



# St. James'

## Christleton

PARISH MAGAZINE

June 2016

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

35p

# Jottings for June

Wed	1	10.45 am	United Communion (BCP) - followed by Refreshments
		06.00 pm	Choir Practice
Thur	2	12 noon	United Prayer Lunch - Methodist Church
Fri	3	01.00 pm	Wedding - Joe Bolton/Jenny Simmons
Sun	5	<b>Second after Trinity</b>	
		08.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP) - followed by Breakfast in Parish Hall
		10.45 am	Holy Communion - followed by Refreshments in Parish Hall
		06.00 pm	The Crew Youth Group in the Parish Hall
		06.30 pm	Evening Worship (CW)
Mon	6	10.45 am	Holy Communion at Oaklands Nursing Home
		11.20 am	Holy Communion at Tarvin Court Nursing Home
		02.00 pm	Mothers Union - Parish Hall
Wed	8	10.45 am	Holy Communion (BCP) - followed by refreshments
		11.30 am	Holy Communion - Birch Heath Lodge
		06.00 pm	Choir Practice
Fri	10	<b>NB: Last day for contributions to July magazine to Janet Milton (325529). You can attach your Word document and e-mail christletonmag@gmail.com</b>	
Sun	12	<b>Third after Trinity</b>	
		08.00 am	Holy Communion (CW)
		10.45 am	Morning Worship - followed by Refreshments in Parish Hall
		04.00 pm	Special Outdoor Service for the Queens 90th Birthday followed by a Shared Picnic Tea

Wed	15	10.45 am	Holy Communion (BCP) - followed by refreshments
		06.00 pm	Choir Practice
Sat	18	12.30 pm	Wedding - Andrew Watson and Emma Askey
Sun	19	8.00 am	Fourth Sunday after Trinity Holy Communion (CW)
		10.45 am	Holy Communion - followed by refreshments
		4.00 pm	Messy Church - Parish Hall
		6.00 pm	
Mon	20	12.00 noon for 12.30 start	Luncheon Club - Parish Hall
		12.30 start	
Wed	22	10.45 am	Holy Communion (BCP) - followed by refreshments
		06.00 pm	Choir Practice
Sat	25	01.00 pm	Village Fete
Sun	26	<b>Fifth after Trinity</b>	
		08.00 am	Holy Communion (CW)
		10.45 am	Morning Worship (BCP)
		06.30 pm	Holy Communion
Wed	29	10.45 am	Holy Communion (BCP) - followed by refreshments
		06.00 pm	Choir Practice

## Here is a prayer of St Columba:

Christ With Us, My dearest Lord,  
 Be Thou a bright flame before me,  
 Be Thou a guiding star above me,  
 Be Thou a smooth path beneath me,  
 Be Thou a kindly shepherd behind me, Today and evermore.

# Message from our Rector



It would be almost impossible to write this month without mentioning Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth and her 90th birthday. Regardless of whether you are a supporter of the Royal family or not, we must all admire her dedication, service and duty.

Some people will no doubt have been delighted to have had the opportunity to watch the celebrations on television, and we too will have the opportunity to hold our own celebration on Sunday 12 June at 4pm when we meet at St James for a service of celebration and thanksgiving followed by a picnic and all are welcome.

Celebrations such as this provide wonderful opportunities for us to come together to get to know each other better, or simply to catch up with friends we may not have seen for a while and even Christian outreach, as we may find ourselves welcoming strangers who come into the village and enjoy the celebration and our hospitality.

Christian service in action, as the writer to the Hebrews tells us “Do not forget to entertain strangers for by so doing, some have entertained angels without knowing it” (Hebrews 13: 2)

The past 90 years have been tragic and wonderful in equal measure, the horrors of war, and Her Majesty served during the Second World War, so understands the cost of war, her reign has also seen several other conflicts and pain. There have been family tragedies of bereavement and marital breakdowns, but of course there have also been wonderful occasions of family marriages, and the birth of children, grandchildren and great grandchildren, the wonderful jubilee celebrations of 1977 and 2002 and just recently as Queen Elizabeth became the longest serving British monarch.

In today's society and culture, the notion of service is perhaps lost on

some people, why would anyone want to spend their lives serving others, but this is perhaps what lies at the centre of the service of Queen Elizabeth, it is her Christian faith and that of Christian service it must have been slightly bewildering to those who may not have been practising Christians, those who maybe conform to the standards and values of today's society, that they may have seen true Christian service at work.

Her Majesty has of course had a privileged life, however, for all the pageantry and pomp of State occasions it is humbling and reassuring to know that the Head of the Commonwealth and Queen of the United Kingdom submits to the authority of Love, Humility and Grace of a greater King, that of her Lord and Saviour

Please do come along on Sunday 12 June at 4pm to St James Church and experience the Christian hospitality and witness by true Christian service.

May the friendships made, and the seeds sown, of true Christian faith in action continue to bear much fruit long for many years to come.

May God continue to Bless Her and long may She reign over us.

Your Faithful Servant,  
Malcolm.



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### **Front Cover photo:**

The statue of Saint Aiden in the grounds of the Priory on Holy Island (or Lindisfarne). Aiden came there in 634 to start the Christian community on the island. A group of people from St James' went on retreat at the end of April and visited Holy Island and there's an article in this magazine about the retreat and more photos on the back cover.

# 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.

## CHRISTLETON METHODIST CHURCH

We meet for Informal Prayers and a Simple Lunch on the first Thursday of each month at 12 noon. All welcome. There is no charge for the lunch but a donation to cover costs would be appreciated.

## CHRISTLETON W. I.

Meets on the second Wednesday of the month at 7.15 pm in the Parish Hall. Further details may be obtained from the Secretary, Miss Ida Rogers, Chester 350060.



## CHESTER FLOWER CLUB

Meetings are held in Christleton Parish Hall on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 1.30pm. Details of any events can be obtained from the Club Secretary - 01745 856126.

## MAGAZINE CONTRIBUTIONS

Please ensure that all items for inclusion in the **JULY** edition are sent to christleton-mag@gmail.com or, if you do not have access to email, please give or send them to Janet Milton (325529), as soon as possible **BEFORE** Friday June 10th

## MAGAZINE DISTRIBUTORS

The **JULY** magazine will be available for collection from Church on Sunday 31st May.

## MONTHLY LUNCHEON CLUB

Meets in the Parish Hall on the 3rd Monday of each month at 12 noon for a 12.30 pm start. There is no charge but donations are welcome. For further details contact Janet Milton (325529) or Christine Abrams (335562)

## RSPB CHESTER GROUP

Meetings are held from September to April in Christleton Parish Hall, usually on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm. Occasional field trips.

Details from Norman on 01244 335670 or [www.rspb.org.uk/groups/chester](http://www.rspb.org.uk/groups/chester)



**David Cummings**  
**presents**  
**Heritage Walks in the Christleton Parish**

**June 21st- 1st July 2016**

All walks start from the Village Green in Christleton. There is no charge but donations will be welcomed to aid Local Charities. A water bottle, good footwear and waterproofs recommended. It is anticipated that groups will be around 15 in number. Please ring David on 332410 or e mail [cummings.d@uwclub.net](mailto:cummings.d@uwclub.net) to reserve a place.

**Tuesday Evening 21st June. 6.00-8.00pm The Boatmans' Tale.**

A walk around the village, looking at the heritage of boatbuilding and the construction of the Chester & Shropshire Union Canals in the Parish.

**Wednesday Morning 22nd June 10.00am-12 noon The Littleton Trail**

A walk from Christleton to Littleton & return exploring many facets of the history of Littleton, including, Roman practice forts, farming, horse racing, candle making, Dobies Seeds, WWI Heroes, WWII American Headquarters, American Bomber crash site along Tarvin Road, Toll Gates & Turnpikes, and natural history.

**Thursday Morning 23rd June 10.00- 12 noon The Cavaliers' Tale**

A walk from Christleton to Rowton, looking at aspects of the English Civil War which took place in the Parish, between 1642-1645, and visiting sites of interest, including St James' Church, and the memorial and main battlefield at Rowton.

**Friday Morning 24th June 10.00-12noon. The Canon's Tale**

A walk around the village, looking at the influence of the Victorians in the rebuilding of Christleton, through the work of Rector Rev. Canon Lionel Garnett and Lucy Ann Ince. Buildings; The Church / The Old

Hall, Christleton Hall, farming /The Pit/ The Ice House/ Schools/Village Celebrations; The Fete/Village Show. etc.

**Wednesday Evening 29th June 6.00pm-8.00pm The Canon's Tale**  
Repeat of Friday's walk above.

**Thursday 30th June. 10.00- 4.00pm The Millers' Tale**

A walk along the canal towpath & across fields, to Walk Mill on the R.Gowy, returning via Hockenhull Platts & Roman bridges. (6 miles). A tour of the mill, followed by lunch at Walk Mill. This walk will look at the various mills that operated in the Parish including; Christleton Mill, Butlers Mill, Stapleford Mill, Walk Mill and Stamford Mill. We will also look at the natural history of the area including the Cheshire Wildlife Trust Reserve at Hockenhull Platts, and the pack horse route maintained or written about by Edward the Black Prince, Celia Fiennes et al.

**Friday Morning 1st July 10-00- 12noon The Heroes' Trail**

A walk around St James Church, the churchyard, and the village, looking at many visible aspects of WWI and its effect on the village community. We will be visiting the graves of several of our heroes, learning about their stories, looking at where they lived, and the buildings they would have known & loved in the village.

Please ring David on 332410 to book a place, or e mail  
[cummings.d@uwclub.net](mailto:cummings.d@uwclub.net)

## **An IMPORTANT note for your diary**

**Christleton Village Show 2016**

**Is on Saturday 9th. July**

**In Christleton Parish Hall**



## Village Show

Christleton Village show is open to all residents in the Parish of Christleton – Christleton; Littleton; Rowton; Cotton Abbotts; and Cotton Edmunds as well as the many who have links to the parish through the schools and churches etc and villagers who have moved to surrounding villages like Guilden Sutton, Barrow, Waverton etc.

The 2016 Schedules should now be 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 as familiar ones so there is great choice to start planting, '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 worthy cause. After expenses all remaining proceeds are given to charity

Once again Hayley at Drakes Hairdressers 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 at Judith Butts house –Greenmantle, Plough Lane. There will also be a Coffee Morning on 2nd July in the Ring O Bells for entries to be made. We are appealing this year for help to Set Up the show on Friday at 4-00 and dismantle after 4-00 on Saturday Evening. This usually takes about 1.30mins. PLEASE contact any of the committee if you can spend even part of the time helping . If you have any queries or if you would like to help on the day (PLEASE) ring any of the committee below.

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

# The History File

## Robert Andrew Scott Macfie (Part 3)

Last month we read about the establishment of a Beer Garden a few miles away from the front line at the Battle of the Somme. Here in the last of this series of articles about this amazing Rowton resident, is a list of the entertainment opportunities it provided;

### **Eisteddfod; To be held in the Beer Garden on Sunday July 15th 1917. Distinguished Patronage--- Eminent Adjudicators**

#### **Contests**

1. Male Voice Choirs; Choirs from each company- twelve voices in all. Competitors choose their own glee. Marks deducted for "Sweet and Low" and "The Soldiers Farewell".
2. Imitations of Charlie Chaplin. Competitors are given permission to let their hair grow.
3. Whistling Solos. Indents for bird seed should be submitted to the Q.M.
4. Recitations. As there is plenty of beer available, the services of "Gunga Din" are not required.
5. Original Verses. In "Limerick" or other form. May or may not be read aloud. To be sent anonymously to the Secretary, Entertainment Committee, at the Orderly Room, on or before July 13th. Prizewinners must acknowledge their bantlings in public or lose their prizes.
6. Pianoforte Solos. Operatic excerpts. Competitors should reonnoitre the piano before the attack for silent keys.
7. Female Impersonations. Don't raid the clothes lines. Costumes will be provided.  
Eve, even with foliage, is not eligible -- that is, Adam's wife; the "Tatler's" Eve would be welcome.
8. Mouth Organ Contest. Three Scottish Melodies
9. Comic Interludes; Anything at all that is really funny.  
Warblers, Barnstormers, Troubadour, Whistler, Mountebanks, Spring

Poets, Contortionists, Wine Bibbers, Publicans and Sinners. Now is your chance. To conform with Brigade arrangements, the Eisteddfod took place on Saturday 14 July, and not as stated on the poster. There was no lack of entries for the various events and there was much excellent fooling. The villagers turned up in force to see the fun, and the ladies amongst them who had given the free run of their wardrobes to the female impersonators must have been considerably astonished at the originality displayed by some of the competitors in their ideas of the way to put on the more intimate garments.

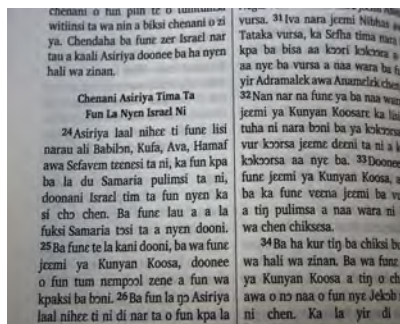
The Limerick Competition was particularly popular as it gave the poets a chance to be both scandalous and insubordinate without laying themselves open to uncomfortable consequences. Perhaps it is as well that the only Limerick which has survived is that written by Scott Macfie himself as a model for those with a lesser knowledge of scansion and rhyme. Our Chief is a Colonel called Davidson, Who asked "Here's a franc- if I gave it, son," "Would you squander the treasure, On women and pleasure Or would you be wiser and save it, son?"

## **Wycliffe Bible Translators**

### **The Gonja Bible Dedication Day February 2016**

Welcome news from Ian & Claire Gray, friends of St James' working with the Wycliffe Bible Translators in Africa. In previous years we've learned about, and supported financially, their wonderful work in translating a spoken language into a written form, particularly with the Tampilma people in Ghana. With Ian listening to speech, recording and then creating a written language, and with Claire's inspired teaching, they created and formed a written language using the medium of the bible.

This great success has even led to a revised Tampilma Bible being printed in Korea, ready to be used in Literacy for Life classes in churches, and to ensure that young people are learning to read in community classes. The new copies of the revised Tampilma Bibles will be launched



in Lingbinsi Village at the end of this year. Meanwhile another Bible Language Project has reached fruition, with the launch of the Gonja Bible in February. Attending the launch required Ian & Claire to take two hazardous 12 hour journeys by car across dangerous roads, as severe dust storms from the Sahara Desert prevented air travel in the area for almost three

months.

Once they arrived in Tamale, they met up with their Ghanaian colleagues, and travelled to the town of Buipe for the launch of the Gonja translation. The president of Ghana, a Gonja and a Christian couldn't attend because of the dust storms, but he purchased five bibles and promised generous money gifts to support the work. Several chiefs gave encouraging speeches, about how people's lives can be transformed when they receive bibles in their own language.

During the ceremony the Evangelical Church of Ghana choir sang, and 11year old twins Elisha & Elija carried the bible in a lovely bowl, to a place of honour. Cultural dancing followed, before Ian & Claire were presented with a lovely locally woven cloth, and a thank you plaque for Ian's ten year checking of the Gonja Old Testament, and Claire's help in financing the translation programme. Colleague Janette Zwart, a Dutch missionary, also received the same for her work on the Gonja New Testament. After the 6hour ceremony ended, boxes of Bibles were sent to other Gonja speaking areas. As Claire writes, "It was certainly a day giving glory to God, and we pray this beautiful Bible will transform many lives". In a separate development friends Nelson & Pastor Abraham are busy holding Literacy for Life workshops for pastors and teachers in different villages and towns, and Konlan is pressing on with the Koma



Old Testament, 60% of which is checked, and he is taking advantage of the dry season to visit the Koma Churches- a round trip of 300miles each time. It is very humbling to learn of such dedication and sheer inspirational work, to further the gospels and the spread of Christianity throughout the world. Please pray for Ian & Claire and all their friends in their lives and work. DC

## Churches Together in Christleton

Invite you to celebrate

### The Queen's 90th Birthday

A **united service** will be held on the village green  
outside St. James Church on **Sunday 12th June at 4pm**

**This will be followed by a bring-your-own picnic**

If the weather is not kind, we will be in the Parish Hall

All are welcome, please come and join us.

THE MONTHLY  
CHRISTLETON

Next Lunch:

LUNCHEON  
CLUB

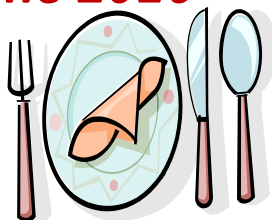
IN THE  
PARISH HALL

**Monday 20th June 2016**

12 noon for 12.30 serving. All welcome.

No charge, donations welcome.

Book by calling: Liz: 409414, or Janet: 325529,  
or Christine: 335562, or sign a list in Church.



## PCC Update

On 24th April we once again had the Church's annual meetings, they seem to come around every year. Sadly only 39 people were there in total, all church members. This compares with 57 last year. Our church membership is 238 by comparison and begs the question of what we need to do to engage with the whole membership and get wider participation. Admittedly a notice planned for the April magazine failed to get published and that may have been a factor, but it was well advertised in other ways.

We were pleased to elect and welcome Tina Lightfoot as our new Churchwarden, replacing Carl Cumiskey who is standing down. Bettie Gilliatt continues as our other Churchwarden.

People came off the PCC leaving us with just 6 remaining out of the potential of 15 elected lay members we are allowed. However, two new PCC members joined, and another has come forward to join the PC, so we now have 9 out of 15. We wish to fill the remaining places, so if you've been thinking that you could help this church then now's the time to contact us.

I produced an Information Pack ahead of the annual meetings with a lot of good information and the supply has now all been taken - but if you missed out and would like a copy, then talk to me.

The main purpose of the church is to promote the Gospel of Jesus Christ, to help people learn about the Christian Faith and to grow spiritually. Fellowship and membership are key - it is very difficult and not much fun being a lone Christian. This spiritual and fun aspect of belonging to St James needs further development, so are you interested in helping or joining in? Unfortunately the church needs to manage itself financially and to keep the buildings and grounds well maintained and these and other routine/obligatory tasks tend to take so much time that more important matters are pushed down the list. I hope in this year ahead we can achieve a better balance of activities.

In summary your churchwardens are: Bettie Gilliatt and Tina Lightfoot. Your PCC members are: Christine Abrams, Jan Bowden, Liz McClure, Linda Rowe, John Eccles, Paul Forrest, Brian Inall, John Milton, John Pearson. Brenda Bailey continues to manage the Electoral Roll. Brian Lewis is our treasurer for the moment, but we are urgently seeking another treasurer as Brian is standing down. Gill Hibbert continues to be co-opted to the PCC and along with Bettie represents us at Deanery Synod. A longer list of Who's Who is at the back of this magazine and on the website.

Please pray for the Rector, the other clergy, the wardens, the PCC members and all who have a part in the running of St James, Christleton.

Although not top priority in itself, adequate funds in the bank is very important and enables us to do the things that are top priority. We are anxious that we consistently spend more than we receive despite restricting our expenditure on just the essential basics. The following article was put together by the Rector and John Eccles for the PCC and was in the annual Information Pack, but is reproduced here for you. Do think over how you'd like to respond and we are happy to answer questions.

Best wishes,

Brian Inall (PCC Secretary - Tel: 336500)

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## **Just how much does it cost to run St James Church?**

To open the doors of our Church each day costs £296, almost £2,077 a week. In 2015, that amounted to £108,000 to run the church.

Within this annual figure, maintaining the pure fabric of an ancient Church such as ours (alongside the Churchyard) is expensive; not to mention keeping us warm during services and lightening the darkness (over£4,000)!

On top of this, one-off emergencies have arisen and, by way of ex-

ample, we have had to find the monies to cover work to the Tower and West Wall (over£20,000). Sadly, this is not the end of our maintenance requirements (see below). Also, as with all of us, there are Water Rates, Insurance and Telephone costs to be paid.

Critically, over 2015 our general funds have been depleted by £11,000 despite a number of legacies and other donations gratefully received.

### **Doesn't the Church of England subsidise the cost of having a church here in Christleton?**

No. In fact, it works the opposite way around as each year we have to contribute to the Diocese of Chester to help others in the area keep their heads above water. This is then replicated across the country. For us, this is a major portion of our annual costs.

### **So what is the outlook going forward?**

Not great, as if we look at the income we receive against our expenditure we are having to dip into our capital month on month and obviously this is not a position that is sustainable in the long term. Going forward, we face further significant capital expenditure in terms of, to name a few, a replacement central heating boiler, vital Parish Hall maintenance, electrical upgrades and new Hymn Books. **How can we help? With generous and regular giving?**

Rev'd Malcolm Cowan (Rector) and John Eccles (PCC Member)

### **Back Cover Top:**

The 'Retreat' group in front of the Northumbrian Community house enjoying the sunshine. Left to right: Liz McClure, Bob Wilcox, Pat Hawkes, Jim Hawkes, Cindy Wilcox, Brenda Bailey, Don Bailey, Brian Inall, Tina Lightfoot, Mike Lightfoot, Elizabeth Inall, Ellen Frost.

### **Back Cover Bottom:**

Brian, Ellen, Elizabeth and Liz on St Cuthbert's Isle where St Cuthbert (635-687) sought solitude whenever he could. It is a very small rocky island with nothing on it apart from the cross and is only accessible at low tide. The ruins of the Priory, and St Mary's Church on Lindisfarne are in the background.



# **COFFEE IN THE BISHOP'S GARDEN**

*[BY KIND PERMISSION of the Bishop of Chester]*

**TUESDAY 7th. June 2016**

**6.30 pm.**

**IN THE GARDEN OF  
BISHOPS HOUSE,  
ABBEY SQUARE, CHESTER.**

**Tickets £1.**

**Stalls & Raffle  
Refreshments & Entertainment**

The proceeds will be donated to The Children's Society. Charity Reg. No. 221124.

## **Lord for the Years**

Lord, for the years your love has kept and guided,  
urged and inspired us, cheered us on our way,  
sought us and saved us, pardoned and provided:  
Lord for the years, we bring our thanks today.

# CHRISTLETON VILLAGE SHOW

Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> July 2016, 2 pm



Do you grow, or sew? Can you make, or bake? Whether you cook, or just want to look, the Show needs your support! Classes for flowers, art, crafts, produce, photography, and more. You could win a trophy! Enjoy delicious home-made refreshments, and enter the raffle for some great prizes!

Held in the Parish Hall, and open to all ages and abilities.

Schedules and entry forms available from Drakes Hairdressers, Christleton Village Stores, Ring O' Bells, or download from [www.christleton.org.uk](http://www.christleton.org.uk)

## RSPB Chester Group June Events



Sun. 12 June: Coach trip to two Yorkshire reserves. Striking scenery along the way on this two-centre coach trip to RSPB Old Moor reserve then YWT's Potteric Carr reserve. Award-winning cafes, as well as accessible paths to view a variety of birds and habitats. Some tickets still available at £16. To book, phone Viv on 01244 400433 Newcomers and beginners welcome. For more details, phone Viv or see our website [www.rspb.org.uk/groups/chester](http://www.rspb.org.uk/groups/chester) or Facebook page [www.facebook.com/RSPB Chester](http://www.facebook.com/RSPB Chester)



A group from St James went on a retreat at the end of April to Northumberland. See the front cover for the statue of Saint Aiden in the grounds of the Priory on nearby Holy Island (or Lindisfarne). Aiden came there in 634 to start the Christian community on the island. See also the back cover for a group photo at the retreat house and one on St Cuthbert's Isle at Lindisfarne where St Cuthbert often sought solitude at high tide with St Mary's Church and the ruins of the 13th Century Benedictine Priory in the background. Some words from Tina Lightfoot:

Retreat to Northumbria: reflections ....

The Northumbria Community is a new monastic dispersed community who follow a rule of life, that of, availability and vulnerability. Their worship is based on the Celtic tradition of worship and spirituality. Their Mother House is called Nether Springs in Northumbria where all are welcome. 12 members of our congregation travelled the 200+ miles to the centre for a retreat. Each had different expectations or none of their time on retreat and the emphasis was very much on doing what seems right for the individual. We were encouraged to join in the three offices of the day together with compline if we felt inclined but otherwise we

were free to read, reflect, walk or simply sleep.

The nearest village to the centre is Felton just off the A1 south of Alnwick. The buildings are relatively new and well appointed. We were certainly kept warm and comfortable. There were some lovely walks in the surrounding area and within the grounds of the centre itself. For those who wished to spend their time reading there was a superb library with books on all aspects of religion, spirituality and ethics.

As hardy north-westerners, we all opted to walk in one direction or another the first morning. God threw everything at us weather wise, I kid you not. We had 20 mile/hour northerly winds which delivered rain, hail, sleet and snow in equal measure and even thunder and lightning!!!! Despite the weather, we were still able to enjoy the beauty of the spring wild flowers including bluebell woods. Most spent the afternoon reading, writing or sleeping but five continued to walk and one even went for a cycle ride (despite the weather).

The group went to Holy Island the next day. The retreat had been planned precisely to coincide with favourable tides. We were expecting more of the same weather-wise so were well prepared to face the elements. As it turned out, we were rewarded for our endurance the day before with a clear blue sky, brilliant sunshine and a slightly diminished wind speed (still northerly though). Some of us who hadn't visited the island before were expecting it to be slightly more desolate with a sense of solitude. The reality is that there are many dwellings, shops, pubs and restaurants on the island and even on a Wednesday in the middle of April there were hundreds of visitors. That said, the views were superb, the wildlife fascinating and the company excellent.

Each of the twelve of us that came on retreat will take home a different experience. That is the whole nature of a retreat. We certainly all experienced the rhythm of Celtic prayer and the Celtic tradition and had plenty of opportunity for quiet reading, prayer and reflection away from the hustle and bustle of our daily lives. (Tina Lightfoot)  
Judges 1:15 (King James' Bible)

## Serendipity

In our trips round France we had many surprises. One time travelling on a rural roads from A to B we passed through a village with a restaurant. At 11-30 we thought it too early to eat. Each successive village did not have so much as a bar. At 2-00 as we abandoned thoughts of eating, my wife said "What I would like is a plate of egg and chips". Then we saw something we had never seen before or since, a lay-by with a sign saying Egg and Chips' We pulled in and there was a caravan with plastic tables and chairs outside. After a plate of egg and chips and a glass of red wine out of a plastic barrel we went on our way.

Another time on a Motorway and deciding it was time to stop for the night we pulled in and booked a hotel in the next town. This happened to be St Quentin. We checked in to the hotel and asked where we could eat, we were told to go to the end of the street as there were plenty of places round the beach. The beach !! we were in the middle of France. The street ended in the Town Hall square which was full of tons and tons of sand. There were people sitting in deck chairs, small children in bathing costumes making sand castles, there were slides, a large paddling pool as well as ice cream stalls and a stage. A fair representation of a sea side beach.

We ate and decided to walk as far as the Cathedral to see if there was a concert, there was but it was nearly over, we did find out however that a firework display would take place at the town hall [The Marie] at 9 o'clock. We went there nobody, around, but at 9 o'clock three men arrived one with a big drum and two with satchels. The man with the drum started beating it and walked off down a side street the other men took Roman candles out of the satchels and set them off, we followed. It was like the Pied Piper. By the time we reached the venue at the Cathedral we were quite a crowd. There we found a stage with about twenty drummers who started beating rhythms, at the same time fireworks behind them started to go off. This went on for about 1 ¾ hours.

On our way to Alsace we decided to stop at Rheims to see the famous Cathedral clock. After checking into the hotel we drove into the city and parked. Walking up the main street we met a parade coming towards us. After the more normal band and procession there came

four beautiful Percheron horses line abreast pulling a large cart with a wooden framework on it. This contained a carillon with a man sitting at the key board punching out tunes. At the back of the frame was a large bell which a man walking behind was tolling. Then followed a pack of hounds with a master of fox hounds in a red coat. That was followed by a horse drawn cage with a frightened looking hind in it, next was a hunting party in period costume the ladies riding side saddle. The rest of the procession was more normal until we saw all of the city's clergy including the Bishop with his crook and wearing his mitre. It turned out there was to be a service to commemorate Joan of Arc in the Cathedral.

The most spectacular of all was when we saw a sign to 'The Cave'. Following that we ended up at what later turned out to be the Gouffre de Proumexsac 'The 'Cathedrale de Christal' one of Frances most spectacular caves. It was first written about in the 18th century when it was referred to la Cru [the hole] it was then considered to be a bottomless pit and attempts were made to cover it. In 1907 following a collapse an intrepid well digger was lowered into the hole using a basket lowered on a rope and saw the magnificent crystal formations. More people visited the cave using the same system and it developed into a tourist attraction. By the time we got there a tunnel had been driven to the bottom of the cave so that visitors could enter on foot the cave was equipped with new high-performance lighting and a sound system, both computer-controlled. There were reception buildings which included a museum, book shop, bar, souvenir shops and exhibition rooms all completed in the mid 1970's

The original basket and rope had been replaced by a bucket lowered by an electric winch and we chose to enter that way Only three persons were allowed in the bucket Jean myself and the man operating the winch. We descended down a dark shaft and entered the cave some 50 m above the floor, as we were slowly lowered a music and light show started up illuminating all the stalagmites and stalactites. In the cave bottom were crystal lined pools in which small cups and saucers had been placed gradually being coated with crystal. These were sold on the shop. We had to walk out of the cavern up the tunnel. A spectacular experience!

Ben Williams

## **Samaritan's Purse launches Turn on the Tap Campaign for South Sudan**

Samaritan's Purse has launched an urgent appeal to provide clean water to over 35,000 people in desperate need in South Sudan. Angelina is just one of many thousands whom Samaritan's Purse plans to help. Along with her family of ten children, she moved into a camp for internally displaced people in Abiemnhom County, South Sudan. Now she must walk for six hours in intense heat on dangerous terrain to collect dirty water from a river. She risks being attacked and beaten on each journey.

With an estimated 55,000 internally displaced people across Mayom and Abiemnhom counties in Unity State, overcrowding and overuse of clean water sources has led to one third of existing hand pump wells breaking down. So Samaritan's Purse plans to rehabilitate and install 70 wells in this region, for people who currently have no choice but to drink dirty water. To achieve their goal Samaritan's Purse needs to raise £525,000 by 30th June.

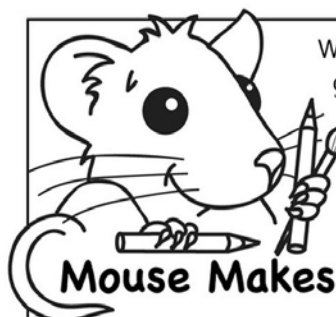
More details and free resource pack: [www.turnonthetap.org.uk](http://www.turnonthetap.org.uk)

## **Christian persecution in Sri-Lanka continues**

Attacks against Christians in Sri Lanka have continued, following the change of government in 2015. A growing number of cases are now linked to local government officials and also to Buddhist monks, who continue to be at the forefront of the persecution.

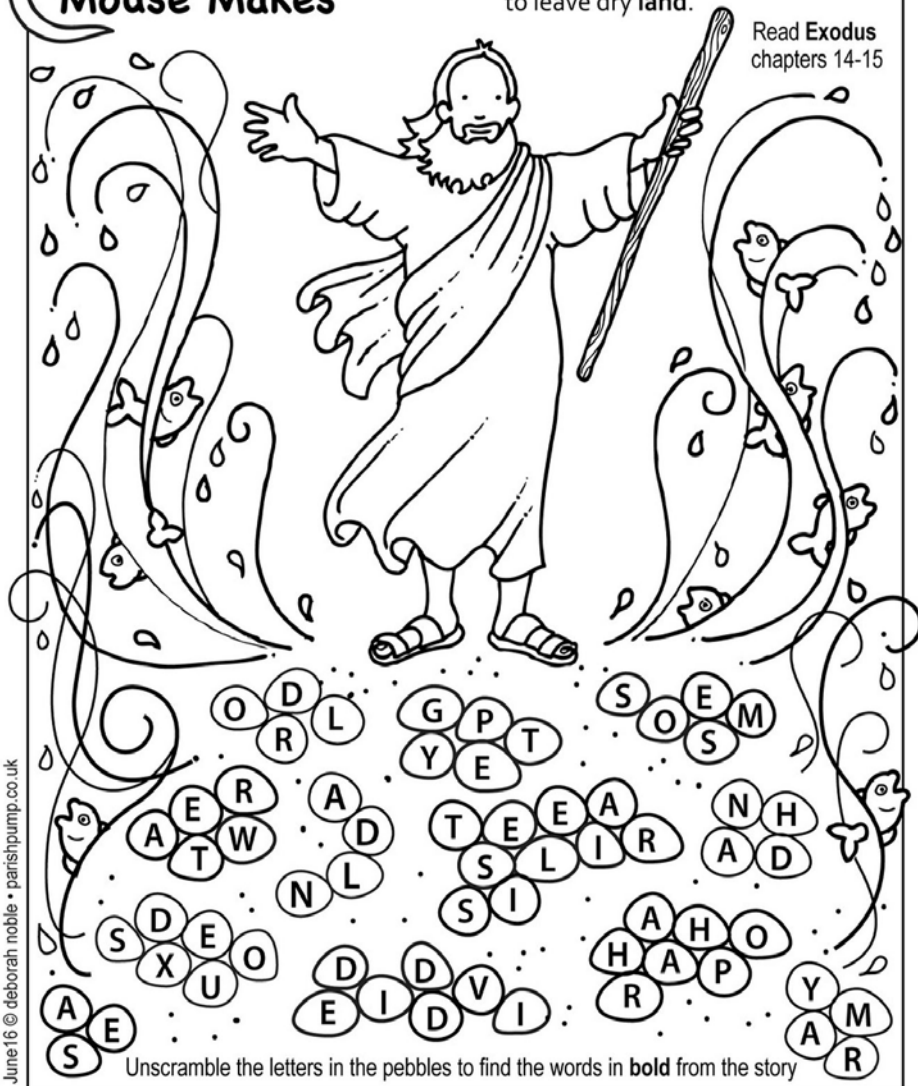
Officials have been closing churches and prayer meetings. 'Miriam' is a human rights lawyer in Sri Lanka. She says: 'We have documented more than 120 incidents since the election in 2015. ... This is very concerning.' In recent years, there have been upwards of 450 documented acts of violence against Christians, including arson and murder. Christians make up about 7 per cent of the population.






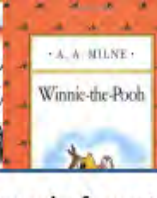




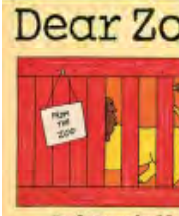
When **Pharoah**, the King of **Egypt**, let the **Israelites** go free, God led them across the desert to the **sea**. But Pharoah changed his mind and came after them with his **army**. The Israelites were terrified and cried out to the **Lord** for help. **Moses** told them, "*Do not be afraid*". He held his hand out over the sea and the **water** divided to leave dry land.

Read **Exodus** chapters 14-15



Unscramble the letters in the pebbles to find the words in **bold** from the story



BBQ

Performance Poetry

'Bedtime Stories' Fancy Dress

Traditional Games Music Entertainment

Parade from the Village Green 1.00pm



**PENGUIN BOOKS**

FICTION

**CHRISTLETON'S B.F.F.**  
 (Big Friendly Fete)  



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**PRIMARY SCHOOL PLAYING FIELD**  


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**Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> June 1.30pm**

FICTION







Admission: Family £5; Adult £2; Child/OAP £1; Under 5s Free


Raffle

Café

Prosecco Bar

Spitting Feathers Bar





## THE SAINT & THE MONSTER

St Columba, whose feast day is 9th June, was born in Ireland and came to Scotland to be a 'pilgrim for Christ'. He founded a monastery on the island of Iona in 563. The monastery at Iona became a centre of learning and many missionaries were trained there. Columba carried the message of God's love throughout Scotland and monks from his monastery carried the message into England.

St Columba wrote a number of hymns and is said to have transcribed, or written out by hand, some 300 books in his lifetime.

And what has he got to do with a monster? Well, it wasn't the Loch Ness monster but a monster that was living in the River Ness. St Columba is said to have driven away this monster who was attacking a swimmer, with the sign of the cross and the words "Thou shalt go no further, nor touch the man; go back with all speed."

## MONSTER MUNCHIES

75 g (3 oz) margarine  
3 normal size Mars Bars  
(thinly sliced)  
3 large tea cups Rice Crispies  
100 g (4 oz) chocolate cake  
covering (melted)



Grease and line a swiss roll tin. In a heavy based saucepan, gently melt the margarine. Add the Mars Bar pieces and stir until no lumps are left.

Take the pan off the heat and stir in the Rice Crispies – adding more if the mixture will take it. Spread the mixture in the tin and press it down evenly with the back of a spoon.

Cover with the melted chocolate and leave to set. Cut into 24 bars when cold – or cut into less

bars if you are feeding a very greedy monster!

How does a monster count to 17?



On it's fingers.

# Parish Registers

## Holy Baptisms

- 17 April 2016 Zachary Harry Wright Son of Jonathan and Joanne Wright (12 Mallory Walk, Doddleston)
- 01 May 2016 Alfie Flynn Smythe Son of Michael John and Amy Victoria Kathleen Smythe (1 Brickfield Lane, Littleton)
- 01 May 2016 Ava Joy Broadwood Daughter of Andrew Arthur and Carly Ann Broadwood (14 Haslin Crescent, Christleton)
- 01 May 2016 James Mark Antony Bartram Son of Mark William and Alana Juliet Francesca Bartram (1 Bridge Drive, Christleton)

## Funerals

- 13 April 2016 Ronald Henry (Ron) McClure- 135 Queens Road, Vicars Cross
- 14 April 2016 Fiona Nina Mary (Nina) Phillips-26 Roadside, Whitchurch Road, Christleton

## **THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTION TO THE NEW BOILER SYSTEM AT ST. JAMES**

The Appeal for a new Boiler System has generated over £8000 in just over five months and we thank all those who have contributed to this important project. We have also received a legacy which will contribute towards the Boiler Fund and also have applied for a grant from the Ursula Keyes Trust.

All in all, we hope to have the best part of £20000 for this important work. It is great to know that the new boiler system has been installed, and that the old boiler system continued to keep our church warm over the winter period. Thank you all for your continued support to St. James.

John Pearson

## 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)
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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.

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
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	336544
Churchwardens:	Tina Lightfoot Bettie Gilliatt	07557 352592 335645
Deputy Wardens:	Chris Platel	332466
Verger:	John Milton	325529
Sacristan:	Betty Dunning	335652
Organist:	Vacant	
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:	Betty Gilliatt	335645
Electoral Roll Officer:	Brenda Bailey	335034
Churches Together Representative:	Jan Bowden	335705
Parish Safeguarding Co-ordinator:	The Rector	335663
Messy Church:	Rev'd Malcolm Cowan	335663
CREW Youth Group:	Mike & Tina Lightfoot	328436
Church Library:	Valmai Griffiths	335884
Church Flowers:	Olive Hammond	336562
Bellringers' Secretary:	Nikki Dromgoole	351124
Parish Hall Bookings:	Janet Milton	325529
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 'Retreat' group in front of the Northumbrian Community house enjoying the sunshine.



St Cuthbert's Isle where St Cuthbert (635-687) sought solitude whenever he could.

## **A Canticle for Brother Sun**

Praised be You, My Lord, in all Your creatures, Especially Sir Brother Sun,  
Who makes the day and enlightens us through You. He is lovely and radiant  
and grand; And he heralds You, his Most High Lord.  
St Francis of Assisi

*June 2016 @ St. James, Church Christleton*