

St. James'

Christleton

PARISH MAGAZINE

September 2016

www.christleton.org.uk

35p

Starting in September

- Sun 4 **Fifteenth after Trinity**
08.00 am Holy Communion (BCP) followed by
Breakfast in Parish Hall
10.45 am Holy Communion (CW) - followed by
refreshments in Parish Hall
02.30 pm - 4.30 pm Village Teas - Methodist Church
05.00 pm - 6.15 pm Junior Crew - Parish Hall
06.00 pm - 6.30 pm The Crew Youth Group - Parish
Hall Evening Prayer
- Mon 5 10.45 am Holy Communion at Oaklands Nursing
Home
11.20 am Holy Communion Tarvin Court Nursing
Home
02.00 pm Mothers' Union - Parish Hall
- Wed 7 10.45 am United Communion (BCP) - followed by
refreshments in church
06.00 pm Choir Practice
- Fri 9 **Last date for any contributions for October Parish
Magazine to Janet Milton (325529). You can attach
your Word document and e-mail to :**
christletonmag@gmail.com
- Sat 10 10.00 am - 4.00 pm Ride & Stride Day between
churches See www.hccpt.org for details
- Sun 11 **Sixteenth after Trinity**
08.00 am Holy Communion (CW)
10.45 am Morning Worship - followed by
refreshments in the Parish Hall

		02.30 pm - 4.30 pm	Village Teas - Methodist Church
		06.30 pm	Holy Communion (CW)
Wed	14	10.45 am	Holy Communion (BCP) - followed by refreshments
		11.30 am	Holy Communion at Birch Heath Lodge
		06.00 pm	Choir Practice
Sun	18		Seventeenth after Trinity
		08.00 am	Holy Communion (CW)
		10.45 am	Holy Communion (CW) - followed by refreshments in Parish Hall
		02.30 pm - 4.30 pm	Village Teas - Methodist Church
		04.00 pm - 6.00 pm	Messy Church - Parish Hall
		06.30 pm	Evensong Prayer (BCP)
Mon	19	12 noon for 12.30 pm	Luncheon Club in Parish Hall
Wed	21	10.45 am	Holy Communion - followed by refreshments
		06.00 pm	Choir Practice
Thur	22	02.00 pm	Churches Together Committee Meeting
Sun	25		Eighteenth after Trinity
		08.00 am	Holy Communion (CW)
		10.45 am	Morning Prayer (CW) - followed by refreshments in Parish Hall
		02.30 pm - 4.30 pm	Village Teas - Methodist Church (last one for this year)
		06.30 pm	Holy Communion (CW)
Mon	2	07.30 pm	PCC Meeting - St James
Wed	28	10.45 am	Holy Communion (BCP) - followed by refreshments

Message from our Rector



A couple of weeks ago, I asked two questions at a PCC meeting

Question 1, Are we a welcoming Church.....when people come, perhaps for the first time or after a time away, what is our response

Are we busy sorting ourselves out.....chatting with people we need to speak to..... or do we go out of our way to welcome them

and ask how they are.....where are they from.....are they local, or are they visiting.....do we invite them for coffee after the service, and do we sit with them and chat, or do we ignore them

Question 2, Are we an inviting Church.....One of the most difficult things for many people is to go somewhere alone, and coming into a church can be very difficult, for many reasons.....the last time they came was for a funeral.....or a marriage which has sadly broken down.....Perhaps they felt ignored and alone.....or were just confused by what went on, they didn't know when to stand or sit, and no one sat alongside them.

At our Crib service over 60 people attend.....at our Carol Service over 100 attend and for Carols round the tree.....500 or 600 is the best guess. So what is so different about now ????

In my time here, I have been invited to many things, some are regular events, others one off events. I've not been able to accept every invitation, but when I have been able to, I have been welcomed, by those who invited me, I have chatted to people, and built up relationships..... but the most interesting point, is that my relationship with those whose invitation I have not been able to accept, hasn't changed.I don't avoid them.....they don't avoid me

It is suggested that inviting someone to Church, is such a stressful

event,

What if they say no.....will that effect our relationship.....what if the service isn't good.....what if only a few people are there, and the person I invite is expecting a full house

The stress becomes a fear.....and we can't be stressed, if we are not fearful

Remember Moses.....he witnessed one of his own people being beaten in Egypt, and he killed the attacker.....and fled in fear.....however, God said to him.....I have a plan for you.....I want you to go back to Egypt and have it out with Pharaoh,

If we can be afraid of inviting people to church because they might say no.....imagine how Moses must have felt
If our fear in inviting people to Church is hearing NOwhy are afraid of that

We don't like to be vulnerable.....but we say we admire it in others
We don't like rejection.....yet we follow Christ, who was rejected
We don't like suffering.....yet Scripture says, I glory in suffering

As such, you are invited to come along to St James Church at any time, but especially so on

Sunday 09 October at 10.45am for our Harvest Festival

Sunday 30 October at 6.30pm for a Songs of Praise Service

Sunday 13 November at 10.45am for Remembrance Sunday

Sunday 18 December at 6.30pm for a Traditional Carol Service

Sunday 25 December at 10.45am for Christmas day

Please do try and come along, we would love to see you.

Your faithful 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.

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 DISTRIBUTORS

The **October** magazine will be available for collection from Church on Sunday 25th September

MAGAZINE CONTRIBUTIONS

Please ensure all items for inclusion in the October edition are sent to Janet Milton (325529), as soon as possible **BEFORE** Friday **9th September** or you can e-mail them to christletonmag@gmail.com

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 from September to April 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



The History File

Who was Captain Hugh Irving St John Hartford ?

During our research for War Heroes from Christleton who fought in WWI, we came across the name of Hugh Irving St John Hartford, who despite not being named on any village memorial, has his own personal memorial in the Lady Chapel at St James. This was quite puzzling, and the only immediate connection we could find is that the Rector of Christleton 1911-1924 G.M.V.Hickey, attended Magdalen College Oxford at the same time as Hugh. The only other mention of his name came in a Parish Magazine during WWI when T.R.Fleming from Rowton presented six brass vases in his memory. By complete chance however we have uncovered his story. Whilst looking at a memorial window at St James' Beryl noticed that the dedication was to **Frances Catherine** dearly beloved wife of **Irving St John Hartford** who died in January 1886. A search through the grave records at St James' for the name Hartford gave us the answer.

Grave 264 (A cross over a family vault).

William Fleming M.D born 23rd April 1799 died 19th Feb. 1880
age 81yrs

Frances Catherine Hartford his daughter b. Sept 1853 d. 15th Jan. 1886
age 33yrs

Anne F Fleming his sons wife d. 24th April 1896

Thomas Ratcliffe Fleming his son d. 29 April 1929 age 74yrs

Mary Anne Fleming wife d. 20 June 1929 age 66yrs.

Frances Catherine, Hugh's mother was the daughter of a local Medical Doctor, William Fleming of **Rowton Grange**, and it was her brother Thomas Ratcliffe Fleming who gave the six vases in Hugh's memory. The memorial window where we found the inscription is the " St Catherine" window on the west wall of St James' immediately inside the church, and above the hymn book shelves. Hugh was born at Conway and was only three years old when his mother died. He was from a Military family with his father Major Irving St John Hartford serv-

ing with the 22nd Regiment, and his grandfather Captain Augustus Hartford 59th Regiment, of Port Arlington, Queens County, Ireland. Hugh was educated at Wellington College and later Magdalen College Oxford. He joined 1st Battalion Cheshire Regiment in 1905, becoming Lieutenant in January 1906, and promoted Captain in September 1914. He was posted missing after the action at Violaines near La Basse on 22nd October, but his name did not appear on the monthly casualty lists until June 1915. Captain Forster of Christleton was killed in the same action, and his remarkable story is also told in full in the Christleton Great War Voices book.

Our church history also records that **Dr William Fleming** of Rowton Grange, donated the magnificent two manual pipe organ to St James' as part of the refurbishment of the church by Rector Garnett in 1878.

Frances Catherine, Hugh's mother was the daughter of a local Medical Doctor, William Fleming of Rowton Grange, and it was her brother Thomas Ratcliffe Fleming who gave the six vases in Hugh's memory. The memorial window where we found the inscription is the "St Catherine" window on the west wall of St James' immediately inside the church, and above the hymn book shelves. Hugh was born at Conway and was only three years old when his mother died. He was from a Military family with his father Major Irving St John Hartford serving with the 22nd Regiment, and his grandfather Captain Augustus Hartford 59th Regiment, of Port Arlington, Queens County, Ireland. Hugh was educated at Wellington College and later Magdalen College Oxford. He joined 1st Battalion Cheshire Regiment in 1905, becoming Lieutenant in January 1906, and promoted Captain in September 1914. He was posted missing after the action at Violaines near La Basse on 22nd October, but his name did not appear on the monthly casualty lists until June 1915. Captain Forster of Christleton was killed in the same action, and his remarkable story is also told in full in the Christleton Great War Voices book.

Our church history also records that Dr William Fleming of Rowton Grange, donated the magnificent two manual pipe organ to St James' as

part of the refurbishment of the church by Rector Garnett in 1878.

Christleton Pit Group. (New Volunteers needed for our Autumn Programme)

Christleton Pit Group consists of a group of volunteers who have maintained The Pit at Little Heath and the area around it since the 1970's. Our initial work involved pond rescue after the Pit dried out completely in 1976. Since then we have been involved in many activities; finding sources of water, removing huge quantities of vegetation including willow trees, restoration of the banks, creation of fishing platforms etc. Although the level of rainfall has been more than enough to fill the pond in the last four years, the area still has to be maintained, and if possible improved. At present we are waiting for the final go ahead from **WREN** to carry out the next stage, which involves the installation of several lengths of native plant filled coir rolls, on the Littleton side of the Pit where the banks are eroding, and a new fishing platform. We need to have the area prepared for this new project, as well as carrying out general maintenance caused by the enormous growth of vegetation this year. The Pit is a wonderful village amenity, and after threats to fill it in completely in the early 70's, volunteers from the village have helped maintain an area of recreation of which we are proud. Sadly many of us who have worked enthusiastically over the years are getting older, and we need new younger blood to help take on the tasks. If you are willing to help for a couple of hours on any work session dates we would be delighted to see you. The work is not too demanding, and is an opportunity to have fun, meet a lot of like minded people, and do something positive to help the village community, and maintain the area that is loved by everyone.

Autumn dates; (9.30am – 11.30am) (Meet by the Pit.)

Saturday 17th September -- Wednesday 21st Sept.

Saturday 24th Sept -- Saturday 1st October.

More information from David 332410 or
cummings.d@uwclub.net

Will 336162 hotcanary@btinternet or

Eric 335587 eric.kenyon2@uwclub.net (We look forward to seeing you)

Advertisement

Charity Talk at Christleton Parish Hall
Saturday October 15th 7.00pm David Cummings
presents a new talk "Chester Celebrates" in aid
of
Myeloma Cancer UK Talk

This talk looks at many of the exciting events that have taken place in Chester in the last few years. Including; The Chester Mystery Plays, Good Friday Passion Play, Civil war Re enactment, The Lord Mayor's Procession, Grosvenor Park Theatre, Roman Weekend, Saturnalia, Chester Zoo. The WWI Centenary Parade.

Admission £6 including refreshments; coffee/tea/soft drink/Emma's special cake

Churches Together in Christleton

SUMMER SUNDAY TEAS

In the Methodist Church Schoolroom

From 5th June
Until 25 September 2016

EVERY SUNDAY

FROM 2.30 pm UNTIL 4.30 pm

Everyone Welcome

Proceeds to Railway Children



Eric & Sandra Reed

Eric and Sandra Read (with Peter and Atiyah) write from the Philippines July 2016

Eric and Sandra are CMS (Church Mission Society) mission partners who are working in the Philippines and based on the main southern island of Mindanao. Their vision is to train and mentor local churches/groups, to reach out holistically and practically to local communities, particularly within the context of barriers between different people groups.

“Can you teach here next year?” asked the Korean director of a Mission Seminary as he received a box of guavas from us. This teaching has now started and Sandra is teaching Integral Mission and Eric is teaching English. The students are enthusiastic and eager to learn about rural/mission ministries and the practicalities of how to reach out to their communities. In Eric’s class the focus is on improving their confidence and fluency in speaking English.

We have been growing a plot of watermelons and planned to ask children to help during their summer holidays. The water melons were a disaster! They got off to a great start, until they were put into the ground when red ants – nasty biting ones – appeared and started demolishing them. They were swiftly joined by the neighbour’s chickens looking for anything they could find to eat. We even had a serious invasion of black army ants in our house and garden. We literally were sweeping them off! We abandoned this water melon plan but continued the Saturday gatherings with the elementary children, playing games, learning knots, making a rope ladder and even a rope bridge, learning bible stories, and memorising verses.

The rain started in late May – what a relief to see dusty brown ground turning green and muddy, trees recovering (sadly quite a few in the hills around us got burned in the bush fires), animals (although still looking gaunt) feasting on greens again, and us sleeping better at night now that it is cooler. We managed to water the fruit trees as our spring continued to flow when most other springs and the river beside us had all dried up.

The guavas put on new leaves and started flowering well.

Please take time to pray with us:

- For the new president as he tackles major problems
- that La Nina will not bring destructive rain
- for the building permit and a good builder
- for Peter and Atiyah in their studies
- for us in the work on the farm and teaching at the seminary

Thank you for your continued prayer and support

Eric and Sandra

Christleton Local History Group

Wednesday September 28th
7.30pm at Christleton Primary School
Everyone welcome

There is no joining fee, and we ask members & visitors for a contribution of £3 for each lecture, to cover costs. Full details of all our varied and stimulating lectures can be found on the Village website www.christleton.org.uk

A short AGM & “On the Waterfront”

Speaker David Cummings

Following a short AGM David will take us on a photographic journey to **Bristol** (SS Great Britain) **London** (The Cutty Sark) **Portsmouth** (The Victory) **Swansea** (Waterfront revival) **Liverpool** (European City of Culture 2008) **Marseille** (European City of Culture 2011)

All welcome

* The meeting originally planned for this evening exploring aspects of WWII with a visiting speaker, artefacts and equipment has had to be postponed until a later date.

RSPB Chester Group

September Events



Our new season starts in September with the following:

Wed 21 Sept 7.30pm Talk: “Aristocrats of the Air”

On how birds fly so successfully, with dramatic pictures, by one of our favourite speakers, Keith Offord, professional ornithologist and photographer.

Visitors welcome

**£2 for group members, £4 for visitors
(refreshments included).**

Christleton Parish Hall, Village Rd, Christleton CH3 7AS.

Overflow parking on road or at church.

Sat 24 September 9.00am: Field trip – wet walk to Hilbre Island

Plenty of birdlife, plus inquisitive seals. Boots or wellies essential, as it's wet and slippery. Trip leader John Chapman, phone 01244 316590.

It is vital to call the trip leader a few days before each trip, to book and check final details. Stout footwear and sensible clothing are essential.

Water and a packed lunch are advisable. Car sharing is encouraged.

Newcomers and beginners welcome.

For earlier information or more details: phone 01244 335670

Or see our website: www.rspb.org.uk/groups/chester

Or our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/RSPBchester

BELATED CONGRATULATIONS

Best wishes to Chris & Joce Platel on their Ruby Wedding Anniversary on 8 August.

CHRISTLETON GARDENING CLUB

On Monday 12 September at 7.30 pm in the Methodist Church Schoolroom there will be a talk by Nick Lightfoot on the Past – Present – Future of Ness Gardens. New members welcome.

Amiens

One summer while staying in the Somme area we visited the Lochnagar Crater, it is almost 300ft in diameter and 70ft deep, the largest crater ever made by man in anger. It is the result of a W.W.1 mine dug by tunnelling Companies of the Royal Engineers and exploded on the 1st July 1916, the first day of the Somme offensive.

Sound travels underground and for silence the miners used bayonets and worked barefoot. Spoil was placed in sandbags and passed hand-by-hand along a row of miners sitting on the floor. When finished the tunnel was 1030 ft long and the access tunnel to the mine was 4 ½ feet high and 2 ½ wide. Working conditions must have been unbelievably harsh. Prior to our visit I had read Sebastian Faulks novel *Birdsong*, the main character being a mining officer and the operation is described in horrific detail. [if you are tempted to see the play read the book first] Also in the book the floating gardens of Amiens were mentioned so we decided to pay them a visit.

We drove into the city, checked the car into an underground car park for three days and booked into a hotel. Setting out to explore, what we discovered was modern, not surprising being as the city was shelled by both sides in W.W.1. and heavily bombed by the R.A.F. in W.W.2. What we discovered that evening there would be *Son et Lumière* at the Cathedral. Built between 1220 and 1270, it's the 19th largest church in the world renowned for the quality and quantity of early 13th-Century Gothic sculpture in the main west façade. Three vast deep porches are capped with the gallery of twenty-two over life-size kings, which stretches across the entire façade The portals of the Cathedral are

famous for their elaborate sculpture, featuring a gallery of locally important saints and large scenes showing Death, Judgement, and the final destiny of the Soul and of Humankind. These were originally painted, but with time and the weather this has been lost, or so it seems. A team has painstakingly examined the stonework with ultra violet light found fragments of the original paint and built up a picture of what it originally looked like.

After a meal we went to the Cathedral and when it went dark the surrounding street lights were extinguished and a projector lit up the Façade with the original colours so that it appeared painted. A commentary started which described what had been done and after about 30 minutes it was followed by music. It went on until about 11 o'clock when the projector was switched off and the street lights came back on. The following day we visited the Cathedral again, it reputedly contains the Head of St John the Baptist which was the reason the Cathedral was built in the first place. It also has the largest medieval interior in Europe and contains works of art and decoration from every period since the building of the Cathedral, some very fine pieces.

The Cathedral is built on a slight ridge overlooking the River Somme. After we left we descended steps and crossed a road and bridge to the far side of the river and walked along to the Floating Gardens where we boarded a battery powered punt. The hortillonnages "Floating Gardens" are emblematic of Amiens". The hortillonnages cover 300 hectares. They are interlaced with 65km of small canals, known as "rieux" in the local dialect. These market gardens, gently lapped by the Avre and the Somme, have been cultivated since the Middle Ages. This idyllic place is the fruit of the work of men who shaped these fertile islands on land recovered from the marshes. Until early last century, fruit and vegetables from the hortillonnages fed the town of Amiens. Still today, this rich land produces up to 3 harvests per year. For about 50 minutes we glided soundlessly through the canals. Most of the islands were market gardens similar to our allotments but some were pleasure gardens with lawns and flower beds, some had summer houses on them. There were no services and they were not allowed to be occupied at night.

Whilst in the area we visited the town of Albert. As we drove towards it we could see the golden dome and statue of Mary and the Infant Jesus on top of the Basilica of Notre-Dame de Brebières - these are covered with gold leaf. It was an amazing sight. The town was almost turned to rubble in W.W.1. by German shell fire and the statue was tipped to a crazy angle. The Germans believed that when it fell they would win the war, the British believed the opposite. It finally fell in 1918 when the British shelled the town after the Germans reoccupied it. The statue was never found and was reconstructed after the war.

In the 9th Century the people of Albert dug galleries in the clay soil to hide from Norman and Spanish invaders - these were also used in W.W.1 they have now become 'The Somme Trench Museum'. We entered via a Crypt under the Basilica and found reconstructions of trenches. We walked along tunnels for I think about $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile emerging in a garden on the banks of the Somme river. Ben Williams

After the Referendum – finding a good way forward

Archbishop Justin Welby and Archbishop John Sentamu issued a joint statement after the UK voted to leave the European Union. In it they said: “As citizens of the United Kingdom, whatever our views during the referendum campaign, we must now unite in a common task to build a generous and forward looking country, contributing to human flourishing around the world. “We must remain hospitable and compassionate, builders of bridges and not barriers. Many of those living among us... come from overseas and some will feel a deep sense of insecurity.

We must respond by offering reassurance, by cherishing our wonderfully diverse society, and by affirming the unique contribution of each and every one. “... Unity, hope and generosity will enable us to overcome the period of transition that will now happen, and to emerge confident and successful. The opportunities and challenges that face us as a nation and as global citizens are too significant for us to settle for less. “As those who hope and trust in the living God ..., Let us pray especially that we

may go forward to build a good United Kingdom that, though relating to the rest of Europe in a new way will play its part amongst the nations in the pursuit of the common good throughout the world.”

Holy Land without Christians could become just a ‘museum tour’ Without a Palestinian Christian community, the Holy Land will become a tour of museums. That was Fr Jamal Khader’s stark prediction at the recent annual lecture of UK Christian charity Embrace the Middle East. Fr Jamal, a Roman Catholic priest and dean of the faculty of arts, professor of theology and chair of the department of religious studies at Bethlehem University, said: “We have survived 2,000 years and want to continue to bear witness to our faith in the land chosen by God for our salvation. “Our presence is important, not only for historical reasons but for what we stand for: justice, peace and reconciliation in a land torn by war, hatred and violence.”

Speaking at St James’s Piccadilly in London, Fr Jamal outlined the historic UK-Palestine relationship over the past century, focusing in particular on Britain’s historic and moral responsibilities towards Palestine, and the need for a just peace in the region. He praised the ‘sincere solidarity’ of churches in the UK who have expressed support for Palestinian Christians.

Holydays in September

1st Drithelm - vision of the after-life

Drithelm is the saint for you if you have ever wondered what lies beyond death, or have had a near-death experience. He was married and living in Cunningham (now Ayrshire, then Northumbria) in the 7th century when he fell ill and apparently died. When he revived a few hours later he caused panic among the mourners, and was himself deeply shaken by the whole experience.

Drithelm went to pray in the village church until daylight, and during those long hours reviewed the priorities of his life in the light of what

he had seen while 'dead'. A celestial guide had shown him souls in hell, in purgatory, in paradise and heaven... suddenly the reality of God and of coming judgement and of what Christ had done in redeeming mankind became real to him, and his life on earth could never be the same again. Next day he divided his wealth into three: giving one third to his wife, one third to his sons, and the remainder to the poor. He became a monk and went to live at Melrose, where he spent his time in prayer and contemplation of Jesus.

Drithelm's Vision of the after-life is remarkable in that it was the first example of this kind of literature from England. It was SO early: seventh century Anglo-Saxon England! Drithelm has even been seen as a remote precursor of Dante. On a lighter note, Drithelm can also be a saint for you if you didn't get abroad this summer, but ventured to swim instead off one of our beaches: he used to stand in the cold waters of the Tweed for hours, reciting Psalms.

3rd St Gregory the Great - the man who saved the 'angels'

Pope Gregory never called himself 'the Great', but instead 'the Servant of the Servants of God'. Nevertheless, Gregory was one of the most important popes and influential writers of the Middle Ages. The son of a very rich Roman senator, he left the service of the State upon his conversion as a young man. Gregory then sold off his tremendous estates to found six monasteries in Sicily and a seventh in Rome, and gave generously to the poor. He became a monk and adopted an austere lifestyle. But he was destined to be a frustrated monk, because successive popes kept appointing him to jobs with major public responsibilities.

Christians in England owe him a great deal. When Gregory came across some English slaves for sale in Rome, he asked who they were, and was told, 'They are Angles.' Moved with compassion for these humiliated and despised men, he replied, 'They are not Angles, but angels!' He wanted to lead a band of missionaries to England to evangelise the Angles, but then plague broke out in Italy, and during this time he was elected Pope.

Reluctantly he accepted, and then sent to work to deal with the crises

facing Christendom: plague, floods, famine, and a Lombard invasion. But busy though Gregory was, he did not forget the Angles. He sent Augustine to England, and so indirectly became the apostle of the English.

13th St John Chrysostom - living a public faith

John Chrysostom (347 – 407) is the saint for anyone who applies their Christianity to public life, and also for anyone who hates travelling in bad weather. Chrysostom did both, and had trouble both times. Born into a wealthy home in Antioch, John Chrysostom studied both oratory and law. In 373 he became a monk, where his talents were soon spotted by the bishop, who put him in charge of the care of the many poor Christians in the city.

Chrysostom's oratorical skills made him a popular preacher – even when he spoke out against the riots against the emperor's taxes. The emperor, in fact, liked him so much that he had him made Archbishop of Constantinople in 397. Then the trouble began: because Chrysostom had firm moral views, and wanted to reform the corrupt morals of the court.

Nobody at court liked that at all – especially the Empress, whose make-up, clothes and behaviour were all criticised by Chrysostom. (It's as if Justin Welby began calling the Queen's dress sense or Kate's lipstick immoral.) When his enemies claimed that he had gone on to call her a 'Jezebel', the emperor had to exile him – until an earthquake scared everyone into recalling this strict Archbishop – just in case God was trying to tell them something. Even the Empress was shaken – for a while.

A few years later, Chrysostom was exiled again over another false charge – and forced to travel for many miles in appalling weather. If you've been stranded in any heat-waves or thunderstorms this summer, imagine walking up the M6 in that – for weeks on end. In the end, Chrysostom died in September, on the road to Pontus.

His body was later brought back to Constantinople, and over the ensuing centuries, the Church came to see him as having been a great church leader, in fact, one of the Four Greek Doctors (with Athanasius, Basil

and Gregory of Nazianzus).

20th The Martyrs of Korea

Korea is known for its thriving Christian church. But it was not always so – in fact no Korean was baptised until as late as 1784. Christianity arrived in Korea through Christian books sent from China, and the Koreans responded warmly as soon as they heard the Good News. A Chinese priest who visited in 1794 found 4,000 Christians. This despite hard times: the Chinese priest was killed in 1801, and the Koreans were left without a priest for 30 years. Then Pope Pius VII sent a bishop, Laurence Imbert, who arrived in disguise in 1837, who worked with two other priests of the same Paris Missionary Society. Christianity was strictly forbidden by this time, and so the missionaries worked in complete secrecy, rising at 2.30 am and ministering at unusual times in conditions of extreme poverty.

And the Korean Church grew! Soon there were 9,000 Christians, who could not remain secret forever. Violent persecution broke out, and the three French priests allowed themselves to be taken, in order to avert massacre and apostasy. They were beheaded at Seoul on 21 September 1839. 78 Korean Christians died in the same persecution, among them Agatha Kim and John Ri. The first Korean priest to be martyred was Andrew Kim, in 1846. These shining Christians of the Korean Church were beatified in 1925 and canonized in 1984.

21st St Matthew

Matthew was one of 12 apostles. But he began as a publican i.e. a tax-collector of Jewish race who worked for the Romans, before he left all at the call of Christ. From earliest times, he was regarded as the author of the first of the four Gospels. The Gospel of Matthew is in correct, concise style, very suitable for public reading.

His usual emblem as an evangelist is a man, because his genealogy emphasised the family ties of Christ. In art, he has been represented as either an evangelist or as an apostle. As an evangelist, he has been depicted sitting at a desk, writing his gospel with an angel holding the

inkwell. In the Middle Ages he was even given a pair of spectacles. Matthew was martyred by a sword or a spear, some think in Ethiopia.

15th Anniversary of 9/11

Fifteen years ago, on 11th Sept 2001, terrorist attacks demolished the Twin Towers in New York. They killed 2,996 people and injured more than 6,000. Events like 9/11 raise the inevitable question: Why does God allow such suffering to take place? There are no easy answers to this question! We cannot fully understand why such things happen, although we live in a fallen world, where people make real choices. Yet the Bible affirms that God identifies with our suffering, supremely when Jesus experienced suffering and death. It is on the Cross that God knows what it is to lose a loved one in an unjust attack. 'I could never myself believe in God if it were not for the Cross. In the real world of pain, how could one worship a God who was immune to it?' (John Stott).

What does this mean? We cannot know why God allows evil and suffering to continue, but we do know that He does love and care for us: 'For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.' (John 3:16). God loved us enough to fully engage with the mess of the world.

We also can view such events in the light of resurrection. Jesus said: 'I am the Resurrection and the Life. The one who believes in Me will live' (John 11:25). Resurrection points to the restoration for us of the life we lost. New heavens and new earth point to a world and relationships restored and perfected! In *The Lord of the Rings*, Sam Gamgee exclaims: 'Gandalf! I thought you were dead! But then I thought I was dead! Is everything sad going to come untrue?' The answer of the Bible is Yes!

Prayer Breakfast warned over 'alienation' of Middle East Christians

The "alienation of Christians" in the Middle East cannot be allowed to continue. That was the recent warning given to the National Prayer

Breakfast by the General Bishop of the Coptic Orthodox Church in the UK, His Grace Bishop Angaelos. In February 2015 alone, ISIS beheaded 21 Coptic Christians on a beach in Libya.

The overall statistics are startling: the proportion of people in the Middle East who are Christians has dropped from 14 per cent in 1910 to just 4 per cent today. Church experts have now begun to ask whether Christianity will vanish from the Middle East, its cradle, after 2,000 years. Christians across the Middle East have been hounded out of their homes, forced to flee from village to village, and many of them forced to renounce their faith or be brutally murdered. "We must stand with them, getting humanitarian aid to those most in need, to supporting efforts to bring reconciliation to the region in the future," said Bishop Angaelos.

The National Prayer Breakfast is held annually in Westminster Hall. This year it brought together some 730 people including more than 150 parliamentarians and peers, 50 ambassadors and Church leaders. The event is organised by Christians in Parliament and sponsored by Bible Society.

Harold Robinson, 4.3.28 - 17.7.16 **Formerly of The Park**

Harold, one of the longest residents of The Park, was a familiar figure walking in the village or along the canal and latterly standing at the bus stop. His move last year to a nursing home and subsequent death in July may be unknown to some and therefore his daughter, Karen, has written a brief summary of his life for this magazine. He received the 'parish mag' regularly until his death and remained very interested in Christleton life. Karen writes:

Harold was brought up in Cardiganshire with a brief spell in Silver-town, London, and was one of five boys growing up in a Welsh speaking household. He did an Honours degree at Aberystwyth University, where he met his future wife, Margaret, and they married in 1951. He worked

as a research chemist for Shell all his working life, mainly at Thornton Research Centre near Ellesmere Port, apart from a 2 year stint in The Hague, Holland.

The family moved to The Park in 1959 as the houses there were still being built. He was able to, influence some of the interior features of the house, even installing the heating. At that time there were mainly young families living in The Park so it was full of children playing in the road.

The Park has always been a close knit community providing practical help and support if needed. Margaret and Harold joined in with this and after Margaret died in 2004 neighbours there looked out for Harold, especially as he became frail towards the end of his life. He moved to a care home in Shropshire last year in order to be near one of his daughters but his neighbours in The Park kept in close contact with him, something he greatly appreciated, and several of them visited him in his new home.

Harold died at the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital after a short illness and his two daughters received lots of kind and supportive messages from his friends in Christleton with several of his ex-neighbours attending his funeral in Shrewsbury. A Park resident described Harold as outwardly a quiet man but inwardly a person of great intelligence, perception and humour, and we miss him.

September Prayer

Loving Father,

Please help us with all the new things September brings: a new school year, new stages of life, with children moving on or out, new challenges for many as summer gives way to autumn. Help us in this season of change to know the constant reality of Jesus. Thank you for the new life He freely offers to all who turn to Him.

In Jesus' name.

Amen.

By Daphne Kitching

The parable of the Talents

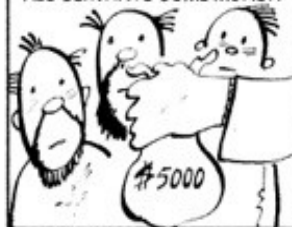


JESUS OFTEN TOLD STORIES WITH HIDDEN MEANINGS



ONE STORY WAS ABOUT THREE SERVANTS AND THEIR MASTER.

THE MASTER PLANNED TO GO AWAY ON A LONG JOURNEY, BUT BEFORE HE LEFT HE GAVE HIS SERVANTS SOME MONEY.



HE GAVE TO EACH ACCORDING TO THEIR ABILITY.

TO ONE HE GAVE 5,000 SILVER COINS, TO ANOTHER 2,000 ...

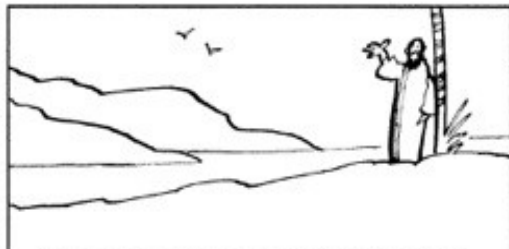


... AND TO ANOTHER HE GAVE 1,000 SILVER COINS. THEN HE WENT ON HIS JOURNEY



WHEN THE MASTER RETURNED HE FOUND THE FIRST TWO SERVANTS HAD USED THEIR MONIES WISELY, AND THEY HAD BOTH DOUBLED HIS INVESTMENT IN THEM!

BUT THE THIRD SERVANT JUST BURIED HIS MONEY! THE MASTER WAS NOT HAPPY!!



THIS PARABLE MIGHT HAVE BEEN JESUS' WAY OF SAYING - "YOU SHOULD USE YOUR GIFTS WISELY AND DO NOT HIDE YOUR TALENTS"



LET DOWN BY HIS FRIENDS

In the Bible there are many accounts of Jesus healing people. You can read about one in Mark's Gospel, chapter 2, verses 3 - 12. I like this one because it is about friends.

The four men made a tremendous effort to bring their paralyzed friend to Jesus. When they reached the house where Jesus was it was surrounded by lots of people; they could have given up and gone home. But they didn't. What did they do?

At that time houses had flat roofs and a stairway outside the house that led up to the roof. The four men broke through the roof and lowered their friend down on his bed. Imagine all the faces looking up and wondering what was going on as the dust, earth and lumps of wood fell down! Then the Bible says "When Jesus saw their faith..."

The all important change came from faith - not from the faith of the man but from the faith of his friends. One man's life changed forever because of four good friends and one Best Friend, Jesus.

OVER & UNDER?

The answers to all of these are either OVER or UNDER...

1. When a car passes another vehicle.
2. In London, they call it the Tube.
3. A thick winter garment you wear outside.
4. Dungarees, or worn to do a dirty job.
5. One way to throw a ball.
6. Another name for a funeral director.
7. When someone falls off a boat.
8. Knickers, vests etc.



(Answers at the bottom of the page)



On a school trip to France, the teachers were reminding the children about behaving properly. 'And,' said the headmaster, 'what do you do if one of the children falls overboard?' 'Shout for help, sir,' said one boy. 'Good. And what do you do if one of the teachers



falls overboard?' 'Which one, sir?'



- Answers: 1. overtaking 2. Underground
 3. overcoat 4. overalls 5. underarm 6. undertaker 7. overboard
 8. underclothes

Parish Registers

Holy Matrimony

15 July 2016 David James Mallard & Andrea Katarina Wendler
23 July 2016 Christopher Darren Smith & Karen Mary Harkness
29 July 2016 Sean Carter & Sian Melanie Dutton
06 August 2016 James Robert Courtney Rose & Anneliese Kaye Offord

Breakfast like a king, dine like a pauper

The old saying ‘breakfast like a king, lunch like a prince and dine like a pauper’ could well turn out to be the very best of advice if you want to lose weight and stay healthy. According to a recent study by King’s College, the modern lifestyle of eating more as the day goes on, instead of less, is causing havoc to our body clocks and digestion.

Miscellaneous

A talk on drugs will be given at the next Mothers’ Union meeting. This will be followed by a Bring and Buy Sale.

Confessing your sins is no substitute for forsaking them. Anon

Don’t allow anxiety to kill you. Let the church help.

Don’t miss the Young Wives’ Victorian evening next month. It will be a fun night and some of the women will wear clothes.

How many Christians live their lives packed up and ready to go?
J I Packer

It is religion without love that has been responsible for most of the misery of the world. Anon

The spirit which loses reverence for God turns naturally to sinning. John
Hercus

PARISH CHURCH OF ST JAMES, CHRISTLETON

REGULAR WORSHIP

SUNDAYS:	8.00am:	Holy Communion
	10.45am:	Holy Communion (1st & 3rd & 5th Sundays) Morning Worship - a less formal service for all (2nd Sunday) Morning Prayer / Mattins (4th Sunday)
	6.30pm:	Evening Prayer / Evensong (1st Sunday) Holy Communion (2nd & 4th Sundays) Evening Prayer / Evensong (BCP) (3rd Sunday) Evening services on a 5th Sunday vary - see notices.

WEDNESDAYS:	10.45am:	Holy Communion (BCP) (United service on 1st 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.

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:	Tina Lightfoot Bettie Gilliatt	07557 352592 335645
Deputy Wardens:	Chris Platel	332466
Verge:	John Milton	325529
Sacristan:	Betty Dunning	335652
Organist:	Vacant	
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:	Betty Gilliatt	335645
Electoral Roll Officer:	Brenda Bailey	335034
Churches Together Representative:	Jan Bowden	335705
Parish Safeguarding Co-ordinator:	The Rector	335663
Messy Church:	Rev'd Malcolm Cowan	335663
CREW Youth Group:	Mike & Tina Lightfoot	328436
Church Library:	Valmai Griffiths	335884
Church Flowers:	Olive Hammond	336562
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
Magazine Compiler	Ike Efobi	336072

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



Pots of Jam and Janet Brown's trophies



Edward next to his prize planter

Cucumber

A small boy asked his mother for a cucumber to take to Junior Church. A slightly puzzled mother complied. Later she asked what it had been used for. 'Sorry, mum,' he confessed. 'I got it wrong. We were supposed to bring a newcomer.'