

St. James' Christleton



Parish Magazine
JANUARY 2006

30p

JOTTINGS FOR JANUARY

- Sun 1 The Naming and Circumcision of Christ**
8.00 am Holy Communion - Order 2
10.45 am Parish Communion - Order 1
6.30 pm Evensong
Prayer Link Road: Promised Land Lane Neighbourhood
Link: Karen Smalls
- Wed 4 10.45 am United Communion - followed by refreshments
- Sun 8 The First Sunday of Epiphany : The Baptism of Christ**
8.00 am Holy Communion - Order 1
10.45 am UNITED VILLAGE NEW YEAR SERVICE - followed by refreshments
6.30 pm Evensong
Prayer Link Road: Quarry Lane and Faulkner's Lane
Neighbourhood Link: Alison Kenyon
- Mon 9 2.00 pm Mothers Union - Parish Hall
- Wed 11 10.45 am Holy Communion - followed by refreshments
- Thurs 12 7.45 pm Pastoral and Outreach Committee Toll Bar Road
- Fri 13 NB Last date for contributions for February Parish Magazine to David Bull (332234). Earlier if possible please
- Sun 15 The Second Sunday of Epiphany**
8.00 am Holy Communion - Order 1
10.45 am Parish Communion - Order 1
4.30 pm CHRISTINGLE FAMILY SERVICE
6.00 pm The Crew - Parish Hall
Prayer Link Road: Rake Lane Neighbourhood Link: Julia Carr
- Mon 16 2.30 pm PCC Standing Committee - Rectory
7.45 pm Stewardship Committee - Lady Chapel
- WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY**
- Wed 18 10.45 am Holy Communion - followed by refreshments
12 noon United Prayers - St James
Followed by meeting of Churches Together in Christleton Committee

- Thurs 19 7.30 pm United Service
- Fri 20 6.30 pm Choir Practice
- Sat 21 11.00 am United Village Coffee Morning - Parish Hall
12 noon United Prayers
- Sun 22 The Third Sunday of Epiphany**
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 - Parish Hall
6.30 pm UNITED SERVICE - Methodist Church
(NB: No service at St James)
Prayer Link Road: Ring Road Neighbourhood Link:
Len Thomas
- Mon 23 12.00 noon United Prayers - St James
- Tues 24 9.00 am Tuesday Ramble Group leave car park for Sandstone
Trail
7.15 pm United Prayers - Methodist Church
- Wed 25 10.45 am Holy Communion for Conversion of St Paul - followed by
refreshments
12 noon United Prayers - St James
- Fri 27 6.30 pm Choir Practice
- Sat 28 Bereavement Support Group - Retreat House
- Sun 29 The Presentation of Christ in the Temple**
8.00 am Holy Communion - Order 1
10.30 am Sunday School - Parish Hall
10.45 am Matins
6.00 pm The Crew Youth Group - Parish Hall
6.30 pm Evening Communion - Order 1
Prayer Link: Those outside the Parish who worship at St
James
Neighbourhood Link Area Secretary: Ann Collier
- Mon 30 7.45 pm PCC Meeting – Parish Hall

The Rector's Letter

Dear Friends

Resolutions and Revelations

New Year resolutions are notoriously fickle! The trouble with resolutions is that they depend on human nature, which is neither constant nor reliable. I am sure it is right and good to resolve to live a better life, but to be enduring and meaningful resolution needs to be inspired by revelation. The Christ, whose birth we celebrated at Christmas, is the revelation of God in man, and through January, and indeed the whole year, our resolution is fed and empowered by the nature of that revelation.

Our United Village New Year Service on 8 January at 10.45 am at St James includes the Methodist Covenant. Here, at the start of the year, we make a united resolution to be true to the covenant between God and his people. Unlike a resolution, a covenant is two sided, and involves relationship. So, in this service, we rehearse the history of how God invited his people into a covenant relationship with him: he would be their God and they would be his people. Our failure brought Jesus, as God's Son, to fulfil our side the covenant by living a life of perfect obedience, true to the nature of God, who is love. So now we are invited into a new covenant, where God promises us new life in Christ, and we promise to live no longer for ourselves, but for God. And when we fail, as fail we shall, we can return, fresh each day, to the revelation of God in Christ to be 'ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven.'

6 January is Epiphany, which means manifestation or revelation. Through the visit of the Gentile Magi, who offered their symbolic gifts of gold for a king, frankincense for God and myrrh for sacrifice, the true nature of the infant Jesus is revealed. Then through the Epiphany season we focus on the disclosure events in Jesus' life, such as his Baptism, miraculous signs and the calling of the disciples, which further reveal the nature of God's saving love. So time and again we are brought to the inspirational revelation which renews our relationship, and calls us to truer discipleship.

This year Christingle is on 15 January at 4.30 pm. This is always a special service as the children's faces are lit up by the Christingle in the darkness of the Church. The Christingle is symbolic of the revelation of Jesus as the light of the world – a light shining in the darkness which the darkness will never overcome.

And so we come to the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, which is always 18 – 25 January. Christian Unity is a good parable about resolution and

revelation. So many human schemes are devised artificially to create unity, be they in the Church or in the wider world. All of them founder on the rock of human nature. But Christian Unity is not something to be created, but revealed. We are already united in Christ. Too often we leave the prayer out of the week of prayer for Christian Unity. It is only when we come before God in Christ that we discover that:- “when anyone is united to Christ, there is a new world. The old order has gone and a new order has already begun” for “God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men’s sins against them. And he has enlisted us in this ministry of reconciliation (2 Corinthians 5:17ff)

Finally 25 January is the Conversion of St Paul. May that also be a parable for us. Saul of Tarsus relied on his own efforts to be true to God, and in so doing persecuted those with whom he disagreed. It was only when he definitively saw the light on the Damascus Road, that his life was transformed. For us, as for St Paul, it is hard ‘to kick against the goad’, driven to increasingly extreme measure to justify ourselves. But through God’s grace, we too may see the light, as Jesus is revealed to us. He brings us into perfect relationship with God, so that this revelation inspires us to live in harmony with his purposes throughout the year.

A very happy New Year to you all.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Peter Lee". The signature is written in black ink and is underlined with a single horizontal line.

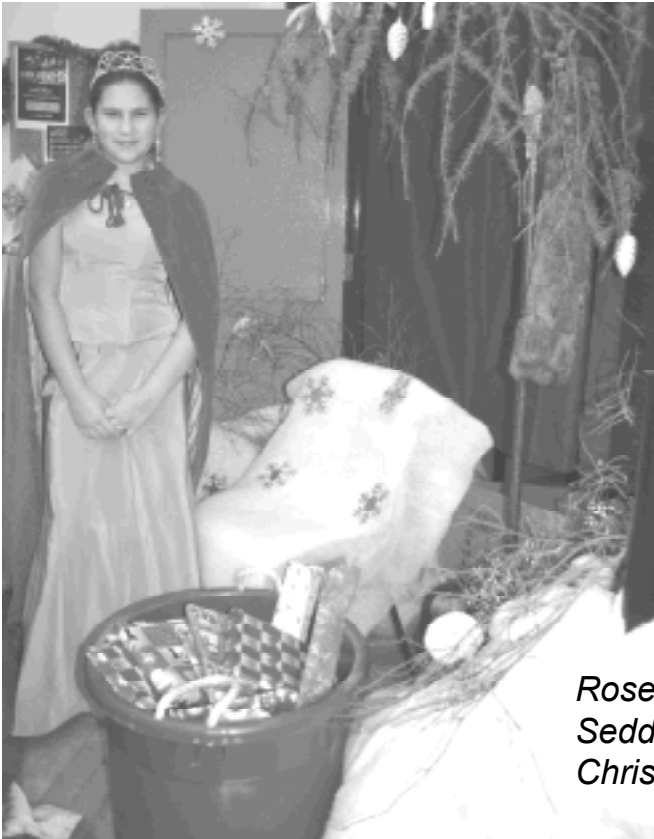
Prayer of the Month: (From the Covenant Service)

*I am no longer my own but yours.
Your will, not mine, be done in all things,
wherever you may place me,
in all that I do and in all that I may endure;
when there is work for me and when there is none;
when I am troubled and when I am at peace.
Your will be done when I am valued and when I am disregarded;
when I find fulfilment and when it is lacking;
when I have all things, and when I have nothing.
I will willingly offer all I have and am to serve you,
as and where you choose.
Glorious and blessed God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
you are mine and I am yours.
May it be so for ever.
Let this covenant now made on earth be fulfilled in heaven. Amen*

BRITISH LEGION POPPY DAY APPEAL

I would like to say a very big thank you to everyone from Tarvin Road, Littleton, Marbury Road, Stamford Court, Broadmead, Cedar Park and all that area for donating to the British Legion Poppy Day appeal. The house-to-house cash collection was £359.40p. Thank you.

Mabel Kirk



*Rose Queen Charlotte
Seddon at the 2005
Christmas Fair*

CHRISTMAS FAIR

I would like to thank everybody who gave cakes and provisions to the cake stall at the Christmas Fair. It was very much appreciated and helped to raise £183 for the charities. Also, many thanks to the helpers on the day.

Betty Dunning.

CATHEDRAL LINK

Chester Lecture Society begin again after the Christmas break, on Thursday 12 January when Anne Mustoe, a retired Headmistress, will be showing slides of her travels in South America.

Dave and Sigrum Tollerton show their enchanting experiences of the Galapagos Islands on Thursday 19th.

A joint meeting with the Royal Geographical Society on 26th January will be by Margaret Goodwin on The Golden Land of Myanmar (Burma). She will show a journey back in time.

All lectures are at the Grosvenor Museum, starting at 7.30 pm on Thursdays. Members are free. Visitors £4 on door. Children £2. Further details from Anne Large on Chester 336108 or Margaret Croston on Chester 335955.

SAINTS' WINDOWS IN THE CLOISTERS

St Stephen the Martyr, (his name means the crown) was also known as Stephen the Deacon. He was the First

Christian Martyr. While preaching the Gospel in the streets, angry Jews who believed his message to be blasphemy dragged him outside the city, and stoned him to death circa 33. In the crowd, on the side of the mob, was Saul of Tarsus an enforcer for the Jewish authorities, a man who would later be known as Saint Paul.

Patronage: headaches; casket makers; coffin makers; deacons; horses; stone masons.

Saints' Day 26 December



THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY
With children, for children, with you

Thank you Box Holders, all of you for your tremendous generosity to the Children's Society. The total raised from Box Opening 2005 was a magnificent £1,040.24. This gift will support the Children's Society innovative work with children on the margins of our society.

Many thanks – *Lesley Morgan*.

See Page 11 for this years Christingle Service

C S LEWIS - ANECDOTAL EVIDENCE

When friends realise that C S Lewis was my mother's tutor at Oxford from 1931 – 1933, I am usually asked embarrassing questions about his contribution to literature and to religious thought. Well-educated English teachers are the worst!

As a quiet rebel reacting to the greater literary gifts of my teenage sister and my mother, I regret now that I did not find out more. Sorry!

However, in the years up to my mother's death in 1999, I did tease out bits and pieces about her acquaintance with C S Lewis and with J R R Tolkien who was the Visiting Examiner for her first degree at Sheffield. During Mary's time at Oxford, Tolkien worked with (and was a rival to) Lewis in the English Faculty so she saw them both there.

My mother read much later in

"The Times" diary of 9 April 1969 that C S Lewis would never tutor women. Mary riposted:-

"He tutored me, and other women at times. I knew him before he was known as a Christian apologist, literary historian, and prolific writer of

science fiction and children's books.

I found Lewis both jovial and remote, with a tendency in off-duty moments to poke fun at the women's colleges. I was not prepared to stand for this! His dark flop of hair and the broad shallow stairs up to Lewis' study at Magdalen complete my recollection."

About twenty years later, my lifelong

friend Norman told me a lovely story about C S Lewis when he attended a weekend seminar at Cambridge with C S Lewis who was then a Professor there. Norman's rather shabby beige gabardine coat befitted the Head of Classics at Watford Boys Grammar School and his passion



for English literature had a shrewd wit crossbred from a poor childhood in West Bromwich with studying at Cambridge many years earlier.

The seminar came to a leisurely end and Norman was the last to collect his coat from the adjacent cloakroom. When he got there, the only remaining coat was hanging on quite a different peg to where he left his. Almost identical in size and grubbiness, Norman realised that someone with an equal sense of style had taken his coat by mistake.

Only briefly challenged by his conscience, Norman put the coat on, returned home and thought no more about it until about two weeks later an untidily wrapped parcel arrived. Sure enough Norman's coat was inside, recognisable by some Dairy Milk chocolate in the pocket. But the piece seemed smaller!

Opening the handwritten note inside the parcel, Norman read, "Sorry about this, you have a nice taste in chocolate, C S Lewis".

Serious Lewis might have been, but he clearly had humour.

John Carruthers

New Year New Address

Many thanks to the many of you who have been sending your contributions by e mail. From now on the magazine has its own e mail address which is: christletonmag.co.uk Please use this instead of the editors old e mail address which is now officially dead. Very best wishes for a Happy and Prosperous New Year from all your editorial team.

David Bull

As you consider your New Year's resolutions...

Philippians 4:13 --- I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

The road to success is not straight. There is a curve called Failure, a loop called Confusion, speed bumps called Friends, red lights called Enemies, caution lights called Family. You will have flats called Jobs. But, if you have a spare called Determination, an engine called Perseverance, insurance called Faith, a driver called Jesus, you will make it to a place called Success.

Sponsored Marathon Run in Aid of SENSE

Many of us have been thrilled to learn recently of the exploits of Liz Evans and her son Tim, running The New York Marathon to raise money for SENSE, a very worthy charity. Liz has so much appreciated the good wishes she has received from her friends at St James'. The warmth of this encouragement was in her thoughts as she embarked on this adventure, and it certainly helped to carry her through. She would like to thank everyone who contributed so generously, which has resulted in over £3,500 being raised, with almost £400 from the family of St James' a superb result for a wonderful effort.

David Cummings

This is her story;

Standing on the Verrazano Narrows Bridge with 37,000 other runners on the start line of the 2005 New York City marathon is like no other experience I have ever had, and my feeling of exhilaration and exhaustion at the end of the following 26.2 miles is like none other in my life. I shall never

forget the feeling of excitement as Tim and I exchanged smiles and set off in the sunshine over the bridge on our big adventure. The cheering from the first of two million spectators began as soon as we were over the two mile long bridge, and it did not stop all along the route through all the 5 boroughs of the city. Nor did the music coming from 100 bands, one after the other. Ahead we can see a wide, continuous moving band of multicoloured bobbing heads. Tim and I weave in and out, managing to stay together in the crowd. It is warm and sunny and the carnival atmosphere ensures that the miles pass relatively painlessly. Although Tim's normal pace is much faster I am reassured that there is plenty to keep him amused, as he gives the children along the way, and he certainly isn't going to get cold. At 11 miles we go through son Mark's neighbourhood in Brooklyn, and I am still feeling quite chipper as we exchange enthusiastic hugs with the family. After another few miles though, the heat, jet lag and lack of

sleep begin to catch up. We have a couple of minutes rest at the next drinks station, after which I feel lot better, which is just as well because at mile 15 we reach the Queensboro' Bridge, crossing from Queens into Manhattan. This is one long mile, steep, in the shade and there are no spectators. I do not like it, nor does Tim, but the fantastic cheer we receive as we enter Manhattan, lifts our spirits again for the 4 mile run down First Avenue and over another steep but much shorter bridge, for a brief visit to the Bronx before crossing back again into Manhattan. I am quite unprepared however for the magnificence of the sight which meets us as we turn. There in the hazy distance is the Empire State Building and the skyscrapers around it. In spite of my aching limbs I feel excited again. Not for long though, and after another mile or two I begin to

droop again. Tim tries valiantly to project some enthusiasm into his flagging mother, "We are on Fifth Ave Mum. This is what we've done it all for". "Oh Yeah?" is my silent response, but I force a smile, and carry on. I'm in new territory now, as I've never run this distance before. Like many other runners we are increasing our walk breaks as



we enter Central Park and the countdown to the finish. Out of the corner of my tired eye, I can

we enter Central Park and the countdown to the finish. Out of the corner of my tired eye, I can

see the magnificent colours of the trees, and only wish I could appreciate them more, but now I am hurting all over and only want it to stop. The countdown begins- 2miles, 1 mile 800yards and so on. A mile to go and I am virtually walking, psyching myself to run the 400yards to the finish. At 800yards Tim says” Go on, you can run to the finish” I “dig deep” and find that I can, and do. Arms raised in triumph together we go under the Finish Banner. We’ve done it! [Chip time says 5hours 38 1/2minutes] In a shivering daze I collect the medal, am wrapped in a foil heat sheet, give in my chip, we have a family photograph taken, collect our stuff, and walk the never ending half mile to the family meeting point where there were warming hugs, congratulations and flowers from my little granddaughter. The next hurdle is the walk to the subway, down the stairs and into the train. My body is groaning all the way, but my stomach waits till we are on a crowded carriage to rebel, and give the heave ho to its assorted contents into a plastic bag, thoughtfully provided by Tim. I’m not sure how far my medal went in modifying this indignity, but I bet the man who

gave up his seat was glad he did! I would like to say it was all down hill all the way after that, but it wasn’t- it was all up hill and stairs. Soon, however I was in heaven in a hot bath and feeling very smug and thinking- no more training, no more worries over what to eat and drink, avoiding injuries, colds etc., WHOOPEE.

Liz Evans

And there is more

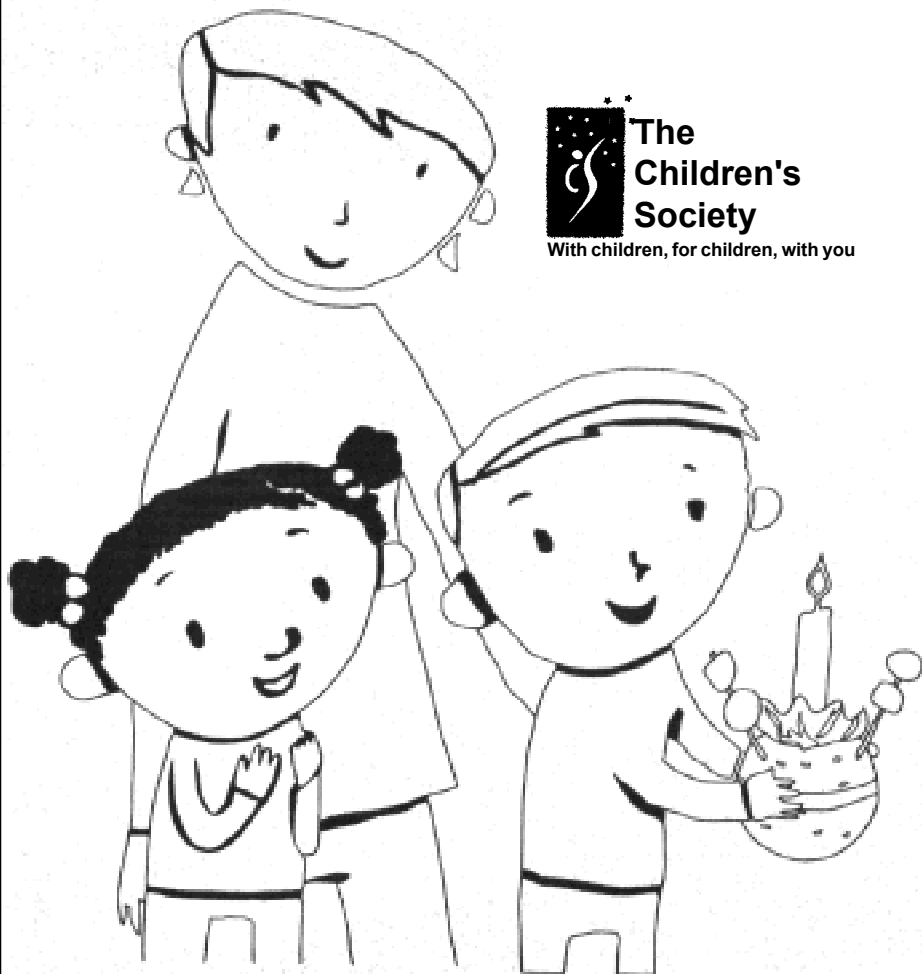
Copyright does not allow us to include any of the official photographs of the Marathon in the Parish Magazine but that does not stop you seeing them.

Go to what I hope is your favourite web site www.christleton.org.uk. Click on the Marathon link you will find on the main menu page. This will take you to the official New York Marathon page. Click on the 2005 Marathon Photos button. In the Photo Search enter 41827 for Liz or 33388 for Tim as the Bib Number and click Show Photos. Up will come a page of small images to click on, many of which are of Liz and Tim Evans

Richard Nicholson
Webmaster

Christleton Parish Magazine

Join us for a Special
CHRISTINGLE CELEBRATION
St James', Christleton
Sunday 15 January at 4.30 pm



The
Children's
Society

With children, for children, with you

Christingle originated in the Moravian church in 1747
All proceeds go to The Children's Society Charity registration number 221124.



Christleton Parish Hall

available for Meetings, Parties, Functions etc, occasional or regular use.

The Hall has wheelchair access and specially adapted facilities.

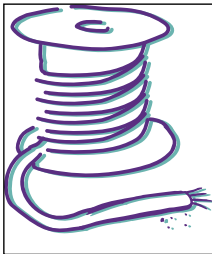
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David Mercer 336155

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Nature Notes

The most interesting feature of November has been the weather, which has filled up the Pit extremely well with much needed rainwater, and the quite hard frosts seem to have ensured that we have had hungry birds about, who have almost completely removed berries from the trees. Even the yew trees in the churchyard were stripped of their berries before the end of the month, which if folklore is to be believed, means we are in for a hard winter. Smaller birds have been feeding well in gardens, and our seed feeders have been emptied much faster than the peanut holders. I now use sunflower hearts on the bird table with some wild bird mix and this seems to be very popular, particularly with our coal tits. I haven't made any unusual sightings this month, but I did witness a very amusing event along the canal while walking from Egg Bridge towards Rowton on a really glorious autumn morning. I spotted a beautiful kingfisher flitting along the canal side in its usual way from branch to branch, sometimes stopping on top of a fence post. What followed was absolutely amazing and something I've never heard of. A male chaffinch kept chasing the kingfisher whenever it moved, trying to peck at its tail as if in a territorial dispute. Eventually the

chaffinch gave up the chase, and the kingfisher rested on a cattle frame on nearby farm land. The swans still have their two remaining cygnets, and have made several flights to the Pit, but seem quite content on the canal for the time being. I was fortunate to see a beautiful tawny owl opposite the "Cheshire Cat" early one Sunday morning, and a barn owl flying across the motorway near the Cheshire Oaks the following evening. There are many signs of badgers being active in and around the village, despite this being (supposedly) the season when they are in hibernation. When I started to write this article I spoke about the much needed rainfall at the Pit. As I write the December weather is hardly any better and on the 2nd we've had the lowest pressure I've ever recorded in the village, a pressure of 28.60 Mb which meant that the needle almost went off the bottom of the barometer. Our rainfall for the year has also almost doubled in the last few months, making it likely that 2005 will have been the wettest year in Christleton for many years.

David Cummings

The HOT South Press from Andy Putt

Chester seems so long ago, life has been shooting at its normal fast speed, and I have been flying along with it. I have finally hit the ground and have sometime to myself, well 30 minutes anyway. I thought it would be good to just let you all know how its all going down in the hot south. I have got sun burn and I am wearing shorts and t-shirt. Well OK its quite cold but the North still is colder. Its got to the point down here where I am wearing a jumper.

Anyway back to the point. Since Chester I have been working in Southampton at Central Hall (Community Church) and Unite. Working at Central Hall has been amazing, I am on the leadership team for Tribe and sublime which is youth age 10-20yrs. Tribe is run on a Thursday night for 10-14 years. My main roll is to run the evening sessions. This term we have been looking at the theme, "Walking in Jesus' foot steps". It has been great seeing young people coming up with amazing answers and questions. With Tribe I also support the Band. 5 guys aged between 10-13. They are just incredible. God has really gifted them and they are using there gift to glorify him.

Sublime runs on a Saturday night for 2 hours. It is youth church. We get around 100 young people every week. We have some worship, a talk and prayer. Just seeing young people come into God's presence is incredible I have been really encouraged by this.

My main roll at Central Hall is to be a youth Pastor. So I have been working with 4 young people on a week to week basis. Meeting up, praying and talking stuff through. Helping them, encouraging them, supporting them, and lately helping with maths homework with one of them. Every week I spend quality time with these 4 guys who are all top guys. I really feel God has called me to pastor young people and God has put these 4 guys on my heart to serve. Its to a point where if one of them is going through a rough time I will have sleepless night because I am worried for them.

The last part of my job at Central hall is working with the younger youth band. Every Thursday afternoon I meet up and spend some quality time with them, while they area practising.

The other part of my work is working for Unite in Bellmore school, I head

up a programme called inclusion, which is for 8 year 8 boys who are close to exclusion. I work with them for 4 hours each week doing team building and social skills. This has been really encouraging and I have seen great change in their behaviour. The ultimate aim is to get them back into main stream school.

A job you can put down at the end of one day and pick up the next. A calling you pick up and never let go. I believe I have a calling, God has called me to work with young people and that is what I shall do. God has really blessed me over the last few months. I have been through some tough stuff and loads of quality stuff. But at the end of the day the glory of God is been shared.

Please Pray:

- for the 4 guys I pastor, they are top quality guys and I love them. Pray that they my grow up continuing the love and serve God.
- for Christmas, that all the work which is happening over Christmas on the streets will challenge people about the true meaning of Christmas.
- for some quality rest at Christmas, and quality time with my parents.
- for the 8 student at bellmore school.

Finally thank you.

God bless you this Christmas and the years to come.

Glenthorne Autumn Colours October 20/21/22, 2006

This weekend is provisionally booked for next year and recently has been approved by the PCC.

It will show us a different aspect to Glenthorne, and will afford a superb experience of the beauty of the lakes in Autumn. It is not clear to me whether there is sufficient enthusiasm to proceed with this project, which would involve discussion, fellowship, meditation and gentle rambling.

To be fair to Glenthorne, who are at present holding this booking, I need to know how many people would be interested. If you are, I need a £10 deposit. Please do not hesitate to confirm with me so we may ascertain whether this is a viable proposition.

For further information, read the previous articles in the parish magazine or ask previous attendees!

Or even ask Liz McClure, 01244-409414

**LET ME KNOW SOONEST
PLEASE**

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, 335518.

All very welcome.

CHRISTLETON GARDENING CLUB

The next meeting will take place on **9th January** with a talk on "The Eden Project" by Dr Richmond Dutton

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.

CHRISTLETON W.I. MONTHLY WHIST DRIVE

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

CHRISTINGLE

Sunday 15th January 4.30pm
See Page 11

MAGAZINE DISTRIBUTORS

The February magazine will be available for collection from Church on 29th January

LOCAL EVENTS DIARY



ST JAMES' TUESDAY WALKING GROUP.

TUESDAY 14TH JANUARY

Cheshire Sandstone Trail;
Burwardsley, Bulkeley Hill &
Rawhead
6 miles moderate (Pub Meal)

Depart Church Car Park
at 9.00am

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.

CHRISTLETON LOCAL HISTORY GROUP.

NEXT MEETING AT
CHRISTLETON PRIMARY
SCHOOL.

**WEDNESDAY JANUARY 18TH
7.30PM**

A talk with slides about The
Cinemas of Chester.
Speaker; David Ellis

ALL WELCOME.

MAGAZINE CONTRIBUTIONS

Please ensure all items for inclusion in the February edition are sent to the Editor, David Bull, The Old Rectory, Plough Lane, as soon as possible **BEFORE Friday 13 January.**

Holy Days In January

1 January The naming of Jesus

It is Matthew and Luke who tell the story of how the angel instructed that Mary's baby was to be named Jesus - a common name meaning 'saviour'. And it is probably no more than a delightful coincidence that the Church recalls the naming of Jesus on 1 January - seven days after 25 December. For in Jewish tradition, the male babies were circumcised and named on their eighth day of life. For early Christians, the name of Jesus held a special significance. In Jewish tradition, names expressed aspects of personality. Jesus' name permeated his ministry, and it does so today: we are baptised in the name of Jesus (Acts 2:38), we are justified through the name of Jesus (1 Cor 6:11); and God the Father has given Jesus a name above all others (Phil 2:9). All Christian prayer is through 'Jesus Christ our Lord', and it is 'at the name of Jesus' that one day every knee shall bow.

6 January - Epiphany

On 6 January we celebrate Epiphany - the visit of the wise men to the baby Jesus. But who were these wise men? No one knows for sure. Matthew calls them 'Magi', and that was the name of an ancient caste of a priestly kind from Persia. It wasn't until the third century that they were they called kings - by a church father, Tertullian. Another church father, Origin, assumed there were three

- to correspond with the gifts given. Later Christian interpretation came to understand gold as a symbol of wisdom and wealth, incense as a symbol of worship and sacrifice, and myrrh as a symbol of healing - and even embalming. Certainly Jesus challenged and set aright the way in which the world handled all three of these things. Since the eighth century, the magi have had the names Balthasar, Caspar and Melchior.

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ON MOBILES AND PRAYER

At 65 nobody has yet to my face called me a silly old man and only recently did a lady offer me her seat on a train. But the first cannot be far off and further chivalry on public transport may be round the corner. I rarely use a mobile phone, I do not have e-mail, and with those confessions I can hear even the most compassionate Christian wondering how this old fuddy-duddy survives.

When my wife began a long hospitalisation last year, our landline received nearly continuous telephone calls for three or four weeks and the fullest container in the house was our answer phone (yes I have one!). One visiting daughter or the other patrolled the garden on their mobile phones while I struggled to ring out between incoming calls.

I have never been so exhaustedly grateful to so many lovely friends, nor to my Christian faith during that upsetting and worrying time, BUT
... prayer quiet stillness
would I ever find any of them again?

Resolving not to take a mobile phone with me on journeys to the hospital,

shopping, or walking the dog, I thank Merseyrail for the chance for me to sit and pray as we passed through Spital and Rock Ferry, the wonderful nursing staff for the calm on the wards, and the Runcorn Expressway for the beautiful views across the Mersey estuary.

We have never been ex-directory and I used to give out my office phone number to meetings of teachers and colleagues, even my home phone number sometimes. Modern technology is fantastic, but if a reader wishes to invent a way of bringing mobile phones into modern worship, prayer and contemplation, please wait until my day is done.

And thank you to St James Church for hallowed quietness and prayer mingled with joyful music and considered ministry in our hour of need.

Surely Jesus Christ found quietness. Luckily Vodaphone and Orange followed him. Or do they?!

John Carruthers

WHY!

Why does it happen that every night, as soon as I climb into bed,
Dozens of worries and plans to be made, come running barefoot through my
head.

I read for a while, to shut out the thoughts,
Then, wearily switch off the light,
When my eyes are so tired I can scarce see the page,
And the words are too blurred for my sight.

My head on the pillow, I snuggle right down,
And relax from my head to my toes.
In the dark, silent night, I say the Lords Prayer,
And prepare for a long restful doze.

But, “oh no!” says my brain, “you can’t sleep just yet, you’ve forgotten to order the meat.
And there’s only one chop and the family’s due. And what can you do for a sweet?”

You’ve made the mince pies and the pudding and cake, and though Christmas is still
weeks away,
You’ve the rooms to prepare, and the beds to put up, for the extra guests coming to stay.

My husband sleeps soundly, beside me in bed, gently snoring and quite unaware
of the total confusion that reigns in my mind, and the dark, insomiac despair.

So, I give him a shake and switch on the light. “Whatever’s the matter?” he groans.
“I can’t get to sleep” I confess with a sigh, “I keep thinking of old Mr Jones”.

“What’s Old Jones been doing that keeps you awake, and not only you, but me too?”
“I was thinking of Christmas, he’ll be all alone, and he’s always enquiring about you!”

“But it’s 3 am” my husband replied, then turned over, and started once more
to leave me alone, with my desperate thoughts, as he gently continued to snore!

So I crept out of bed, and went to the loo – and wearily crept back again.
As my head hit the pillow I determined at last, to conquer my turbulent brain.

“What’s that?” I exclaimed, when suddenly there, I awakened with such a great shock,
Only to find, on the shelf by my bed, the strident alarm of the clock!

Why does it happen that every morn, as soon as I wake from my bed,
I feel so relaxed, so warm and so free from the worries that have flown from my head?

Rena Griffiths



**With New Year in
mind, we think
of time and the
future...**

Every man's life lies within the present; for the past is spent and done with, and the future is uncertain.

Marcus Aurelius Antoninus

Life is too short for us to do everything we want to do; but it is long enough for us to do everything God wants us to do.

The future belongs to those who belong to God. This is hope

W T Purkiser

I find the great thing in this world is not so much where we stand, as in what direction we are moving.

OW Holmes

If you are leaping a ravine, the moment of takeoff is a bad time to be considering alternative strategies.

John Cleese

Men never plan to be failures; they simply fail to plan to be successful.

William A Ward

Plans are useless, but planning is essential.

Dwight D Eisenhower

Nothing is particularly hard if you divide it into small jobs.

Henry Ford

Chance favours only the prepared mind.

Louis Pasteur

Life is what happens to you when you are busy making other plans. John

Lennon

Britons say they are Christian

Most Britons describe themselves as Christian, although many of them attend church less than once a week, a BBC survey has found. The poll found that 67 per cent of people said they were Christian, but only 17 per cent said they went to church once a week or more. 30 per cent said that they went once or twice a year, and 17 per cent said that they never went. Muslims are the most likely believers to attend a weekly religious service, while Jews are the least likely. The research, carried out by ICM for the BBC, found that almost 75 per cent of people believed that the UK should retain its Christian values – including 69 per cent of Jews and nearly 50 per cent of Muslims, Sikhs and Hindus. More than a fifth of people said they did not believe in any religion, but 44 per cent of those who said they had no faith thought that the UK should retain a Christian ethos.

An old Jewish joke

Question: How do you make God laugh?
Answer: Tell him your future plans.

Knocking at your door

*I will come to you
If you will come to Me,
I am just a pace away
If only you would see!*

*For so long I have been knocking
On the doorway to your heart,
So long I have been calling,
Hear the words I would impart.*

*Let your heart be touched
By the wondrous Love I give,
Let eyes and ears be open
To the Gospel Way to live;*

*May your mind encompass
The great urgency of this,
May my Holy Spirit
Unveil the ecstasy and bliss,*

*To see my Holiness and Love
And to know that I am here,
Reach out your arms in my embrace
For I am ever near.*

The Parish of St James, Christleton

PARISH CHRISTIAN GIVING 2005

Our total giving as a Parish for 2005 was as follows:-

Home:

Children's Society (Christingle, boxes etc)	1705
British Legion (Remembrance Sunday collection)	754
Adoption Matters (Christmas Collection)*	484
CATH (" " ")*	484
Christmas Fair – National (Church Urban Fund)	980
Christmas Fair – Local (CATH)	980
Christian Schools Worker (Chester)	300
St Luke's Hospital for the clergy	200
Save the Family	440
Hospice (Chaplaincy)	200
Church Army	200
Churches Action on Substance Misuse	200
Light Project	200

Overseas

Leprosy Mission	200
Christian Aid	910
Christmas Fair – International (Mango Tree trust)	980
Sue Gumbrell (Link Missionary)	200
Grays	200
Bible Society	200
Ben & Lisa	200
USPG*	716
CMS*	716

Totals

Home	7127
Overseas	4322
Total	11449

* = These are based on last year's figures as Christmas Collections for this year not available at time of going to press.

N.B. These figures do not include any collections at funerals, designated by families for particular charities.

DIXON'S ALMSHOUSES

A vacancy exists for an upstairs flat at Dixon's Almshouses. Priority will be given according to the terms of the Trust. These state that they should be for residents of the ecclesiastical Parish of Christleton (Christleton, Littleton, Rowton, Cotton Edmunds and Cotton Abbotts) who do not own any property. If there are no applicants who fulfil these criteria priority will be given to applicants who come closest to meeting them. The present Trustees are the Order of St John Care Trust based in Lincolnshire, but there is a local committee.

For further details phone the Rector (01244 335663) or Mr Nigel Bromage (01244 336119). Applications, indicating ways in which the applicant meets the terms of the Trust, should be sent to the Rector.

TOP DESTINATIONS FOR MISSION WORKERS

France has overtaken Kenya as top destination for UK mission workers. In 2004 the five countries with the most UK mission workers were France, Kenya, Spain, South Africa and Zambia. Spain is a fairly new entrant into the top five, while numbers in Zimbabwe have declined sharply in the past five years. These figures come from Christian Research's 'Religious Trends 5: the Future of the Church'.

January, 2006

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LEPROSY MISSION

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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.

AVAILABLE AT ST JAMES CHURCH

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Please ask any of the Churchwardens or Sidesmen if you need assistance in any way.

CHRISTLETON UNDER-FIVES COMMUNITY PLAYGROUP

Registered Charity 1022817

Christleton Under Fives is an established pre school playgroup attracting children from a wide area. It enjoys good and well founded links with Christleton Primary School. Children from the age of 2 1/2

years until school age are accepted. Please contact the Supervisor, Carole Penny, on 336586 for further details.

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 November 2005

The Funeral Service.

11th Leonard David Cragg Jones Birch Heath Lodge Nursing Home Christleton.

14th Elsie Nield 56 Quarry Lane, Christleton.

24th James Murray 11 Cross Green, Upton by Chester.

25th Bernard Francis Gough Windrush, Plough Lane, Christleton.

29th Leslie Raymond Dutton Oaklands Nursing Home, Littleton.

"Rest eternal grant unto them"

Offertories

November	Cash	CSE	2005	2004
6th	406.24	750.50	1156.74	1180.50
13th	585.72	665.50	1251.22	1092.08
20th	102.00	501.50	603.50	702.01
27th	227.68	722.06	949.68	897.00
Totals			£3,961.14	£3,971.59

"Of your own do we give you"

SHOPPING & SERVICE GUIDE

ROCK HOUSE DENTAL PRACTICE

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Pamela Benson

B.D.S.

Damian Murphy

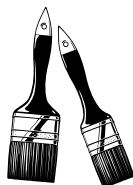
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SUNDAYS	8.00 a.m.	Holy Communion	
	10.45 a.m.	Parish Communion	1st & 3rd Sundays
		Family Service	2nd Sunday
		Mattins	4th & 5th Sundays
	6.30 p.m.	Evensong	1st, 2nd & 3rd Sundays
		Evening Communion	4th Sunday
		Songs of Praise	5th Sunday
WEDNESDAYS	10.45 a.m.	Holy Communion	
SAINTS	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion	

WHO'S WHO & WHAT'S WHAT

Rector: **The Rev'd Canon K. Peter Lee, M.A.**
The Rectory, Birch Heath Lane, Christleton 335663

Wardens:	David Mercer, 13 Bridge Drive,	336155
	Lois Dickinson, 8 Old Mill Court, Mill Lane, Upton.....	378320
Reader	Wayne Morris.....	01978 263389
Reader Emeritus	John Roberts, Cerisy, Birch Heath Lane.....	332207
Verger	David Ellis	336879
Sacristan:	Betty Dunning.....	335652
Sunday School:	Berenice Hogg.....	336779
Mother's Union Branch Leader	Margaret Renner	332005
Organist & Musical Director:	Steve Roberts	815277
P. C. C. Secretary:	Margaret Croston	335955
Treasurer:	Cec Rydings	336483
Stewardship Envelope:	Betty Dunning.....	335652
Gift Aid Secretary	Martin Wheeler.....	336644
Bellringers	Ian Braithwaite	300565
Bellringer Vice Captains	Michael Phillips.....	01829 771357
	Ian Crossan	332280
Parish Hall Booking	David Mercer.....	336155
C. M. S. Secretary	Janet Brown	335785
Children's Society Sec.	Lesley Morgan.....	335088
Visiting Group:	Gill Hibbert.....	336544
Library	Margaret Bass	335517
Church Flowers	Olive Hammond	336562
Magazine Editor	David Bull.....	332234
Magazine Compiler	Richard Nicholson	336004
Magazine Distributor	Margaret Dromgoole	341406
Neighbourhood Link Co-Ordinator	Janet Bowden.....	335705
Parish Resource Person for Child Protection	Susan Alexander	335077

BAPTISMS, WEDDINGS & APPOINTMENTS