

A full-page photograph of a wedding couple standing in front of a church. The bride is wearing a white lace dress with a white sash and a veil. The groom is wearing a black tuxedo with a white shirt and a light-colored tie. They are both smiling. In the background, there is a stone church building and a gravestone.

St. James'

PARISH MAGAZINE

May 2011
www.christleton.org.uk

35p

May Days

Sun	1	8.00 am	Holy Communion - Order 2
		10.45 am	Parish Communion - Order 1
		10.45 am	Sunday School - Parish Hall
		6.30 pm	Evensong followed by refreshments Prayer Link Road: Greystone Road & Ring Road Neighbourhood Link: Lynda Disley
Wed	4	7.30 pm	Collation & Induction of the Rev Malcolm Cowan by the Rt Rev Keith Sinclair, Bishop of Birkenhead & The Venerable Dr Michael Gilbertson, Archdeacon of Chester followed by refreshments in Parish Hall
Fri	6	6.30 pm	Choir Practice
Sun	8	8.00 am	Holy Communion - Order 1
		10.00 am	Family Service/ Family Communion (to be confirmed) followed by refreshments
		6.00 pm	The Crew Youth Group Parish Hall
		6.30 pm	Evensong Prayer Link Road: Grove Gardens Neighbourhood Link: John Carruthers
Mon	9	10.45 am	Holy Communion at Tarvin Court Nursing Home
		11.20 am	Holy Communion at Oaklands Nursing Home
		2.00 pm	Mothers' Union - Parish Hall

May Days

Tues	10	7.30 pm	Prayer Meeting at Gill Hibbert's house (336544) - all welcome
Wed	11	10.45 am	Holy Communion - followed by refreshments
		11.20 am	Holy Communion at Birch Heath Lodge
Fri	13	6.30 pm	Choir practice

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

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

Sun	15	8.00 am	Holy Communion - Order 1
		10.45 am	Parish Communion - Order 1
		10.45 am	Sunday School - Parish Hall
		12.00 noon	Baptism - Maisie Ogilby
		6.00 pm	The Crew Youth Group Parish Hall
		6.30 pm	Evensong
			Prayer Link Road: Haslin Crescent
			Neighbourhood Link: Ann Smith
Wed	18	10.45 am	Holy Communion followed by refreshments
Fri	20	6.30 pm	Choir Practice
Sun	22	8.00 am	Holy Communion - Order 1
		10.45 am	Parish Communion - Order 1
		10.45 am	Sunday School - Parish Hall
		12.00 noon	Baptism - Emily & Lucy Holliday
		6.00 pm	The Crew Youth Group - Parish Hall
		6.30 pm	Evensong
			Prayer Link Road: Hawthorne Rd
			Neighbourhood Link: Jayne Roscoe

May Days

Tues	24	7.45 pm	AGM Churches Together – “Meet the New Rector” followed by a Finger Buffett at the Methodist Church
Wed	25	10.45 am	Holy Communion - followed by refreshments
Fri	27	6.30 pm	Choir Practice
Sun	29	8.00 am	Holy Communion - Order 1
		10.45 am	Matins
		10.45 am	Sunday School - Parish Hall
		6.00 pm	The Crew Youth Group Parish Hall
		6.30 pm	Songs of Praise Prayer Link: those worshipping at St James from outside the Parish Neighbourhood Link Area Secretary Leo Carroll

Cover Picture.

Catriona Levitt & husband Matt on their Wedding Day at
St Bartholomew's Church Great Barrow.

CONTRIBUTORS

The best way to send in contributions to St. James' Parish magazine is
to email the document.

Attach your word document and email it to:
christletonmag@hotmail.co.uk

Letter from our new Rector

WHO NEEDS MUSTARD SEED?

A new angle on one of Jesus' parables of the Kingdom of God.

I am not a gardener and I fear that I lack the patience. I also know that I don't have "green fingers" and that my few attempts at "creative gardening" never seem to work – the precious, vulnerable, tended things never seem to flourish, but the weeds take root again , and again, and again.

Some weeds are pernicious and promiscuous. The ubiquitous Ground Elder just spreads and spreads. Worse still, the infamous Japanese Knot Weed is almost impossible to eradicate without a flame thrower and a defoliant. It is not something you want in your garden.

Yet when Jesus describes the Kingdom of God in one of his shortest parables that is, amazingly, the image he evokes. The Parable of the Mustard Seed (Mark 4:30-32) sounds at first like a simple parable of small things growing into great things, and it is often read that way, but it is far more radical than that. We miss the point if we don't recognise that in the ancient world wild mustard seed was a fast growing, all encompassing weed, which you didn't want it in your kitchen garden because it takes over, it gets out of control, and grows and grows and grows, just like Ground Elder or Knot Weed.

Then the Parable makes disturbing reading and hearing, since it evokes the Kingdom and presence of God when it comes upon you and breaks into your life, not as something controlled like a traditional English Country Garden, but as something that takes over, and you cannot have just a little bit of it.

Most of us want to compartmentalise our lives and perhaps to have a spiritual corner, sweet and special and managed, but the Gospel that Jesus proclaims and embodies is not like that – it will take over my life and change it utterly. The poet T S Eliot spoke of "a condition of complete simplicity, costing not less than everything" – the Kingdom is like that. Continues over/...

.....

Archbishop Rowan Williams says in one of his books on Spirituality ("The Wound of Knowledge") that throughout Christian history men and women have attempted to domesticate God, and cut him down to a manageable size, and that it is an attempt doomed always to fail.

Do I want to keep God in a spiritual world, an inner world, a Sunday world? The God of Jesus breaks out, and the Gospel spreads into every part of my life.

Do I want to keep him out of my finances, my possessions? The Gospel challenges me there and will not let me shut him up. All is held in stewardship from him and to be used justly and rightly. Do I want him to stay out of my relationships and my emotional life? His Kingdom has claims there; gifts and capacities to be used rightly and not exploitatively. Do I want him to stay out of my politics and my public life? There is no change there either, for there is the challenge, the values and the standards of the Kingdom. Sometimes the very presence of God is like the mustard seed – then I will never be the same again.

Jesus' Parables are often a shock, a challenge to all religious systems that try and fit God to our agendas, because he will not stay there. On one level it is bad news, for nothing will be the same again and we cannot stay in control. On another level it is very good news indeed, for the Gospel is about lives turned round, transformed, reordered, enveloped by the Kingdom of God and made into what they were intended to be. Those who have come to Christ will never be the same again, and I for one am looking forward to the Lord completing his work in me when everything is his, and no part of me is resistant to him and his good purposes. As the hymn has it: "Love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all."

And the Parable of the Mustard Seed goes on being startling when we concentrate on its images. The mustard seed grows uncontrollably, and then the birds of the air sit in its branches. Here is another image of God's power breaking in and disturbing our nice safe systems, and agendas. Birds in those

quantities are not welcome in the nice ordered garden, but the effect of the Kingdom will be like that – we will have to deal with visitors, guests, we never expected and would not have chosen. All are beckoned in to the Kingdom and sit under its shade – even those we would rather not have there for the Kingdom, and Church which is meant to image it, is inclusive and all may come in.

To embrace the Kingdom of God is to lose control – to embrace inclusivity – a community which lives the values of the Kingdom is one where all may find a home – not just our friends, our type, our sort of people, but all – including the most weak and marginal and despised and rejected.

And what Jesus proclaimed in his Parables he revealed in his ministry, in his scandalous, radical fellowship at table with those who others despised and rejected. They were beckoned and called into the Kingdom, and into the excessive, uncontrollable love of God.

When we re-read this Parable, like so many others, it becomes much more radical and more dangerous than a nice easy, pretty story of growth. It tells us of the living God who will fill all things, whose will and purpose and grace will touch all things, and who will beckon all people in his fellowship. Disturbing stuff perhaps, and I for one, am still struggling with it, but it is also good news, exciting and liberating,

Who said being a Christian was boring?

Your faithful servant

Malcolm

Nobody asked me! – St. James' Visiting Group

Have you ever thought about joining St James' Visiting Group? This is just one way of showing God's love for one another.

The group has varied in size over the years and presently is in need of more helpers. We would especially welcome some men and younger people prepared to visit. The young get sick too and older people particularly enjoy younger visitors! Visiting is an opportunity to help others, by expressing God's love in acts of practical help and compassion.

You may be visiting somebody already. If you are, you will wish to carry on doing this without necessarily being linked to our group. It would help me to know whom you are visiting, so we can build up a picture of the pastoral care in the parish. This will help me to ascertain how well we are meeting the needs of the sick and lonely within our community.

If however you would like to join us, you can be assured of a warm welcome. You will not be asked to undertake more than you are happy to do. You will be completely free to undertake to visit whomever and whenever suits you.

We meet about four times a year.

If you are interested in joining us, please phone Berenice on 01244 336779.

Berenice would like to extend a 'thank you' on behalf of all the family of Marjorie Stafford for the lovely cards and tributes following her death; also the generous donations to Save the Family, a charity which Marjorie liked to support. Your prayers and support have been very much appreciated too and are evidence of the loving family of St James church to which we all belong.



COLLATION & INDUCTION of NEW RECTOR
at ST JAMES
WEDNESDAY 4 MAY at 7.30 pm

Arrangements are in hand for the Collation Service at St James when our new Rector Malcolm Cowan will be collated by the Bishop of Birkenhead the Rt Rev Keith Sinclair and inducted by the Archdeacon of Chester the Ven Dr Michael Gilbertson.

We expect a large number of the clergy from the Deanery to be in attendance together with a number of visitors from Malcolm's former Parish of St Helen Witton, Northwich and of course, members of St James congregation and Christleton Parish.

Refreshments will be served in the Parish Hall after the Service.

VILLAGE TEAS



Village Teas will be served again this summer on Sunday afternoons commencing on 5 June and finishing on 25 September. Any money raised this year would be donated to Save the Family and Children Today.

We look forward to seeing you at the Methodist Church in June.

Please contact : Janet Milton (335469) Jayne Roscoe (335836)
Sheila Roberts (336754)



Nature Notes

What a great month weather- wise, with lots of the forecast spring arrivals being well on time. The first house martin flew through on the 29th March closely followed by swallows on the 30th. Chiff chaffs have been singing all around the village, with a black cap being heard in full voice near the Playing Fields. Buzzards have been particularly active all around the area with up to five being seen at one time. I saw one pair clearly doing a mating display, dipping and diving over the meadow on Rowton Moor, just one of possibly five pairs nesting in our Parish. The swans arrived back at the Pit four weeks later than usual, having seen off other swans on the canal, but don't show any signs of egg laying this year. I have provided suitable nest material to encourage them, but as yet they haven't shown any desire to use it.

One of the surprises for me this spring has been the increase in the small bird population despite the severe winter, and we have far more birds visiting the garden than for many years. The daily visits of at least three goldfinches have been the highlight as we've never seen them before. I also love the sweet song of the dunnock or hedge sparrow, a very insignificant looking bird but one with such a delightful song. In the village I've noticed a large number of jackdaws, especially around the churchyard, together with several colourful jays.



I was lucky enough to see three brimstone butterflies in early March as I forecast in last month's magazine, whilst there have a number of small tortoiseshell, peacock

and comma butterflies on the wing in the area. A holly blue was seen in the hawthorn hedge on the 8th April, together with an orange tip butterfly, which is often the first butterfly to be seen on the wet meadow at Hockenhull Platts each year. There was great excitement at Hockenhull too, where we had conclusive proof that we have an otter present, with a fresh spraint and a line of footprints found on the wet meadow. A small herd of black Dexter cattle have been grazing the marsh since the beginning of the month, put there by the Cheshire Wildlife Trust



to keep the vegetation in check, and to manage the meadow in the traditional way. The river has also been allowed to flow in a more natural way, as the floating vegetation and river bank have not been artificially cleared by a JCB digger as has been the case in recent winters. It

is hoped that this more natural channel will provide a better flow of water through the reserve and provide sites to encourage the water vole to use this habitat. It should also provide better conditions for the dragon and damselflies that inhabit the river along this stretch. The new work on the reserve has now been completed, with the addition of several sluices, which will mean we can control the water levels during any time of the year, and enable the site to be part of the complex of water meadows along the River Gowy, from the Peckforton Hills to Stanlow and the River Mersey. DC

The Crew have had another successful and busy term. We spent the first half of term learning about the issues surrounding homelessness. During one meeting we set up homeless beds outside the Church to understand how it felt being out in the dark and cold. After organising a special service for Homelessness Sunday we had a talk from Chester Aid to the Homeless.

The second half of term was kicked off with pancakes and we all made Lent resolutions, which we have tried to keep each week. We have focused on different aspects of Christ's final journey to the cross. One highlight was making our own hot cross buns!

The term ended with a fantastic sleep over, complete with pizzas, DVDs, hot chocolate and plenty of fun. We all enjoyed taking part in the Mothering Sunday service and having an Easter egg hunt.

Thanks to our leaders for giving up their time we have really enjoyed the term and can't wait for Crew to start again on 8th May.

If you are in years 7 or above and would like to find out more about the Crew please email crew@christleton.org.uk.



History File

Christleton Parish on Maps Part 2.

The work of **Robert Morden**.

In the first of these articles I recalled the work of John Ogilby and illustrated his route through Christleton across the packhorse bridges at Hockenhull. Several other early maps had indicated the presence of the village including one by John Speed probably the most famous of early Cartographers who was born in nearby Farndon (1552-1629). However the first real detail was provided by Ogilby. Many other mapmakers followed such as Robert Morden, who although producing a map of the whole county of Cheshire shows detail of the main route through Christleton. The map illustrated clearly shows the route from Nantwich diverting from Clotton towards Hockenhull where it joins the route from Manchester through Delamere & Tarvin and crosses the packhorse route through Cotton to Christleton. Cotton Hall the seat of the Cotton Family no longer exists, but Christleton Church can be seen to the north of the route adjacent to Row Christleton (Rowton) to the south. Some of the nearby village names are also interesting, The Baits (Bache) Hool (Hoole) Blaken Hall (Blacon), Molinton (Mollington) etc. The River Dee is shown to be connected to the River Gowy by the Goulbourne, which is little more than a

brook today. The date of the map is thought to be 1695, and was one of a series of fine County Maps produced by Morden in William Camden's "Britannia Atlas". Each of these County maps was beautifully engraved and contained much more detail than in previous maps, and also contained a highly embellished cartouche. The maps contained much more local information given by Gentlemen of each County he was surveying, which helps to bring the maps alive. Robert Morden (1650-1703) was a Bookseller, publisher and maker of maps and globes. He lived in Cornhill, New Cheapside in London and his establishment was based under the sign of "The Atlas". He later went on to produce maps of Scotland including the Western Isles, as well as maps of Ceylon and several British Colonies in North America. He produced many miniature maps of the world both in Atlas and Playing card formats, and is now recognised as one of the most important figures in early cartography.

David Cummings



Music at St James

An excellent concert was performed at St James' last Saturday April 2nd given by members of the Chester Ladies Choir, under their conductor Rodney T Jones and accompanist Stephen Roberts. There was something for everyone from the varied styles of songs in their repertoire, from the modern work "Adiemus" by Karl Jenkins and "Hallelujah" by Leonard Cohen, songs from the shows including "A Wonderful Guy" by Rogers & Hammerstein, "I don't know How to Love him" by Rice & Lloyd Webber and several spirituals by Don Besig & Nancy Price.

The choir blended beautifully, and were excellent in both lively and quiet pieces, with clear diction and good tone. They clearly enjoyed their singing and were very responsive to their conductor's directions. The accompaniment by Steve Roberts was superb, as was his arrangement of The Rose by McBroom and Morgan, and especially "All that Jazz" from the musical "Chicago" by Ebb & Kander.

The choir were joined by two excellent young guest artists in Shelby Williams & Jordan Harding-Pointon. Shelby a Christleton High School student has often sung at St James, but Jordan with his enthusiastic playing and song writing in George Formby style was a real revelation, and brought enthusiastic applause from the audience.

The whole evening was a great success, and raised over £330 for the refurbishment of the choir area at St James.
DC



WHAT'S ON THIS MONTH

SUNDAY SCHOOL

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 Hogg, 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. May 11th, Cheshire Gardens, Celia Lea



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 Edna Ellis telephone Chester 346497.

MAGAZINE CONTRIBUTIONS

Please ensure all items for inclusion in the June edition are sent to Janet Milton (335469), as soon as possible BEFORE Friday 13 May or you can e-mail this to christletonmag@hotmail.co.uk

MAGAZINE DISTRIBUTORS

The June magazine will be available for collection from church on Sunday 29th May

LEPROSY MISSION

Stamp out leprosy!

Please donate your used stamps so that money can be raised for Leprosy Mission.

Stamps should be trimmed to quarter inch border around the stamp and can be left at the back of the Church.

PLEASE TELL US....

If you know of any special birthdays, anniversaries or anyone celebrating a special occasion, who is a Parish magazine reader. Please inform the editor David Bull

AVAILABLE AT ST. JAMES' CHURCH

“Loop” system for the hearing impaired.

Large print books for the visually impaired and large print weekly notice sheets

Easy to follow Communion Service

Books for Children

Access for wheelchairs

Please ask any of the Church wardens or Sidesmen if you need assistance in anyway

CHRISTLETON UNDER-FIVES COMMUNITY PLAYGROUP

Registered Charity 1022817

Christleton under fives is an established pre-school playgroup attracting children from a wide area. It enjoys good and well founded links with Christleton Primary School. Children from the age of 2 1/2 years until school age are accepted. Please contact the Supervisor, Carole Penny, on 01244 336586 for further details.

MOBILE LIBRARY VAN SERVICE

The van calls weekly alternate Thursdays all day and alternative Fridays in Quarry Lane.
11.15 - 12.45pm.

For further information of when the van is next in your area, please telephone Upton Library on 01244 380053.

READERS

Please remember to support our magazine advertisers and mention where you have read their name

Parish Registers

Holy Baptism

6th Darci Niamh Boulton daughter of Michael & Nicola Boulton
97 Tarvin Road, Littleton

"We welcome you into the Lord's Family"

The Funeral Service

2nd Vera Murphy Birch Heath Lodge Nursing Home
(Burial of Ashes)

4th Marjorie Stafford Crabwall Manor Nursing Home

8th Sylvia Jackson Pandora Brown Heath Road, Christleton

"Grant them eternal rest"

Offertories.

<u>March</u>	<u>Cash</u>	<u>CSE</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2010</u>
6 th	97-85	668-00	765-85	867-51
13 th	150-80	594-50	745-30	736-60
20 th	70-70	743-00	813-70	896-55
27 th	84-30	384-00	468-30	912-64
<u>Totals.</u>			<u>£ 2,793-13</u>	<u>£ 3,413-30</u>

"Of your own do we give you"

PARISH CHURCH OF ST. JAMES, CHRISTLETON

SUNDAYS	8.00 a.m.	Holy Communion	
	10.45 a.m.	Parish Communion	1st & 3rd Sundays
		Family Service	2nd Sunday
		Mattins	4th & 5th Sundays
	6.30 p.m.	Evensong	1st, 2nd & 3rd Sundays
		Evening Communion	4th Sunday
		Songs of Praise	5th Sunday
WEDNESDAYS	10.45 a.m.	Holy Communion	
SAINT'S DAYS	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion	

WHO'S WHO & WHAT'S WHAT

Rector: **The Rev'd. Malcolm Cowan, B.Th**
The Rectory, Birch Heath Lane, Christleton 335663
All baptism, weddings and appointments by
arrangement with Janet Milton, 335469

Churchwardens: John Pearson 335101
Keith Smalls 335688

Deputy Wardens Lois Dickinson
Alan McAllester

Reader Wayne Morris 01978 263389

Vergar David Ellis 336879

Sacristan: Betty Dunning 335652

Pastoral Worker: Berenice Hogg 336779

Sunday School: Berenice Hogg 336779

Mother's Union Branch Leader Janet Brown 335785

Organist & Musical Director: Steve Roberts 815277

P. C. C. Secretary: Brenda Bailey 335034

P. C. C. Treasurer: David Mercer 336155

Stewardship Envelope: Betty Dunning 335652

Gift Aid Secretary Nigel Seddon 335588

Bellringers Ian Braithwaite 300565

Bellringers Secretary Nikki Dromgoole 351124

Parish Hall Booking Janet Milton 335469

C. M. S. Secretary Janet Brown 335785

Children's Society Sec. Lesley Morgan 335088

Visiting Group: Berenice Hogg. 336779

Library Lois Dickinson 378320

Church Flowers Olive Hammond 336562

Magazine Editor David Bull 332234

Magazine Compiler Julie Coxall 336062

Magazine Distributors Jenny Davies and Valmai Griffiths 335884

Neighbourhood Link Co-Ordinator Janet Bowden 335705

Parish Resource

Person for Child Protection Alastair Holland 332819