manager came running over to the customer and said, "Of course we'll have some soon. We placed an order last week." Then the manager drew the clerk aside. "Never," he said, "Never, never, never say we're out of anything- say we've got it on order and it's coming. Now, what was it she wanted anyway?" The clerk said, "Rain!"

Some Christian men and women are fanatical about being seen as religious, and yet they think nothing to manipulate a situation using untruths, half truths and down right lies. Spouses lie to one another in the name of keeping the peace, parents lie to their own children and vice versa, employers and employees just the same.

Advertisers lie to sell product and Our leaders in all areas of society lie in order to spin things their way. But Our Lord included the sin of lying as one of the 10 commandments, and He takes this sin very seriously. Revelation 21:8 assert "But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.

Revelation 22:15 tell us "For without are dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie". It was Mark Twain that said a lie can travel halfway around the world while truth is still lacing up her boots. It comes natural to a lot of people to tell a lie, and there's something about the human nature that enjoys - both the lies and love of lying. We like reading juicy tabloids, or hearing gossip.

Lying comes naturally for some, but the truth is hard often-

times. It is getting harder each day to find a truly honest person, but do people have to question you and wonder about your genuineness? Do you have a reputation as a liar, or do people know what you say is true? Is your word as good as your signature? Do you do what you say you will do? Do you tell the truth even when it will cost you something?

We say that honesty pays off, but actually most times it costs. But doing right has its own reward. How do you know a compulsive liar? They enjoy holding something over you. Even when it serves no purpose. Even when they aren't in trouble, or it doesn't get them out of any trouble.

The Bible has a lot to say about lying:

Prov. 6 lists lying as one of the 7 things the Lord hates.

Proverbs 12:22 "Lying lips are an abomination to the LORD; but they that deal truly are his delight".

A poet said, "You can fool the public and be a secret fraud, you can try to hide your lying, but you can't fool God!"

Jesus was speaking to the Pharisees in John 8:44

"Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it".

So liars are like Satan when they lie. Almost every time we see the devil in Scripture he's lying and He starts by lying about God to man....

He lied about the truthfulness of God in Genesis —"Hath God said?" Questioning God's Word is skating on thin ice. Yet many Christians question God's Word all the time today through unbelief.

He lied about the righteousness of God—"Ye shall not surely die". In other words, God won't judge you if you sin by questioning his word.

Then he is Lying about man to God in Job:

"The only reason Job obeys you is because you're so good to him." What a liar. To Adam and Eve he says that God isn't good

enough, and now he's saying that God is too good! From beginning to end, Satan is a liar! And when we lie we align ourselves with everything that brings death, destruction, doom and damnation to this world. Sin is what leads to death, but that sin was brought about by a lie!

Don't take lying lightly. There's no such thing as a little white lie. God is truth, and anything less than the truth is wrong and is sin! There are many ways people often lie without even thinking about it:

Slander: Psalms 101:5 "Whoso privily slandereth his neighbour, him will I cut off:"

This is lying with the intention of doing harm to another's reputation. A man called Zephnaiah spread lies about his neighbour but later, repented, and asked his neighbour how he could make it right. His neighbour told him to get some feather pillows and rip them open, and place one feather on every porch in their community. It seemed strange, but he did what he was told. Zephnaiah went back to the neighbour and said he was done, but the neighbour said, no, you're not. Go back and pick them all up now. "But I can't said zephnaiah. The wind has taken them who knows where!" The neighbour said, "So it is with the words you have spoken about me."

When we slander someone's reputation we do irreparable damage. And we'll answer to God for it!

Talebearing is a person who loves to tell things. They share 'news'. But they don't care if their facts are correct or not. This is gossip. Don't spread it - Try to stop others from doing it. Don't repeat gossip Christians should make it part of their job description: "Removal of malignant rumors."

1 Timothy 5:13

And withal they learn to be idle, wandering about from house to house; and not only idle, but tattlers also and busybodies, speaking things which they ought not.

Leviticus 19:16 "Thou shalt not go up and down as a talebearer among thy people:" Next time - you're enjoying listening to



someone gossip, remember this fact: Anyone who will gossip **TO** you, will gossip **ABOUT** you! Do not allow your ears to become someone's personal trash cans. Every community will always have 4 or 5 people who are always in the know...they have the inside scoop. They will come to you and say, I thought you should know, what people are saying - but always ask, who are 'the people'...do not accept anonymous criticism. Put a face to it because, Often it's just a cowardly way of saying what that person wants to say and putting it off on someone else.

Why is it that it's always the same handful of people who always hear these juicy tit bits? It's because they send off a signal that says, "I'm willing to listen to any garbage you want to drop off." But the Bible says for us to direct people to the source. **If you have a problem with someone, go to them, and only to them.**

**Lying by insinuation**—you don't actually say it, just suggest it. What if I told you, "Today was a good day because Zephaniah was sober today!" Is it true? Yes! But something else has been suggested about Zephnaiah.

**Flattery**—insincere praise...saying something to someone's face that you would never say behind their back.

Psalms 55:21 tell us "The words of his mouth were smoother than butter, but war was in his heart: his words were softer than oil, yet were they drawn swords". When someone starts buttering you up, remember that they are probably about to have you for lunch!

**Half truths**—not telling the whole story. A parent asks their teen where they are going. "To Andy's house he replies." That's true, but they leave out where they're going from there. You break the spirit of the law when you do this. This is why in court you swear to, not just tell the truth, but 'the whole truth.' Half the truth equals a whole lie.

- Exaggeration—embellishing the truth.
- Excuses—they are just dressed up lies.

We should try to overcome lying by loving the truth. David

spoke of ‘truth in the inward parts.’ A person is not a liar because they tell lies...they tell lies because they are a liar.

2 Thessalonians 2:10 tell us “...because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.

We should Learn to tell the truth with the help of Philippians 4:8 “Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things”.

Jesus defeated Satan in the wilderness, with the truth of the Scriptures. Therefore brethren, let us Live by the truth.

Ephesians 4:25 “Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour: Be accountable to others. Be open to others stopping you when you gossip or slander. Immediately confess, immediately correct, and immediately commit yourself to the truth.

May God help us to Speak the truth to one another; and render in our gates judgments that are true and make for peace Zechariah 8:16. Remain Blessed.

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### **Bible Verses:**

James 1:5-8 “If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways”.

Hebrews 11:16 “And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him”

2 Cor 5:7 “For we walk by faith, not by sight”. AMEN.

## COMMEMORATION OF 70th ANNIVERSARY OF VE DAY

On Sunday 10 May I was privileged to attend Choral Evensong at Chester Cathedral for a service of thanksgiving to commemorate the 70th Anniversary of Victory in Europe Day in 1945.

Veterans representing the Three Services, the Land Army and Emergency Services were joined by serving personnel, the Lord Mayor, Councillors and other dignitaries.

After the service, wreaths were laid at the War Memorial outside and a two-minute silence observed, prior to processing to the Town Hall for light refreshments.

The King's School Choir took part in evensong, supported by a large contingent from the school, which was greatly appreciated by all those who had experienced the War years. Alf Croston

### Front Cover

Bishop Peter & Clergy at St James' after morning service on 7th June

### Back Cover Images

Eric & Sandra Read visiting St James' May 2015



THE MONTHLY  
CHRISTLETON

From 12 noon for 12.30 serving:



**LUNCHEON  
CLUB** IN PARISH HALL

**Monday  
20th July**

FREE lunch  
(donations  
welcome)

All welcome, but please book a place by calling:  
Liz: 409414, or Janet: 325529, or Christine: 335562, or sign the list in Church  
(Transport can be arranged for those that need it - just ask.)



# **BARBEQUE after the FLOWER SERVICE**

**Sunday 12th July at 11.00 am**

Please join us at the annual BBQ  
and bring the family.

You are welcome to bring your  
own alcoholic beverage.

**There will be no charge for this  
but donations will be welcome.**

**If you would like to contribute a  
plate of food ie salad, pasta,  
vegetarian dish, pudding, anything  
at all would be most welcome.**

A list for people who will be  
attending will be at the back  
of church next month, for you to  
indicate how many will be coming.

For more information : –  
ring Janet Milton 325529.



**Christleton W.I.**

invite you to join us for a cup of tea  
or coffee with scone on

**Wednesday 12th August, 2015**

between

**2.00 pm and 4.00 pm**

at

**Christleton Parish Hall**

*All Welcome*

**Bible Verse:**

Romans 16:1-3 "I commend to you our sister Phoebe, a servant of the church at Cenchreae, that you may welcome her in the Lord in a way worthy of the saints, and help her in whatever she may need from you, for she has been a patron of many and of myself as well. Greet Priscilla and Aquila, my fellow workers in Christ Jesus."

# **The History File**

## **Extraordinary stories from WWI**

### **Captain Lionel Forster**

Whilst researching the stories of the men named on the Village War Memorial, we occasionally found additional material in newspapers of the period. The Cheshire Observer archive is an excellent source of both written and sometimes even photographic material, and can be read at the County Record and Local Archive Office in Duke Street, or Chester Library. One of the first and most memorable stories we found took us almost to the beginning of the war, and was reported in the newspaper of December 19th 1914.

The story was about gallant Captain Lionel Forster 2nd Battalion Cheshire Regiment, and a member of the congregation at St James' who was one of the first Christleton men to die in WWI. He was the son of The Right Honourable William Forster M.P. of Sydney, Australia. He was educated at Sandhurst and after his marriage lived at the Old Hall Guilden Sutton. Capt. Lionel had served with the Cheshires in the Boer War in South Africa, gaining several medals for gallantry. He resigned his commission in January 1914, but as soon as war was declared, he re-joined his old regiment. They were almost immediately in action on the front line at La Basse, and the captain's story is told in headline news by the Cheshire Observer on December 19th 1914.

### **Gallant Cheshire non Commissioned Officer rescues wounded Captain.**

A brave attempt at a rescue by Lance Corporal Williams, who himself was injured at Ypres. Lance Corporal Williams was from Wirral, and had played in goal for both Cammel Lairds and Tranmere Rovers. He was interviewed at a Hospital in Nottingham whilst recovering from his injuries.

He tells this story;

It was towards the end of October and near a village called La Basse. About 1.30pm Captain Forster said to D Company, that they had to retire to trenches further back from the front line.



Well we retired there, and as we were digging a new trench, the Captain asked for a Lance Corporal and three men to go with him. I went straight away and I was just looking up out of the trench to see if there were any snipers about. I said "Good God, make for yourself, when I saw them coming in their thousands". Captain Forster replied "You are delirious my lad"

No sooner had he spoken that they charged us. The Captain drew his revolver and fired, but he was shot himself in the act of firing. I got hold of him, put his arms around my shoulders and started to carry him to safety. The Germans outnumbered us by ten to one, and were charging at us with fixed bayonets and firing at us at the same time. I could hear the bullets whizzing over my head. I carried him towards the village, but he was shot again this time through the right shoulder and I could see he was badly hurt. He said "Let me down lad save yourself, it's no use two of us going to die". I let him down on the ground and ran as fast as I could, for the Germans were only thirty yards away. He was a fine officer and never acknowledged defeat. When I left him he was bleeding from wounds to his back and chest. I did my best to get him out of it, but I saw it was no good. At the end of the village I saw the Dorsets come to re enforce us, but by that time only 30 of our battalion remained alive.

Captain Forster although critically injured was taken prisoner and was last seen alive in a German Hospital behind the front line. He died on the 4th November 1914 aged 35yrs, and was buried in the Douai Communal Cemetery near Arras. DC

## **CHURCHYARD GROUNDS**

As mentioned in last months magazine we have now found a new contractor to look after the grass cutting in the churchyard, and generally keeping it tidy.

It will take him a little while to overcome some of the problems left by his predecessor, but we should start to see an improvement within the next couple of months, so I would therefore respectfully request your patience for a little while longer.

John Milton – Verger



# A Spotlight on

A member of St James's congregation

Name: Valmai Griffiths

Live: Toll Bar Road

Nationality: Welsh

Originally from: Tregaron, Ceredigion

Occupation: Retired Secondary School Teacher

Family: 3 sisters, 3 nephews and 2 nieces

Pets: A Cavalier King Charles puppy called 'Bisto Bach'

Interests: Walking, Gardening, Cooking, Travelling and  
Getting to know people.

Favourite Quotation: "If you can't say anything nice

Don't say anything at all."



Things that may surprise the reader:



I have a twin sister

I played International Hockey

I sing with Cor Merched y Rhos



CHRISTLETON

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN CHRISTLETON

# **VILLAGE TEA ROOM**

IN THE METHODIST CHURCH SCHOOLROOM

From 7th JUNE  
until 27<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2015

**EVERY SUNDAY**

**FROM 2.30 P.M. UNTIL 4.30 P.M.**

EVERYONE WELCOME

*PROCEEDS TO STARLIGHT granting wishes to terminally ill children*

Mark 9:37 "Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, and whoever receives me, receives not me but him who sent me

## WHAT'S GOING ON?



Sometimes it can be quite tricky at St James' Church to find out what's going on. The weekly notice sheet given out on a Sunday only really covers 1 week at a time, and if you're away one Sunday you may even miss out on that. (Although it is pinned to the Church notice boards.) The Magazine gives a list of things going on, but only for that month and you don't get it until the start of that month, so services and events early in the month can be a bit of a surprise and any last minute additions or changes don't show up at all. We

have a solution to those wishing to find out in advance - a diary! A Church Notices & Diary list covering 2 or 3 months ahead, and which is updated every couple of weeks or so!

Wow! It's now on the Christleton Website ([www.christleton.org.uk](http://www.christleton.org.uk)) and there's a convenient link to the diary on the Home page - normally the first page which comes up. Thanks to our webmaster, Richard Nicholson, for his work to get this listing onto the web site. In conjunction with the Rector and Janet Milton, I shall try to keep the notices & diary list up-to-date and accurate. Of course predicting what will happen 3 months ahead may not be totally accurate, but as it gets closer the updates will firm up the details. I need your help though. If you are running a church event then let me know, and if things change, also let me know.

It will not be a substitute for the normal advertising of an event, which should continue, but is just a Church Diary listing which is in addition to everything else. We hope it proves useful when organising your own diary. Bookmark it. Add it to your favourites. We shall review how this new diary is meeting people's needs from time to time, so all feedback from you about this will be welcomed, thank you. (Brian Inall - Tel: 336500)

## Time and the Clock

During a visit to Pisa Cathedral a few years ago I was reminded that it was here that Galileo, in the late 1600's watching a lamp swinging in the breeze and timing it with his pulse went on to discover the principle of the pendulum. The rate of swing of a pendulum is proportional to its length not the amount it swings. He appreciated its usefulness in a clock

and he and his son went on to build one but it was not until a century later that the Dutchman Huygens went on to perfect one.

Up to that time a foliot was used, this is an oscillating T shaped bar with weights hung on the ends, not very accurate! Early clocks did not have hands or a dial but rang a bell. The Dutch name for bell is Glocken giving us the name Clock. Because of the cost, most clocks were public. Church clocks Tavern clocks etc set to local time with a sundial. This presented a problem with the introduction of the Stage Coach. Midday in Bristol is ten minutes later than midday in London. Coach drivers would set their watches to London time and along the route “pass the time” and arrive in Bristol at a different time.

Although I haven't seen it I understand in Bristol there is [or was] a Public Clock with two minute hands one showing London time and one Bristol time. The arrival of the railways and the need for Time Tables meant that something had to be done and so it was decided that the whole country worked to London [Greenwich] time. This required further adjustment. The earth's orbit is irregular and in some months a day is longer than 24 hours and in others less, this is known as solar time, the time shown on sun dials. It was averaged out giving us Greenwich Mean Time.

The sun dial at Bodnant Gardens has a slide to convert solar time to mean time the modern reproduction at Tatton Park does not have one. It became important that all clocks were set at the same time {can anyone remember the Birkenhead One O'clock Gun signalling to ships in the Mersey} so with the advent of the electric telegraph, in the late 1840,s time was transmitted round the country. The arrival of radio signals offered the opportunity to transmit time. The first signals were from the Eiffel Tower in 1910. but it was not until the 1960's that the hour, minute, second and date were transmitted first from the long wave station in Rugby and when it closed down in 2007 from Anthorn in Cumbria at the old H.M.S Nuthatch W.W,11 airfield.

Clocks became more developed from striking clocks we had chiming clocks and then carillons. Some were automatons where figures paraded on the hour like the magnificent astronomical Clock in Strasburg Cathedral. At 12:30, the clock will go into action and the automatons will start to move. An angel will sound a chime, and the twelve apostles will pass in front of Jesus. Just below that, figures representing the stages of life pass before Death, while the life-size cock crows thrice.

The current, third clock dates from 1843. Its main features, besides the automata, are a perpetual calendar, an orrery (planetary dial), a display of the real position of the Sun and the Moon, and solar and lunar eclipses. An interesting local clock [or should I say clocks] is the one in the Liver Building built in 1911. There are three individual weight driven pendulum clocks which work on the waiting train principle. Their second pendulums tick for 59 seconds and then are stopped by an electric signal, on the 60th second all three clocks are restarted thus synchronizing them every minute. Ben Williams

# Parish Registers (May)

## The Baptism Service

Jack James Wood son of Mark & Sarah Wood 59 Green Lane,  
Vicars Cross

“We welcome you into the Lord’s Family”

## The Marriage Service

16th Colin Leslie Bourne & Rachel Helen Probert  
17 Robinson’s Croft, Great Boughton, Chester  
21st Nicholas Peter Earle & Emma Louise Newman Dunlop  
7 Brigadier Close, Saighton, Chester

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

## The Funeral Service

5th Richard Dodds “Thurnby” Greenfields Lane, Rowton  
67yrs (Burial of cremated remains)  
8th Patricia Elwiss (Pat) Plessington Court Nursing Home,  
Puddington 87yrs

“Grant them eternal rest”

## Offertories

May	Cash	C.S.E.	2015	2014
3rd	238-81	369-50	608-31	756-56
10th	88-23	513-70	601-93	676-11
17th	89-41	729-00	818-41	1,339-67
24th	99-45	452-00	551-45	665-46
31st	109-17	336-12	445-29	
<b>Totals</b>			<b>£ 3,025-39</b>	<b>£3,437-80</b>

“Of your own do we give you”



# PARISH CHURCH OF ST JAMES, CHRISTLETON

## REGULAR WORSHIP

SUNDAYS:	8.00am:	Holy Communion
	10.45am:	Holy Communion (1st & 3rd & 5th Sundays) 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 (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	325529
(Janet is your initial contact point for Baptism, Wedding and Appointment requests)		
Other local clergy who may assist:	Rev'd Gill Hibbert	336544
	Rev'd Elizabeth Inall, MA	336500
Churchwardens:	Carl Cumiskey	330028
	Bettie Gilliatt	335645
Deputy Wardens:	Chris Platel	332466
	Keith Smalls	335688
Verger:	John Milton	325529
Pastoral Assistant:	Melanie Efobi	336072
Sacristan:	Betty Dunning	335652
Organist & Choir Master:	Steve Roberts	815277
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:	Ian Braithwaite	300565
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 Distributors:	Jenny Davies, Valmai Griffiths	335884
Magazine Photographs:	David Cummings	332410
Magazine Compiler:	Ike Efobi	336072

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

## Shalom!!!



Eric and Sandra Read with members of St. James Parish



Eric and Sandra Read with members of St. James Parish

### **Fishing**

There was a new family that had just moved into town. Their son came to Sunday School but seemed upset. His teacher asked him if anything was wrong. The boy replied no, that he was going to go fishing but his dad told him that he needed to go to church instead. The teacher was very impressed with the boy's parents and asked the boy if his father had explained to him why it was more important to go to church than to go fishing. The boy replied, "Yes he did. My dad said that he didn't have enough bait for both of us."

*July 2015 @ St. James, Church Christleton*