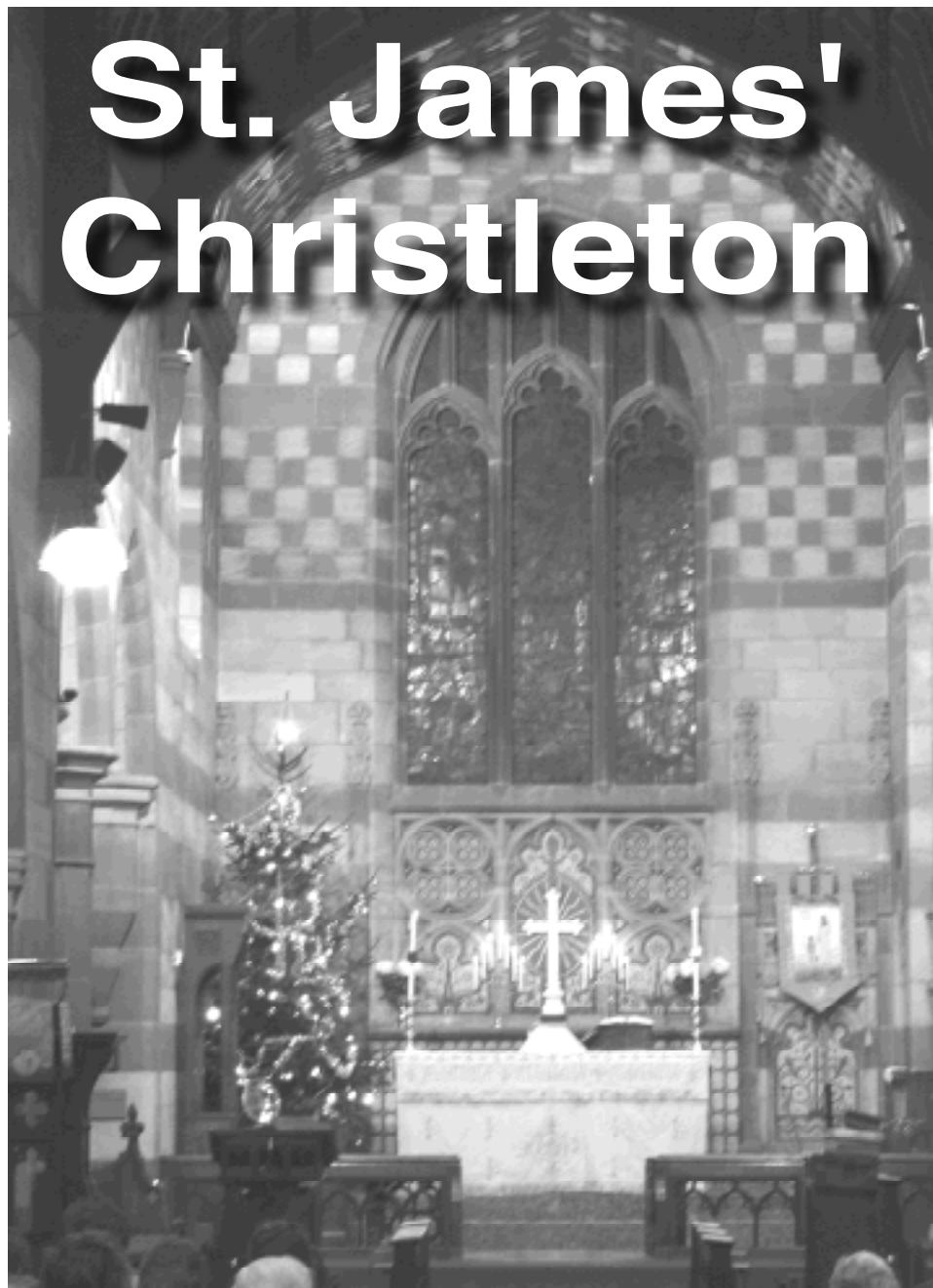


# St. James' Christleton



**Parish Magazine**  
**FEBRUARY 2005**

30p

# Features in February

Tues	1	8.00 pm	Bellringers AGM - Lady Chapel
Wed	2	10.45 am	United Communion - followed by refreshments.
Fri	4	6.30 pm	Choir Practice
<b>Sun</b>	<b>6</b>		<b>Sunday Next Before Lent</b>
		8.00 am	Holy Communion - Order 2
		10.30 am	Sunday School - Parish Hall
		10.45 am	Parish Communion - Order 1
		6.00 pm	The Crew Youth Group - Parish Hall
		6.30 pm	Evensong - followed by refreshments
			Prayer Link Road : Quarry Lane and Faulkners Lane
			Neighbourhood Link : Alison Kenyon
Wed	9		Ash Wednesday
		10.45 am	Holy Communion - followed by refreshments
		7.45 pm	Holy Communion
Fri	11	6.30 pm	Choir Practice
			NB: Last date for contributions for March Parish Magazine to David Bull (332234). Earlier if possible please.
Sat	12	7.30 pm	David Cummings Talk - Parish Hall
<b>Sun</b>	<b>13</b>		<b>The First Sunday of Lent</b>
		8.00 am	Holy Communion - Order 1
		10.45 am	Family Service followed by refreshments
		1.30 pm	Parish Ramble Group leave car park for Chirk Castle Snowdrop Walk
		6.00 pm	The Crew Youth Group - Parish Hall
		6.30 pm	Evening Worship
			Prayer Link Road: Rake Lane
			Neighbourhood Link: Julia Carr
Mon	14	2.00 pm	Mothers' Union - Parish Hall
Wed	16	10.45 am	Holy Communion - followed by refreshments
		7.45 pm	United Lent Evening - Methodist Church
Fri	18	6.30 pm	Choir Practice

<b>Sun</b>	<b>20</b>		<b>The Second Sunday in Lent</b>
		8.00 am	Holy Communion - Order 1
		10.30 am	Sunday School - Parish Hall
		10.45 am	Parish Communion - Order 1
		6.00 pm	The Crew Youth Group - Parish Hall
		6.30 pm	Evening Worship
			Prayer Link Road: Ring Road
			Neighbourhood Link: Len Thomas
Tues	22	9.00 am	Parish Ramble Group leaves car park for Chester
Wed	23	10.45 am	Holy Communion - followed by refreshments
		7.45 pm	United Lent Meeting - Methodist Church
Fri	25	6.30 pm	Choir Practice
<b>Sun</b>	<b>27</b>		<b>The Third Sunday in Lent</b>
		8.00 am	Holy Communion - Order 1
		10.30 am	Sunday School - Parish Hall
		10.45 am	Matins with Baptism - followed by refreshments
		6.00 pm	The Crew Youth Group - Parish Hall
		6.30 pm	Evening Communion
			Prayer Link: Roadside
			Neighbourhood Link: Neville Meredith

# **The Rector's Letter**

Dear Friends

## **TEAM TALK!**

Congratulations on your selection to the team! To be a Christian is to belong to a team, and Lent is a time for us to listen to our leader, Jesus, as he gives us his 'team talk'. Easter Day is very early this year (27 March) so Lent begins, with Ash Wednesday, on 9 February. Lent is a time when we think of how Jesus himself, went into the wilderness to face the Devil's temptations, and in overcoming them, to prepare himself for his ministry. Once Jesus had proved his strength of purpose and direction, he emerged from the wilderness to start his ministry. His first action was to pick his team, and to train them to help him in his ministry and mission, and, eventually, to take over and continue his work, in the power of his Spirit, after he had gone. To be a Christian, is to be a member of the church – the team Jesus chooses to do his work in the world. Colin Morris once wrote that a Christian has to live with his fear of the Church for the same reason a neurotic fish has to live with its fear of water! It worries me that people, who call themselves Christian, seem to think they can somehow exist apart from the Church. We may not agree with all the Church is, or says, or does – in which case we have a duty to work to change it to be truer to our calling. St Paul gave us the analogy in 1 Corinthians 12, of the Church as the body, each member belonging to the body, and dependent on it, but contributing its own function, or gift, to make the whole body more effective.

So Lent is a time for us as individuals to respond more deeply to our Christian calling, and offer the particular gifts God has given us more fully, as members of 'team Church'. That, in turn, will enable 'team Church' to be more effective and faithful in the ministry and mission entrusted to us by Jesus.

As, in Lent, we remember Jesus facing the temptations of the Devil to turn him away from God's purpose and method, so we need to overcome all that tempts us away from being effective team members. Jesus said:- "Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." It is too easy to allow other priorities in life to become more important to us than our membership of Christ's Church. How can we be effective in fulfilling our ministry and mission as a Church, if we only give to the Church what is left over from our commitment to clubs, societies and other groups? If we are to be true to our

calling as Christians, our membership of the Church should be such a priority that it gets written into our diaries and commitments, before we decide what we can rightly give to other interests. Surely we should offer our best to the Church, not what is left over. There is so much we could be doing as a Church, here in this Parish, and as members of the worldwide Church, if only we had the resources in time and talents as well as finance, as a team.

What should be the priorities for us as the local team of the Church in this Parish? Perhaps we can all use Lent this year, to pray and consider how we should be directing our resources more effectively. It has been good to see the way "The Crew", our Youth Group, has developed since Andy Putt arrived in September. This is just one way we can work as a team to reach our more effectively, not only to young people, but people of all ages and places, so they too, can realise their part in the team. As usual, there will be special services through Lent and our United Lent Meetings each Wednesday evening. So may we each strengthen our commitment to Christ this Lent, so we become more effective as his team.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Peter Lee". Below the signature is a single horizontal line.

**Prayer of the Month:**

(Maurice Wood)

*Almighty God, you have made us members of Christ and of his Church in this Parish.*

*May we as a congregation reach upwards to your throne in worship and adoration; inwards to one another in understanding and fellowship; and outwards to the world in evangelism and social compassion.*

*Make us like a city set on a hill whose light cannot be hidden, so that all people may find Christ as the light of the world, and his Church as the family of the redeemed, and eternal life as the gift of God through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen*

## **COVER FEATURE OF THE MONTH**

**St James' before Midnight  
Communion.  
Christmas 2004**

**T**he distinctive pattern of William Butterfield's geometric designs can clearly be seen lit by an array of candles, as we prepared to celebrate the birth of our Lord. Readers might just have noticed similarities with scenes, shot in the church at Rugby School during the production of Tom Brown's Schooldays shown on Boxing Day. That church was also designed by William Butterfield, and has similar geometric designs to those at St James'.

---

### **THANK YOU**

Christleton Wednesday Group wishes to thank everybody who supported their fund-raising events during 2004 which is resulting in £1,000 being presented to both Claire House and Hope House Children's Hospices at Christleton Wednesday Group's Soup & Sweet Spring Lunch on Wednesday 9 March 2005.

## **THE DISASTERS EMERGENCY COMMITTEE TSUNAMI APPEAL**

**C**ollections from the plate at the back of church on January 2<sup>nd</sup> and at the Joint Village Service on Sunday January 9<sup>th</sup> has resulted in the total of £1257 being raised for the Disasters Emergency Committee Appeal for people affected by the recent Tsunami disaster in Asia. It is being directed through the auspices of Christian Aid. Many of the family of St James' will know our popular local Christian Aid workers Romi & Linda Tiongco. I'm sure you will be interested to learn that Linda left Chester for Sri Lanka earlier this week, having been asked to administer the work of Christian Aid, in the area of Sri Lanka controlled by the Tamil Tigers. We pray for the safety of Linda and her co-workers, as they try to bring relief to the suffering of the children and families in this area devastated by one of the greatest natural disasters that has occurred.

# THE ELECTORAL ROLL ANNUAL REVISION

## What is it?

**T**he Electoral Roll is the ecclesiastical equivalent of the Register of electors. That is to say, it is the register of all those who are qualified to vote at the elections at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, and to stand for election to the Parochial Church Council. More than that, it is the working document of the parish to enable us to know who is committed to the life of St James, so we can keep in touch and work more effectively as a Church together. It is also used in returns to the Diocese and General Synod. Once you are a member of the Electoral Roll, because that signifies that you are a regular member of the Church, that enables those who live outside the Parish to be married at St James. It also affects burial in the Churchyard for those who live outside the Parish, as only those on the Roll at the time of death, are eligible to be buried in a new grave in the Churchyard.

## Who should join?

Every worshipping member of St James over 16 should join the Electoral Roll. The regulations stipulate that a person should be a regular worshipping member of the Church for at least six months before they can apply for membership.

## How do you know if you are on the Roll?

There is a copy of the Electoral Roll at the back of Church for inspection.

## How do you join the Electoral Roll?

The annual preparation of the Electoral Roll is now taking place. If you wish to be included and have not already registered, please take an application form from the back of Church and return the completed form to the Rector, or alternatively forward it to the Electoral Roll Officer who is Pat Nilssen, 11 Littleton Lane, Littleton, Chester CH3 7DJ.

# NATURE NEWS

**L**ook out for the colourful Waxwings.

Rare bird migrants from Scandinavia.

Waxwings breed in the coniferous forests of N Norway, Sweden and Finland especially Lapland, and on the Kamchatka Peninsular in

they feed chiefly on berries of rowan, whitebeam and rosehips, and visit parks and gardens with a plentiful supply of other berries, such as cotoneaster, pyrocantha, and viburnum. In summer they feed on insects, mainly bees.

When food supplies are scarce, they sometimes migrate in large



Russia. They can also be found in Alaska and Canada. They are unmistakable because of their distinct red white and yellow waxy wing markings, colourful chestnut and grey body, black face, and prominent crest on their heads. In winter months

numbers to places like Britain. (an eruption of waxwings). We have had a plentiful supply of berries in Chester this autumn, and subsequently this has coincided with the best year ever for waxwings. The first group of 40-50, were seen around



the Hospice at Backford before Christmas. This was followed by over 200 near the Hoole Lane end of Chester Station on Boxing Day, and now 30 to 40 at Cedar Court near Sainsbury's in early January.

They are very sociable birds and flock together not unlike starlings. However they are very tame and will sit feeding on the red berries of the rowan for many minutes at a time, flying off for a short while, and then returning. They looked like decorations on a Christmas tree when I first saw them, trilling quietly to each other, before flying gently one by one, to gorge on the red berries of the rowan nearby, or to sit chattering on the roof above the doorway to Cedar Court. They were later seen feeding in other parts of Caldý Valley.

*David Cummings*

Marriage: requires falling in love many times – always with the same person.

## **STOP PRESS!**

**T**hank you to everyone who supported our recent Christingle Celebration and helped to raise £640. 48 for the Children's Society.

## **CHRISTLETON WI**

**P**lease may I say thank you to everybody who supported my Christmas Morning on 11 December. We raised £370 for the Alzheimer's Society. This has gone directly to the Chester Branch, and they are very grateful.

Thank you once again to all those who worked so hard, and to those who spent their money! We had a lovely morning.

*Maura Jones*

## **MONDAY AFTERNOON OPEN HOUSE**

**T**his has been suspended for the time being.

*Margaret Bass*

## THE CREW YOUTH GROUP

**L**ooking back over the 5 months I have been in Chester, I can now see that God really wanted me to move here. On the 28th August I moved here with a broken leg and a willingness to serve. I had come to work for the Light project and a placement church, St James. Arriving at St James on that first Sunday I have never felt so welcomed into a Church. Everyone greeted me and welcomed me; it was quite easy to notice me as I had a plaster cast on my leg.

My role at St James was to start the youth work and be involved in the children's work. I will never forget the first youth meeting on the 12th September. We had 6 girls and no boys. I think the first thing I said was "are there any boys?" Then the following week, after loads of prayer we had 20 young people, aged between 11 - 14 years, including 10 lads. Wow! That was a true answer to prayer.

From that very first meeting the group has gone from strength to strength. Now we have an average of 15 young

people every week and every one of them is a pleasure to be with. Also I have such a supportive team working with me.

At The Crew (The youth group) we play pool, table tennis, snooker, badminton, board games, and chill. Also for 20 min we have a Bible study. Over the last few months we have been working out how we can improve things and develop as a group.

The Bible study has been encouraging; seeing young people, some of who don't come from church families, keep on coming and interested in what this Bible stuff is all about. I just keep praying that they will come to know Jesus as their personal saviour.

A fantastic time when the group really grew and developed was at the Youth Service for the main congregation. On the 11th December we took over the main service and presented 'The true meaning of Christmas'. From drama - songs - talk - prayers - quiz - mince pies and marshmallow, we did it. I was so blessed by the way the young people worked towards it. The next Youth service will be on the 27th February 2005.

On the 13th November the Crew moved out of the Parish hall and met at Mega Bowl in Sealand road. 12 young people all had great fun building up strong friendships. We look forward to another social in the near future.

Also in the week I go into Christleton High School with Chester Schools Christian Worker Paul North. Every Thursday we walk around the school during lunch and chat with the Students and sometimes I see some of the young people from St James. Some of the conversations we have with the Students are amazing and their openness is incredible.

Finally I want to say Thank You. Moving to Chester was always going to be hard, leaving my parents and friends in SUNNY Southampton. But at St James you have made moving here easy. You are all great and I am looking forward to working with you even more over this year.

God Bless you all this year and in the years to come

*Andy Putt*  
St James Youth Worker.

## MY BIBLE

*Yes I thought I knew my Bible  
Reading piecemeal, hit and miss  
Now a part of John or Matthew  
Than a bit of Genesis*

*Certain chapters of Isaiah  
Certain psalms, the twenty third?  
First of Proverbs, twelfth of Romans  
Yes, I thought I knew the Word.*

*But I found that thorough reading  
Was a different thing to do  
And the way was unfamiliar  
When I read my Bible through*

*You who like to play at Bible  
Dip and dabble here and there  
Just before you kneel all weary  
Yawning through a hurried prayer*

*You who treat this crown of writings  
As you treat no other book  
Just a paragraph disjointed  
Just a crude impatient look*

*Try a worthier procedure  
Try a broad and steady view  
You will kneel in awesome wonder*

*When you read the Bible through.*

## CATHEDRAL LINK

### 'A SPACE APART'

#### Quiet time at Chester Retreat House 2005

**T**he Retreat House is running a monthly quiet time from January 2005. The day sessions will run from 10 am to 3 pm. There are evening sessions planned for later in the year. It is hoped that the varied times will allow as many people as possible to come to be refreshed in this simple, unhurried space for worship, meditation and prayer.

The dates to Easter are:

January

Thursday 27th

The Rev'd Chris Simms

February

Thursday 17th

The Rev'd David Hay

March

Monday

14th

The Rev'd Christine Bull

Bookings need to be made through Valerie Fisher at the Retreat House 01244.321801. There will be a charge of £15 for

**10**

the full day and £6 for the evening. Please contact Julia Hedley on 01244.345543 for more information.

#### Walsingham Pilgrimage 2005

The City of Chester Walsingham Pilgrimage will take place from 8th – 12th August and will be led by Fr Peter Walsh, Rector of Chester. Fr Peter takes over from Canon Kelly as leader for the 2005 pilgrimage.

This pilgrimage combines the traditional prayerful pilgrimage with excursions and times for private relaxation.

For further information contact Fr Peter on 01244.683585.

#### Date for February

### CHESTER TALES

**17, 18 & 19 February 2005**

A History of Cheshire in sound, light, music and performance

If you work at love, you will  
find love at work. – Peter Jackson

## WYCLIFFE BIBLE TRANSLATORS CHRISTMAS 2004

Dear Friends of Christleton PCC

Thank you so much for your generous gift of £200. This will go a long way towards buying a corn mill in Ghana to provide income for the Dagomba Literacy for Life project and pastor Abraham's work. We do very much appreciate it.

Believe it or not, we're enjoying the present bracing weather in Northern Ireland. The heat in Ghana slows us down, and it's nice to have our normal energy back once again.

We're looking forward to a family Christmas and to having time with our friends at church before we return to Africa on 6 January. Claire reports that she's already packed her bag for Ghana with many gifts for our Ghanaian friends.

Thank you so much again for your very kind gift, and may you know the Lord's blessing in the coming New Year.

*Claire & Ian Gray*

February, 2005

## All snarled up

With thoughtless and  
impatient hands,  
We tangle up the Plans the Lord  
hath wrought;  
And when we cry in pain, He  
saith,  
"Be quiet, while I untie the knot."

*Anonymous*

## For you

I prayed for you today  
But that is nothing new;  
I prayed for you yesterday  
And the day before that too.  
And I'll pray for you tomorrow  
Asking our Heavenly Father  
above,  
To ever bless and keep you  
In His warm and tender love.

*Firecloud*

I chose my wife, as she  
did her wedding gown, for  
qualities that would wear  
well. – *Oliver Goldsmith.*



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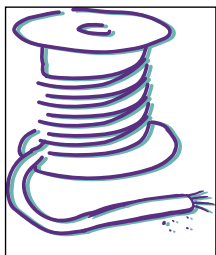
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## YOU HAVE A RIGHT TO BE HERE

**G**o placidly amid the noise and haste and remember what peace there may be in silence. As far as possible without surrender be on good terms with all persons. Speak your truth quietly and clearly; and listen to others, even the dull and ignorant; they too have their story.

Avoid loud and aggressive persons, they are vexations to the spirit. If you compare yourself with others, you may become vain and bitter; for always there will be greater and lesser persons than yourself. Enjoy your achievements as well as your plans.

Keep interested in your own career, however humble; it is a real possession in the changing fortunes of time. Exercise caution in your business affairs; for the world is full of trickery. But let this not blind you to what virtue there is; many persons strive for high ideals; and everywhere life is full of heroism.

Be yourself. Especially do not feign affection. Neither by cynical about love; for in the face of all aridity and disenchantment

it is perennial as the grass.

Take kindly the counsel of the years, gracefully surrendering the things of youth. Nurture strength of spirit to shield you in sudden misfortune. But do not distress yourself with imaginings. Many fears are born of fatigue and loneliness. Beyond a wholesome discipline be gentle with yourself.

You are a child of the universe, no less than the trees and the stars; you have a right to be here. And whether or not it is clear to you, no doubt the universe is unfolding as it should.

Therefore be at peace with God, whatever you conceive Him to be, and whatever your labours and aspirations, in the noisy confusion of life keep peace with your soul.

With all its sham, drudgery and broken dreams it is still a beautiful world. Be careful. Strive to be happy; May God be with you always.

*(A document in the Chapel of  
Gawsworth Hall)*

# Gardening for Wildlife



**O**rnamental annuals & biennials that attract bees, butterflies, moths & insects. Californian Poppy, Candytuft, Clarkia, Evening primrose, French marigold, Honesty, Larkspur, Nasturtium, Snap dragon, Sunflower, Sweet Rocket, Tobacco Plant, Virginia Stock, Wallflowers.

Favourite hedge plants for birds & insects. Elder; provides rich foliage, source of food and cover for many nesting birds, blackbirds, thrushes, robins, wrens, green finches, chaffinches, bullfinches. etc. Hawthorn; (also known as May; White or Quickthorn) provides similar nest sites, roost sites and also is a good source of winter food. Fieldfare

## Part 6

& redwing adore the berries. Holly; Not such a favourite. These berries are often the last berries to be taken. Cotoneaster; richly fruiting with many berries. Good cover for hedges and for providing nest sites. Honeysuckle; Provides a great deal of scent, attracts lots of insects, butterflies, and night flying moths. Buddlia Davidii; This purple flowering shrub provides a wonderful food source for butterflies and moths, bees and hoverflies. The white variety also attracts similar numbers of insects but is not so common. Cut back hard each year to get the best flowers.

### **Suggested further reading.**

1. Creating small habitats for wildlife in your garden. Josie Briggs.

Published by the Guild of Master Craftsmen.

2. Back Garden Nature Reserve by Chris Packham

Published by New Holland Publishers Ltd for The Wildlife Trusts.

*David Cummings*

Christleton Parish Magazine



PS If anyone would like the series of six parts as a complete Gardening for Wildlife article please let me know.

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## BRINGING OUR SOUL TO WORK

**R**ecent years have seen a growing interest in the concept of “spirituality at work.” Although the word spirit is not always interpreted in overtly religious terms, this is surely a welcome trend reflecting a realisation that lives are improved when spiritual needs are recognised in the workplace. And there is increasing evidence that “soul-friendly” companies prosper as a result. Scandals such as the Enron collapse, and the mood of a post September 11th world, raise questions about the deeper meaning and purpose in our lives. People want to bridge the gap between their paid work and who they aspire to be. The writer Scott Peck agrees that while we attempt to be in harmony with the unseen order of things, the unseen order is actually and actively seeking to be in harmony with us. This implies the concept of a living spiritual being whom we call God.

February, 2005

The famous psychiatrist Carl Jung placed over the entrance to his home a Latin sign which, translated, reads “Invoked or not invoked, God is present.” Even a single sentence to prepare oneself for the day can be of benefit. The chief executive of the company Biogenex uses the prayer: “Lord, I am at your service. What is it you want me to do? Lead my day.” In their book ‘The Spirit at Work Phenomenon’ (Azure imprint, SPCK 2004), Sue Howard and David Welbourn mention the value of spiritual direction “to help integrate our spiritual journey with our work.” A lead can be given by chief executives, like the one who based his company values on the ‘fruits of the spirit’ set out in Paul’s epistle to the Galatians. But success is unlikely if they seek to force their particular brand of religion on their employees. Georgeanne Lamont, managing director of SpiritWorks Ltd, stresses that senior executives should be “servant leaders”, sharing leadership with others, and that “the least is the most important” – those in the lowliest jobs should be valued and seen as pivotal to the success of the business.

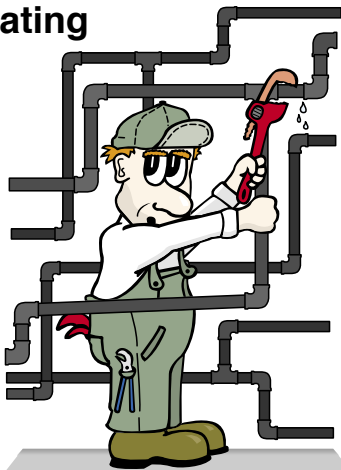
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## LOCAL EVENTS DIARY

### SUNDAY SCHOOL

Held in the Parish Hall from 10.30 am – 11.45 am each Sunday during term-time, except when Family Service is held at St James. For further details please contact Berenice Hogg, 336779.

### CHRISTLETON LADIES GUILD

Held at the Christleton Methodist Church, commencing at 2pm, Tuesdays fortnightly, £1 admission includes refreshments. For further information contact Joan Webb, 375076.

All very welcome.

### CHRISTLETON W.I.

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 9th February

### 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.

### CHESTER FLOWER CLUB

Meetings are held in Christleton Parish Hall on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 1.30pm. Details of any events can be obtained from the Secretary, Mrs Edna Ellis telephone Chester 346497.

### MAGAZINE CONTRIBUTIONS

Please ensure all items for inclusion in the March edition are sent to the Editor, David Bull, The Old Rectory, Plough Lane, as soon as possible BEFORE Friday 11 February.



## LOCAL EVENTS DIARY

### **CHRISTLETON GARDENING CLUB**

The next meeting will take place on 14 February when Mr Simon Jones will speak on "Bonsai".

### **CHRISTLETON W.I. MONTHLY WHIST DRIVE**

Meet in the Parish Hall on the last Wednesday of the month at 2pm. All welcome.

### **GROSVENOR MUSEUM SOCIETY SPRING LECTURES**

#### **Monday 14 February – Bob Gowland – "The Royal & Ancient Game"**

Well known local auctioneer Bob Gowland draws on his extensive knowledge of the history of golf for this entertaining lecture on 800 years of Golf from 1120 – 1920.

#### **Wednesday 16 March – Dan Garner – "The Chester Amphitheatre Project"**

The Grosvenor Museum's Senior Archaeologist, Dan Garner who has been leading the current excavations will bring us up to date on the latest discoveries at the Chester Amphitheatre Project.

#### **Thursday 7 April – Elizabeth Newall – "Liverpool Civic Buildings"**

This illustrated talk by lecturer and Liverpool Blue Badge Tourist Guide Elizabeth Newall gives us an insight into Liverpool's nationally important Georgian Town Hall and St George's Hall.

All meetings are at the Grosvenor Museum, starting at 7.30 pm. Admission is free for members. The charge for guests is £4.

Membership details from  
Ken Holding – tel 312689

### **MAGAZINE DISTRIBUTORS**

**T**he March magazine will be available for collection from Church on Sunday 27 February 2005.



## **Parish Rambling Tuesday Group.**

**Tuesday 22nd February**

Chester Canal & River Dee  
Heritage Walk. Grade; Easy  
8 miles. Visiting historic sites on  
the waterways around the city.  
Leave Church Car Park at  
9.00am. Pub Meal on return.  
Further details from  
David on 332410.

## **CHRISTLETON WEDNESDAY GROUP Invites you to a SOUP & SWEET SPRING LUNCH**

At Christleton Parish Hall on  
**Wednesday 9 March 2005**

12 noon – 2.00p

in aid of local MS Support  
Group

Cost: £6 per person

[includes glass of wine]

Tickets available from any  
member

## **WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER**

Friday 4th March, 2005

*LET OUR LIGHT SHINE*

Prepared by Christian Women  
of Poland

**10.30am**

St. Andrews URC

Rev. L. Blair

**7.30pm**

**CHRISTLETON METHODIST  
CHURCH**

Rev. C. Heald

*All are welcome-men, women and  
children*

Christleton Parish Magazine



## **Sunday, 13th February Chirk Castle**

**S**nowdrop walk with surrounding ramble. Route still to be defined, but walkers or not all welcome. Bring your National Trust cards if you have them, otherwise you will need to pay £1.50 (75p for senior citizens). Tea room open for the less active or thirsty, but we walkers hope to walk down to the canal, perhaps through the tunnel. Do join us. meet at 1.30 in the church car park. contact Liz McClure for further information - 409414

## **CHRISTLETON LOCAL HISTORY GROUP**

**A**ll meetings are held at 7.30pm at Christleton Primary School in Quarry Lane.  
N e x t      M e e t i n g

**Wednesday February 23rd.**

Speaker; Simon Ward

**Recent explorations  
and discoveries, at the  
Amphitheatre.**

Simon, Senior Archaeologist of Chester City Council at the Grosvenor Museum, will give an illustrated talk about the recent excavations and discoveries at the Chester Amphitheatre.

# CHRISTLETON TADPOLES CROSS THE BIG POND

In the January 2002 issue of St. James' Parish Magazine I reported that the photograph of tadpoles I had taken in my garden pond in the previous spring had been used by The Woodland Trust to illustrate their phenolgy leaflet. The photograph appears on the Christleton web site. Three years later and our Christleton tadpoles make an appearance on the other side of the big pond. They are the now the cover illustration of the January 2005 issue of Nature Methods, a United States magazine for scientists and chemists. The cover description reads – As tadpoles add diversity to a pond, molecular tadpoles, made up of



a protein head and a DNA tail, will add important techniques to the molecular quantification toolbox. Photograph courtesy of Richard Nicholson, Christleton, UK; adaptation by Erin Boyle.

*Richard Nicholson*

---

## It hurts

A little girl went up to her mother one day while holding her stomach saying, "Mummy, my stomach hurts." Her mother replied, "That's because it's empty, you have to put something into it!" She then prepared a bowl of soup. That evening the minister and his wife came for dinner. The minister began to feel bad. Holding his head he said, "I have such a terrible headache!" The little girl looked up at him, giving him the sweetest smile that any little child could give. Then she said, "That's because it's empty, you have to put something into it!"



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## HOLY DAYS IN FEBRUARY

### 2

The Presentation of Christ in the Temple/ Candlemas  
In bygone centuries, Christians said their last farewells to the Christmas season on Candlemas, 2nd February. This is exactly 40 days after Christmas Day itself. In New Testament times 40 days old was an important age for a baby boy: it was when they made their first 'public appearance'. Mary, like all good Jewish mothers, went to the Temple with Jesus, her first male child - to "present him to the Lord". At the same time, she, as a new mother, was 'purified'. Thus we have the Festival of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple. So where does the Candlemas bit come in? Jesus is described in the New Testament as the Light of the World, and early Christians developed the tradition of lighting many candles in celebration of this day. The Church also fell into the custom of blessing the year's supply of candles for the church on this day - hence the name, Candlemas. The story of how Candlemas began can be found in Luke 2:22-40. Simeon's great declaration of faith and recognition of who Jesus was is of course found in the Nunc Dimittis, which is embedded in the Office of Evening Prayer in the West. But in medieval times, the

Nunc Dimittis was mostly used just on this day, during the distribution of candles before the Eucharist. Only gradually did it win a place in the daily prayer life of the Church.

### 14

#### St Valentine's Day

There are two confusing things about this day of romance and anonymous love-cards strewn with lace, cupids and ribbon: firstly, there seems to have been two different Valentines in the 4th century - one a priest martyred on the Flaminian Way, under the emperor Claudius, the other a bishop of Terni martyred at Rome. And neither seems to have had any clear connection with lovers or courting couples. So why has Valentine become the patron saint of romantic love? By Chaucer's time the link was assumed to be because on these saints' day - 14 February - the birds are supposed to pair. Or perhaps the custom of seeking a partner on St Valentine's Day is a surviving scrap of the old Roman Lupercalia festival, which took place in the middle of February. One of the Roman gods honoured during this Festival was Pan, the god of nature. Another was Juno, the goddess of women and marriage. During the Lupercalia it was a popular custom for young men to draw the name of a young unmarried woman from a name-box. The two would then be partners or

Christleton Parish Magazine

'sweethearts' during the time of the celebrations. Even modern Valentine decorations bear an ancient symbol of love - Roman cupids with their bows and love-arrows. There are no churches in England dedicated to Valentine, but since 1835 his relics have been claimed by the Carmelite church in Dublin.

---

## THE VERY FIRST VALENTINE CARD A LEGEND

The Roman Emperor Claudius II needed soldiers. He suspected that marriage made men want to stay at home instead of fighting wars, so he outlawed marriage. A kind-hearted young priest named Valentine felt sorry for all the couples who wanted to marry, but couldn't. So secretly he married as many couples as he could - until the Emperor found out and condemned him to death. While he was in prison waiting execution, Valentine showed love and compassion to everyone around him, including his jailer. The jailer had a young daughter who was blind, but through Valentine's prayers, she was healed. Just before his death in Rome on 14 February, he wrote her a farewell message signed 'From your Valentine.' So the very first Valentine card was not between lovers, but between a priest about to die, and a little girl, healed through his prayers.

February, 2005

## The Gem

**L**ord, take this raw material  
And shape this rough de-  
sign,  
Fashion it and hone it into  
Something good and fine.  
Just as an uncut diamond has  
No beauty of its own,  
Make this dull unpolished gem  
Into a precious stone.  
For we are just the Potter's clay  
Upon the turning wheel,  
Unsculpted blocks of marble  
Untempered sheets of steel.  
So take out all the flecks and  
specks  
Just cleanse and purify,  
Remove the hidden faults and  
flaws  
So clear unto Your eye.  
And make us really pliable  
To fit into Your mould,  
For from refining fire  
Comes forth the purest gold.  
So let our lives be yielded to  
The pattern You have planned,  
Until at last we have become  
A jewel in Your hand.

Anonymous

---

## THANKS

Rena Griffiths would like to thank all her many friends for their kind thoughts and prayers during her recent illness.

## MORE MYRRH

A few hardy souls trudged through the ice and snow on Boxing Day to the morning Communion Service when the Rector preached on Myrrh as part of his sermon.

I was given a very interesting book at Christmas on The Story of Spices and found the chapter on Myrrh very interesting. Frankincense and myrrh are well known to everyone familiar with the story of Jesus as two of the three gifts brought to the newborn King by three wise men. In Persia is the city of Saba, from which the Three Kings set out on their way to adore the baby. They are buried in this city in three very large and beautiful chambers, side by side, upon each of which stands a well kept masonry tomb. Their bodies are still preserved, with the hair and beards. They are called Jaspar, Balthasar and Melchior. Marco Polo often asked the people of this city about the three magi, but he found no one who could answer his questions. However, three days later, at the Castle of the Fire Worshippers, he did find out. This is what the fire worshippers said. "In the distant past three kings of this

country set out to adore a prophet newly born, taking three offerings, gold, incense and myrrh, in order to discover whether this prophet was a god, or king upon earth or a physician. They said that if he took the gold he would be a king, if he took the incense he would be a god, if he took the myrrh he would be a physician. First they went in separately, then all together. They found the child to be thirteen days old, as in fact he was. They adored him and offered their gifts and the child received all three offerings. They decided that as he had taken all three he was a god, a king and a physician.

Myrrh is resin of a tree that grows in south-western Arabia and in Somalia. It was certainly known in ancient Egypt well before the fifteenth century BC when it was a goal of Queen Hatshepsut's expedition to Punt at the mouth of the Red Sea. The Egyptians worshipped their sun god Ra with an incense that included juniper and several aromatic herbs, mixed into honey and wine, but the only exotic spice in it was myrrh which would have come from the "land of Punt". The tree is tapped twice a year at the same season as the frankincense tree, but in its case

the incisions are made all the way up from the root to those of the branches that are strong enough.

*Margaret Croston*

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## MOTHERS UNION JANUARY

**A**t our AGM it was decided to review our activities in Mothers Union and bring in some changes and improvements to our meetings.

Several interesting speakers have been invited, beginning with Liz Evans who will be coming on 14 February.

We need to update our Coffee Morning to attract more people and instead of our Summer Tea Party, we are planning an outing which will be open to non-members. Suggestions for a venue would be most welcome and any bright ideas regarding the Coffee Morning.

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to a happy home.

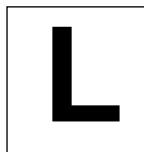
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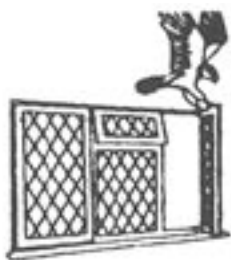
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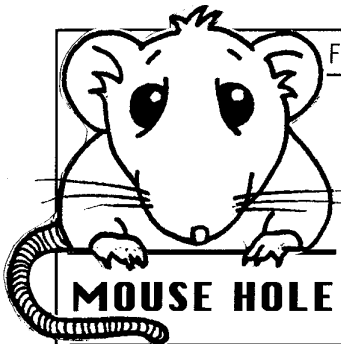
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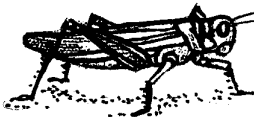
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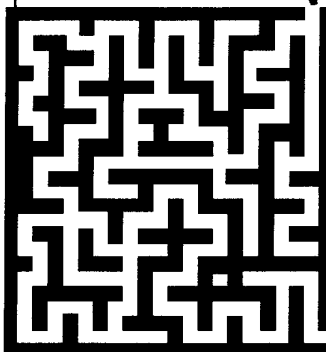
## MOUSE HOLE

### LOCUST LUNCH

John was Jesus' cousin, he lived in the desert and ate locusts and wild honey. Eating locusts may sound horrible to us but in some countries people love them. When they land they are collected then roasted or boiled. Some are dried, beaten to a powder and used like flour to make cakes!



Can you find your way through the crooked ways to the straight path?



From my home in the church I learn about all sorts of things...

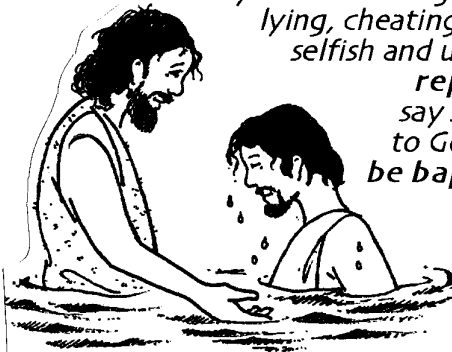
## GET READY! GET READY!

The Prophet John had a message from God for everyone who wanted to listen.

*"Get ready, the Messiah, our Saviour is coming...."*

*Get your lives straight, stop lying, cheating, being selfish and unkind...*

*repent,  
say sorry  
to God and  
be baptised".*



Many people changed their ways and came to John to be baptised

Read John's story in Matthew chapter 3

The 40 days before Easter is known as **LENT**. It's a time to think and pray 'and learn more about God.

The first day of Lent is called **ASH**

**WEDNESDAY.**

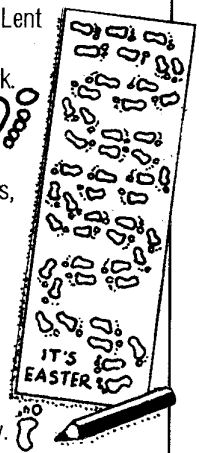
It is a day for saying 'sorry' to God for any wrong things you have said or thought or done.



Make a Lent calendar bookmark.



Draw 40 footprints, plus 7 extra for 'Holy Week'. Colour in a footprint each day.



## **LEPROSY MISSION**

Stamp out leprosy!

Please donate your used stamps so that money can be raised for Leprosy Mission. Stamps should be trimmed to quarter inch border around the stamp, and can be left at the back of Church.

## **PLEASE TELL US...**

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

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## **CHRISTLETON LOCAL HISTORY GROUP**

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## **MOBILE LIBRARY VAN SERVICE**

The van calls weekly: alternate Thursdays all day and alternate Fridays in Quarry Lane 11.15 am – 12.45 pm. For further details of when the van is next in your area, please telephone Upton Library on 380053.

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# Parish Registers for December 2004

## Baptism

5th Heidi Grace Junanita, daughter of Russell & Angela Edwardson  
11 Rowan Park Christleton.

*"We welcome you into the Lords Family"*

## The Funeral Service.

2nd George Donald Kidd, 1 Rowan House, Flookersbrook, Hoole, Chester.  
2nd Galdys Amy Sale, 85 Bluebell Close, Huntington. (Burial of ashes)  
8th Phyllis Latfy, 1 Hunters Court, Little Heath Road, Littleton.  
14th Kenneth Charles White, Birch Heath Lodge Nursing Home, Christleton  
30th Stanley Dodd, 15 Sandrock Road, Christleton.

*"Rest eternal grant unto them"*

## Offertories.

December	Cash	CSE	2004	2003
5th	354.95	614.70	969.65	722.76
12th	241.57	580.00	821.57	1010.57
19th	376.35	860.30	1236.65	1017.68
26th	66.30	408.50	474.80	786.72
Totals			£3,502.67	£3,527.73

## Christmas Collections.

Carols around the Tree	802.60
Midnight Communion	461.63
Christmas Day 8.00am	143.52
Christmas Day Family Service	528.64
<b>Total</b>	<b>£1,936.39</b>
To be distributed 50% Overseas Missions	
25% Chester Aid for the Homeless	
25% Adoption Matters.	

*"Of your own do we give you"*

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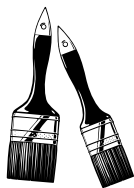
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	10.45 a.m.	Parish Communion	1st & 3rd Sundays
		Family Service	2nd Sunday
		Mattins	4th & 5th Sundays
	6.30 p.m.	Evensong	1st, 2nd & 3rd Sundays
		Evening Communion	4th Sunday
		Songs of Praise	5th Sunday
<b>WEDNESDAYS</b>	10.45 a.m.	Holy Communion	
<b>SAINTS</b>	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion	

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Child Protection	Susan Alexander .....	335077

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