

St. James' Christleton



PARISH MAGAZINE
May 2014

www.christleton.org.uk

35p

May Days

Thurs	1	12.00 noon	United Prayer Lunch - Methodist Church
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Fri	2	6.30 pm	Choir Practice
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Sun	4	8.00 am	Holy Communion
		10.45 am	Sunday Club - Parish Hall
		10.45 am	Holy Communion
		6.30 pm	Evening Worship

Wed	7	10.45 am	United Communion - followed by refreshments
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Fri	9	6.30 pm	Choir practice
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NB: Last date for contributions for June Magazine to Janet Milton (325529). You can attach your Word document and e-mail to: christletonmag@hotmail.co.uk

Sun	11	8.00 am	Holy Communion
		10.45 am	All Age Worship
		6..00pm	The Crew
		6.30 pm	Holy Communion

Mon	12	10.30 am	Holy Communion at Tarvin Court Nursing Home
		11.00 am	Holy Communion at Oaklands Nursing Home
		2.00 pm	Mothers Union

Wed	14	10.45 am	Holy Communion - followed by refreshments
		11.30 am	Holy Communion at Birch Heath Lodge Nursing Home

Fri	16	6.30 pm	Choir Practice
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Sat	17	12.30 pm	Wedding – Karl Smalls/Gemma Carvell
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Sun	18	8.00 am	Holy Communion
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		10.45 am	Confirmation Service with Bishop Geoff Turner – followed by refreshments in Parish Hall
		4.00 pm-6.00pm	Messy Church – Parish Hall
		6.30 pm	Evening Worship
Mon	19	2.00 noon - 12.30 start	Luncheon Club – Parish Hall
Wed	21	10.45 am	Holy Communion - followed by Refreshments
Fri	23	6.30 pm	Choir Practice
Sun	25	8.00 am	Holy Communion
		10.45 am	Morning Prayer
		10.45 am	Sunday Club - Parish Hall
		6.30 pm	Holy Communion
Wed	28	10.45 am	Holy Communion - followed by refreshments
		7.30 pm	Archdeacons Visitation – St Marks Lache
Fri	30	6.30 pm	Choir practice
Sat	31	12.00 noon	Wedding Blessing – Simon Kane/Jaimie Kane
		3.30 pm	Wedding – Rohan McCulloch/Camilla Hill

Bible Verses: Gal 5:23: “gentleness and self-control.

Against such things there is no law.”

2 Tim 1:7: “For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline.”

Col 3:12: “Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.”

Cover Pictures this month

Children enjoying the Noah’s Ark activity during Messy Church in the Parish Hall. The back cover celebrates our Christleton Swans following the death of the pen on the canal this month.

Message from our Rector



Why do you come to Church.....or perhaps, what keeps you away from Church.....

we welcome many people at St James who come perhaps just once a year, for Our All Souls service or Remembrance Sunday, or for a Christmas service,and we welcome them, for that is what Christ would

do.....people who for whatever reason, have allowed life to squeeze Jesus, from the centre of their lives, to just one week of the year..... coming back to church can stir the emotions....., what causes people to either drift away from church or to immediately cease coming to church?.....

Perhaps the Minister left, he was nice, friendly, you could speak to him, and he listened.....or perhaps, it's the new Minister.

I heard of one person, not here I might add, who said just that.....the previous vicar had left and the new one arrived.....the lady stopped going to church.....some time later, someone asked her, "Why don't you come to church anymore"It's the Minister, she said, I don't like him.....have you met him, she was asked..... no she replied, but he can't be like the old one..... Of course, for some people, life, or work, simply gets in the way, and after a while becomes the way.....so church can be squeezed out and forgotten.

We may also find that decisions or policies made by the Church nationally are at odds with your own thoughts or beliefs, but should any of these reasons prevent you from

having a loving relationship with God, and to feel comfortable in worshipping this same God in your own Church. Twenty years ago, the Church passed a resolution to ordain women to the priesthood, and whilst many people rejoiced that the Church had taken this step, there was of course, a section of society who disagreed.

However, when the dust had settled, and congregations began to see female clergy in their Churches, they recognised the value of their ministry, and many who had opposed the resolution, or were ambivalent to this, soon warmed and embraced their new clergy.

You may recall those rather hackneyed notices which used to appear on Church notice boards in the 1970s. One particular notice which appeared on many notice boards read CH_ _ CH what's missing? UR

The overwhelming majority of people stated on the last census form, that they were Christian, and yet, it appears that Church, the one place where Christians gather together to worship God, to support and encourage one another in their faith, is perhaps the one place in their community that they don't attend on a regular basis.

Life can be quite hectic, family and friends, business commitments, social engagements.....
God delights in your company.....
should we not delight in His



Your Servant,

Malcolm.

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 **June** edition are sent to Janet Milton (325529), as soon as possible **BEFORE Friday**

9th May or you can e-mail this to:

christletonmag@hotmail.co.uk

MAGAZINE DISTRIBUTORS

The **May** magazine will be available for collection from Church on **Sunday 27th April**.

The History File

Christleton Local History Group

Research Project to Commemorate the Men & Women of Christleton in WWI

Christleton Local History Group have applied to the Heritage Lottery Fund for a grant to research the history of the Village during 1914-18, and to Commemorate the Fallen from the village at this time, to coincide with the centenary in August 2014. Working with Chester University Media Specialist Phil Hirst, Christleton High School's History Department, Chester Military Museum, Cheshire County Record Office, and members of the Community we aim to produce a book and create special presentations to commemorate the centenary of this significant event in our village history. We have already started the research, and have found out details about all but two of the men commemorated on our Village War Memorials or in the Lady Chapel.

There are a total of 39 men listed as killed, and who are commemorated, but two hundred and fifty names are included on the Roll of Honour placed on the north aisle wall of St James' Church. The more we research we undertake, the more interesting stories are emerging. A high proportion of those killed from the village were Officers, but many ordinary Christleton lads gained awards for great acts of courage. The majority were killed in action in Belgium & France, but several fell in modern day Iraq. Using the Commonwealth Commission War Graves website, and Ancestry we are gradually piecing today a fascinating story. However the most wonderful breakthrough came when I discovered that a Bound Volume of Parish Magazines for 1911-1921 existed at the County Record Office. These appear to have been collected and put together by Mrs Garnett wife of much loved Rector Revd. Lionel Garnett, who, incidentally lost two sons in the conflict. The magazines are a wonderful treasure trove of information, and during the War years give a month by month account of what happened in the



village. Rector G.M. V Hickey the writer tells us about the men who had volunteered, those who had fallen, and about their Memorial Services, if and when they took place. He describes the efforts of those left behind to help those on the front, and there are some incredible stories of how the women and the older men who remained did so much to assist. In the first month that war was declared the Christleton Voluntary Aid Society was formed, and the ladies met each week at The Institute, making items for the soldiers on the front, but also for the Chester Royal Infirmary in order for them to cope with the wounded.

The Village supported the Cheshire Regiment in the main, but our men were spread throughout many other regiments. Through the Rector's accounts we learn about these brave young men, so that names on the Memorials become "alive" for our generation as these graphic stories are told. Just to give you one example; Tom Broster a Private in the Royal Welsh Fusiliers was 36 when he died on 7th August 1915 and is buried at



Shrapnel Valley Cemetery. He had been born at Finnis Field in Christleton to Samuel & Sarah Broster, who by 1911, lived on Christleton Road. Tom had been a Butchers' Assistant to Joe Mosford in the Village and had lived with the family at Ivy House, together with Annie, Mary* & Violet Mosford, and their servant Mary Reed. The illustration of Joe Mosford & his team that is shown could include Tom. His memorial service was held at St James, and was well attended by all who knew him, led by the Choir of St James, who gave their time to sing at every memorial service that took place during WWI. The research is ongoing and I hope to keep you up to date with our work in the months ahead.

David Cummings

*Mary was Jim Partington's mother and known as "Mrs Christleton" for her lifetime's commitment to the Village. Both Mary & Jim are commemorated by the red oak tree planted on the Village Green opposite their old shop.

Nature Notes

This should have been a celebratory account of a successful nesting of our swans on the canal in the Village. However the news this morning (10th April) that the pen (a Christleton cygnet in 1998) had been found dead by the Trooper Bridge has really upset us all.

It looks as though the severe injury sustained by the swan was caused by an attack from a fox or a mink. Everything had been going so well, and we were congratulating the cob, for having decided to stay on the canal and build a nest there, rather than try to get to the Pit as usual. You might remember from previous articles that the cob is now 24yrs + old and has arthritis in his hip and can't fly.

We thought it wonderful that he had decided to stay on the canal, and build on a garden with help and assistance from a Christleton Family. We were able to admire his nest building skills with interwoven ivy and other green leaves and with the addition of some hay kindly given by the Beech Family, the nest was improved and made ready. Mating took place on the 1st April and the first eggs were laid.

Sadly the death of the pen (CBS8) makes any further nesting this year impossible. Although we have built a second nest at the Pit, this will now have to be improved before it can be used, and it is highly unlikely another pair will just arrive on spec.

I print the statistics below just to celebrate the success of CBS7 & CBS8 over the years. They really have been a most successful and productive pair. The cob was ringed in Chester as an adult in May 1994, so was probably at least 4yrs old at that stage. He flew around Cheshire,

being seen on the River Dee, Winterley Pool near Sandbach, Chester Business Park and on the canal at Rowton & Waverton before settling down at Christleton Pit. There he found a new mate and together they have produced 79 eggs, 70 of which have become cygnets, and 50 of these have become mature enough to fly at the end of the breeding season. All the cygnets have faced the “march” through the village from as young as 6 days old, and have given such pleasure to so many. This “march” or is it “instinct” has occurred with other pairs in the village since at least the 1960’s, and probably occurs because there is not enough vegetation to feed the growing family at the Pit. Many of us have been involved in their story, and recently have had to give assistance due to the injury to the cob, and the danger from increased village traffic.



It is very early yet to know what will happen, as there are not many swans around the Chester area, and therefore not many looking for a safe nest site. Our cob will probably pine for his mate and stay around the canal. He can’t hatch the eggs that have already been laid. Please keep an eye open for him, and let us know if you see any problem. Thank you.
David

Thanks

To everyone who supported our last two charity talks of the season, I am delighted that we raised £850 for the local Scouts who will be attending the World Jamboree in Japan in 2015, and £500 for the work of Christian Aid.

David & Beryl Cummings

Christleton Methodists warmly invite you to

‘Music for a Spring Evening’

with

Claire, Brian & Jeremy Heald (contralto & piano)

on Friday 16 May at 7.30 pm Admission £7

includes tea/coffee & cake, Proceeds to Christian Aid

‘Transforming Women’s Lives in Afghanistan’

ALL WELCOME

Messy Church

We have now had our 3rd Messy Church and we are delighted that some families have come to two if not all three sessions. It is good to meet you and welcome you as we establish Messy Church together as an alternative worshipping community.

For those of you who were not there, this last session was an opportunity for us to explore the season of Lent, traditionally observed by the Church as marking the 40 days and nights spent by Christ in the wilderness as he prepared for His ministry and what lay ahead. Through active participation in a variety of ways, such as making a ‘footprint’ cross, the making of bread and some lively challenge games, to name but a few, we were able to think about the Temptations of Christ. Each activity provided us with an opportunity to explore this theme through discussion, guided by ‘Talking Points’ relevant to each.

Our celebration was again led by our Messy Musicians and children and parents enjoyed joining in with percussion instruments.

**OUR NEXT MESSY CHURCH IS ON 18TH MAY WHEN
OUR THEME WILL BE “ ABRAHAM AND SARAH”.**

**PLEASE LOOK OUT AT END OF APRIL TO SEE WHAT
RESOURCES WE NEED.**

A Prayer with Testimonial: the Presence of God

This is my Personal Witness, with prayer, as to the Presence of God in our lives, and why I pray and have the belief that Jesus is the Light that always shines, enabling us to look outwards and taking us away from Darkness.

The Holy Spirit, the third Person in Trinity, is sometimes described as the Spirit of Christ (Romans 8.9) or the Spirit of Jesus (Acts 16.7). He is sometimes referred to as the way in which Jesus is present with his people – loving and caring for us as God’s children. I pray that our Lord is with us when we are troubled, anxious or distressed for ourselves or for others. To calm our fears as all things are in His hands.

It is of course tempting & perhaps natural when disaster or personal trouble knocks on our door to at least wonder how God cares or have the power to change things. Just over two years ago my wife and I and our two daughters lost our 28 year old son Daniel- a disaster that suddenly hit us out of the blue.

So naturally in our grief we faced that challenge of Faith in our loving God whilst seeking his Presence as comfort. I believe we see the reaction of God to caring & to suffering in the person of Jesus, reacting with great compassion to the sadness and pain he witnessed in his own time on earth. I have always strongly sensed throughout that God was alongside us then and now, and was alongside Daniel at his final hour, as an ever present loving Father. I believe God cares for and loves us and weeps too alongside our grief, whereas perhaps we just have to accept that the unanswerable question of ‘why’ about our suffering will just have to wait.

I believe as a Christian that by Faith we can be sure that the Holy Spirit is with us. In the Gospel of St John Chapter 14 Jesus promise us the Holy Spirit who will be with us forever, also saying: ‘if anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him and we will come to him and make our home with him’. Reverend David Sayle, read Psalm 23 to us during our be-

reavement 'I will fear no evil, for you are with me – your rod and your staff they comfort me'.

Even during our grief, I felt sure then, as I do now, that God had not forsaken us, that our dear departed son Daniel is in the loving arms of God. That same God is the same yesterday, today and forever.

So in conclusion, for all of us and for the people we know and come into contact with in whatever circumstance, I pray that our heavenly Father will continue to bestow his blessings upon us and strengthen us to always understand that God wishes above all things that we prosper and be in good health as our souls prosper. Lord help us to understand fully the love Jesus Christ exhibited on the Cross and to accept the new life, love and freedom which he offers us all. Amen.

Mark Evans

Thank you from Christleton Wednesday Group

The Christleton Wednesday Group would like to thank everyone for their support throughout 2013. At the Spring Lunch on 9 April, a cheque for £3,500 was presented to Pat Daniels MBE for the Chester Childbirth Appeal . This year the group is fund raising for Macmillan Nursing.

Thank you again for all your support

Carol Cullen

Chairman, Christleton Wednesday Group

Bible Verse: Phil 4:8: Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.

Phil 4:7: And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Amen.

Hooton Water Works and Tragasol Products Ltd

Round about 1937 I started to occasionally walk with my mother to the factory by Hooton station where my father worked. We would walk along Heath Lane and turn into Water Works Lane passing the big Victorian steam driven beam pump in Hooton Water works. Hooton Water Works was established in 1892 to provide water for Ellesmere Port I would stand outside and watch the top of the beam bobbing up inside the roof light and listen to the hiss of steam hoping someone would invite me inside to look at the engine sadly nobody ever did.

The water was drawn from an artesian well and most probably pumped to the water tower at Whitby. In the late fifties due to the increasing demand for water, a reservoir and treatment plant was built at Great Sutton.

In 1958 the old generating equipment was taken out of the hydro electric station by the old Dee Bridge and replaced by pumps which I believe pumped river water to Great Sutton although I cannot verify this. It is interesting to note that the pumps are due to be decommissioned in 2015 and it is proposed to replace them with electric generators returning the station to its original purpose.

The Factory was called Tragasol Products and imported locust bean kernels, the skins were removed by acid and later by grinding. The bean was cooked in steam heated pressure cookers and then pressed to extract the gum [the factory was known locally as 'The Gum Works'] the gum was put into barrels and sold for sizing and dressing of yarns in the cotton industry. In the late thirty's the process changed the bean was ground into flour and sold to the food industry

One day I was invited into the factory to see the engine start up. This was a twin cylinder triple expansion mill engine made in Colne Lancashire driving cotton ropes which disappeared through the back wall. It was scrapped when the factory turned to making flour

The locust bean, which grows on trees in north Africa, is a bit like a broad bean and when ripe the pod had a similar taste and texture to a date [I have tasted one] I can quite believe John the Baptist living on them, it is highly unlikely he ate the insect.

The old Hooton Water works rather splendid Victorian building has been converted tastefully into apartments, its tall chimney demolished; the water tower has also been demolished. The factory which has closed has also had its tall chimney demolished and is now used by a variety of small businesses

Ben Williams

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN CHRISTLETON

A G M

Wednesday 14 May at 7.30 pm

Methodist Church Hall

Speaker: Mr Andrew Herbert

Mission Development Officer

Wesley Methodist Church

JUST FEEDING?

The work of our local Food Bank

Refreshments - All Welcome

Special Birthday Greetings

Many Congratulations to Christine Abrams from all her friends at St James' and in the Parish on her special birthday on May 12th.

St James' Crew Youth Group



Fun on the Allotment



It's the time of year to think about sowing crops. The Crew have a small plot on Mike and Tina's allotment and for their April meeting they planted/sowed a variety vegetables: onions, potatoes, mizuna, cauliflower and carrots. Mike and Tina will endeavour to nurture these during the summer but Crew members are encouraged to pop up to the allotment to see how their plot is progressing.

Our next meeting will be in the Parish Hall but due to the bank holiday, we will meet on May 11th at 6pm. Our June meeting on 1st June is quite different. We are doing a short pilgrimage walking along the Baker Way from De-lamere to finish at the parish hall for tea before going to a thanksgiving service in Church. We'd like to encourage any member of the congregation to join us for our pilgrimage: the more the merrier!

Finally, 2 of our Crew members are to be confirmed on May 18th at the 10.45 service so please come along to support them

If you know of anyone who would like to join the Crew, please contact Tina Lightfoot at:
tina.lightfoot@googlemail.com

A Spring Resolution

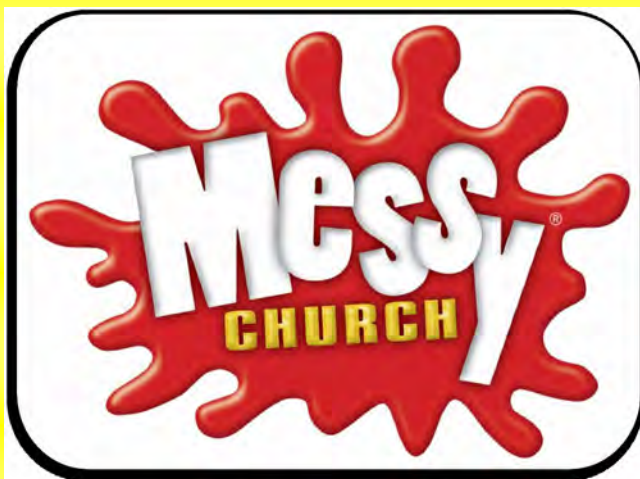
I try not to get cluttered with possessions, but somehow bit and pieces multiply over the years. How do I get rid of the pottery bear given to me by a child I taught? Or the cup and saucer that was my grandma's? Or the tube of hand cream my mother used? I know this last example is ridiculous! Of course, I shall use it up and throw away the empty tube. If my puppy doesn't get it first!

Since getting my puppy, 12 weeks old and full of energy, I have had to move things off the floor. Gone are my nice arrangements of candles. Wicker baskets, so tempting to chew, have to be stored elsewhere. This now means the sideboard has become cluttered. So I look inside the cupboards. What can I clear out? And then memories come flooding back again – a candle holder that was a 21st birthday present – oh, my Uncle's decanter, he died long ago – and paper serviettes? Why have I got so many?

I have made a spring resolution: to de-clutter. Not to get rid of the precious things but to look carefully at each with new eyes. I shall think of William Morris's (1834- 1896) the artist and textile designer, who said, "Have nothing in your house that you do not know to be useful or believe to be beautiful." I am in the process of making a fitted wardrobe in my spare room, I trip over the wood every day. This is going to be used for craft equipment, fabric, shoes tidily on racks and clothes neatly hung (um, will need to do some sorting through those too!) and will be part of my new de clutter plan

I find if my house is untidy and cluttered my brain is too. A cluttered brain is not receptive to God; he gets squeezed out. I am too busy trying to sort and do rather than sit and be. Easter has reminded me again of God's wonderful love for us all. He was willing to let his son die and then to rise gloriously to defeat the power of sin and death. My eyes need to be on the risen Christ. I need to de clutter to let Christ's risen glory fill me and enable me to continue to serve him.

In love and light, Barbara.



What's it all about?

CRAFTS, GAMES, FREE FOOD
STORIES, SONGS AND CELEBRATION

Where's the Mess? Christleton Parish Hall

When's the Mess?

May 18th, 4 - 6pm

June 15th, 4 - 6pm

July 20th, 4 - 6pm

All ages welcome

Children must be accompanied by an adult

IT'S FREE!

MEMORIES ARE MADE OF THIS

The Medal of the Order of the British Empire (BEM) was reintroduced in the Queen's Birthday Honours 2012. She expressed her wish that the Lord-Lieutenant of each county should present the BEM on her behalf. The investiture was held in Committee Room 1 at Chester Town Hall on Tuesday 1 April. It was a very intimate and special occasion. There were three recipients in the whole of Cheshire – Mrs Valetta Cranmer of Sandbach (for services and fund raising for the Sandbach Ladies' Choir), myself and Mr Joseph Gildea of Chester for services to the community.

Before the ceremony we were 'hooked up' with a lapel pin like a picture hook for ease of hanging the medal. Our guests were seated and we three had special places as we awaited the Civic Party and were entertained by students of the Hammond School with music and singing. Everyone stood up for the entrance of the Lord Lieutenant Mr David Briggs MBE, the High Sheriff, both resplendent in uniform, followed by the Mayor of Cheshire East, the Lord Mayor of Chester and other civic personalities. The first verse of the National Anthem was sung by Olivia Faulkner (Hammond School) in front of a large Union Jack and a portrait of the Queen.

After a short introduction we were individually asked to stand when a personal Citation was read after which we were separately congratulated and shook hands with the Lord Lieutenant who then hung the medal. Everyone then sang the second verse of the National Anthem after which the Lord Lieutenant accompanied by the Civic Party left.

This wasn't the end, as everyone was invited to Afternoon Tea. Separate tables were allocated and I and my family (husband, two sons and daughter-in-law) sat with the Lord

Mayor (Councillor Jill Houlbrook), the Lord-Lieutenant, and the High Sheriff. Official photographs were taken and again we were entertained with music – flute, guitar and singing. I CAN NOW BELIEVE IT.

Margaret Croston

NEW LOOK 2ND SUNDAY SERVICE

Well a slightly new look, nothing too radical really. A small group of us got together to plan the morning services for May 11th and June 8th.

First of all we discussed what to call the service and to do that we had to decide what our aims are. It is our belief that children and adults alike are there to ‘come together as a family of God in our Father’s presence to offer him praise and thanksgiving, to hear and receive his holy word, to bring our prayers before him and to ask his forgiveness of our sins, that by the power of the Holy Spirit we may give ourselves to the service of God.’(ASB Morning Prayer)

So we decided Morning Worship would best describe what we are trying to achieve.

It will be an informal, easy to follow yet structured service which aims to include all ages. It will have a mixture of traditional and more recent hymns and will include the basic elements of an Anglican morning service. i.e The Collect, a reading from Scripture, a talk, an affirmation of faith (creed) and prayers including the Lord’s Prayer. It will be child friendly with plenty of opportunity for younger folk to participate but it is not a children’s service.

As with any new venture feedback is essential, so please come along and let us know what you think.

The planning group are: Revd Malcolm Cowan, Revd Barbara King, Revd Elizabeth Inall, Berenice Kirwan and Lesley Morgan.

Elizabeth Inall

A way in the wilderness

Has your path in life led you into a wilderness? They are lonely, dry places. Perhaps your friends are enjoying their families, their health, their marriages, their work, and their leisure time. Meanwhile, you face family disruptions, or constant pain, or daily arguments, or misery Monday-Friday, or financial worries, and the thought of a holiday is a just a daydream.

God made a promise to the Israelites long ago that holds true today: 'I will make a way in the wilderness...' (Is 35) He knows where you are, and he has not forgotten you. Sometimes we could wish he'd send a helicopter to get us out of our wilderness. But wise Christians learn to accept the deserts of life, because it is in the desert that we discover the sweetness of God's love for us.

In Deuteronomy it says that Jacob learned to suck honey out of the rock! Non-Christians need to have the honeycombs of life before they can enjoy any sweetness. But Christians can take the difficult things of life and know that Jesus will help them find the nourishment they need in the midst of the wilderness. Remember the promise: 'The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you. He will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid, do not be discouraged.' Deut. 31.8

Inability does not equal inactivity

It is perhaps a well-polished truth, but one well worth remembering again: when it comes to salvation, "We were justified by faith alone, through grace alone, but we are not sanctified by faith alone".

In other words, we are made acceptable to God only through the death and resurrection of Jesus, who dealt with our sin. But then the Bible calls on Christians to take their transformation into Christlikeness very seriously. Repentance and conversion and receiving the Holy Spirit into our lives is just the beginning.

Now we need to do all we can to allow the fruit of the Spirit to grow in our lives. From now on, our daily walk is never alone: we are to keep in step with his Spirit, and to “work out” our salvation in our daily lives. In other words, obedience to God is fundamental in our Christian pilgrimage.

St Paul stressed this again and again. In Romans 12 he set forth 23 directives to clarify what we must do as we cooperate with the Spirit in our transformation. St Peter adds (2 Peter 1:10,11) “...make every effort to confirm your calling and election. For if you do these things, you will never stumble, and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ”.

When we truly want to “know Christ and the power of his resurrection”, we will see the Holy Spirit beginning to transform us. As Augustine wisely noted about the walk into a sanctified Christlike life: “Without us, God will not; but without him, we cannot”. As someone once put it: “Each morning we must raise the sails of our boat and go where the Spirit leads. He brings the wind and he governs the speed and direction, but we must cooperate by ensuring that we join him on the journey.”

The Blessings of God

What does it take for God’s blessing to descend not just on individuals, but on Christian organisations and local churches? Some clues may be found in the biblical books of Ezra and Nehemiah.

In Ezra 7 we find “The king granted (Ezra) all that he asked, for the hand of the Lord his God was upon him.” What brings the hand of God upon a person or a group of people? Ezra 7:10 reads: “For Ezra had set his heart to study the Law of the Lord, and to do it, and to teach his statutes and rules in Israel.” Clearly one of the prerequisites for the blessing of God is that their heart is set to study the Bible, to obey it, and to pass the knowledge on. As Ezra 8:22 makes it clear: “The hand of our

God is for good on all who seek him, and the power of his wrath is against all who forsake him.” Prayerfulness and spiritual earnestness are likewise vital and we find it as Nehemiah prays: “Let your ear be attentive, and your eyes open, to hear the prayer of your servant that I now pray before you day and night for the people of Israel your servants” (Neh 1:6). Nehemiah also took sin and the confession of it extremely seriously: “We have acted very corruptly against you, and have not kept the commandments, the statutes, and the rules that you commanded...” (Neh 1:7).

So – if anyone wants God’s blessing, the Bible is clear on what needs to be done: read the Bible seriously, and obey its teachings. That is God speaking to us. Second, be serious and committed in our prayers; that is us speaking to God. Third, repent of any sin which we know to be in our lives. That is obedience, and it will bring God’s blessing upon us.

High Days & Holy Days for May 2014

2nd: Athanasius (296-373) – the theologian who gave us the Nicene Creed This is the name behind the Athanasian Creed. Athanasius was born into a prosperous family in Alexandria in Egypt, studied in the Christian school there and entered the ministry. He was twenty-nine years old when he accompanied Alexander, the bishop of Alexandria, to the Church’s first ecumenical Council, at Nicaea in 325. Although Athanasius could not take part in the Council’s debates because he was a deacon and not a bishop, Alexander consulted him on the meaning of biblical texts and theological distinctions. With Emperor Constantine sitting as President, three hundred bishops argued about the Person of Christ. How is he the Son of God? Is he God or man or both together? Did he exist before he was born? If we worship him does that mean we are worshipping two Gods?

The young Athanasius saw that some bishops wanted to impose the teaching of Arius on the Church. Arius was a popular preacher in Alexandria who taught that Christ was not eternal but was a ‘Saviour’ created by the Father. Athanasius worked with his bishop, Alexander, in framing what became known as the Nicene Creed. Our Lord’s full divinity was safeguarded in the words, ‘eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, light from light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one substance with the

Father.' When Bishop Alexander died in 328, Athanasius succeeded him as Bishop by popular demand. For the next forty-five years Athanasius' devotion, scholarship, and forceful leadership established the Nicene Creed in the Christian Church. His enemies, both in Church and state, conspired against him, and he was exiled five times from the See of Alexandria and spent a total of seventeen years in flight and hiding. It was his uncompromising stand for Nicene theology that gave rise to the familiar saying, Athanasius contra mundum, 'Athanasius against the world.' Athanasius' name will always be linked with the triumph of New Testament Christology over every form of reductionism. Of his many writings the most significant was his great study on the person and work of Christ; 'On the Incarnation of the Word of God', written before he was thirty years old. The whole Church of Christ is always in need of bishops, leaders and theologians in the mould of Athanasius.

14th: Matthias the Apostle – called by lots

19th : Dunstan - the abbot who restored monastic life in England

26th : Augustine of Canterbury d.c. 604 - apostle to the English
On Ascension Day May 29th

CHRISTLETON

VILLAGE FETE

Saturday 28th June 2014
1.30pm at The Primary School
(Parade from Village Green at 1.00pm)

Fancy Dress *Raffle Prizes*



BRAZIL

NUTS ABOUT BRAZIL!!

Admission: Family £5, Adult £2
Child/OAP £1 & Under 5's go Free



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, anniversary 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.

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Easy to follow Communion Service.

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CHRISTLETON UNDER FIVES COMMUNITY PLAY GROUP

Registered Charity 1022817

Christleton under fives is an established pre-school play group 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 yrs until school age are accepted. Please contact the Supervisor Carol Penny on 01244 336568 for further details.

MOBILE LIBRARY VAN SERVICE

We call every TWO WEEKS.

WEEK 1

Quarry Lane at 3.15 to 6.00 p.m.

WEEK 2

Quarry Lane at 11.30 to 12.15 p.m.

Our NEW telephone is Chester 973700

READERS

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Parish Registers(March)

The Marriage Service

- 22nd William Richard Drury Lynn & Emma Louise Brierley
5 Kentish Lane, Brookman's Park, Hatfield, Herts
- 29th Michael John Andrews & Charlotte Louise Shone
8 Haslin Crescent, Christleton

"Those whom God has joined, let no man divide"

The Funeral Service

- 3rd Stodart Daglish Dickenson Haslin Cres, Christleton.
Age 85yrs
- 5th Daphne Peters 79 York Drive, Mickle Trafford Age 85yrs
- 7th Hugh William Stubbs, Oaklands Nursing Home, Tarvin
Road, Littleton Age 97yrs
- 15th Daphne Peters 79 York Drive Mickle Trafford
(Burial of Cremated Remains)
- 18th Frank McClelland Orchard Manor Nursing Home Age 95yrs.
- 19th Frank McClelland Orchard Manor Nursing Home.
(Burial of Cremated Remains)
- 25th Elsie Mary Elizabeth(Betty) Shone Birch Heath Lodge
N.H., Christleton Age 82yrs
- 27th Mary Cooper 5 The Square, Christleton Age 88yrs
- 31st James Neville (Jim) Lyon 79 Shelley Road, Blacon,
Chester Age 83yrs

"Grant them eternal rest"

Offertories	Cash	CSE	2014	2013
2nd	113-50	489-40	602-90	635-25
9th	94-60	632-93	727-53	1104-00
16th	68-90	468-00	536-90	771-15
23rd	116-31	565-62	681-93	893-70
30th	168-65	523-00	691-65	1110-80
Totals			£ 3,240-91	£4,514-90

"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
WEDNESDAY:	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
01244 335663

All baptisms weddings and appointments by arrangement with Janet Milton - 325529

Church Wardens:	John Pearson	335101
	Carl Cumiskey	330028
Deputy Wardens:	Alan McAllester	335494
	Chris Platel	332466
	Keith Smalls	335688
Curate:	Barbara King	300756
Verge:	John Milton	325529
Sacristan:	Betty Dunning	335652
Pastoral Worker:	Berenice Kirwan	336779
Sunday Club:	Berenice Kirwan	336779
Mothers' Union Branch Leader:	Janet Brown	335785
Organist & Musical Director:	Steve Roberts	815277
P. C. C Secretary:	Betty Gilliatt	335645
P. C. C Treasurer:	Brian & Lorraine Lewis	534323
Stewardship Envelope:	Betty Dunning	335652
Gift Aid Secretary:	Nigel Seddon	335588
Bellringers:	Ian Braithwaite	300565
Bellringers Secretary:	Nikki Dromgoole	351124
Parish Hall Booking:	Clare Holland	332819
C. M. S Secretary:	Janet Brown	335785
Children's Society Sec:	Lesley Morgan	335088
Visiting Group:	Berenice Kirwan	336779
Library:	Gwen Knight	336236
Church Flowers:	Olive Hammond	336562
Person for Child Protection:	Alastair Holland	332819
Magazine Editor:	David Bull	332234
Magazine Distributors:	Jenny Davies & Valmai Griffiths	335884
Magazine Compiler:	Ike Efobi	336072



The majestic white swan is seen here affectionately looking after it's young. That reminds us of how God affectionately love and care for us. Psalm 152 : 2 "As the mountains surround Jerusalem so the Lord surrounds his people both now and forevermore."



The beautiful White Swan is seen here portraying Isaiah 66:9 "Do I bring to the moment of birth and not give delivery?" says the Lord. "Do I close up the womb when I bring to delivery?" says your God." The Lord shall surely bring it to pass.