

St. James' Christleton



PARISH MAGAZINE

September 2015

www.christleton.org.uk

35p

Advertising August

Wed 2 10.45 am United Communion - followed by Refreshments

Thur 3 12.00 noon United Prayer Lunch - Methodist Church

Fourteenth after Trinity

Sun 6 8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP) followed by
Breakfast in Parish Hall
 10.45 am Holy Communion – followed by refreshments in Parish Hall
 2.30 pm – 4.30pm **Village Teas - Methodist Church**
 5.00 pm Messy Church team meeting - Parish Hall
 6.00 pm The Crew Youth Group - Parish Hall
 6.30 pm Evening Worship

Mon 7 10.45 am Holy Communion at Oaklands Nursing Home
 11.20 am Holy Communion at Tarvin Court Nursing Home
 2.00 pm Mothers' Union - Parish Hall

Wed 9 10.45 am Holy Communion (BCP) - followed by Refreshments in church
 11.30 am Holy Communion - Birch Heath Lodge

Fri 11 **Last date for any contributions for October Parish Magazine to JanetMilton (325529). You can attach yourWord document and e-mail to : christletonmag@hotmail.co.uk or christletonmag@spraff.net**

Fifteenth after Trinity

Sun 13 8.00 am Holy Communion
 10.45 am Morning Worship - followed by refreshments in the Parish Hall
2.30 pm - 4.00pm Village Teas - Methodist Church
 6.30 pm Holy Communion

Wed	16	10.45 am	Holy Communion - followed by refreshments
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Sixteenth after Trinity

Sun	20	8.00 am	Holy Communion
		10.45 am	Holy Communion – followed by refreshments in the Parish Hall
		2.30 pm - 4.00pm	Village Teas - Methodist Church
		4.00 pm – 6.00pm	Messy Church - Parish Hall
		6.30 pm	Evening Worship (BCP)

Mon	21	12 noon for 12.30 pm	Luncheon Club in Parish Hall
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Wed	23	10.45 am	Holy Communion - followed by refreshments
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Fri	25	6.30 pm	Choir Practice
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Seventeenth after Trinity

Sun	27	8.00 am	Holy Communion
		10.45 am	Sunday Club - Parish Hall
		10.45 am	Morning Prayer - followed by refreshments in Parish Hall
		2.30 pm – 4.30 pm	Village Teas - Methodist Church
			(last one for this year)
		6.30 pm	Holy Communion

Mon	28	7.30 pm	PCC Meeting - St James
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Wed	30	10.45 am	Holy Communion - followed by refreshments in church
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Front Cover

The Pump House, with the winning display of Hanging Baskets from the 2015 Village Show.

Back Cover

Messy Church activities at the Flower Service held on the Church Green on July 12th

Message from our Rector



During the summer months, one of pastimes I like to indulge in, is kayaking along the river.

Walking along the riverbank is nice, and there is always plenty to see, but on the water, we see so many different things, things that just can't be seen from the riverbank, from the wildlife, to the views. Things just look different from the "other side".

Life works in much the same way, we accept our surroundings, and become comfortable with them, perhaps even blinkered to what may be on the "other side".

The other side can be a scary, frightening place. It has the audacity to ask us to view things from a different perspective, and to expect us to consider "the other".

One of my favourite phrases (although I can't claim it as my own) is "I know what I believe, don't confuse me with the truth"

Viewing things from the "other side" can do that, it confuses us, we can lose sight of landmarks. The familiar, suddenly appears unfamiliar, and the things we thought we knew, we begin to question.

The Bible reminds us of the fear of the "other side". In the Old Testament, we are reminded how the Israelites, were held captive in Egypt, longing to escape to the "other side" of the Red Sea, and freedom in the Promised Land.

How quickly their joy turned to sorrow, on "the other side" as they began to make and worship Idols whilst Moses was receiving the Ten Commandments from God.

For forty years they wandered in the wilderness of the "other side" perhaps they thought slavery was a better prospect than freedom.

And in the New Testament, God sent his only Son, to redeem a people, people who had lost their way, and God needed to show them how life

was good on the “other side” but their hearts were hardened.

For these people, the Saviour would be a warrior, a man of force, rather than a man of love, a man who would ride into town on a stallion rather than a mule.

They knew what they believed, and this Jesus was not going to confuse them with the truth.

Even when he hung on the Cross and the sky turned black.....
They knew what they believed, and didn't want to be confused with the truth.

“If you can save others, then save yourself” the crowd shouted.....
And he didAnd He confused them with the truth of the Resurrection.

Sometimes the challenge of viewing things from the other side, is too much for us to face, but the new vistas and visions which lay open before us, can be the liberation which frees us from the slavery of our narrow perspectives and long held beliefs and can lead us into a new way of being.

Your faithful servant,
Malcolm



ANNIVERSARY

Alf and Margaret Croston reach their Blue Sapphire Wedding Anniversary (65 years) on Wednesday 16 September 2015.

They were married at All Saints Church, Hindley, in Lancashire.

Congratulations from all their friends at St James.

WHAT'S ON THIS MONTH

SUNDAY CLUB

Held in the Parish Hall from 10.45 am – 11.45 am each Sunday during term-time, except when Family Service is held at St James.

For further details please contact Berenice Kirwan, 336779.

CHRISTLETON METHODIST CHURCH

We meet for Informal Prayers and a Simple Lunch on the first Thursday of each month at 12 noon. All welcome. There is no charge for the lunch but a donation to cover costs would be appreciated.

CHRISTLETON W. I.

Meets on the second Wednesday of the month at 7.15 pm in the Parish Hall. Further details may be obtained from the Secretary, Miss Ida Rogers, Chester 350060.



CHESTER FLOWER CLUB

Meetings are held in Christleton Parish Hall on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 1.30pm. Details of any events can be obtained from the Secretary, Mrs Lilian Hopley. Telephone Chester: 07803964548.

CHRISTLETON GARENING CLUB

Monday 14 September at 7.30 pm in the Methodist Church
'Transforming Bluebell Cottage Gardens' – Sue Beesley

MAGAZINE CONTRIBUTIONS

Please ensure all items for inclusion in the **October** edition are sent to Janet Milton (325529), as soon as possible **BEFORE**

Friday 11th September or you can e-mail this to
christletonmag@hotmail.co.uk or **christletonmag@spraff.net**

MAGAZINE DISTRIBUTORS

The **September** magazine will be available for collection from Church on **Sunday 30 August**.



A Spotlight on



A member of St James's congregation

Name: Cynthia Siddall

Live: Little Heath Road

Nationality: British

Originally from: Park Gate Road

Occupation: Retired P.E. Teacher



Family: Widow of Jim Siddall. (Married for 63 Years)

4 Children, 5 Grandsons, 3 Great Grand Children.

Interests: Gardening, History, Reading, Knitting and

Dining Out (saves Cooking!)

Favourite Quotation: "Be Prepared" – The Guide Motto

Things that may surprise the reader:

President of Christleton WI in her 90th Year



A Member of



The Association of
Inner Wheel Clubs in
Great Britain & Ireland

Chester for over 50 years



Swims regularly at the Abbots Well



CHRISTLETON

THE VALUE OF CHURCHES

In the National Churches Trust Annual Review 2014-2015, Michael Palin, the well-known writer and performer, wrote his memories of his favourite churches from the time that he was baptised in 1943.

The final paragraph of his survey is a very pertinent and worthy conclusion to his article and one on which we should reflect

“The local church still means something to the community. A recognition that English churches remain an enormously valuable part of our national heritage. For my part, I feel very strongly that if the idea of a community is to mean anything at all, then we must value the churches that are at their centre. Not just because so many are beautiful buildings in themselves, but for what they can still offer, as they used to offer, as havens, shelters, places of protection – places which don’t cost a penny to enter We must not be afraid to try and use our churches, open them for believers and non-believers, and even “agnostics with doubts” to enjoy. They are an archive of hopes, dreams, fears, skills, talent and troubles, which should surely be available to as many people as possible. They are a precious expression of our past. And it is the duty of our present generation to deliver them intact for the future” Alf Croston

Christleton Local History Group

Wednesday 23rd September 7.30pm
Christleton Primary School in Quarry Lane

The A.G.M, followed by a talk by David Cummings

Historic Places Revisited.
Acton Scott Victorian Farm, Presteigne Judges Chambers,
Tenbury on Wells, and medieval Nantwich.
Admission £3 All welcome.

Time and Talents

As part of our moving forward as a worshipping community, we are always seeking to encourage everyone to play their part in worship.

We are looking for new choir members, male and female, adult and junior, to work with our new organist.

We are also seeking musicians (especially keyboard players) to play at some of our services and at our Messy Church (on the third Sunday of each month), playing as part of our music group

We are also seeking new members to our bell ringing team. who ring the bells each Sunday and also at many of our weddings.

If you would like more information please speak with Rev Malcolm Cowan (01244 335663).

Guidance and encouragement as well as instruction, is always available.

Richard of Chichester (c1197-1253)

Did you ever wonder where the prayer....."May I know thee more clearly, love thee more dearly, and follow thee more nearly, day by day", comes from? Richard of Chichester, a Bishop in the 13th century, wrote it.

He began his life as Richard de Wych, of Droitwich, the son of a yeoman farmer. Richard was a studious boy, and after helping his father on the farm for several years, refused an advantageous offer of marriage, and instead made his way to Oxford and later Paris and Bologna to study canon law.

In 1235 he returned to Oxford, and was soon appointed Chancellor, where he supported Edmund, Archbishop of Canterbury, in his struggles against King Henry III's misuse of church funds. After further study he became a priest, Richard was in due course made a Bishop. He was greatly loved. He was charitable and accessible, both stern and merciful to sinners, extraordinarily generous to those stricken by famine, and a brilliant legislator of his diocese. He decreed that the sacraments were to be administered without payment, Mass celebrated in dignified conditions, the clergy were to be chaste, to practice residence and to wear clerical dress. The laity were obliged to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy days, and to know by heart the Hail Mary as well as the Lord's Prayer and the Creed.

Richard was also prominent in preaching the Crusade, which he saw as a call to reopen the Holy Land to pilgrims, not as a political expedition. He died at Dover on 3 April 1253. One ancient English church is dedicated to him, and, of course, he is the author of that famous prayer, now set to popular music which runs in full;

Thanks be to you, our Lord Jesus Christ, for all the benefits which you have given us, for all the pains and insults which you have borne for us.

Most merciful Redeemer, Friend and Brother, may we know you more clearly, love you more dearly, and follow you more nearly, day by day

Plants of the Bible

More than 120 species of plants are mentioned in the Bible . The first mention of plants in the Bible is in Genesis 1: Let the earth produce all kinds of plants..... And the last in Revelation 18: no one buys anymore.....cinnamon and spice, incense, myrrh..... The writers of the Bible expected their readers to be familiar with techniques of cultivation, and drew on them for imagery: grafting in Romans 11, pruning in John 15, germination and weeds in Matthew 13, and trees that do not bear fruit for three years should be given another chance, in Luke 13.

Jesus often illustrated His teaching with plants: figs, vines, mustard seed, wheat and tares, among others. They were familiar to His hearers, but are less well understood by our modern urban society, far from Palestine.

Fig (figus carica) The fig played an important part in nutrition in biblical times, and after. Because of its high sugar content, it was dried, made into pressed cakes, and stored in the fruitless season. The tree was frequently found by the road or near houses. The fruits ripen in summer among the large lobed leaves, which are shed in the autumn. Jesus illustrated his teaching about portents for the Day of the Lord by saying: Let the fig tree teach you a lesson. When it's branches become green and tender and it starts putting out leaves, you know that summer is near.

Olive (Olea europaea) The olive has symbolised peace and heralded new life since the early history of mankind. Some olive groves in Israel are believed to be over 1000 years old. Olive Oil was used in biblical times for heating and lighting, as well as anointing. St Paul (Romans 11) uses the olive tree as an extended metaphor about Gentiles being accepted as God's people.

Myrtle (myrtus communis) The myrtle's glossy evergreen leaves are fragrant and it's numerous white flowers make it a delightful small tree. In Nehemiah 8, it is used to make booths for the

Feast of the Tabernacles, and Isaiah pictured it as one of the pleasant trees that would replace the thorns of the desert.

The Healing Power of Hope

Hope; such a tiny word and yet one we probably use several times a day without even thinking about it.

I wonder how many times you have “hoped” for something to happen, or not to happen.

Of course, sometimes these things are to some extent, within our control: I hope there is enough food for everyone, I hope the food is cooked, I hope to get to church on time. Other things are completely outside our control and so become a wish or a desire, I hope the bus is on time, I hope it doesn't rain, I hope England win the World Cup. We also talk of “hopeless situations” someone's hope being dashed or “pinning” all their hopes on a particular outcome. “Hope” is as much part of the human condition as breathing, sleeping or eating. But what has this got to do with healing?

Hope is not just a state of wishful thinking with fingers crossed. Hope is fundamental and integral to the healing process itself. Just as a moist, warm and oxygenated environment is required for a wound to heal, we need “Hope” as well as faith and love, if we are to find true healing.

Facilitating hope and helping patients to redefine their hope has been a key part of my working life over the last 40+ years.

When I first meet a patient, they have been referred by their GP and pitch up in front of me about to face an unpleasant investigation. They are understandably anxious, some are fearful but most will be hoping that I'm either going to tell them that there is nothing wrong, or the problem is minor and can easily be resolved. For 90% of my patients I can tell them the good news and they go cheerily on their way, relieved it is all over.

For 10% however, I have to inform them that I have found

something that is serious and life threatening. Immediately, their hopes are dashed, their worst fears realised. From there we start a roller coaster of a journey where the good news follows the bad news and vice versa. It is understandable that at the outset, patients will hope to be cured of their cancer. This isn't age specific, I see as many octogenarians hoping not to die as I see younger patients. Even after all these years in the job, I remain amazed by the way so many of us fear the one thing that is most certainly going to happen to all of us.

About half the patients I see with bowel cancer will eventually succumb to the disease so for these patients, what is there to hope for? because the human will is strong, they will continue to "Hope" for a "cure". To be told that despite all the treatment they have endured, the cancer has returned is often the hardest time for patients. When a patient has made a good recovery from their surgery and chemotherapy and has got on with their life daring to believe it is all over, a routine scan shows the cancer has reappeared. This is a devastating time when patients feel forsaken, all hope gone.

The loss of hope is a time of total vulnerability. What was holding them together was the hope they had been cured and one can almost see them disintegrating in front of your eyes. Something must fill that void that has been created. For some this is despair leading to depression, for others, fear and anxiety and for others sheer anger.

Instead, we can help them to fill that void with a different hope, a sustainable hope, a hope that is based, not on the outcome of a physical disease, but on the here and now, on relationships, on well being rather than illness. Cure might not be possible, but by redefining hope, we can help those we know and love in their healing process.

How do we do this? Without the faith that we have been given new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus, I would find it extremely difficult. There are many examples in the Bible where at times of great hardship, God reveals himself, reminds his people that they are special to him and promises

them that he will not desert them. He renews and strengthens their hope when they are most vulnerable. I found the definition of hope scribbled down in my father's hand in the back of one of his prayer books.

Hope is not wishful thinking, but joyous anticipation
A living hope that keeps me on course
reminds me continually that I am a citizen of heaven,
that I have a heavenly judge
And that my course is living here and now
as Jesus would have me live

It is so hard, not to be constantly worrying about the future. Indeed, we can literally make ourselves sick with worry over it. But Jesus wants us to live in the here and now, not to worry about the future. He almost reprimands us by reminding us that the lilies of the field don't worry yet even Solomon in all his glory is not more splendid than one of them. If the Lord our God cares for them, how much more will he care for us?

The prophet Isaiah abounds with hopeful messages
"A bruised reed, he will not break, and a smouldering wick he will not snuff out"

No matter how broken our bodies and minds may be, God will not desert us or disown us.

Indeed, he has called us each by our name and we are his. In my daily working life, I cannot quote Isaiah to my patients but I am reminded that St Francis told us to "Preach the Gospel.....use words if you have to"

And so through listening, caring and coming alongside those who suffer, we can impart this living hope to them:

To be at peace with themselves and with their situation
To be in harmony with their loved ones and neighbours, and
To live in the here and now without worry for the future.
If we can all achieve that, we will all find ourselves closer to being healed and nearer to God. Tina Lightfoot

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN CHRISTLETON

VILLAGE TEA ROOM

IN THE METHODIST CHURCH SCHOOLROOM

From 7th JUNE
until 27TH SEPTEMBER 2015

EVERY SUNDAY

FROM 2.30 P.M. UNTIL 4.30 P.M.

EVERYONE WELCOME

PROCEEDS TO STARLIGHT granting wishes to terminally ill children

The 2015 Village Show Results

Thanks to everyone who took part in the 2015 Show. The judges commented that the standard of entries was as high as ever, and particularly good in the case of the produce and baking classes. We were delighted to have so many colourful entries from the Primary School.

These always help to make the whole room look exciting, and really enhanced the show. We were also pleased to be able to help celebrate the Centenary of the WI, and the 90th Birthday of our own WI. We are grateful to everyone who visited the show, which aims to highlight the excellent work done by villagers in all categories on the show schedule.

We are always looking for ways of improving the show, so please let us know of any ideas you may have for future shows. Congratulations to all the winners and thanks to everyone who took part.

Best Exhibitor	Elizabeth Inall
Best Exhibit	Judith Butt
Rose Bowl	Edward Elliott
Wine/Drink	Margaret Croston
Produce	Elizabeth Inall
Baking Award	Janet Milton
Fruit & Vegetables	David Prince
Best Plant	Geoff Lowe
Floral Art	Lesley Morgan
Art Local Scene	Not Awarded
Children's Overall	Neamh Mills
Most Successful Flowers	Edward Elliott
Craft Award	Wendy Lewis
Best 3 Exhibits	June Brocklesby
Best Photo in Show	Malcolm Pratt
Best Exhibit by a child	Ted Bolton
Best Hanging Basket	1. Bob Wilcox 2. Geoff Lowe 3. Mr & Mrs D Williams
Best Group H. Baskets	1. Geoff Lowe 2. Bob Wilcox 3. David Williams

Best Commercial H.B.

Theme Shield

Millennium Trophy

Best Newcomer

Jubilee Award

Jim Siddall award

Junior Vegetable Grower

Best Group Growers

1.Christleton Parish Council 2. Ring
O Bells. 3. Christleton Institute

Jayne Jenkins

June Pearson

Jean Nield

The Sewing Club Christleton

Primary School

Kathryn Hall

Neamh Mills

Not Awarded

Young People Awards

Medalists

Toby Hulse, Rosie Neame, Joseph, Lea Done, Oliva Wrigley, Elinor Vidamour, Bethany Mitchell, Poppy Clarke, Carter Graham, Ted Bolton, Molly Roberts, Madeline Wrigley, Giovanni Muraton, Isabel Gelder, Neamh Mills, Luke Sturgess, Daniel Brown, Sarah Efobi



BERENICE'S BULBS

Did anyone else plant the gladioli bulbs that were given out at a recent Sunday morning service? Ours are now flowering and have reached a height of two-and-a-half feet! It's wonderful what a tiny bulb can produce. Margaret Croston



We are pleased to bring to you

Côr Merched y Rhos

(Rhos Ladies' Choir)



Who will sing a varied programme for our pleasure on

Thursday 19th November 2015

At 7.30pm in St James' Church, Christleton.



Adult tickets £7.50 (includes cheese & wine)

Tickets for children under 14 free.

Seating is limited, so book early.

To book please call: 01244 335562

All profits will be shared between Côr Merched y Rhos,
St James' Church and the Starlight Children's Charity.

(+ Raffle)



(Surprise items)



THE MONTHLY
CHRISTLETON

LUNCHEON CLUB

IN PARISH HALL

From 12 noon for 12.30 serving:



Monday 21st September

FREE lunch
(donations
welcome)

All welcome, but please book a place by calling:

Liz: 409414, or Janet: 325529, or Christine: 335562, or sign the list in Church.

(It may be possible to arrange transport for those who need it - just ask.)

PCC UPDATE

The PCC meets every couple of months, which isn't a lot to cover the work that needs doing, so it was unsurprising that the meeting in July lasted 2 hours 40 minutes! Additionally, the Standing Committee (Rector, Churchwardens, Treasurers & Secretary) meet in between times, and for some issues the two Churchwardens and/or the Rector decide and get things done directly.

So what's on the current PCC Agenda?

We always talk about money and the maintenance tasks that are in hand, and those that still to be costed and planned. Financially we continue to spend above our income, so reserves are at risk of diminishing, but legacies and hall lettings income help considerably. We talk about the work of our focus groups, including worship, we report on information from our Deanery (Synod) meetings, discuss Churches Together in Christleton activities, and 101 other things.

Currently a huge amount of time & energy is being spent regarding our musical issues - but I can't go into that here. The other recent main topic was 'Time & Talents'. Often a subject in past years, we are visiting it again to get some activities planned in the short term, and a better longer term plan. The outcome for which we hope is more people involved in church activities, more activities both within the church and out in the community, and leading to an increase in membership, fellowship, spirituality and ultimately funds. Of course if we try too much too quickly we will fail - so that's why we need to take it gently, pray about it, work out priorities, and have fun on the way using the talents and time of those around us. I believe God enjoys a party, so we are allowed to have fun! (Life in all its fullness!)

A couple of 'fun' activities to note: The Church will participate in the Victorian Christmas Street Market on 12th December, and a visiting Welsh Ladies' Choir from Rhos will give a charity concert with a varied programme in church on Thursday 19th November. See the advert on Page 18 for full details.

That's all for now. *(Brian Inall - PCC Secretary)*

The History File

**The Launch of the Christleton Villages History;
Great War Voices;
Remembering our Forgotten Heroes Project Book.
7.30pm Saturday 26th September 2015 at
Christleton High School.**

(The launch coincides with the Centenary of the death of our leading Officer, Lt Col Edward Townshend Ince from Christleton Bank, formerly of the 3rd Cheshire Regiment, who died at Loos in France leading the 15th Battalion Durham Light Infantry on September 26th 1915.

There will be no charge, but please apply for tickets to David Cummings 332410 or by email to **cummings.d@uwclub.net**

The research for this project has been extensive and has proved very challenging. Key to the research was a list of names from the various war memorials in the village, The War Memorial, the Memorial in the South aisle at St James' Church and at Christleton Institute. (This was originally hung at the Christleton British Legion Hall, but removed to the Institute when it closed in the 1990's) We discovered that there was a discrepancy in the names written on these three memorials, and that there were other village men who served in the Great War, who might/should have been recorded, but were not. Some of these can be explained in that they died of injuries received during the war, but were buried at a later date in military graves in the churchyard.

Others were found whilst reading through a bundle of bound Parish Magazines for 1911-1921 or through local newspapers printed during the 1914-18 War. The headline, "Christleton hero dies" sometimes brought up an amazing story, someone who was connected with the village, but maybe served with a regiment further afield. Other men married girls from the village, and although they didn't originally come from the Parish, they were given a full memorial service here.

So our criteria evolved, and in this new publication we have honoured all those recorded on the three main memorials, men who are buried in military graves in the churchyard, or who are on the Commonwealth Graves website and have a Christleton address, and men who were given a Memorial Service at St James' Church.

Several village families with relatives who fought in the Great War have answered our call for information, and a vast collection of pictures, articles, photographs and memorabilia has now been accumulated. Many of these have been used to illustrate our story, and as I write the final editing & design of the book is taking place. I am pleased to say that most of this information is already on the Village website www.christleton.org.uk under the heading Village. If you scroll down this line you will come to the Great War Reminiscences section with various headings. We are deeply indebted to Richard Nicholson for his amazing work in taking our words and pictures and making the story come alive.

All members of the team have been honoured to be able to tell these previously untold stories, and will be revealing them in the book and on the website. They tell the story of a group of brave, courageous, and inspirational men who gave their lives for their country in the most terrible of wars. We learn about the life of the women and children left behind, who organised events and activities, to support both the men on the frontline, and encourage and enhance the lives of those left behind. The women were particularly inspiring and so well organised, and we learn of their exploits thanks to the work of Judy Smith. We have researched extensively at the Cheshire Archives & Local History Office in Duke Street, The Chester Heritage Centre on Bridge Street, and been given enormous support by the Cheshire Regimental Museum, The Internet has also provided a great deal of information, but nothing can match the valuable information from our local families. Look out for pre-order forms for the book which will appear shortly.

Christleton Villages History; Great War Voices; -Remembering our forgotten Heroes is a Heritage Lottery Funded Project. DC

Uggh!!

After my amusing spelling item last month which received rapturous acclaim (two 'srmat' people liked it and both could read it) I offer the following for your further amusement:-

"I am no music scholar, but I feel I know appropriate church music when I hear it. Last Sunday's new hymn – if you can call it that – sounded like a sentimental love ballad one would expect to hear crooned in a saloon. If you insist on exposing us to rubbish like this – in God's house! – don't be surprised if many of the faithful look for a new place to worship. The hymns we grew up with are all we need."

Letter written from parishioner to his Vicar in 1863. The hymn is: 'Just as I am without one plea'.

"What is wrong with the inspiring hymns with which we grew up? When I go to church, it is to worship God, not to be distracted with learning a new hymn. Last Sunday's was particularly unnerving. The tune was un-singable and the new harmonies were quite distorting."

Complaint written in 1890. Hymn: 'What a friend we have in Jesus.'

All the hymns we sing were new at one time but as a mark of my personal musical sophistication and taste I have to confess that I can sing the Ying Tong song if really pressed, although how that might fit into a church service eludes me for the present! (Brian Inall)

Bible Verses:

Colossians 3:14: "And over all these virtues put on love, which binds us all together in perfect unity".

1 Peter 4:8 "Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins".

Psalms 81:1 "We love you O Lord our strength"

The W.I. – Inspiring Women

As the W.I. is one of the foremost organisations in the village and this is its centenary year, it was felt that the Christleton Branch should set aside its normal modesty and give some information about itself every month, and I am starting off. I write both as the newest member on one hand, but an old member on the other, as I originally joined in 1990 and rejoined this year. I hope my experience of this truly vibrant organisation gives a view of it beyond usual stereotypes of being all about jam and Jerusalem!

In 1990 I moved out of inner city London to live in Christleton. I knew very few people here but my neighbour almost immediately invited me to the W.I. I did know that this organisation was founded to revitalise rural communities but had only ever encountered it when reading books about rural life, and was surprised it was still a working entity! So out of curiosity I went. I was absolutely amazed on entering the village hall to see so many women of varying ages, all very focussed on the evening activities and being presided over by a very welcoming Mrs. Barbara Locke.

Singing Jerusalem felt surreal and the whole evening was such an eye opener I joined straight away. Membership of the W.I. made me feel I had a place in the village and ensured I had a circle of new friends and acquaintances more rapidly than if left to my own devices. It also gave me access to new information and ideas. I learned about the organisation itself – founded in 1915 with the Christleton Branch coming into being in 1924; that it was then and still is the largest voluntary women's organisation in the U.K. and that it had moved beyond the original remit and was and still is an educational and campaigning organisation and a force to be reckoned with nationally.

Domestic circumstances meant that after a few years I had to drop out but when I rejoined this year, 24 years after originally becoming a member, I found a still strong, active and cohesive Christleton branch, enjoying as before educational activities, so-

cial campaigning and fun activities. And the digital age has been fully embraced. At the present time there are 212,000 members nationally and 6,600 branches according to the official website, with 520 being formed in the past few years, and what has really impressed me is that in my own London patch there are two very active branches, the Shoreditch Sisters and the Dalston Darlings. Even Glastonbury had a W.I. presence this year for the first time!

Therefore the W.I. remains an evolving force, both locally and nationally so please be aware that on the second Wednesday of each month in Christleton inspiring women will be inspiring women, and they will be singing Jerusalem because the suffragettes did! (Margaret Bass)

Crew Harvest Thanksgiving Service

To be held on 4th October 2015 at 4pm on Mike and Tina's allotment (plot 18 Boughton Heath Allotments behind park and ride)

For the last few years, St James' Crew Youth Group have held a harvest thanksgiving service on the allotments at the back of the park and ride.

Several members of the congregation have joined us where we have held a short service of thanksgiving followed by refreshments.

Last year it was decided to cancel the evening service to allow more members of the congregation to attend. Crew members led the service and refreshments in the form of home grown/ homemade vegetable soup, freshly baked bread and courgette cake were enjoyed by over 30 members of the St James' congregation. The collection went to the church urban fund.

We are holding the thanksgiving service again this year and hope that as many people as possible can attend. It is a most wonderful act of witness in amongst the allotments.

This year, we will be joined by the music group so our singing will be greatly enhanced

If you are able to come, please let Mike or Tina Lightfoot know (simply to aid in planning the catering)

We will be serving soup so bring a mug along with you. If wet, brollies and wellies may also be helpful

Looking forward to seeing you at plot 18

CHRISTLETON GARDENING CLUB

No, you don't have to have a garden, not even a window box to join the group! The Gardening Club consists of garden and plant enthusiasts who have a monthly get together, usually in the Schoolroom of the Methodist Church. Our speakers last year ranged from Colour in Spring to Medieval Gardening. We had two 'hands on' sessions (involving pots and compost) of bulb planting and growing vegetables and herbs in containers, two visits to local gardens of interest and a social event.

We are able to share a plant problem or news of a plant success with others, swap seeds and plants, and get a discount on plant purchases from a local garden Centre.

September starts our new programme year and the fee is only £12. If you would like information about how to join or arrange to come along as a visitor then please contact Judith Butt 335296 or Jim Ferns 332287. Judith Ferns

Fish and Chips

Does anyone remember Hignetts fish and chip shop? It was at the Cow Lane Bridge end of Frodsham Street. In 1946 I started an Engineering Apprenticeship in Chester and it was understood that I would take the five year H.N.C course. The first two years were to be three nights a week night school in Chester. As I did not have time to go home I had to eat in Chester sometimes in the works canteen but mostly in Hignetts. At the entrance to shop was a counter in front of a fish fryer the usual set up. Beyond this was the restaurant I would order fish, chips, mushy peas and a plate of bread and butter. A sign on the wall said 'We use butter and margarine mixed' What made it different was the way the waitresses served the meals. They would take a plate in their left hand and overlapping one another they would place another two or three plates up their arm, with another plate in their right hand they would serve four or five meals at once. I never saw one dropped nor have I seen it done elsewhere. The night school was in the Grosvenor Museum, lectures in the lecture theatre or an upstairs room. In the basement was an Engineering Laboratory. Now of course we go to night time lectures of a different sort. Ben Williams

Parish Registers (July)

Holy Baptism

19th Luca Mitchenson Jones son of Marcus & Katie Jones
10 Toll Bar Road, Christleton

“We welcome you into the Lord’s Family”

The Marriage Service

4th Andrew Charles Roger Parkinson & Claire Diane Simm
1 Louiseville Road, London
10th James Noel Davies 44 Parkfields Road, Bridgend
& Maria Davies 98 Ffordd y Draen, Coity, Bridgend
31st Nicholas Anthony Allen & Charlotte Emily Wiggington
Rowton Hall Hotel, Rowton Lane, Rowton

“Those whom God has joined together, let no man divide”

The Funeral Service

13th Brenda Oxley Cumbria (Formerly of The Park
Christleton) (Burial of Cremated Remains)
19th James Frederick Augustus Weeks Age 75yrs
“Byron Court” Clever Hill Road, Windsor, Berkshire.
(Burial of Cremated Remains)
29th Teresa Mary Creighton 32 Toll Bar Road, Christleton
Age 90yrs
30th Gerard Joseph McEnery 22 Townfield Lane, Mollington,
Chester Age 79yrs

“Grant them eternal rest”

Offertories

July	Cash	C.S.E.	2015	2014
5th	61-50	707-60	769-10	521-65
12th	228-38	506-01	734-39	686-47
19th	115-04	448-01	563-05	596-98
26th	154-32	543-40	697-72	544-45
Totals			£2,564-24	£2,349-45

“Of your own do we give you”

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. 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 (The Rector's day off each week is normally Friday)	335663
Curate:	Rev'd Barbara King, B.Ed. 17 Cathcart Green, Guilden Sutton, CH3 7SR	300756
Administration:	Janet Milton	325529
(Janet is your initial contact point for Baptism, Wedding and Appointment requests)		
Other local clergy who may assist:	Rev'd Gill Hibbert	336544
	Rev'd Elizabeth Inall, MA	336500
Churchwardens:	Carl Cumiskey	330028
	Bettie Gilliatt	335645
Deputy Wardens:	Chris Platel	332466
	Keith Smalls	335688
Verge:	John Milton	325529
Sacristan:	Betty Dunning	335652
Organist & Choir Master:	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:	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:	Gwen Knight	336236
Church Flowers:	Olive Hammond	336562
Bellringers:	Nikki Dromgoole	351124
Bellringers' Secretary:	Nikki Dromgoole	351124
Parish Hall Bookings:	Clare Holland	332819
Children's Society Sec:	Lesley Morgan	335088
Church Missionary Society Sec:	Janet Brown	335785
Mothers' Union Branch Leader:	Janet Brown	335785
Magazine Editor:	David Bull	332234
Assisting Magazine Editor:	Huw Morgan	335088
Magazine Adverts	Ann Smith	332434
Magazine Distributors:	Jenny Davies, Valmai Griffiths	335884

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



Flower Service with children viewing messy church activities.



Messy Church activities at the Flower Service held on the Church Green on July 12th

Bible Verses: James 1:2-4

“Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. 4 Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.