

The background of the cover is a photograph of St. James' Church in Christleton. The church is a large, red-brick building with a prominent square tower on the left side, topped with a grey slate roof and a small cross. The main body of the church has a long, low profile with a series of arched windows. In the foreground, there is a gravel path leading towards the church, flanked by green grass and some flowering plants, including pink and yellow roses. A large, leafy tree is visible on the right side of the church. The sky is blue with some light clouds.

# St. James'

## Christleton

PARISH MAGAZINE

May 2016

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

# May Days

Sun	1	<b>Easter 6</b>	
		8.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP) - followed by breakfast in the Parish Hall
		10.45 am	Sunday Club - Parish Hall
		10.45 am	Holy Communion - followed by Refreshments in Parish Hall
		6.30 pm	Evening Worship
Wed	4	10.45 am	United Communion - followed by refreshments
		6.00 pm	Choir Practice
		7.30 pm	<b>Churches Together in Christleton</b> <b>AGM in Methodist Schoolroom</b> <b>Speaker: Mr David Maidment OBE</b> <b>Founder of 'Railway Children'</b>
Thurs	5	7.30 pm	Holy Communion for Ascension Day
Sun	8	<b>Easter 7</b>	
		8.00 am	Holy Communion
		10.45 am	Morning Prayer - followed by Refreshments in Parish Hall
		6.00 pm	The Crew Youth Group - Meet in Parish Hall
		6.30 pm	Holy Communion
Wed	11	10.45 am	Holy Communion (BCP) - followed by refreshments
		11.30 am	Holy Communion at Birch Heath Lodge Nursing Home
		6.00 pm	Choir Practice
Fri	13	<b>NB: Last date for contributions for June Magazine to Janet Milton (325529). You can attach your Word document and e-mail to: christletonmag@gmail.com</b>	
Sat	14	3.00 pm	Wedding - Jonny Dover/Helen Johnson

Sun	15	<b>Pentecost</b> 8.00 am Holy Communion 10.45 am Holy Communion (4.00 pm - 6.00pm) Messy Church - Parish Hall 6.30 pm Evening Worship
Mon	16	12.00 noon - 12.30pm start Luncheon Club - Parish Hall
Wed	18	10.45 am Holy Communion (BCP) - followed by Refreshments 6.00 pm Choir Practice
Sat	21	7.30 pm Summer Concert in St James church with Glyndwr University Community Choir
Sun	22	<b>Trinity Sunday</b> 8.00 am Holy Communion 10.45 am Morning Prayer - followed by refreshments in Parish Hall 10.45 am Sunday Club - Parish Hall 6.30 pm Holy Communion
Mon	23	7.30 pm PCC Meeting - St James
Wed	25	10.45 am Holy Communion (BCP) - followed by Refreshments 6.00 pm Choir Practice
Sat	28	1.00 pm Wedding - Mark Cunnington and Sophie Caldecott
Sun	29	<b>First Sunday after Trinity</b> 8.00 am Holy Communion (CW) 10.45 am Sunday Club - Parish Hall 10.45 am Confirmation Service - with Bishop Keith (Bishop of Birkenhead) Followed by refreshments in Parish Hall 6.30 pm Evening Worship
Tues	31	17.30 pm Archdeacon's Visitation for Wardens & Sidespersons at St Andrew's, Tarvin

# Message from our Rector



I recently preached a sermon at St James, concerning Barbara and her curacy here and her impending move to St Andrew, Tarvin. I was asked by several people if I would re produce it as a magazine article.....so I use it for my article this month.....

As many of you will know, Barbara is in the last few weeks of her ministry here, on 17 April, she will lay down her ministry here, and prepare to minister to the people of Tarvin.

The call to ministry can come in strange and unexpected ways, but we follow one who has been called the “God of Surprises” and who is as the poet R.S. Thomas says “A fast God, always ahead of us and leaving just as we arrive” .

Barbara’s move to Tarvin is part of the natural cycle of ministry, clergy cannot and do not stay in any one place forever, especially so for curates. To serve in any parish, has it’s highs and lows, .....clergy move to a parish, not knowing anyone, and quickly need to create relationships, they need to know the heights as well as the depths of where the parish has been.

And as clergy, not only curates, but all clergy, engage, there will be times of joy and celebration and also times of sadness and despair and these will be both parish wide, .....but also personally.

Ministry is very much a double edged sword, .....we can’t say YES to everyone, because everyone wants different things.....some will want to move in one direction, and others in another direction.....so to say YES to one , is to say NO to another.....

The YES group, don’t always thank you, but the NO group will certainly let you know how you have failed them.....and within all of this.....we are called to love those entrusted to our pastoral care.....that is ministry.....and that is the cost.....and that apart from many other things, like Pastoral visiting, meeting people at the best times in their lives.....and the worst.....the joys of conducting wed-

dings and the sadness of conducting funerals.....sometimes in the same day.....and the emotional roller coaster of that journey.

That is what Barbara, and every priest, is called to do, and part of what Barbara has been learning to hold here

And of course, most of it, we hold to ourselves, the things we are told, the events in which we engage and immerse ourselves are private and confidential, not to be discussed with our church wardens, or PCC or verger, or choir, or other members of the church, or indeed anyone else .....that is why time away on retreat, or with Spiritual directors are essential, they allow your priests to step out of the melting pot .....to find a place of stillness and solitude, just as Jesus did, and to bring all the joys and sorrows of the parish, and to lay them at the foot of the Cross.

When Barbara was ordained, she was not stripped of her humanity, her feelings were not removed, indeed, in many ways there was need for these to be heightened, she needs to display her vulnerability,.....which some will see as weakness, .....she needs to be assertive.....which some will see as aggressive ..... she needs to be able to understand your pain and hurt and frustration.....as well as your joys and celebrations and rejoicing And she won't always of got that right.....as none of us do, but she will have acted in honesty and sincerity.

Mother Julian of Norwich, was a fourteenth century nun and mystic, she believed that Christ visited her in her cell at her convent and gave her revelations for her to grasp and wrestle with, following, her sixteenth revelation, she wrote, He did not say, you will not have a rough time, you will not be burdened, you will not have to face difficulties.....but he did say .....you will not be overcome

And that is ministry, yours, and mine , and Barbara's.....that we do have rough times, we do feel burdened, we do face difficulties.....but we know that we will not be overcome

We have been blessed by Barbara's ministry here.....as she has been blessed by ours

As I reflected with Barbara recently upon her time here, we were aware



that within the Church there has been much to give thanks for, many people have, through prayer and discernment recognised that they too are being called to serve, and their ministries are a blessing which should be encouraged and supported.

The work and witness of this parish is not down to the vision of one person, be it Barbara, or me, or anyone else..... but of a team who come together, who work with and for each other.....and for that to be effective, that team must be parish wide. We are all called to be part of that team, to offer what we have.

I recently re read the passage from St Mark's Gospel (Mark 10:35-46) when James and John asked Jesus if they could sit at his right and left in glory.

The passage continues the others became indignant.....

How that can reflect the image of the Church, people seeking glory for themselves whilst others becoming indignant with them.....the passage concludes "For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many".

The passage should perhaps be displayed in every church as a reminder of true Christian service, and one which we should perhaps remind ourselves of on a regular basis.

Each of us can become indignant with others, .....as they don't act how we think they should.....they don't say what we think they should.....they don't do what we think they should do.....and they do what we think they shouldn't do..... the list continues.....and as many people as we say that about.....are saying it about us.....

So as Barbara begins to set down her ministry here, and to take up new challenges and possibilities at Tarvin, in this new phase, this new chapter of her ministry, we rejoice, and give thanks for Barbara, and for her calling to serve here, we rejoice and we give thanks to God for our calling .

And we recognise within each other those fragile earthen vessels of which Saint Paul wrote in his letter to the young church in Corinth But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us.

If you ever watch any of those antique programme's on television, you

will see items of pottery or china, which have been chipped and cracked and in some cases smashed completely, and because they had such value to the owner, they have had them restored or stapled in an attempt to restore them.

They have been so loved, that the owners have taken the time to restore them.

We are those fragile earthen vessels, and the cracks and chips and whatever else are the results of life, and what we do to each other, .....church, and ministry and life does that.....we do that.....each one of us

As we to send Barbara from here, we do so with our prayers, that she may be strengthened and sustained and surrounded by the love of God, may she be the blessing to Tarvin, as she was to Christleton Amen.



Your faithful servant,  
Malcolm

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### **Front Cover**

St James' Christleton

### **Back cover**

Scenes from the Chester Passion 2016

### **Top**

Douglas & Meriel Cashin with Lucius the donkey leading the way of the cross through the streets of Chester on Good Friday. A moving scene from the re-enactment of "The Passion", taken from the Chester Mystery cycle of plays.

### **Bottom**

Christ being taken through the streets to be crucified.

# 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 **JUNE** edition are sent to christleton-mag@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 May 13th

## MAGAZINE DISTRIBUTORS

The **JUNE** magazine will be available for collection from Church on Sunday 29th May..

## MONTHLY LUNCHEON CLUB

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

## RSPB CHESTER GROUP

Meetings are held in Christleton Parish Hall, usually on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm. Occasional field trips. Details from Norman on 01244 335670 or [www.rspb.org.uk/groups/chester](http://www.rspb.org.uk/groups/chester)



# **An IMPORTANT note for your diary**

## **Christleton Village Show 2016**

**Is on Saturday 9th. July**

**In Christleton Parish Hall**

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

The 2016 Schedules should now be available from Christleton Village Stores, the Ring O Bells as well as St James Parish Church, Christleton Methodist Church and committee members.

As usual there are new categories to choose from as well as familiar ones so there is great choice to start planting, 'crafting', sewing, painting etc. It doesn't cost much, is great fun and there are lots of trophies to win. You will also be helping with a worthy cause. After expenses all remaining proceeds are given to charity

Once again Linda at Drakes Hairdressers has agreed to be a collecting point for completed Entry forms, making getting your forms in on time so much easier. This is in addition to the Entry form collection point at Judith Butts house –Greenmantle, Plough Lane. There will also be a Coffee Morning on 2nd July in the Ring O Bells for entries to be made. We are appealing this year for help to Set Up the show on Friday at 4-00 and dismantle after 4-00 on Saturday Evening. This usually takes about 11/2 hours. PLEASE contact any of the committee if you can spend even part of the time helping .

If you have any queries or if you would like to help on the day (PLEASE) ring any of the committee below.

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

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**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 OSE

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

*John Pearson*

# The History File

## Robert Andrew Scott Macfie (Part2) The Beer Garden on the Somme!

There are two superb accounts of the human qualities of Robert Andrew Scott Macfie in the book “**Liverpool Scottish 1900-1919**” by A M Gilchrist, which give us a great insight into his personality and imagination, and his influence on the officers and men of the Liverpool Scottish Regiment, particularly E Company.

Gilchrist writes “One unique distinction on the “Q” side, the Liverpool Scottish hold.

R A Scott Macfie was certainly the only Quartermaster Serjeant in the British Army to compile and publish a practical and comprehensive Army Cook Book. It was entitled “**Things that every cook should know**” and contained, in addition to nearly 70 recipes, a wealth of information on such matters as cleanliness, economy and cookhouse routine.” In another chapter when grim events on the battlefield at Ypres were taking place, there is an amazing reference to the remarkable influence that **Scott Macfie** had on his regiment.

“Then came the digging of the trenches themselves and while the companies are engaged on this laborious task we shall have time to say something of another matter that helped to make this period of the Battalion’s History remarkable”.

“C.Q.M.S Scott Macfie suggested that as the Scottish would probably spend some time at Zudausques, it might be worth while to open a **Beer Garden** which should be the centre of all the usual recreational activities of the Battalion. His suggestion was immediately adopted, and to make the necessary arrangements a general committee formed with three sub committees, each of one officer and one N.C.O. with one representative from each company to look after the entertainments, games and the canteen.

Scott Macfie went off to St Omer to arrange for the printing of posters and to buy a piano. St Omer did possess a music shop but it was hardly Rushworth and Draper's. There were no pianos in stock, but two were expected in the course of a week or so and might be bought for an exorbitant price. Luckily Quarters (Macfie) was able, by the exercise of considerable tact and persistence, to track down and secure a second hand instrument in quite good condition from a lady music teacher in the town. The capital necessary for the purchase of the piano and all the stores, wet and dry, for the canteen, amounted to 2,000 francs, and the Commanding Officer and Doctor advanced to the existing canteen funds sufficient to bring them up to that figure".

Soon posters appeared at salient points in the village and the men read-

**The Horrors of War** -- the very latest addition.  
**Beer Garden** -- In M Mesmacques' Pasture

### **Attractions**

**Beer and other liquids, Music and other noises, Fags and other fuel, Dramas and Eisteddfodau, Games and other sports, Sweets and other silencers, Dancing and other frolics, Tinned food and other fodder, Boxing and other combats. Even Soap. Library, Reading and Writing Rooms, Restaurant, Gymnasium and Music Hall, All in One Bring Your Own Pots.**

By the Blanketh Scottish Battalion, the Blanketh Blankety Regiment Zudausques, June 1917.

The site chosen for the Beer Garden was in a little wood. A huge marquee- the library etc. advertised above – was erected on a grassy slope, and before it, in the middle of a clearing was a concert platform- boxing ring with the piano beside it. For a dressing room the artistes had to be content with a wigwam arrangement of draperies attached to the back of the piano.

The Beer Garden was opened on June 27th. It was a success from the start and became the hub of the Battalion's social life. The subcommit-

tees worked hard to make things go and in the evenings, when digging was over for the day, the men lay on the grass, drank their ale and listened to the soloists or joined in the chorus of old favourites like "Brither Scotts" and "Tipperary" When the Battalion moved unexpectedly on June 30th to a new billeting area at Esquerades, four miles south, the Beer Garden was reopened there and continued to do a thriving trade, with great profit to the funds of the canteen. Special mention must be made of one entertainment held in the Beer Garden, for it was without doubt the most successful the Battalion ever had.  
To be continued.

## Thanks

Many thanks for all your kind get well wishes. I am now recovering well after my operations. Thank you. Olive

## CHRISTLETON WEDNESDAY GROUP

Thank you to all those who support the Christleton Wednesday Group. A cheque for over 4000 pounds was accepted on behalf the charity LIVE! by Anna Norbury at the Spring Lunch last Wednesday. PP

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★ THE MONTHLY ★ LUNCHEON ★  
★ CHRISTLETON ★  
★ Next Lunch: ★ CLUB IN THE ★  
★ ★ PARISH HALL ★  
★ Now in our ★  
★ 3rd year! ★

**Monday 16th May 2016**



12 noon for 12.30 serving. All welcome.  
No charge, donations welcome.

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

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PRIFYSGOL  
**Glyndŵr**  
Wrecsam

**Wrexham**  
**glyndŵr**  
UNIVERSITY



Christleton

We are pleased to invite you to the  
St James' Summer Concert featuring



(+ Good Raffle)

## **Glyndŵr University Community Choir**

with local augmentation

**Saturday 21st May 2016**

At 7.30pm in St James' Church, Christleton.

**Adult tickets £10 including Strawberries and Fizz**

Tickets for children under 16 free. Book early! Bring a cushion!

**From: Christine: 01244 335562 or Bettie: 01244 335645**

Profits shared between the Choir and the Christleton Parish Hall Refurbishment Fund.



## **RSPB Chester Group May Events**

Sat 7 May: Field trip - Conwy Valley  
Trip leader Peter, phone 01352 716886

Wed. 18th May: Evening Field Trip -

Countess of Chester Country Park

Trip leader Norman, phone 01244 335670

Sun. 12 June: Coach trip to two Yorkshire reserves.

Tickets £16. Book soon, while tickets are still available.

Trip leader Viv, phone 01244 400433

It is vital to call the trip leader 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](http://www.rspb.org.uk/groups/chester) or Facebook page [www.facebook.com/RSPBchester](https://www.facebook.com/RSPBchester)



# Churches Together in Christleton

AGM

Wednesday 4 May at 7.30 pm

Methodist Schoolroom

**Speaker: Mr David Maidment OBE**  
**Founder of 'Railway Children'**

Devotions    Short Report    Refreshments

**ALL WELCOME**

Railway Children is an international charity and was launched in 1995. It helps vulnerable children who live alone on the streets in the UK, India and East Africa and is this year's chosen charity for the proceeds from the 'Summer Teas'.

Please come along on 4th May and learn about the invaluable work carried out by this Cheshire based organisation.

## **Congratulations**

To Olga Clayton on attaining her 90th birthday on 21 May.  
Love from family & friends.

**Congratulations** from all at St James' to **Ben & Jean Williams** as they celebrated their Diamond Wedding Anniversary on April 3rd. Ben & Jean are pictured holding their special anniversary card from Her Majesty the Queen.



## Friends

A true friend is a blessing, So cherish them with care  
How good to have them in your life, And know they're always there, A  
comfort when we're lonely, A joy when we are sad, What strength and  
inspiration , Of them we should be glad.

## CHESTER LADIES LUNCHEON CLUB

Meet six times a year from October to March inclusive at the Queen Hotel, Chester. As well as an excellent three course lunch there is a speaker at each meeting. The Programme for 2016-2017 is:

*"Life and Times of a Goddess"*

*"Around the Wireless"*

*"Christmas with the Royal Household"*

*"The Secrets of Handwriting"*

*"Walking to the South Pole"*

For membership and further details please contact Margaret Croston on Chester 335955.

## Jean and Ben Williams

We would like to thank all the people for their congratulations and best wishes on our 60th wedding anniversary. Also for the lovely orchid we received in church on Sunday morning.

Perhaps you would like to know how it all started. I lived in Little Sutton, my father came from an old village family, my great-grandfather owned one of the village Smithies. Jeans mother came from an equally old Great Sutton family. Jean was born and lived in Battersea. We were both 9 when the war started [Jean is 20 days younger than I am] and Jean was sent to live with an Aunt in Great Sutton. Great Sutton School was full so a place was found for her in Little Sutton School and I met her for the first time. She stood out with her accent . Sadly she took no notice of me.

When she was 11 Jean passed a scholarship and returned to a London Grammar School which had been evacuated to a big house in the

Surrey Countryside. When she was 14 her home was bombed and her father killed, she returned with her mother to the district and took a place in Chester City High School. We saw each other from time to time but never made contact. Then one Christmas, on leave from the Army and wanting a companion I knocked on her door, she didn't know my name and vaguely knew who I was. I didn't know what to do next and as she was on the way to buy some eggs I went with her. We then went to Chester to the Cinema. We were married 4 years later. Ben Williams

## Church heating

plus ca change - an excerpt from the St James Parish magazine 1966.....

“Our reception of the congregations at St James’ has been less than warm recently! I refer to the breaking down of the heating system which could hardly have come at a worse moment. With the help of several friends with the necessary practical knowledge, the oil fired boiler in the Church cellar was kept going over the Christmas season. We are very grateful for the help that was given – in particular to the Cheshire Fire Brigade who have made four visits and pumped out of the cellar thousands of gallons of water. But as the old year died away the burner gave up an unequal struggle and capitulated to the ever returning water. Expert minds have been at work these last three weeks, and we have been advised by our Architect to fill up the cellar completely and re-house the heating plant at the top of the cellar steps.

In case anyone should think there ought to be a simpler solution to the flooding, I would beg to quote from the Christleton Parish Magazine of 1877 – the year of building of the Church, as follows : “It has been found necessary to drain the heating chamber which at present is quite full of water. This will be quite an expensive job, as the drain must be so deep and will probably be in the rock most of the way.....”  
Lawrence R Skipper, Rector February 1966 “

## **Archbishops call for ‘great wave of prayer’ for evangelism during Pentecost**

The Archbishops of Canterbury and York are inviting churches to pray for the evangelisation of the nation during the week leading up to Pentecost Sunday. The Archbishops have written to every serving parish priest in the Church of England expressing their longing “to see a great wave of prayer across our land, throughout the Church of England and many other Churches” from 8th-15th May. The week of prayer will culminate in ‘Beacon events’ around the country over Pentecost weekend, where people will pray for the renewal of the Holy Spirit and the confidence to share their faith. In their letter the Archbishops said: “At the heart of our prayers will be words that Jesus Himself taught us – ‘Thy kingdom come, thy will be done.’”

“It is impossible to overstate the life-transforming power of the Lord’s Prayer. It is a prayer that is reassuring enough to be on the lips of the dying and yet dangerous enough to be banned in cinemas. It is famous enough to be spoken each day by billions in hundreds of languages and yet intimate enough to draw us ever closer into friendship with Jesus Christ. It is simple enough to be memorised by small children and yet profound enough to sustain a whole lifetime of prayer. When we pray it with sincerity and with joy, there is no imagining the new ways in which God can use us to His glory.” The Archbishops are suggesting various ways churches can engage with the week of prayer. These include holding a day or week of continuous ‘24/7’ prayer as parishes, teams or deaneries; saying special prayers in Sunday worship; prayer walking; or handing out a novena prayer card to every congregation member.

The Beacon events will take place in the following places: St Paul’s Cathedral (Saturday 14th May) – hosted by the Bishop of London, the Rt Revd Richard Chartres, and Pete Greig, founder of 24/7 prayer, with sung worship led by Tim Hughes and Jake Isaac. Durham Cathedral (Sunday 15th May) – with sung worship led by Lou Fellingham. Coventry Cathedral (Sunday 15th May) – with sung worship led by Noel Richards. Winchester Cathedral (Sunday 15th May) – with sung

worship led by Matt Redman. St Michael le Belfrey, York (Sunday 15th May) - hosted by Matthew Porter & Miriam Swaffield with sung worship led by Tom Holmes Canterbury Cathedral (Sunday 15th May) – hosted by Archbishop Justin Welby and Pete Greig, with sung worship led by Tim Hughes.

Archbishop Justin will send a message via live video link to other Beacon events taking place at the same time as the Canterbury event. Partners in the week of prayer initiative include 24-7 Prayer, HOPE, the World Prayer Centre, the Neighbourhood Prayer, Network, and the National Day of Prayer and Worship. For more information about the initiative, visit: [www.thykingdom.co.uk](http://www.thykingdom.co.uk)

## **The unstoppable power unleashed at Pentecost**

Nine days after the Ascension of Jesus, and 49 days after his crucifixion, the Jews were doing what they always did this time of year, preparing for the Feast of Ingathering, or Harvest. It was held 50 days after the Passover, and with it, life in Israel looked set to return to normal, with Jesus well on the way to becoming just a memory. So no one paid any attention to a small group of Jesus' disciples who had gathered in a house in Jerusalem. There were only about 120 of them, and they were quiet and kept to themselves. The Jews, if they thought about it at all, would have assumed they were still grieving their lost leader. But the disciples, far from grieving Jesus' death, were eagerly awaiting for him to send them a present.... Though they did not understand exactly what it might be. All they knew was that Jesus was alive, and that before He had ascended to heaven, He had told them to go to Jerusalem and wait there together for "the gift my father has promised" (Acts 1:4) He had said: "stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high." (Luke 24:49)

These disciples, though they did not know it then, were already acting as the future church – the ecclesia, which literally means 'called-out ones'. For those disciples stuck together, together they waited for God's blessing. As with them, so with us today: even though each conver-

sion is intensely personal, we are not converted to be alone in our faith. Far from it! We are not saved to solitude, but to a life in the fellowship of the Church. Jesus has ordained that His followers, TOGETHER, be His family on earth, His witness to the world. But it has never been a family built on likeness – the believers in the house that day came from very different backgrounds – from right-wing conservatives (Matthew) to radical left-wing zealots (Simon). There were some straight-forward fishermen and even women, for good measure. From the day of its birth, Jesus' family would include all kinds of people who would find their unity in Him.

The first thing the disciples did was to get down to the business of praying. They did not try and unite themselves by long discussions with each other. It was the “joining together constantly in prayer” (verse 14) that brought them together. The 19th Century London pastor FB Meyer expressed well what awaited those disciples “The task that awaited that little group was one of unparalleled difficulty. ... They were to disciple all nations, speaking different languages, scattered over the vast Roman Empire, which extended from the Atlantic to the Far East. ... They were to substitute Christianity for paganism, as the foundation of a new type of civilization. ... In fact, humanly speaking and without exaggeration, it depended on that tiny group of unknown and ordinary men and women, whether the Incarnation and Death, the Resurrection and Ascension, of the Son of God would obtain the audience and acceptance of mankind.”

Today the Christian Church faces the same challenge – of making Christ known. We can do “business as usual” in our strength and by our resources. But great manifestations of God's saving, healing and restoring power come only as God's people “stay for the Spirit” and “wait for the gift” as Jesus commanded (Luke 24:49; Acts 1:4). Each of us would do well to “ask, seek and knock” for God's fullness day by day, if we are to enjoy His full anointing of power on our lives and ministry. We all ‘leak’, and need the continual in-filling that comes from abiding, persistent prayer.

It was out of the context of prayer that this incipient church in Jeru-



saalem was preparing for the coming of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost. For God's fullness in our lives and awakening in our church today we must believe that He is able and willing to fulfill His highest purpose for us. He wants to give us His "good gifts," namely, His Holy Spirit in fullness. That day in Jerusalem, when the Holy Spirit arrived in all His fullness, Peter stood up and preached the first ever Christian sermon to the astonished Jews in the city. So - the Jesus their rulers had crucified at Passover was not dead after all! That Jesus WAS the Messiah, and He was alive! 3,000 were converted that same day. In the power of the Spirit, the Church was born – and growing fast!

## **EU Referendum – which way Christians should vote**

There is no 'correct Christian view' on how to vote in the EU referendum. So says the Archbishop of Canterbury. He also says that people are entitled to fear the impact that "enormous" numbers of migrants will have on our jobs, housing and the NHS. Speaking in a recent interview with The House magazine, Justin Welby said it was "outrageous" to condemn people who raise concerns as "racist". Instead, their "genuine fears" needed to be addressed. "Fear is a valid emotion at a time of such colossal crisis. This is one of the greatest movements of people in human history. Just enormous. And to be anxious about that is very reasonable."

His comments are taken by many as the most significant concerns raised by the Church of England in the present migrant crisis. The archbishop went on to repeat his call for Britain to take more than 20,000 refugees.

## **General observations on the Christian life:**

George Muller said that the most important part of prayer was the 15 minutes after he had said 'Amen'.

If I could hear Christ praying for me in the next room, I would not fear a million enemies - yet distance makes no difference, and He IS praying for me. - R M McCheyne

If Jesus is the revelation of the heart of God, it's very good news about the nature of God. -R Rohr

The soul does not die by sin but by impenitence. - G K Chesterton

If you bear your cross cheerfully, it will bear you. - Thomas a Kempis

If you accept suffering for your faith as a privilege, it becomes your friend, and brings you closer to God. - Chinese Christian, after spending many years in prison.

Evangelism is not selling Jesus, but showing Jesus. - Lee Camp

It is not our responsibility 'to make people Christians' and get them baptised into a particular denomination, but rather to help people decide to follow Jesus and his radical message. Maybe this is why the New Testament writers only use 'Christian' three times, but use 'disciple' on 269 occasions! - Tom Getman, World Vision International

## Spirit of Life

*(Jn 20:21,22; Ez 37:4-6)*

*Breathe on us, Lord Jesus. Fill us with your Spirit. Send us out, as the Father sent you. Send us out into the world to live, to work, to make decisions, to change and influence and transform; that as your people we might truly make a difference in our generation. Send us out Lord.*

*Breathe on us, and into us, your kiss of life, resuscitating these dry bones to go, with your power and wisdom, to build for your Kingdom today.*

*Breathe on us Lord Jesus fill us with your Spirit, for the work you have given us to do. By Daphne Kitching*

## Sewage Pumps

Until we came to live in Bridge Drive I naïvely thought the water in a sewer flowed by gravity to the treatment works. At the end of Old Womans Lane, the lane which runs between Haslin Crescent and Bridge Drive, is an underground tank into which all the foul water from the surrounding houses flows. When full this is pumped to the main sewer line. There seems to be a similar system in the field opposite The Cheshire Cat, the tank possibly part of Christleton's original sewage system was emptied by a syphon in the verge farther up the road.

This is the tall cast iron pipe with boxed in top, this contains a large tank which is filled with water. When the underground tank is full, the water in the syphon is released syphoning the foul water out of the tank and into the sewer. David Cummings explains about this in much more detail on the Christleton web site.

When my younger daughter was at Leicester studying for her degree we went to stay for the weekend and knowing my interest in steam engines she suggested we visit the Abbey Pumping Station. I expected it to pump water but found it pumped Leicesters sewage to the Sewage works at Beaumont Leys. It was a typical ornate Victorian building and contained four massive Gimson beam engines, with ornate cast iron beams. They were built in 1891 and replaced in 1964 with electric pumps.

We visited again more recently when we went to pick up a granddaughter who had been playing at a concert in the Cathedral. It is now Leicester's Museum of Science and Technology and has a Space Centre and other facilities. The pumps have been restored and one or other can be seen operating at opening times. Another pumping station we have seen is the Edwardian station at Weir Street Northwich built to service the Brunner Mond housing estate, it uses two Gardner Gas engines to drive the pumps. They have been replaced by electric pumps but are still servicable. The station is open to the public Sundays and Bank Holidays.

I would have dearly loved to have visited is the Crossness Station on the Thames. Built between 1859 & 1865 as part of Sir Joseph Bazalgettes solution to the 'Great Stink' of 1858 It has four enormous beam engines built by James Watt with four additional engines for extra capacity if required. It features spectacular ornamental cast ironwork, which Nikolaus Pevsner described as "a masterpiece of engineering – a Victorian cathedral of ironwork". visit to the web site to see pictures of the ornate column tops [Astragal's.] I believe that from 2016 there will be limited access to the site.

I have a great admiration for the Victorian engineers. Ben Williams



It was the festival of **Pentecost**, 50 days since **Passover** and Jews from many countries had come to **Jerusalem** to celebrate.

The Apostles and other believers were all together in one place when they heard a sound like a strong **wind** and saw what looked like **tongues of fire** which spread out and touched each person.

All of them were filled with the **Holy Spirit** and began to talk in other **languages** as the Spirit enabled them.

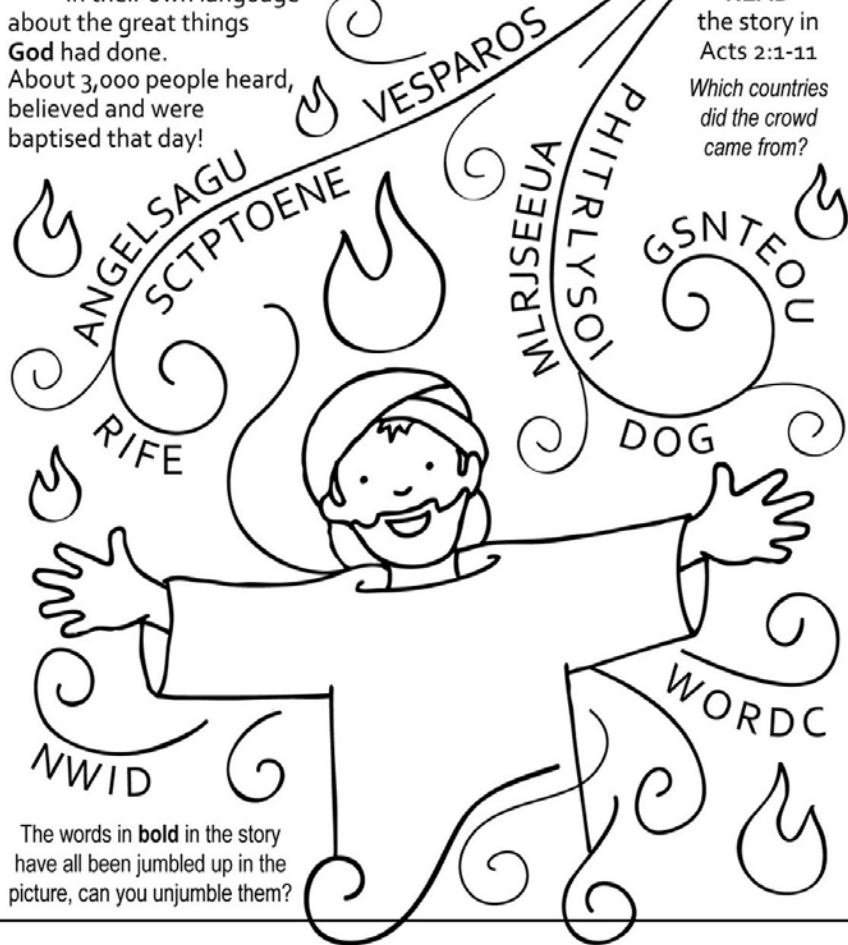
A **crowd** gathered outside, they were all excited because each of them heard the believers speaking in their own language about the great things **God** had done.

About 3,000 people heard, believed and were baptised that day!

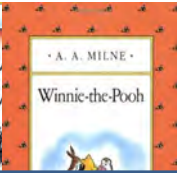
#### READ

the story in  
Acts 2:1-11

Which countries  
did the crowd  
come from?



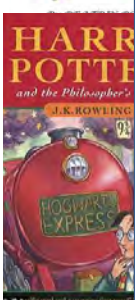
The words in **bold** in the story have all been jumbled up in the picture, can you unjumble them?



The Tiger  
who came  
to tea



Collins  
Picture Lions

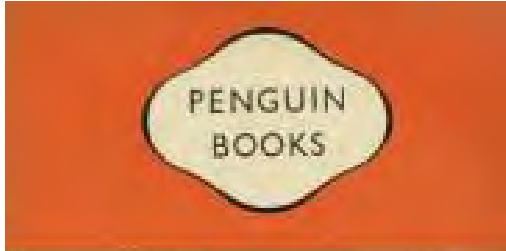


BBQ

Performance Poetry

'Bedtime Stories' Fancy Dress

Parade from the Village Green 1.00pm



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

PRIMARY SCHOOL PLAYING FIELD

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



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

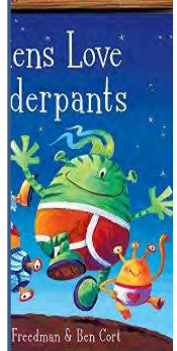
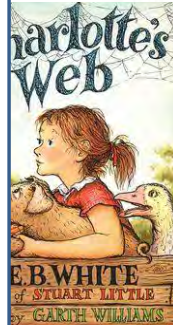
Traditional Games Music Entertainment

Raffle

Café

Prosecco Bar

Spitting Feathers Bar



THE VERY  
HUNGRY  
CATERPILLAR

WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE







## THE LADY & THE LAMP

On 12th May 1820 a baby girl was born who changed the way that we care for people who are ill. Florence Nightingale grew up at a time when only the worst kind of person became a nurse but she had an idea of the way things could be. Her chance to change things came with the Crimean War.

Florence travelled there with a few others and started work in the military hospital at Scutari where conditions were dreadful: wounded soldiers were left lying in dirt without proper food or care and most of them died. The army doctors already there didn't want Miss Nightingale or her nurses, but gradually they improved conditions. The nurses scrubbed and cleaned as well as caring for the wounded and the soldiers began to recover. Florence Nightingale was called the Lady with the Lamp because she would walk the wards at night, checking on patients. After the war, with the support of Queen Victoria, Florence was able to improve hospital care for everyone.

## WASHING WORDS

All the words in this wordsearch are to do with clean and dirty. Can you find them all? The words go up, down, backwards, forwards and diagonally and some letters are used more than once.

S	P	A	R	K	L	I	N	G	A
G	I	D	Y	O	D	A	R	V	D
R	T	U	B	B	U	I	O	A	S
U	P	S	H	B	M	V	P	C	D
B	A	T	H	E	C	A	U	U	E
B	T	E	G	N	O	P	S	U	N
Y	R	R	I	W	I	P	Y	M	I
L	I	U	T	A	M	R	A	U	A
A	D	E	S	S	D	B	R	O	T
D	W	T	A	H	S	K	A	O	S

bath brush dirt  
duster dry  
grime grubby  
mud soak  
soap sparkling  
stained tap tub  
vacuum wash  
wet



### What did the dirt say to the rain?

If this keeps up my name will be mud!

What did the big tap say to the small tap?  
Little squirt!



... and what did the small tap reply? Big drip!"



# Parish Registers

## Funerals

17 March 2016 -Ronald (Ron) Douglass (8 Honeysuckle Close,  
Broughton)

22 March 2016- Eileen Rosina Brace (2 Capesthorpe Road,  
Christleton)

29 March 2016 - Maria Rowe (1 Cedar Place, Vicars Cross)

## **A foolish community:**

‘But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong.’ (1:27). The church in Corinth consisted of slaves, rather than the rich and successful. God calls the weak and vulnerable to follow Him, in order to shame those who think they don’t need God.

## **A foolish ministry:**

‘My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit’s power, so that your faith might not rest on human wisdom, but on God’s power.’ (2:4,5). Paul’s ministry didn’t rest on human wisdom, but on the power of the Holy Spirit. For us, this power is often displayed when we are at our weakest!

## **Holy Days in May:**

1st May Rogation Sunday (fifth Sunday after Easter)

5th May: Ascension Day - 40 Days with the Risen Christ

15th May: St Matthias – the replacement apostle

26th May: Augustine of Canterbury - apostle to the English

30th May: Joan of Arc – saving France from the English

## **Adam and Eve**

Adam and Eve had an ideal marriage. He didn’t have to hear about all the men she could have married, and she didn’t have to hear about the way his mother cooked.

# 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)

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
Administration:	Janet Milton (Janet is your initial contact point for Baptism, Wedding and Appointment requests)	325529
Other local clergy who may assist:	Rev'd Gill Hibbert	336544
Churchwardens:	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:	Berenice Kirwan	336779
Electoral Roll Officer:	Brenda Bailey	335034
Churches Together Representative:	Jan Bowden	335705
Parish Safeguarding Co-ordinator:	The Rector	335663
Pastoral Worker / Visiting:	Berenice Kirwan	336779
Sunday Club / Messy Church:	Berenice Kirwan	336779
CREW Youth Group:	Mike & Tina Lightfoot	328436
Church Library:	Valmai Griffiths	335884
Church Flowers:	Olive Hammond	336562
Bellringers:	Nikki Dromgoole	351124
Bellringers' Secretary:	Nikki Dromgoole	351124
Parish Hall Bookings:	Janet Milton	325529
Children's Society Sec:	Lesley Morgan	335088
Church Missionary Society Sec:	Janet Brown	335785
Mothers' Union Branch Leader:	Janet Brown	335785
Magazine Editor:	David Bull	332234
Assisting Magazine Editor:	Huw Morgan	335088
Magazine Adverts	Ann Smith	332434
Magazine Distributors:	Jenny Davies, Valmai Griffiths	335884

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



Douglas & Meriel Cashin with Lucius the donkey leading the way of the cross through the streets of Chester on Good Friday.



Christ being taken through the streets of Chester to be crucified.

## Spirit of Life

(Jn 20:21,22; Ez 37:4-6) “Breathe on us, Lord Jesus. Fill us with your Spirit. Send us out, as the Father sent you. Send us out into the world to live, to work, to make decisions, to change and influence and transform; that as your people we might truly make a difference in our generation.

*May 2016 @ St. James, Church Christleton*