

St. James' Christleton



PARISH MAGAZINE

March 2015

www.christleton.org.uk

35p

Mark in March

Second Sunday in Lent

Sun	1	8.00 am	Holy Communion CW - followed by Breakfast in Parish Hall
		10.45 am	Sunday Club - Parish Hall
		10.45 am	Holy Communion CW
Mon	2	6.30 pm	Evening Worship CW
		2.00 pm	Mothers Union - Parish Hall
		10.45 am	Holy Communion at Oaklands Nursing Home
Tues	3	11.20 am	Holy Communion at Tarvin Court Nursing Home
		7.30 pm	Churches Together Lent House Group at 'Sandheys', Plough Lane
		10.45 am	United Holy Communion - followed by refreshments
Wed	4	2.00 pm	Churches Together Lent House Group at 'The Chestnuts', Quarry Lane
		10.00 am	Churches Together Lent House Group at St Werburgh's, Chester
		12 noon	Churches Together in Christleton
Fri	6	6.30 pm	Lent Lunch - Methodist Church
			Choir practice

Third Sunday of Lent

Sun	8	8.00 am	Holy Communion
		10.45 am	Holy Communion CW
		3.30 pm	Rt Rev Libby Lane installed as Bishop of Stockport at Chester Cathedral
Tues	10		No evening service at St James
		7.30 pm	Churches Together Lent House Group at 'Sandheys', Plough Lane
		10.45 am	Holy Communion - St James followed by refreshments
Wed	11	11.30 am	Holy Communion at Birch Heath Lodge
		2.00 pm	Churches Together Lent House Group at 'The Chestnuts'
		10.00 am	Churches Together Lent House Group at St Werburgh's, Chester
Fri	13	6.30 pm	Choir Practice

NB: Last date for contributions for April Magazine to Janet Milton (335469). Earlier if possible please. You can attach your Word document and e-mail to: christletonmag@hotmail.co.uk

Fourth Sunday of Lent - Mothering Sunday

Sun	15	8.00 am	Holy Communion CW
		10.45 am	Morning Worship - CW
		4.00 pm	Messy Church - Parish Hall
		6.30 pm	Evening Worship - BCP
Mon	16	12.30 pm	Monthly Luncheon Club -Parish Hall
Tues	17	7.30 pm	Churches Together Lent House Group at 'Sandheys', Plough Lane
Wed	18	10.45 am	Holy Communion BCP - St James followed by refreshments
		2.00 pm	Churches Together Lent House Group at 'The Chestnuts', Quarry Lane
Thur	19	10.00 am	Churches Together Lent House Group at St. Werburgh's, Chester
Fri	20	6.30 pm	Choir Practice

Fifth Sunday of Lent

Sun	22	8.00 am	Holy Communion CW
		10.45 am	Morning Prayer CW
		10.45 am	Sunday Club- Parish Hall
		6.30 pm	Holy Communion CW
Mon	23	7.30 pm	PCC Meeting - St James
Tues	24	7.30 pm	Churches Together Lent House Group at 'Sandheys', Plough Lane
Wed	25	10.45 am	Annunciation Holy Communion BCP- followed by refreshments
		2.00 pm	Churches Together Lent House Group at 'The Chestnuts', Quarry Lane
Thur	26	10.00 am	Churches Together Lent House Group at St Werburgh's, Chester

Palm Sunday

Sun	29	8.00 am	Holy Communion CW
			Procession from Littleton to St James with Donkey – see Notice Sheet for details
			Liturgy of Palms
			Holy Communion - CW
		10.45 am	Sunday Club - Parish Hall
		6.30 pm	See Notice Sheet for details

Message from our Rector



Much debate and discussion has taken place in recent weeks regarding Mitochondrial replacement therapy. This is the process whereby up to 13 of 23,000 human genes are replaced as medical science seeks to replace faulty genes with healthy genes from a third person.

For some, they see this as interfering with the natural process of reproduction, whilst for others it is an opportunity to replace genes which would cause life limiting or other serious illness.

The Church of England is not in favour of the procedure, as the Ethics committee of the Church of England consider that further research is needed before they give their blessing to the process.

In the heat of the discussions and debates, my view is that we need to step back and focus on what is being offered. Each person is precious in the sight of God, and we do need to recognise the value and worth of each person, however, if there is a possibility of enabling someone to be born, free of serious illness, should we not at least be willing to explore the possibility.

This, in my view is not “designer babies” we would not allow screening for determining the colour of a babies hair, or eyes. It is of course an emotive subject and each of us will hold our own views of the subject, but if we are able to take that step back, we may be able to relate this to Scripture and the actions of Jesus.

We read in so many places in Scripture of people bringing the sick to Jesus hoping for healing and wholeness. I have no doubt that many of those who were brought to Jesus would have been suffering with illnesses and ailments consistent with first century people, but (and yes, there is always a but) I believe that some must have been suffering from genetic defects and disabilities, it's almost impossible for that not to be the case.....and yet, Jesus didn't screen out those who had such conditions and healed the rest.

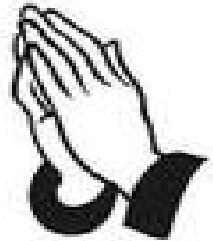
The Jesus I read of in Scripture and see living in the real world is a Jesus who touched the sick and cured them of whatever was limiting them and preventing them from living fully.

God gives us the ability to do great things and the advances in medical research I believe are part of the wonderful gift of God.

In our lifetime there have been so many wonderful advances, in medical science, eradication of Smallpox, advances in Cancer treatment, even relatively minor illnesses which would have been fatal just a few years ago, are now treated quite easily.

So I accept we need to tread carefully but I also believe we should welcome advances in medical science and for those who may benefit we give thanks and rejoice.

Your faithful servant,
Malcolm.



Giving:

At a Wednesday evening church meeting a very wealthy man rose to give his testimony. "I'm a millionaire," he said, "and I attribute it all to the rich blessings of God in my life. I can still remember the turning point in my faith, like it was yesterday:

I had just earned my first dollar and I went to a church meeting that night. The speaker was a missionary who told about his work. I knew that I only had a dollar bill and had to either give it all to God's work or nothing at all. So at that moment I decided to give my whole dollar to God. I believe that God blessed that decision, and that is why I am a rich man today."

As he finished it was clear that everyone had been moved by this man's story. But, as he took his seat, a little old lady sitting in the same pew leaned over and said: "Wonderful story! I dare you to do it again!"

WHAT'S ON THIS MONTH

SUNDAY CLUB

Held in the Parish Hall from 10.45 am – 11.45 am each Sunday during term-time, except when Family Service is held at St James. For further details please contact Berenice Kirwan, 336779.

CHRISTLETON METHODIST CHURCH

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

CHRISTLETON W. I.

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



CHESTER FLOWER CLUB

Meetings are held in Christleton Parish Hall on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 1.30pm. Details of any events can be obtained from the Secretary, Mrs Lilian Hopley. Telephone Chester: 676683.

MAGAZINE CONTRIBUTIONS

Please ensure all items for inclusion in the **April** edition are sent to Janet Milton (325529), as soon as possible **BEFORE Friday 13th March** or you can e-mail this to: christletonmag@hotmail.co.uk OR christletonmag@spraff.net

MAGAZINE DISTRIBUTORS

The **April** magazine will be available for collection from Church on **Sunday 29th March.**

Nature Notes

Woodpeckers seem to be the star bird of the month, with active drumming heard in many places across the parish, and sightings of lesser spotted woodpeckers at Hockenhull. Great spotted woodpeckers are almost certainly the ones being seen and heard everywhere. They are large and colourful, and their drumming is unmistakable. I even saw two green woodpeckers whilst walking on Bickerton Hill recently, and had excellent views of them, one upright, drumming on the trunk of a silver birch, another foraging for insects in the short grass.



Wintering blackcaps have also appeared in gardens, the male with a dark black patch on its head, the female, a light chocolate brown colour patch. We've also had parties of up to seven long tailed tits at our feeders, as well as the usual numbers of house sparrows. Travelling through Great Boughton yesterday at dusk I caught a brief glimpse of a huge cloud of starlings, turning and swirling in the sky above Boughton Hall. There were probably a few thousand or so, described in the birding world as a murmuration, a kind of bird ballet in the skies and it made a really spectacular sight as I drove home. Birds of prey have also been out in force, with tawny, barn and little owls being active.

Buzzards and kestrels also seem to be more numerous and a red kite was spotted over Pearl Lane twice in January. It's very pleasing to see the return of kestrels as these smaller birds of prey once regularly seen hovering over roads and motorways have been taken over numerically

by buzzards in the last ten years. There are at least three pairs in the Parish now, which as I've said earlier is a welcome return. It also shows that in 2014 there must have been a huge explosion in their food source, shrews, mice and voles, which has also led to an increase in the owl population. DC

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Jan 18 - 25, 2015

This year's theme for the week was prepared by the churches of Brazil, where there is an ever-increasing intolerance of, and violence towards, minorities and vulnerable people. They chose the title *The Well is Deep*, and concentrated on the passage from St John's gospel (John 4: 1- 42) in which Jesus meets the woman from Samaria (very much an outsider) and asks for water from her well. He teaches us to see the face of God in all people, whoever they are.

In the past, Churches Together in Christleton have organised small gatherings for each day, led by representatives from our churches. This year we decided to do something different: we invited the churches in Waverton to join us and each day at 12 noon, a coming-together, a time of reflection and worship took place in a different church – St James; Christleton Methodists; Waverton Evangelical Fellowship; St Peters Waverton and Rowton Methodists. There was opportunity afterwards for much chat and laughter and meeting-up with friends old and new over a cup of tea or coffee. And we finished the week with our United service at 6pm on the Sunday.

We thank sincerely all those members of the clergy who led these sessions for us, and in particular Fr Paul, whose idea it was in the first place!

Bible Verse:

Jude 1:20: "But you, beloved, build yourselves up in your most holy faith and pray in the Holy Spirit."

**Churches Together
in
Christleton
LENT LUNCH
(Inc. homemade soup)**

Thursday 5th March,

12 noon – 1.30 p.m.

Methodist Schoolroom

Proceeds to Christian Aid

Imp. Dates in Lent

Tues 3rd March: 7.30pm: Churches Together Lent house group at 'Sandheys', Plough Lane. Led by Rev Barbara King. 2nd in series of 5. See sign up lists in church.

Wed 4th March: 2.00pm: Churches Together Lent house group at 'The Chestnuts', Quarry Lane. Led by Sheila Roberts. 2nd in series of 5. See sign up lists in church.

Thur 5th March: 10.00am: Churches Together Lent house group at St Werburgh, Chester. Led by Rev Christine Dutton. 2nd in series of 5. See sign up lists in church.

Tues 10th March: 7.30pm: Lent house group at 'Sandheys'. 3rd in series of 5.

Wed 11th March: 2.00pm: Lent house group at 'The Chest-nuts'. 3rd in series of 5.

Thur 12th March: 10.00am: Lent house group at St Werburgh. 3rd in series of 5.

Tues 17th March: 7.30pm: Lent house group at 'Sandheys'. 4th in series of 5.

Wed 18th March: 2.00pm: Lent house group at 'The Chest-nuts'. 4th in series of 5.

Thur 19th March: 10.00am: Lent house group at St Werburgh. 4th in series of 5.

Tues 24th March: 7.30pm: Lent house group at 'Sandheys'. Last in series of 5.

Wed 25th March: 2.00pm: Lent house group at 'The Chest-nuts'. Last in series of 5.

Thur 26th March: 10.00am: Lent house group at St Werburgh. Last in series of 5.

Start a fire

A fire crackling away in the hearth has often been thought of as the 'heart of a home,' and now it seems that it is demonstrably good for your own heart, too. A recent study has found that the flickering flames, combined with the crackle of burning logs and warmth, possess a hypnotic calming effect on people, and lower blood pressure. Fires can also 'cement' the bond between people, according to a biological anthropologist writing in *Evolutionary Psychology*.

Christleton Wednesday Group

Soup and Sweet Spring Lunch

on

Wednesday 25th March

In

Christleton Parish Hall

At 12.00 Noon.

Tickets £10 available from members

or

phone 01244336644

(Includes a glass of wine)

In aid of LIVE!

At New Scene Youth Centre

History Group Talk

Christleton Primary School 7.30pm

Wednesday 25th March

Speaker David Cummings

The Story of A Street

Bridge Street in Chester over 2,000years.

David has studied the area of Bridge Street & the Old Port of Chester over a forty year period, and will use his knowledge of the area to show the hidden secrets of the street.

He will be using archive material including engravings, photographs & paintings to illustrate his story.

Talk for Christian Aid

Saturday 28th March. 7.00pm at the Parish Hall
David Cummings presents

“Wales through the Seasons”

A spectacular evening's entertainment looking at the wild-life & scenery of the mountains, the wonderful coastline, superb cities and beautiful gardens, from the snows of Snowdonia to puffins in Pembrokeshire.

Admission £6;

Refreshments include special cake /coffee or tea. Raffle
All proceeds towards the work of Christian Aid.

Tickets from David 332410

or

from the back of St James' Church.



THE MONTHLY
CHRISTLETON

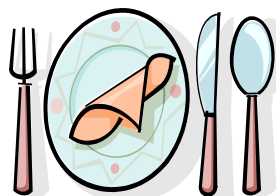
**LUNCHEON
CLUB**

IN PARISH HALL

From 12 noon for 12.30 serving:

FREE lunch
(donations
welcome)

**Monday
16th March**



All welcome, but please book a place by calling:

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

(Transport can be arranged for those that need it - just ask.)

The PCC

How often do you get a note from the PCC?

Read on as things may be changing. Change? Don't worry, nothing too dramatic! Unfortunately, a heavy personal workload meant that Mark Evans had to stand down as Parochial Church Council (PCC) Secretary in January, and I have now been 'adopted' in his place. The next PCC meeting is March 23rd, and generally it meets every 2 months. Together with the Rector and the two Churchwardens the PCC runs the church.

There are also Annual Church Meetings - a short Meeting of the Parishioners (or Vestry Meeting) open to all parish residents and all church members which is concerned with the election of the two Churchwardens, and the main Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) open only to church members which immediately follows and is concerned with everything else - elections to the PCC and other roles, reports on aspects, activities and finance of the church, reviews, plans for the future, and time for questions and answers as appropriate.

This year the Annual Church Meetings are on Sunday 26th April at 12 noon in the church. You are invited to be there. If you are not a church member and wish to stay for the APCM then there is still time to get onto the Electoral Roll, but talk ASAP to Brenda Bailey, Tel: 335034, as there will be a cut off date to allow for the revision and public display of the list. The 'change' I mentioned relates to trying to communicate with you about what the PCC is doing on a regular basis in this magazine - a readable summary from the minutes perhaps. Also we wish to invite reports from various church groups to be given out before and at the annual meeting. If you lead a church group of any sort then please send me a short report telling us what

you've been doing over the last year, successes, problems, needs, and plans for the future, and this will be given out in a pack of reports. Best if reports can be limited to 1 side of A4 or less, and definitely not more than 2 sides. Make them interesting and readable, even a photo if it helps (but these may be copied by us in black and white), and submit to me by email please. Send as a Word or PDF document by 1st April, or discuss other options with me.

Well that's a start! Remember that the PCC with the Clergy and Churchwardens want St James' Church to thrive and to do God's will here in Christleton, Cotton Abbots, Cotton Edmunds, Littleton and Rowton, and to have a positive spiritual influence in these communities. So please pray for all those who serve this church and give them your input. Thank you. *Brian Inall (Tel: 336500; email: brian@inall.co.uk)*

A note for your diary

Christleton Village Show 2015

Is on Saturday 11th of July
In Christleton Parish Hall

This year the show theme will be 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 should be available shortly 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 fa-

miliar 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 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 Linda 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 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.

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN CHRISTLETON

A Coffee Morning to plan the rota for the 'Summer Teas' (June – September inclusive) will be held at the Methodist Church on Thursday 26 March at 10.30 am.

New team members most welcome.

NEW ARRIVALS

Congratulations to Emma and James, recently moved to Birch Heath Lane, on the arrival of a third son, Henry born on 21 January – a brother for Joseph and Dylan.

Also, congratulations to Justine and Chris, from The Park, on the arrival of baby Olivia on 23 January – a sister for Jessie and Tom. Best wishes to both families from their neighbours in Christleton.

Churches

- A. The church a quiet sentinel stands, the work of many prayerful hands. A constant monument to God's good grace. Each in its own appointed place.
- B. And whether full or nearly bare, for those who seek and those who care, they offer hope and quiet peace. Where troubled souls can find release.
- C. And some are large and some are small, some are short and some are tall, each with its own quite different charm. Inside we all feel free from harm.
- D. They stand a willing hopeful prayer, for all to see, feel and share. A gracious building to God alone, wherein we sinful can atone.
- E. A place where hope and joy with tears and prayer, can lead to life's fulfilling care. Wherein life's building blocks are found, within these walls on hallowed ground.
- F. There never was, there never will be safer buildings free from ill. Than churches rooted firm and stout, keeping want and trouble out. *By Neville Williams*

CATHEDRAL ORGAN APPEAL

It is many years since the organ was refurbished and it is now time for it to be done again. Everyone can take part by sponsoring a pipe.

Amounts range from a very small one to a very large one with the advantage of Gift Aid.

Further details can be obtained from the Cathedral.

First Born

The first baby born in Chester on VE Day was a son for Mrs Hodgson, Holly Cottage, Christleton, who arrived at 2.15 a.m. in the Chester Nursing Home in Stanley Place.

Bible Verse: Psalm 118:25 - Save now, I beseech thee, O LORD: O LORD, I beseech thee, send now prosperity.



2015

LENT GROUPS

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

There will be sessions on:

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

Each for 5 weeks. Choose whichever suits you.

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

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

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

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

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



The Quiet Life

The phrase “quiet life” suggest one of rest, or being silent. But as Christians we are supposed to show zeal and passion for the Christ we serve. Taken literally in our terms, being “quiet” is in conflict with proclaiming the gospel.

The word “quiet” refer to sound, although the Greek meaning highlight an underlying theme of tranquility of spirit. So being quiet doesn’t mean we sit in our pews without any opinion but instead exercise Self-control which is one of the fruits of the Spirit, and when exercised, our lives will be characterized by an inner strength and peace that Paul is referring to in Acts 17. Non-Christians should be able to see Christians as being at peace in times of conflict, not given to outbursts of anger, criticism, or violence.

Love will always open more doors than anger or exorbitant emotion. Passion is essential if we are to be solid Christians, but there are also three little letters and another word that can come before that word - that will make a world of difference and they are **EMPATHY** and **COMpassion**. When Jesus saw the multitudes, He felt COMpassion! If we are to seek the quiet life, we must first seek compassion for God’s desire in our life, the needs of others, as well as for our own needs. Empathy is the capacity to place oneself in another’s shoes. Now I know that most of the time, If we get too involved or too passionate about doing something over self-control, we end up pushing people further away than they were when we started.

The peace and quiet that we desire in our lives cannot exist unless we maintain a proper distinction between true loving concern for our brothers’ welfare and pure opinion-based busybodyness. In Thessalonica, some of the people within the church had quit working altogether in order to be ready for Christ’s immediate return, or they had given up looking for work because of the persecution that came with being a Christian. This was going against Christ’s teaching, because simply put, if a man didn’t work, he didn’t eat. Failing to provide for one’s

family makes one worse than an unbeliever (I Timothy 5:8). It is important for each of us to do our part in building up the body of Christ, but it isn't important to get into details and specifics. That's not what Christ seeks. He wants people to know who He is and how they can become involved in a relationship with Him, In Matthew 6:1-6, Christ talks about the giving of alms and prayers in secret, not seeking glory as the hypocrites did which some of us are guilty of - Jesus talked about hypocrisy a lot and here is a list:

- Giving to the poor to be recognized by others (Matt6:2)
- Praying in public to be recognized as "God's man"(Matt 6:5)
- Letting everybody know you are fasting to get recognition by others (Matt 6:16)
- Complaining about other's behavior when yours is even worse.(Matt 7:5)
- Pretending to honor God through lip service only (Luke 6:42)
- Testing other people to try to make yourself look superior (Matt 22:8 ,mark 12:15)
- Deceiving people from knowing God (Matt 22:13)
- Repressing the poor and widows (matt 23:14)
- Teaching proselytes to be hypocrites (Matt 23:15)
- Tithing (giving to the church), but neglecting justice and mercy(Matt 23:23)
- Doing everything for show, while really being self-indulgent and unrighteous (Matt 23:25, 27, 28)
- Treating stock animals better than fellow human beings (Luke 13:15)
- Being able to analyze the weather, but unable to distinguish between right and wrong (Luke 12: 56-57)

People who try to live by the rules think that they can get God's attention by the keeping of rules (waving the right hand wildly). But they don't realize that God can hear the rattle of sin they try to hide.

So I will end by saying The peace and quiet that we desire in our lives and in our community, families and Church cannot exist unless we have a true loving concern for our brothers' welfare by Letting all bitterness and wrath and anger and

clamor and slander be put away from you, with all malice, and be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you. Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God Amen.
Remain Blessed.

The History File

Part 2. The life of Percy Dobie

The Major commanding the Battalion writes

“He was in command of one of the parties detailed to take part in the attack. He led his men with great gallantry across “No Man’s Land” He entered the enemies trench and it was there that he was last seen, wounded about the face, but still fighting three or four Huns single handed. It is quite possible and I hope it may be so, that he is a prisoner of war in German hands.

He is greatly missed in the Battalion. He was a very gallant officer and very popular with the Battalion. We are all deeply grieved about what has happened. I wish to offer you my sincere sympathy and to convey to you the sympathy of all the ranks in the Battalion in this time of great anxiety you are all called on to bear.

The Battalion’s Chaplain’s letter contains similar information but adds; “If the worst has happened, you have at least the comfort of knowing he died heroically, doing his duty like a brave soldier and a true gentleman. He was one of our best officers and we all deeply regret what has happened, but I sincerely hope that your brother is in a German Hospital having his wounds tended and that you will soon hear from him”
“A Report in the Chester Chronicle April 21st 1917”

A telegram has been received from the British Minister at The Hague that the Dutch Minister at Berlin reports that Lieut. Percy Dobie is a prisoner of war in German hands having been seriously wounded.

His life as a Prisoner of War

Percy Dobie was taken prisoner at Arras on 22nd March 1917, and he was wounded in the head; the chin and one eye. In May he was in the military hospital at St Clotilde in Douai and by this point seems to have lost his right eye. He had also been possibly wounded in the back. In July he was at Mainz but in December an eye witness placed him in a military hospital in Hannover. The following month he was repatriated, arriving in Holland on 2 January and in England on the 7 January.

The following citation was noted in the London Gazette in April 1918 Royal Scots Fusiliers.

2nd Lieutenant Percy Dobie to be Lieutenant 22nd April 1918.

Engagement to Miss Winnie Bolton

During our research we have discovered that Percy was engaged to be married to Miss Winifred (Winnie) Bolton from Heathfield Road, Wavertree, Liverpool. Although they remained friends we understand that the marriage didn't go ahead due to his disfigurement and the severe injuries he received during his war service. By complete coincidence Miss Bolton was the great aunt of Alf Croston.

Amy Dobie

During our research we have been hoping to find details of any lady from the Parish who was on active service. From a publication called the Absent Voters list for Christleton in 1919 we have found one, Percy's sister, Amy. This is part of her story.

Sister Amy Dobie Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service Reserve (AIM NRS) Stamford Heath 2, No.6 General Hospital

No.6 General Hospital was sited in Rouen, France from November 1915 – April 1919

The ancient French city of Rouen on the Seine has played a significant role in the two World Wars. In 1940 its capture gave the invading German forces a bridgehead across the Seine and consequently areas near the river were bombed and shelled. In the spring of 1944 Allied aircraft completed the destruction that eventually left 45% of the city in ruins.

Amy did indeed come through her duties at Rouen, and survived the war, returning to Chester to her family. She worshipped at St James' Christleton and married Arthur Steel a widower gentleman there in April 1941 aged 66yrs. No doubt Percy was at the wedding, and as I write I have been told that there are relatives of the family still living in Christleton and that they have a photograph of Percy.

When the Christleton Villages; Great War Voices Project started we had a sheet of paper containing the names of the fallen. The project has now expanded way beyond what we thought possible, and we have lots of human interest stories to tell. We will have another evening talk to tell the story as we know it shortly, and a fully illustrated commemorative book will be published in late June/July. Please can you help!

The only man we know little about, commemorated on the War Memorials in Church and the Institute, but not on the Village War Memorial is Tom or Thomas Smith. As no regiment is listed for him we have few leads to find out about his service record, but a recent search of the Parish Registers indicates that Thomas Smith a baker by trade, lived at Quarry Cottages in 1907, and The Square, Christleton in 1909. If Thomas' name has any significance to anyone reading the magazine please get in touch with me on 332410.



Bible Verse:

"Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry." James 1.19

"My sheep listen to my voice; I know them and they know me."
John 10.27

GEORGE NIETCH

George died in December age 92. After many years as a widower living at Cotton Edmunds, he spent the last few years of his life in a bungalow in Tarvin. His wife Nina had been a Chester Quaker. From the mid 1960's to the mid 1970's, George was the jobbing foreman for Taylor and Addis, the family builders from Becketts Lane, Great Boughton, as they built many family homes in Mickle Trafford and Tarvin.

We arrived in one of these houses in Crossfields, Tarvin in 1969 and still live there. Many families have long since moved and some of the earlier occupants have inevitably passed away. New houses like ours were covered by a so-called insurance scheme with a national building organisation, but with George around for 3 or 4 years after our house was completed we hardly needed it. A quiet word up the road in George's ear as they completed the estate brought the instant response "put the kettle on and I'll be round". And he was, within the hour, even to attend to the most minor defect! Perhaps 30 years passed and Fiona Lee persuaded me to deliver Christian Aid envelopes in the vast expanses of Cotton Edmunds on behalf of St James. On visiting a detached house at the end of the grassy Green Lane, a man slowly appeared tending a few sheep and poultry in his paddock. It was George! Twice a year he reminisced with amazing accuracy about the many people he had befriended while working on our houses in Tarvin. "Before you arrived there I used to pop my Mini pick-up in your garage and your wife made me the best cups of teahow is she?

That would have been that had I not visited Romania twice in 2007 and 2009 (six articles I wrote in the Parish Magazine refer to that). Each visit I stayed most of the time in the city of Sibiu (formerly Hermannstadt) in the heart of Transylvania. Just after the first visit, I bumped into George, told him where I had been, and a gentle tear welled up in his eyes. "Sibiu I don't believe it my village was just a few miles away I don't know if any of my family have survived". More tears. "I was last there in 1944". I had picked up while in Romania that in that

very year Romania changed sides in the Second World War, first fighting FOR the Austro-Hungarian alliance who ruled Transylvania (hence for Nazi Germany), but by August fighting in Allied uniform pushing the Nazi forces away from the Black Sea back towards Hungary, Austria and eastern Germany whence they came.

And George? By a measure of just 6 months he was old enough to have been called up to fight only for the Nazi forces, whereby he eventually ended up in England as a prisoner-of-war. Six months younger and he would have fought as a Romanian for the Allies, finally defeating Nazi Germany, and had a happy family life remaining in Transylvania. Any of us could have been in George's position; a testimony to the futility of history and the inherent stupidity of war. Thank you George both for our family home and for your tiny part in the heritage of the beautiful country that is Romania. Visit for yourselves and think of George. *JOHN CARRUTHERS*

Don't interrupt!

Sir Winston Churchill rehearsed his speeches at every opportunity. A true story about him relates how one morning, when Sir Winston was in his tub, his valet heard his voice above the splashing. Opening the door, he asked; "Were you speaking to me, sir?" "Not at all," Churchill replied, annoyed at the interruption. "I was addressing the House of Commons."

Eric and Sandra Read (with Peter and Atiyyah) write from the Philippines December 2014

Eric and Sandra are CMS (Church Mission Society) mission partners who are working in the Philippines and based on the main southern island of Mindanao. Their vision is to train and mentor local churches/groups, to reach out holistically and practically to local communities, particularly within the context of barriers between different people groups. "Can I hammer a nail now and decorate my bedroom?" After living in rented houses for the past eight years, Atiyyah at last is given the privilege to hammer nails into "our own" walls! In common with most of our neighbours, we chose to have bamboo woven sheets

for outside walls upstairs – but then they started to leak like a sieve when it rained, so we cheated and put some plain sheets behind them! Inside, we just painted the walls and laid down bare smooth cement for flooring. It's so quiet and peaceful with an occasional whiff of the nearby poultry; much easier now to be more focused on how the farm is going and to be a part of a community.

Looking back at our targets, our guava production reached almost 2000 kg in September, and the guavas are tastier now so more easily sold. We have stopped vegetable production, as it was very time consuming with low returns. However, we have started to test the distilling for the citronella oil, which if the results are good others may also plant trees: this will be very useful against mosquito bites. We need to continue to build our support and accountability group for encouragement and so that the community work can go ahead.

The last few months have been hard. Eric's dad became very frail so it was worrying being so far away from Britain: he sadly died in December. Peter is now going to a tutoring centre as he studies for IGCSEs; Atiyyah will join him next year. Eric and his dog, George, helped in a voluntary team to clear up the barangay (Parish Centre). Although the dog has killed half a dozen or more cobras he is unpopular at the moment because he has eaten the neighbour's chickens.

Love and blessings. *Eric, Sandra, Peter and Atiyyah*

Helping youngsters learn good financial habits

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, has welcomed the announcement that the government will fund a pilot programme to help children develop good financial habits at a young age by setting up savings clubs in primary schools in partnership with credit unions. Research indicates that children develop their attitudes towards money long before they reach secondary school age, with the Money Advice Service suggesting that most children have formed their financial habits by the age of seven. The 'LifeSavers' project, which is led by the Archbishop of Canterbury's Task Group on Responsible Credit and Savings, will seek to equip children with good financial habits by educating them about the benefits of saving at an early age.

Parish Registers (March)

The Funeral Service

16th	Betty Bridges	Crawford's Walk Nursing Home	Age 87yrs
21st	Betty Bridges	Crawford's Walk Nursing Home	Age 87yrs (Burial of Cremated Remains)
29th	Francis David Owen	Birch Heath Lodge Nursing Home Village Rd,	81yrs
30th	Robin Douglas Scott Allan	18 Barley Croft, Great Boughton	Age 63yrs
31st	Francis David Owen	Birch Heath Lodge Nursing Home Village Rd,	81yrs (Burial of Cremated Remains)

“Grant them eternal rest”

Offertories

2015	Cash	C.S.E.	2015	2014
4th	171-50	421-00	592-50	838-19
11th	124-60	552-80	677-40	519-89
18th	53-17	320-00	373-17	606-30
25th	235-96	539-45	775-41	636-30
Totals			£2,418-48	£2,600-68

“Of your own do we give you”

Cover Pictures

The Front Cover

Bishop Keith of Birkenhead pictured with Lucius the donkey outside St James on Palm Sunday.

Back Cover

The Bishop meeting the congregation at the start of the walk on Pearl Lane, and leading the Palm Sunday Procession across the fields from Littleton to St James Church’.

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 Sunday)

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.

SHALOM !!!

WHO'S WHO & WHAT'S WHAT

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
	Alan McAllester	335494
Verger:	John Milton	325529
Church Volunteer:	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
Child Protection:	Alistair Holland	332819
Pastoral Worker / Visiting:	Berenice Kirwan	336779
Sunday Club / Messy Church:	Berenice Kirwan	336779
CREW Youth Group:	Mike & Tina Lightfoot	328436
Assisting CREW Youth Group:	Melanie Efobi	336072
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
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)

March 2015



Bishop Keith meeting the congregation
at the start of the walk on Pearl Lane



Bishop Keith leading the Palm Sunday-
Procession across the fields from Littleton
to St James Church

Bible Verse: Psalm 1:1-3 "Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.

March 2015 @ St. James, Church Christleton