

Parish Church of St. James, Christleton

Parish Magazine

Sunday 14th July at 10.45 am at St James' Church (outdoors if fine)

The new Rose Queen and her attendants will be present, and everyone is invited to bring small bunches of flowers (preferably in a jam jar) to be placed on graves

90th Birthday Wishes for Mrs Hilda Garner on 15th July. Many happy returns and

Belated Happy Birthday to Mrs June Owen of Rowton who celebrated her 70th

Doreen Murray will be 74 on 16th July. Doreen has been in residential care for the last year and Jim will be spending time with her on the day and feeding her

Extracts from Christleton Parish Magazine for July 2002

FAMILY FLOWER SERVICE

Followed by refreshments in the Parish Hall

BIRTHDAY CONGRATULATIONS

best wishes from all your friends.

with her favourite sweets, 'Smarties'.

after the service.

birthday on 2nd June.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

St. James'

Christleton

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one which takes in what has been done at the schools this year, so there's no excuse not to enter for at least one category. All the rules are shown on the schedules, but if you have any difficulty, ring any of the people below. The show will be open from 2.00 pm for the exhibition. We still need volunteers on the DAY. If you are interested in helping, please ring any of the committee below. Chris Marsland (335424), Margaret Croston (335955), Judith Butt (335296), John Davies (336633), Sue Haywood (01829 741814), Charles Smeatham (335209). Janet Brown (335785), David & Beryl Cummings (332410), Pat ffrench-Lynch (336050), June Pearson and Jane Pickering. DIXON'S ALMSHOUSES - VACANCY An upstairs flat for single occupancy is expected to become vacant during July. Under the terms of the original endowment by the Dixon family, accommodation in the Almshouses is available for elderly people within the Parish who have insufficient funds to house themselves. Dixon's Almshouses are currently administered by the Order of Malta Homes, based in Lincoln, but enquiries should be addressed, in the first instance, to the Rector (01244 335663). PARKING ON PEPPER STREET A letter from the Clerk to Christleton Parish Council to the Parochial Church Council. At the Parish Council Open Morning this year there were a number of comments reporting that cars parked in Pepper Street, while the drivers attended the Sunday Morning services at St James', were causing an obstruction to traffic. The problem appeared to be a continual string of vehicles parked from the Lych Gate, down Pepper Street, towards Windmill Lane. As the PCC will be aware, this road is a main feed into the village and also a bus route. The line of parked cars made it difficult for other vehicles to negotiate that part of the road especially buses turning the corner at the Parish Hall. To prevent this situation becoming a regular occurrence the Parish Council would be grateful if it might be possible for members of the congregation to be asked to park sensibly in the area of the church and respect the needs of other road users.

Yours sincerely David Norbury Clerk to the Council MOTHERS' UNION The Mothers' Union Banner was dedicated by the Rector at the Communion Service on 29th May. Jeanne Goulbourne was thanked for her leadership of the Mothers' Union Branch over the last three years and Margaret Renner was welcomed as our new Branch Leader. June Brocklesby was enrolled as a member of the Mothers' Union as well as Mary Jackson and Daphne Peters, who are already Mothers' Union members who have transferred to our Branch. We had a very successful Coffee Morning which was well attended and raised over £100. Our Speaker in May was Wendy Steadman and we had a very lively discussion on 'Worshipping with Young Families' when we were all able to voice our opinions on accommodating young children in church services. We have minuted the results if anyone would like to read them. In June, our new leader Margaret Renner read out a letter from Rena Griffiths thanking us for her birthday cards and plant. Preparations are being made for our Tea Party in July when it is hoped that our link Mothers' Union from Helsby will join us. Poems and Pros are invited from Mothers' Union members for a book which is to be published. We had a very interesting talk by Mrs Gertrude Wright about Islam. Muslim women are treated very severely in some countries but in other parts of the world it is guite different. Gertrude explained to us the hardships that some women have to bear and also told us about the life of Mohammed. At our next meeting on Monday 8th July we will be joined by Helsby Mothers' Union. It will start with a short service at 2.00 pm and be followed by a Tea Party in the Parish Hall. **NEW TO YOU SALE** CHRISTLETON PARISH AHLL SATURDAY 14TH SEPTEMBER 2002 10.00 AM – 12 NOON There will be refreshments available and a raffle. Admission will be 50p with accompanied children free. Proceeds will be added to those of the Christmas Fair which are donated to local, national and international charities. We would be grateful for: Volunteers to help Good quality clothing Raffle prizes Bric-a-brac Books and tapes (NO electrical goods please) Goods can be left at the Parish Hall on Friday 13th September. Contacts Clothing: Cynthia Siddall (335486) Bric-a-brac: Moira Jones (336204) Other: Janet Brown (335785) Betty Dunning (335652) John Pearson (335101) TEA BY THE GREEN The Special Jubilee Tea by the Green was a very happy memorable occasion. We had a merry time singing along with Steve Roberts and the St James' choir, and reflecting on days gone by thanks to David Cummings' slide show, and a Jubilee cake to cut into.

We hold this event about six times a year, and I would like to thank everyone who plays a vital part in its success. Our Mothers' Union make cakes, scones etc and help in so many ways as do many others, with transport, socialising and keeping us informed of people to encourage to come along. May I mention just a few of them who give so much support: Laura Rowson, Betty Dunning, Dorothy Robinson, Lois who runs the free raffle, Olive who brings flowers, and Len and Shirley who play the piano... A big 'Thank You' to everyone. Our next Tea will be on 11th September 2002. This ongoing event is dependent upon everyone to keep us informed of those who might like to be invited and for 'hands on' in all areas. Gill Hibbert DAFFODILSGOLDEN JUBILEE When I was driving home to Christleton from Littleton in March I had the idea of planting some daffodils around and between the trees on the grass verge. This would celebrate the Queen's Golden Jubilee and be a lasting reminder of this occasion. I also thought it would be a lovely way to link the two villages in a joint project from which we would all benefit. I would be very grateful for donations of bulbs and volunteers to help me plant them! I thought the weekend of 28th - 29th September would be a good time to plant. Both Littleton and Christleton Parish Councils support the idea and have kindly agreed to allow this activity to be covered by their Public Liability insurance. I will provide the County Council with a plan after the planting so they are aware when mowing the grass. If you are interested in supporting this project please contact me, Judith Edwards at 1 The Paddock, Little Heath Road, Christleton, Chester CH3 7AJ or by phone (332387). I look forward to hearing from you. CORONATION DAY IN CHRISTLETON 1902 When I recently re-published the programme of events in Christleton of the 1953 Coronation of her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II little did I think that it would bring in the response of a Programme of Events in Christleton for the 1902 Coronation of King Edward VII and Queen Alexandra. This is not as detailed as the 1953 Programme, but is nevertheless fascinating to read. Note the lack of any physical events for girls or women in the sports, except the Egg & Spoon and Thread the Needle races. Note also the Steeplechase through the canal!! I'm not sure how many times they would have to cross it, but there is a photograph of this event in our archives. It's also interesting to see that the Rev G M V Hickey was on the organising Committee. I have now found several instances when he deputised for Lionel Garnett at village events, such as burials and marriages in the early 1900s and that, although Curate at St Mary's Handbridge, he seems to have been being groomed for the task of taking over from Rector Lionel Garnett in 1911. (The Morris Field was the field between Pepper Street and the Canal, opposite Butler's Mill.) Programme am 7 to 10 A Peal on the Church Bells. pm 1 o'clock Procession through the village of children carrying flowers, headed by the Christleton Brass Band and members of the Oddfellows Club. 2.00 Open Air service at the Lych Gate 2.45 Tea for the Children in the Boys' School. 3.00 Sports begin in the Morris Field. 4.30 Tea for Parishioners in the Boys' School. 3 to 9 Sports and Dancing in Morris Field 9.30 to 12.00 Dancing in the Boys' School. Sports Held in Morris Field, by permission of Mrs Townsend Ince. Foot Races 150 yards Handicap Youths 14 to 17 years 220 yards Handicap Men 18 to 30 years 120 yards Handicap Men 30 to 40 years 120 yards Handicap Over 40 years Quarter Mile Half Mile. Egg & Spoon Race for Women Sack Race Obstacle Race Steeplechase through the canal Needle & Thread Race Pick a Back Tournament Tug of War (8 a side) Committee Race (Handicap) Children's Races Committee Chairman Rev Lionel Garnett Rector Messrs J Atkin, A Beech, H Bentley, T Butler, J Cullimore, J Dutton, Sidney Earlam, Rev G M V Hickey, T James, R Jones, R Lunt, S Lyon, T Mayers, W Mayers, W Millwood, J Mosford, L C Rolt, J Roberts, H Richardson, J H Salmon, T Toft, W Towers, R A Walley, J Weaver, W Williams Hon Secretary Mr Sam Earlam Programme of Events for the Coronation Day of Queen Elizabeth II in Christleton 2nd June 1953 A facsimile copy of the original Coronation Day Service and Programme of Events held in Christleton in 1953, is being produced for sale at the Village Show. Each programme will be numbered, and the holder of the lucky programme number drawn at the Village Show will win a specially commissioned painting of Christleton Pit and Swans. All the proceeds from the sale of these commemorative programmes will go towards our appeal for the Hospice of the Good Shepherd. Photograph of the Month The Christleton Pit pair of swans on the towpath side of the canal at Rowton in the middle of May. The pen is sheltering the five surviving cygnets under her wing during a very heavy rain storm Nature Notes Now you see them, now you don't Yes, the village swans have done it again, they've walked their cygnets through the village to the canal when they were about a week old. However, this year they've caused even more consternation and fun because another pair C181 & CB33 took over the territory on the same day and so many people wrongly assumed that all six cygnets had been lost. However, we were able to put anxious villagers at ease, as I had earlier supervised their walk from the Ring O'Bells Car Park to the canal, via the Stile Footpath and Quarry Lane. It was really quite easy this year, as the pen, C175 knew exactly where she was going, and with the help of some young pupils, I was able to guide them safely through the traffic to the canal near Quarry Bridge. They had caused chaos along Little Heath Road by holding up the traffic between 6.00 and 7.00 am and several traffic queues had occurred. Six cygnets were born on 6th May and one died or was taken before their adventurous journey began. Subsequently another went missing after some days on the canal. Happily, the remaining four cygnets appear strong and healthy, as they swim on the canal between Christleton and Waverton Bridge. The second pair at The Pit had tried to nest in the area in the last two years: in 2000 at Manor Farm in Littleton, and last year at Manor Farm in Christleton. They were very poor parents, abandoning their two cygnets at the nest site each day whilst they flew off to the river. The pen from this pair C181 is the sister of C175 and daughter of our cob C852 (VZN). He bred on the canal near Rowan Park with another female in 1986, and his instinct seems to be to want to take his family from the Pit to the Canal each year. He couldn't last year as I had to rescue him, having seen him crash land onto the road in Littleton, and he spent five weeks at The RSPCA Centre in Nantwich. When he returned he was in moult and therefore safer at

The Pit, until he gained new flight feathers later in the season. All swans moult between June and August, and become flightless. This is the reason that we have a build up of immature and unpaired adults at the Groves in Chester during the summer months. There are currently 41 swans there and this will continue to build up during the next few weeks. When they grow their new flight feathers they will start to fly around again, so we should see the Christleton Pit adults with their surviving cygnets back at The Pit around the end of September or early October. Let's hope that the new pair don't lay any eggs and have any late cygnets, because there will surely be a battle royal when the original pair return to their old breeding territory. Watch this space! David Cummings A History of Christleton Village Show (Part 1) The first Fruit and Flower Show in Christleton was held in 1872. There's no doubt that the instigator was the new Rector, Lionel Garnett who had arrived in the village just four years before and was responsible for much of the development of the modern village we see today, including a new Church, new schools for both girls and boys, and a Men's Institute. He also promoted various festivals and shows to encourage people to show pride in their village, and also act as fundraisers. He formed a sports club for both Football (Association and Rugby) and Cricket. The teams met and changed at The Institute, and played their matches on The Park now the site of Christleton High School. It is believed that one of the first personalities to appear in the village was the famous cricketer W G Grace, possibly because of the friendship between Canon Garnett and A N Hornby the Captain of Lancashire who lived nearby in Nantwich. In 1871 an Annual Show of Cheese, Brood Mares, Foals Horse Leaping and Turnouts had been held on the Rectory Field and seems to have been an extremely well organised event. This became a show for the whole District open to residents of Christleton Townships, Barrow, Guilden Sutton, Trafford, Picton, Wervin, Plemstall, Tarvin, Stapleford, Hargrave, Huxley, Handley, Tattenhall, Waverton, Saighton, Huntington, Aldford, Hoole and Newton. The Hon Secretary was J H Salmon of Rowton and the Vet Mr J Storrar MRCVS. The committee included Mr Beech, Sam Earlam Headteacher, Mr Heywood, Mr Lunt, Col Logan and Mr H Witter. By 1913 the Rev Hickey was involved, and Mr Porrit became President, Mr Charles Cullimore Vice President and Captain Townsend Currie Chairman. Mr Salmon remained as Secretary and Treasurer. There were four additional prizes that year for the Best Kept Cottage Gardens and Allotments in the village. 1st £1. 2nd 15/- 3rd 12/6d 4th 10/-. The first flower show was in 1876 when a rose show was held to raise funds for the new church building at St James', and it took place on Sunday afternoon July 25th, following the Patronal Festival, "and was attended by a very large aristocratic congregation. The show was deemed a great success, indeed judges were perfectly astonished with symmetry and general healthiness of the exhibits" reported the Chronicle. Among the local winners was Lucy Anne Ince of Christleton Hall who won the class for an Epergne dressed with flowers. The Band of the Militia played for dancing until dusk. At another Rose Festival in 1882, there was an admission charge of 1s. Teas were also 1s, and transport to the Festival was organised by a Mrs Barnes, who ran her Favourite Omnibus and Brakes from the Bars in Chester to Christleton every hour for a fare of 4d. **David Cummings** Wanted - September 7th The Pastoral Committee is organising a fun day for the Parish on September 7th to precede the Rededication Service to be held the following day. The Beeston Outdoor Centre is the venue and has been booked from 3.00 pm to 9.00 pm. The setting is magnificent, with lovely views of the castle and glorious Cheshire countryside. There is plenty of space for outdoor games or enjoying the sunshine. If it should be wet there is accommodation indoors. It is hoped to organise long and short walks, outdoor games for the young, seats in the sun for those who wish to sit and talk and a camp fire and barbecue. Come for as long as you wish. How successful it is depends on you! Volunteers to help and make it a Parish event to remember must be found. Wanted: Barbecues and cooks Games organiser and helpers Walks leader, long and short Transport organiser Car park attendants Assistance with food preparation

ldeas!!! Please contact David Bowden tel. 335705 John Pearson tel. 335101 or any member of the Pastoral Committee as soon as possible. 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. **AVAILABLE AT ST JAMES CHURCH:** "Loop" system, for the hearing impaired Large print books for the visually impaired & large print weekly notice sheets Easy to follow Communion Service Books for children Access for wheelchairs Please ask any of the Churchwardens or Sidesmen if you need assistance in any way. NATIONAL CHILDBIRTH TRUST (N.C.T.) OPEN HOUSE GROUP: Informal coffee mornings are held locally offering support to mums-to-be and families with young children (whether members or not) in a friendly, informal way. Please contact your local organiser Debbie Tel. 332103 for further details. Christleton Local History Group **Books for Sale** Christleton 2000 years of History.

136 pages of text, fully illustrated with b&w photographs, maps & drawings,

painting of the Church & Pump House by Phil Hodges.

Christleton Village Trail

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