

St. James'

Christleton

PARISH MAGAZINE

March 2016

www.christleton.org.uk

MARK IN MARCH

Wed 2 10.45 am United Holy Communion (BCP) - followed by refreshments
 6.00 on Choir Practice

Thur 3 12 noon Churches Together in Christleton
 Lent Lunch - Methodist Church

Sun 6 **Fourth Sunday in Lent - Mothering Sunday**
 8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP) - followed by breakfast in Parish Hall
 10.45 am Morning Worship for Mothering Sunday - followed by refreshments in the Parish Hall
 10.45 am Sunday Club - Parish Hall
 3.30 pm Aspects of Spirituality talk in Parish Hall

No evening service at St James

Mon 7 10.15 am Holy Communion -Oaklands Nursing Home
 11.20 am Holt Communion - Tarvin Court Nursing Home
 2.00 pm Mothers' Union - Parish Hall

Wed 9 10.45 am Holy Communion (BCP) - followed by refreshments
 11.30 am Holy Communion at Birch Heath Lodge
 6.00 pm Choir Practice

Fri 11 **NB: Last date for contributions for April Magazine to Janet Milton(325529). You can attach your Word document and e-mail to: christletonmag@gmail.com**

Sun 13 **Fifth Sunday of Lent**
 8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)
 10.45 am Holy Communion (CW) -followed by refreshments in Parish Hall
 3.30 pm Aspects of Spirituality talk in Parish Hall

No evening service at St James

Mon	14	7.30 pm	PCC Meeting
Wed	16	10.45 am	Holy Communion (BCP) - followed by refreshments
		6.00 p m	Choir Practice
Thur	17	7.30 pm	Fundraising Talk for new Boiler Fund by David Cummings - Parish Hall See Parish Magazine or contact David
Sun	20	Palm Sunday	
		8.00 am	Holy Communion (CW)
		10.45 am	Holy Communion (CW) - followed by refreshments in Parish Hall
		4.00 pm	Messy Church —Parish Hall
		6.00 pm	
		6.30 pm	Evening Worship
Mon	21	12.00 for 12.30 Start	Luncheon Club - Parish Hall
Wed	23	10.45 am	Holy Communion BCP- followed by refreshments
		6.00 pm	Choir Practice
Thur	24	Maundy Thursday	
		7.30 pm	Holy Communion (CW)
Fri	25	Good Friday	
		10.45 am	Morning Worship
		2.00 pm	Devotion
Sat	26	6.30 pm	Easter Vigil
Sun	27	Easter Day	
		8.00 am	Holy Communion (CW)
		10.45 am	Holy Communion (CW)
		6.30 pm	Evensong (BCP)
Wed	30	10.45 am	Holy Communion (BCP) No choir practice today

Message from our Rector



There are some months when inspiration in writing an article for the Parish magazine can literally drop through the front door. This month was one such occasion.

As I was picking up the mail which came tumbling through the letter box and onto the door mat, I saw a card, so called “junk mail” which had also arrived. It offered free legal advice in respect of personal injury, the bold print on the card informed me that “Where there’s blame there’s a claim.”

It made me wonder, how that affects our relationships with each other, afraid to say sorry. Imagine a world without forgiveness, even if only for a short period.

“Sorry” one of the most healing words we can ever hear, or use, would be obsolete. We would never be able to explain our actions because the words we usually use imply we were seeking forgiveness i.e “I didn’t mean to hurt you” “I didn’t think” perhaps even “I might of been more careful” and when we want a quick word with someone, it could be deemed inappropriate to say “Excuse me” as that may imply we are seeking forgiveness for butting in.

Jonathan Sachs former Chief Rabbi said “We need forgiveness”. It’s what helps us sustain our relationships, build marriages that last, stay close to family and faithful to our friends.....the mere fact that we can apologise and be forgiven is one of the most blessed gifts of humanity.....it is underwritten by a certain view of the universe, the belief that God forgives.

It is God’s way of putting right the wrongs of the world. His forgiveness is at the heart of how He deals with us and that is what supports

and reinforces forgiveness in this world's day to day conflicts. Without His forgiveness we could spend all our days trying to do enough good to outweigh the wrongs we have done, or even, just seek to forget the accountability of our lives.

Without forgiveness, or the refusal to forgive, we would find we are living with a huge turmoil inside us. It is only in forgiveness that we can find inner peace. There are some people who think they can live self sufficient lives without God, however, when misfortune strikes and things go wrong- they either end up in despair of themselves, or blaming others, and this is where the blame and compensation culture commences.

As we prepare for Lent and the great Easter celebration, a time when our hearts and minds are concentrated on the Passion, Crucifixion and glorious Resurrection of our Saviour Jesus Christ, the one who bore our sins on the Cross and who made forgiveness a reality for each of us. We must learn to forgive, as we are forgiven.....as our Saviour hung on the Cross, he did not accuse, he did not blame, he did not seek vengeance.....

He said....."Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do".

Your faithful servant,
Malcolm



Front Cover

Christ on the Cross from the East window at St James
designed by Charles E Kempe in 1903

Back Cover

Top - Palm Sunday procession from Littleton to St James in 2012
Bottom - The Crew Youth Group making pancakes at their recent meeting.

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 Club Secretary - 01745 856126.

MAGAZINE CONTRIBUTIONS

Please ensure that all items for inclusion in the **April** edition are sent to **christletonmag@gmail.com** or , if you do not have access to e mail, please give or send them to Janet Milton(325529), as soon as possible **BEFORE Friday March 11th**

MAGAZINE DISTRIBUTORS

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

CONGRATULATIONS

Many congratulations to Jean & Ben Williams who will be celebrating their Diamond Wedding Anniversary on the 3rd. April.

Aspects of Spirituality

On Sunday afternoons during Lent we will be having a series of sessions looking at different ways of expressing spirituality. All but one of the sessions will be in the Parish Hall and begin with refreshments at 3.30 pm followed by a talk for approximately one hour. On these Sundays there will not be an evening service in St James' Church.

14th February

A look at 'Celtic' Christianity Revd Elizabeth Inall

21st February (3.30pm in Church)

Taizè Worship Tina Lightfoot

28th February

Franciscan Spirituality Revd Stephen Southgate

6th March

Evangelical Spirituality Sisters of Jesus Way

13th March

Using Icons Revd Graham Green

All these sessions are free and open to anyone who would like to come!

More information from Elizabeth Inall  01244 336500

The History File

WWI. Hope on the Battlefield

Whilst carrying out work on our WWI project I have been transcribing letters from Rifleman Harold Wynter, which were written to his family back in England. Harold gives a graphic account of life on the front line, and the many trials and tribulations suffered by the ordinary foot soldier. He also writes about his faith, of worship at the front, and how important the celebrations of Christmas & Easter are to him.

Christmas Day 1914

Our Xmas day has of course been quiet, plenty of holly here which grows in the hedgerows, and plenty of good things to eat to remind us of home. The Regimental cooks managed to get us hot Xmas pud for dinner and roast beef and potatoes. We had a short church parade in the morning, and in the afternoon Princess Mary's gifts was distributed, a pipe and tobacco and cigarettes in a gilt box, with the two cards enclosed which I want you to keep carefully for me.

My dear Mother

We have just returned from our Church Parade, and are having the rest of the day to ourselves. The hymns are what you'd expect, "Fight the good fight" "Through the night of doubt and sorrow" "O God our help" and my favourite "Jesus Lover of my soul" The service is short, about 30minutes and then we march back to our billet.

My dear Mother

Easter has come and gone- we spent the whole time in the trenches and a little more. We returned to our billets, a convent in the now historic town. (Ypres) I found your parcel waiting for me, and I was really pleased to get the Hot Cross Buns, if only as a remembrance of old Easter times. I think I was the only one of the company to get a parcel, so I shared them round my immediate circle, before we rolled up in our blankets and fell asleep on the stone floor.

My dear Mother

Today is Sunday and of course we had the usual Church Parade. It is quite an institution in the Army, and I have been to them in some extraordinary places, but today, in a peaceful and beautiful country, it was held in a leisurely and dignified manner in a large field surrounded by tall poplar trees. I think all appreciated the change and security far from the battle line. No shells, bullets and other things present in one's mind.

The Battalion lines up on three sides of a square, the Chaplain stands usually on an old farm cart at the fourth side. The service is abbreviated Church of England with extra hymns- some of them today were; "Fight the Good Fight" "New every morning" "Holy Holy Holy" "Jesu Lover of my soul" Perhaps I have not told you that there is a Chaplain to each Brigade - 5,000men. Ours is partial to our Regiment, possibly because they are "Territorials" and with the Stretcher Bearers, very friendly.

We did a lot of work for him recently, fitting up a small chapel and mortuary from the effects of a shelled church, and assisted him in burial services. During the battle at Hill 60 and at St Julien he came up and offered to post the field service postcards for us, which was much appreciated. We are having route marches each day through a delightful country. France is prettier than Belgium so far as we have seen it, everything peaceful and no shelled Churches or houses- khaki everywhere. London buses roaring along the main roads, and huge motor lorries full of stores and ammunition etc. in strings of 10 and 20 pass frequently.

Dear Mother

We are now in a quiet part of the trenches and expecting shortly to go out for a fairly long rest. They can go without our little handful of survivors for a time. The foe in the front line were a fine lot, much superior to the average fighting Hun, many came crawling into our lines helping in one of our wounded boys. We dressed the wounds of numbers of theirs, and also had four of them to move their own men to the ambulance.



The day after the battle we had a truce of two hours in the afternoon— not a gun or rifle was fired, it was an absolute unique experience, the first in the whole war on our front. It enabled us to get in every man lying out wounded on no Man's Land, both our own and the enemy's. Shelling was going on right and left of us, and there we were, British and German out at the front. I had one or two souvenirs from the German Stretcher Bearer's and gave them cigarettes. When the truce had expired, two shots were fired, and we returned to our battered trenches feeling a little lighter in spirit for the small touch of humanity in the whole bitter struggle, which is really one of nerves, flesh and blood against fire and metal.

My dear Vi

Last Sunday I went to a service in a very curious place— underneath a mine! A coal mine! There were about 80 of us and the "Padre". All clergymen in the Army are called "Padre". He managed to get hold of a small harmonium, so that it was quite a decent service— illumination being by candles. They are not able to get bread for the communion, hence the use of small rice wafers about the size of a halfpenny. Two hours later we were doing our best to pound as many Fritz's as possible— strange state of affairs isn't it— mais c'est la guerre (but it is the war !)

David Cummings

Christleton Local History Group 1976-2016

**Wednesday 23rd March 7.30pm Members Evening
at Christleton Primary School in Quarry Lane**

A free social evening to mark the **40th Anniversary of the Local History Group**, and to celebrate the publication of Christleton Great War Stories. It will also be an opportunity to look ahead to the future. After light refreshments, members will be invited to share some of their own or family experiences of historic interest, or talk about interesting places they have visited.

All welcome.

The Christleton Great War Stories book has been really well received, with lots of complimentary remarks about its research and print quality. Copies are still available from David 332410, Village Stores, Drakes Hairdressers, Waverton Post Office and at Farmer's Markets at the Ring O Bells. Price £9.99

Fundraising Talk for the new Boiler Fund

Thursday 17th March 2016 at 7.30pm at St James' Church

Speaker David Cummings

The Heritage of the Christleton Parish including the history of St James' Church

Tickets; £6 adults; Young people free.

Refreshments; Emma's Special Cakes/tea/coffee/soft drinks/wine

Raffle & new packs of Wildlife letter cards for the boiler fund.

Tickets available from David 332410, at Church, or just sign up on the Notice sheet at the back of the church, in order that we can arrange the refreshments.

Charity Talk for St James' Christian Aid Appeal 2016

Christleton Parish Hall

David & Beryl Cummings presents

A Norwegian Adventure. (To the land of the Midnight Sun)

Saturday April 16th at 7.00pm

Tickets; £6 adults; Young people free.

Refreshments; Emma's Special Cakes/tea/coffee/soft drinks

Raffle.

**APPEAL FOR FUNDS FOR A
NEW HEATING SYSTEM**

**at
ST JAMES' CHURCH**

Our Central Heating System at St James is nearly 30 years old and coming to the end of its working life. We need to install a new Boiler and Heating System as soon as we are able to raise £10,000 in the next few months towards the cost.

Are you able to help us with a donation towards the cost?
Any contribution will be welcome and should be sent directly to the Treasurers:

Brian and Loraine Lewis
51 Parkfield Road
Broughton
CH4 0SE

Any cheques should be addressed to:
“Christleton Parochial Church Council”.
Thank you for your continued support to St James.

John Pearson

CHRISTLETON GARDENING CLUB

The next meeting will be on Monday 14 March at 7.30 pm in the Methodist Church Schoolroom.

Anne Harrison from Reaseheath College will talk about ‘Low Maintenance Gardening’. Visitors welcome.

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN CHRISTLETON

On Tuesday 8 March at 10.30 am there will be a meeting in the Methodist Schoolroom to plan the rota for the Summer Teas. All welcome.

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN CHRISTLETON

LENT LUNCH

To be held in Methodist Church Hall at

12.00 noon on

Thursday 3 March

All Welcome

Lent Lunches also at the Quaker Meeting House, Frodsham Street on
Wednesdays 2nd, 9th and 16th March at 12 noon – 1.30 pm

Christleton Wednesday Group

Spring Lunch

At Christleton Parish Hall on

Wednesday 23rd March

12 noon

Ticket price £10

(includes glass of wine/soft drink)

available from members or phone 01244 336644

In aid of Claire House Hospice

Society of Thirteen

Confessions of an Auctioneer

A talk by Eric Knowles

Monday, 14th March, 7.30 pm

At The Catholic High School, Handbridge CH4 7HS

Visitors very welcome. Entry £10

A Spotlight on

*a member of St James'
congregation:*

Name: *Lorraine Lewis*

Live: *Broughton, Flintshire*

Nationality: *English*

Originally from: *Fallowfield*

Occupation: *Semi-Retired
Run Line-dance classes
At Broughton.*



Family: *Husband, Brian, Daughter Melanie and Son Mark
Grandson Kieron aged 3*

Interests: *Dancing, Cooking and Baking, Reading, Gardening,
My lovely family.*

Favourite Quotation: *Love is like a Rose, water it, feed it, tend
it carefully and then it will reward you by growing more beautiful each
year, and accept the odd thorn*



Things that may surprise the reader:
My husband Brian and I started out as 'Pen Pals'

I was Rose Queen for St Crispins, Fallowfield



BARROW & LITTLETON TWINNING ASSOCIATION

Did you know that the villages of Barrow and Littleton are twinned with Aubignan in the Provence region of France?

We have an active social calendar, including quiz nights, boules competitions, BBQ's etc



Every four years we visit Aubignan to stay at the homes of members of the Aubignan Twinning Association and enjoy their kind hospitality.

In return, the villagers of Aubignan visit us and we have our regular social events to raise money in order to entertain them.

We are actively seeking new members to participate in our social events and to foster our relations with Aubignan.

It is not necessary to speak French although this is always appreciated and members can come from any of the surrounding villages not just Barrow & Littleton.

If you would like to join us or to find out more about what we do, please contact: *Betty Gilliatt on 01244 335645*

The Crossroad

The road was hard, no turning back, The way ordained by mighty God.
'Your will, not mine' was all He said, As humbly down that path He trod.
The crowd that cheered Him once with palms
Began to shout for Him to die, They chose Barabbas in his stead
And with one voice cried 'Crucify!' Between two thieves on Calvary's hill.
They put to death the Prince of Life.

One cried for help, the other cursed - The first was promised Paradise.
This promise now is for us all: Christ gave His life to set us free.
The Cross divides, it always will - The question is: what side are we?

By Megan Carter

St James Church

Spring Clean



Saturday 5th March

10 am – 12 noon

Please come and help

For more details please talk to Valmai

07971 107 101

News from friends in the World-wide Church; Ghana

Ian and Claire Gray have visited us and have been supported by the people in St James Church in Christleton over the years. They have been working with Wycliffe Bible Translators in Ghana for over 50 years and they are returning for another 6 months to help the local people in their work in Biblical translation and literacy work for another period. Ian and Claire write:

We were very saddened by the attacks in Burkina Faso especially when we have friends there. Ghana is just below Burkina Faso and we hear that security in Ghana has been increased.

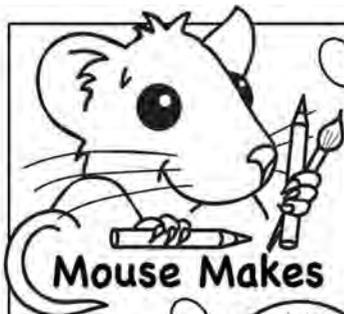


We pray that 2016 will be a happier year for everyone and we value your prayers as we journey back to Ghana on 31 January to work with our Ghanaian colleagues and friends.

Claire's luggage is full of over 200 pairs of reading glasses for Nelson to give to the Bimoba people to help them read their Bimoba Bibles easier.

There is also tucked away in the bags, an iPad and keyboard for a student nurse (Deborah), a DVD player for Samuel to show the Tampulma Jesus film, 600 Christian calendars and many small gifts kindly given by our supporters. Thank you for your support. Please continue to pray for us and our Ghanaian workers.

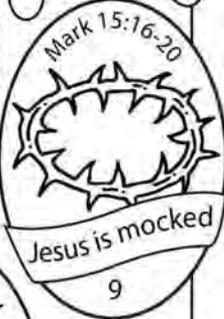
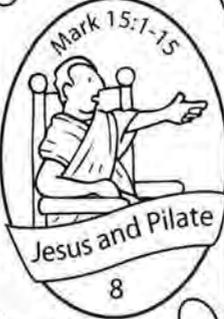
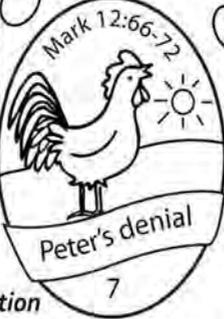
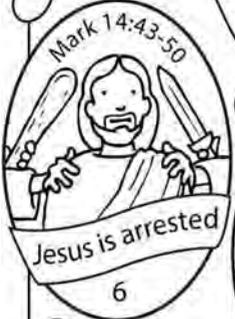
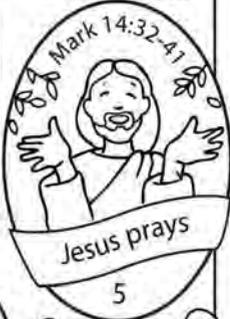
God bless,
IAN and CLAIRE



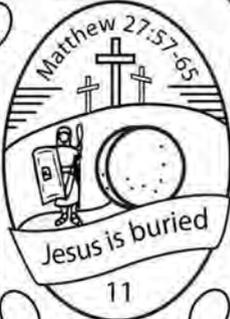
Each big egg tells a part of the Easter story. Colour them in then look up the bible verses.



Easter Story Eggs



Jesus said:
"I am the resurrection and the life"
John 11:25

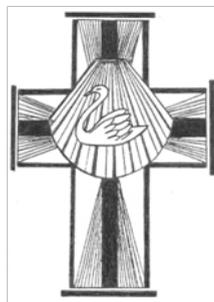


Jesus said:
"I will come and get you so that you can always be with me" John 14:3

Cut out the big eggs. Glue onto card and use them for a bible story Easter egg hunt.



The Parish of St James, Christleton



Parish Retreat

**25th –28th April 2016
at
'Nethersprings' Felton, Northumbria
and
including a daytrip to Holy Island**

There may be a couple of places available on this retreat. If you would like to come with us or want more information please let me know ASAP

Elizabeth Inall

☎ 336500



Boat Lifts

We first saw the Anderton Boat lift in operation when we visited the Northwich Boat festival in 1979 it closed down in 1983. Our next visit was sometime in the 1990's when we joined a party taken round the site following a proposal to rebuild the lift. It had been dismantled and with the exception of the original framework everything else was lying in pieces on the bank.

Built in 1875 the Anderton Boat Lift is a two caisson vertical link between the Trent and Mersey Canal and the River Weaver. Boats entered the caissons and were raised and lowered by two interconnected hydraulic rams one rising as the other was lowered. In 1908 due to continual problems with the hydraulics was converted to use electric motors and counter weights which allowed independent operation

Restoration started in 2001 and the boat lift was re-opened in 2002. It has returned to its original concept and uses modern oil hydraulic rams for lifting. The lift and associated visitor centre and exhibition are operated by the Canal & River Trust. The structure is designated as a Scheduled Monument, and is included in the National Heritage List for England.

We have visited several times since, taken boat trips from the canal down the lift and then along the river. There is a large car park and it is possible to walk to the Marbury Country park and the Lion Salt Works.

On one of our trips to France we were passing Saint- Omer and seeing the sign to Arques decided to visit the Fontinettes boat lift. Inspired by the Anderton lift it was built in 1888 and lowers boats from the Canal de Neufosse to the River Aa. In layout and structure it is very similar to Anderton with one notable difference,; it was built to take 300 ton boats. It has now been bypassed by a modern guillotine lock and was saved from demolition by a local conservation group. One of the buildings is now a shop and display area and you can walk round the site

The most spectacular lift we have seen is the Falkirk Wheel. In

1790 the Forth and Clyde Canal was opened providing a sea to sea link between The Rivers Forth and Clyde, In 1822 the Union Canal was built between Falkirk and Edinburgh and a flight of 11 locks at Falkirk linked it to the Forth and Clyde Canal connecting Glasgow to Edinburgh. The canal was closed in 1930 and the locks dismantled in 1933 the Forth and Clyde canal was closed in 1962 In 1976 the Forth and Clyde canal was preserved and in 1995 plans were submitted to reopen the link. The Lottery fund agreed to provided 42% of the money the rest coming from other sources.

Originally the lift was envisaged as a Ferris Wheel with one tank at the top and another at the bottom, the tanks changing places as the wheel turned. The design changed but the word 'wheel' was retained. As with Anderton there is a basin at the bottom and you can take boat trips up the lift and along the canal but unlike Anderton returning to the basin. There is also a visitor centre and a cafe. An interesting day out if you are in the area. *Ben Williams*

RSPB Chester Group March Events

7.30pm Wed 16 March: Monthly Meeting. Two talks by Conor



Jameson

Christleton Parish Hall. £2 for group members, £3 for visitors (refreshments included).

9.00am Sat 12 March: Field trip – North Wales Coast

It is vital to call the trip leader, John, on 01244 675929 a few days before, to check final details. Stout footwear and sensible clothing essential. Water and a packed lunch advisable. Car sharing encouraged. Newcomers and beginners welcome.

For earlier information or more details, phone 01244 335670 or see our website www.rspb.org.uk/groups/chester or Facebook page www.facebook.com/RSPBchester

Holy Days in March

1st St David's Day

1st March is St David's Day, and it's time for the Welsh to wear daffodils or leeks. Shakespeare called this custom 'an honourable tradition begun upon an honourable request' - but nobody knows the reason. Why should anyone have ever 'requested' that the Welsh wear leeks or daffodils to honour their patron saint? It's a mystery! We do know that David - or Dafydd - of Pembrokeshire was a monk and bishop of the 6th century. In the 12th century he was made patron of Wales, and he has the honour of being the only Welsh saint to be canonised and culted in the Western Church.

Tradition has it that he was austere with himself, and generous with others - living on water and vegetables (leeks, perhaps?!) and devoting himself to works of mercy. He was much loved. In art, St David is usually depicted in Episcopal vestments, standing on a mound with a dove at his shoulder, in memory of his share at an important Synod for the Welsh Church, the Synod of Brevi.

2nd Chad (d 672)

When Oswiu, king of Northumbria, made Chad bishop of the Northumbrian see, due to a scarcity of appropriate bishops, two dubious bishops did the job of consecrating him. This led to Theodore, Archbishop of Canterbury, deciding to depose him about three years later. Chad took his dismissal with good heart, and peacefully retired. But then Theodore had second thoughts: Chad was of excellent character: humble, devout, and zealous. So Theodore re-consecrated him - to be the first bishop of the Mercians. Second time around, Chad was a great success - again.

When Chad died he was quickly venerated as a saint. People took a great fancy to his bones, believing that they would bring healing. Even today, four large bones, dating from the 7th century, and believed to be Chad's, are in the R.C. cathedral in Birmingham. Bishops today may still argue about consecration, but they are unlikely to have their bones disturbed.

4th Casimir

Casimir is a good patron saint for anyone whose father drives them crazy. He did not let an unhappy background stop him from becoming the person he wanted to be. Casimir's father, the King of Poland back in 1458, was no picnic as a dad. For if you think your teens were difficult, consider this: when Casimir was only 13, in 1471, his father decided to send him to war. He put him in charge of a large army, aimed at fighting on the Hungarian border. At 13, this was hardly easy, but worse was to come. Casimir's father had not bothered to pay the troops. So soon young Casimir faced a crisis: his soldiers, quite reasonably, were reluctant to fight Hungarians when they were not even being fed. The troops deserted, and Casimir had a difficult time surviving the journey home. Then his father, far from welcoming his son's safe return, put all the blame of the lost army on Casimir. He banished his son to the castle of Dobzki. Instead of being crushed by this, Casimir used the time to think, and he grew up fast. Next time his father summoned him, he found a determined young man who had seized control of his own life. Casimir flatly refused to fight again against any Christian country, and he refused to marry a daughter of Emperor Frederick III. Casimir had decided he would prefer a life of celibacy, devotion to God, and austerity, and he stuck to his decision.

When Casimir became king in 1481, he ruled over much of Poland for three years. In stark contrast to his father, he was loved for his justice, prudence and firmness. He died in 1484 of tuberculosis at the age of only 26, and was buried at Vilna. But his good deeds lived after him, and he was canonized by Leo X in 1521.

7th Perpetua and Felicitas

This story could come straight out of modern Africa. Perpetua was a young married woman of 22 who had recently become a Christian. But the authorities had forbidden any new conversions, and soon she and some other catechumens were arrested and sentenced to death. This was not under Islamic State, nor Boko Haram, but under the emperor Septimius Severus in Carthage, in the year 203. Imprisoned with Perpetua was a pregnant slave, Felicitas, and seven men. Perpetua's family were

frantic with worry for her, so she sent a message to reassure them: “My prison became a palace for me, and I would rather have been there than anywhere else.” As the days passed Perpetua devoted herself to prayer, and experienced various visions depicting the spiritual battle storming around her. Soon Felicitas gave birth to a girl in the prison, and she and Perpetua enjoyed a last agape meal together. On the day of the Games they left the prison for the amphitheatre ‘joyfully as though they were on their way to heaven’. Perpetua sang a hymn of praise as animals were prepared for killing the prisoners: leopards and bears for the men, and a maddened heifer for the women. The heifer did not succeed in killing them, and after the young women exchanged one final kiss of peace, Perpetua herself guided the gladiator’s knife to her throat: “It was as though so great a woman...could not be despatched unless she herself were willing.” Perpetua and Felicitas’s joyful witness and unflinching courage went on to inspire many other early Christian martyrs. Down the centuries, the feast day of Perpetua and Felicitas became widely observed. In 1907 an inscription in their honour was discovered at Carthage in the Basilica Majorum, where they had been buried centuries before. Their memory still lives on: eight episodes of Perpetua’s life are represented on a 14th century altar frontal at Barcelona.

19th St Joseph

Why should St Joseph’s day be in March? Surely he belongs to Advent and Christmas, at Mary’s side in millions of nativity scenes around the world. In any case, as foster-father of Christ and husband of Mary, Joseph played a major part in the story of the coming of Jesus Christ. All that we know about him for sure is in the gospels. Read especially Matthew 1 – 2. He was of Davidic descent, but his trade as a carpenter shows that he was not at all wealthy. Joseph’s gentleness and decency towards Mary, and his willingness to do God’s will when it was revealed to him, portray him as a kind and godly person. Joseph is the patron saint of fathers of families, and he makes an excellent example. He comes across as a protecting, loyal, thoughtful, self-controlled person, full of integrity, and willing to work hard. Who wouldn’t want a father like that? Joseph is also the patron saint of all who desire a holy death. Thus countless churches, hospitals and religious congregations are dedicated to Joseph.

Christleton W.I.

This coming year we look forward to an entertaining series of guest speakers as well as diverse courses held at the W.I's own college, Denman. All will bring something to each of the members but some talks and courses have the capacity to unexpectedly enhance lives.

I attended one such course at the Christleton W.I. The talk was on the Alexander Technique, of which I knew just about nothing, not being sure if the technique related to cooking, handicrafts or perhaps astrophysics. A friend thought it might relate to bad backs, a subject on which I was a bit of an expert, having had one myself for years. Anyway, I went along, keen to put the speaker right on bad backs, should it be necessary, but as the talk developed I understood that the technique was actually about how to use the body without stress, and it was used by many people working in the performing arts, for whom it was a valuable resource. Obviously an evening talk only scratches the surface of any topic but by chance I saw a weekend course on the Alexander Technique advertised and I went on it. It was so helpful I found a local teacher in Chester, and had lessons for some years, also going to the Alexander Training School in Kendal for courses. I still use it today, 24 years on, to keep me flexible so it has become a very useful tool to me.

Therefore coaxing myself up to the W.I. on that wintry evening to listen to that first talk reaped rich rewards for me and opened new doors and along the way I had a lot of fun. That talk was inspirational because that's what the W.I. Is about, and I am sure many other members could tell similar stories. So if you want to be inspired ...try the W.I.

Margaret Bass

The Crossroad

The road was hard, no turning back, The way ordained by mighty God.
'Your will, not mine' was all He said, As humbly down that path He trod.
The crowd that cheered Him once with palms
Began to shout for Him to die, They chose Barabbas in his stead
And with one voice cried 'Crucify!'

HOLY WEEK

Holy Week is the week before Easter Day; it starts with Palm Sunday which is on

20th March this year. Palm Sunday is when Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey. The Thursday of Holy Week is called Maundy Thursday which is named for the words that Jesus used at his last meal with his disciples, what we call now the Last Super. The



Latin words are 'Madatum novum davobis - a New Commandment I give you'. Do you know what that commandment is?

You can read the whole account in St. John's gospel, Chapter 13. Then comes Good Friday - a lot of people can't see why a day commemorates the trial and crucifixion of Jesus could be called 'good'. It was a black day but Christians know that without what happened that Friday there would be no Easter. Without the death of our Lord there would have been no empty tomb on Easter day and no glorious Resurrection.



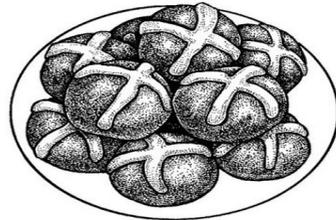
HOT CROSS BUNS

One of the pleasures of Easter is eating Hot Cross Buns. Like most things they cost more now than they did in this old rhyme....

Hot Cross Buns,
Hot Cross Buns,
One a Penny, two a Penny,
Hot Cross Buns.

If you have no daughters,
Give them to your sons,
One a Penny, two a Penny,
Hot Cross Buns.

If you have some time to spare, see how many words you can make from the letters HOT CROSS BUNS. Words of at least 3 letters, no plurals, proper names or foreign words.



What do you get when you pour boiling water down a rabbit hole?
A Hot Cross Bunny.

Why couldn't the Rabbit fly home for Easter?.
He didn't have the hare fare.

Parish Registers

Holy Baptism

22 November 2015 Isla Louise Healing daughter of Thomas and Sarah Healing ("Hillwin" Barton Road, Farndon, Chester)

27 December 2015 Ellie Leilani White daughter of Simon White and Victoria Champkin White (85 Tarvin Road, Littleton)

Holy Matrimony

19 December 2015 Benjamin John Richard Rogers and Katherine Jane Beard

Funerals

15 October Sheila Pickavance (Rock Cottage, Pepper Street, Christleton)

16 October Betty Dandy (Tarvin Court Nursing Home, Tarvin Road, Littleton)

28 October Raymond Roberts (Tarvin Court Nursing Home, Tarvin Road, Littleton)

02 November Derek Large (27 Littleton Lane, Littleton)

03 November Mary Irene Riley (22 Weaver Road, Whitby, Ellesmere Port)

06 November Audrey Pamela Brown (Ft 39 Bowling Green Court, Mill Street, Chester)

18 November John Hughes (Oaklands Nursing Home, Tarvin Road, Littleton)

16 December Geoffrey William Steele (206 Wood Lane, Harwarden)

22 December Barbara Dunbavand (Rectory Cottage, Little Heath Road, Christleton)

31 December Christabel Titchner (1 Home Close, Christleton)

03 January Renee Elizabeth Stalker (39 Haslin Crescent, Christleton)

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. There is a good organist at St James and a robed choir sings at many of the services.

Refreshments are generally served after the 10.45am Sunday service in the Parish Hall across the road, and are also served in the church after the 10.45am Wednesday services. Once a month on the 1st Sunday breakfast is served in the Parish Hall from about 8.45am. These give splendid opportunities for fellowship and you are invited to join in.

WHO'S WHO & CONTACT NUMBERS

Rector:	Rev'd Malcolm Cowan, B.Th. The Rectory, Birch Heath Lane, Christleton, CH3 7AP jandmcowan@gmail.com (The Rector's day off each week is normally Friday)	335663
Curate:	Rev'd Barbara King, B.Ed. 17 Cathcart Green, Guilden Sutton, CH3 7SR	300756
Administration:	Janet Milton (Janet is your initial contact point for Baptism, Wedding and Appointment requests)	325529
Other local clergy who may assist:	Rev'd Gill Hibbert Rev'd Elizabeth Inall, MA	336544 336500
Churchwardens:	Carl Cumiskey Bettie Gilliatt	330028 335645
Deputy Wardens:	Chris Platel Keith Smalls	332466 335688
Verger:	John Milton	325529
Sacristan:	Betty Dunning	335652
Organist:	Bob Owens	01928 724088
PCC Secretary:	Brian Inall	336500
PCC Treasurer:	Brian & Lorraine Lewis	534323
Gift Aid Secretary:	Nigel Seddon	335588
Planned Giving Envelopes:	Betty Dunning	335652
Deanery Synod Representative:	Berence Kirwan	336779
Electoral Roll Officer:	Brenda Bailey	335034
Churches Together Representative:	Jan Bowden	335705
Parish Safeguarding Co-ordinator:	The Rector	335663
Pastoral Worker / Visiting:	Berence Kirwan	336779
Sunday Club / Messy Church:	Berence Kirwan	336779
CREW Youth Group:	Mike & Tina Lightfoot	328436
Church Library:	Gwen Knight	336236
Church Flowers:	Olive Hammond	336562
Bellringers:	Nikki Dromgoole	351124
Bellringers' Secretary:	Nikki Dromgoole	351124
Parish Hall Bookings:	Clare Holland	332819
Children's Society Sec:	Lesley Morgan	335088
Church Missionary Society Sec:	Janet Brown	335785
Mothers' Union Branch Leader:	Janet Brown	335785
Magazine Editor:	David Bull	332234
Assisting Magazine Editor:	Huw Morgan	335088
Magazine Adverts	Ann Smith	332434
Magazine Distributors:	Jenny Davies, Valmai Griffiths	335884

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



Palm Sunday procession from Littleton to St James
in 2012



The Crew Youth Group making pancakes at their
recent meeting.

Miscellaneous

A bank is a place that will lend you money if you can prove that you don't need it.

A healthy adult consumes each year one-and-one-half times his own weight in other people's patience.