

St. James' Christleton



Parish Magazine
JULY 2004

30p

JOURNAL FOR JULY

Thurs	1		Confirmation Group outing
Sat	3	9.00 am	Churchyard Workparty – all help welcome

Sun	4		The Fourth Sunday After Trinity - Proper 9
		8.00 am	Holy Communion - Common Worship Order 2
		10.45 am	Parish Communion – with Baptism
		10.55 am	Sunday School Outing leaves Parish Hall
		6.30 pm	Evensong - followed by refreshments
			Prayer Link Road: Windmill Lane
			Neighbourhood Link: Pat Hodges
Mon	5	10.45 am	Holy Communion at Tarvin Court Nursing Home
		11.20 am	Holy Communion at Oaklands Nursing Home
Wed	7	10.45 am	United Communion - followed by refreshments
Thurs	8	7.45 pm	Bereavement Support Group – Badgers Close
Fri	9		NB Last day for contributions for August Parish Magazine to David Bull (332234) please, preferably earlier.
Sat	10		VILLAGE SHOW

Sun	11		The Fifth Sunday After Trinity - Proper 10
		8.00 am	Holy Communion - Common Worship Order 1
		10.45 am	FAMILY FLOWER SERVICE – followed by Family Barbecue at The Cheshire Cat
		6.30 pm	Evensong
			Prayer Link Road :Woodfields
			Neighbourhood Link: Joyce Rydings and Betty Ellis

Mon	12	2.00 pm	'Down Memory Lane' Village Summer Tea – all welcome – Parish Hall
		7.45 pm	PCC Meeting – Parish Hall
Wed	14	10.45 am	Holy Communion - followed by refreshments
		11.30 am	Holy Communion Birch Heath Lodge Nursing Home
Sun	18		The Sixth Sunday of Trinity - Proper 11
		8.00am	Holy Communion - Common Worship
Order 1		10.45am	Parish Communion with Baptism
		6.30pm	Evensong - Common Worship
			Prayer Link Road: Badgers Close Neighbourhood Link: June Hulmes
Wed	21	10.45 am	Holy Communion - followed by refreshments
Thur	22	9.00 am	Holy Communion for Mary Magdalene
Sun	25		St James Day – Patronal Festival
		8.00am	Holy Communion -Common Worship Order 1
		10.45am	Matins - Common Worship – followed by refreshments
		6.30pm	Evening Communion - Common Worship Order 1
			Prayer Link Road: Birch Heath Lane Neighbourhood Link: Susan Crossan
Wed	28	10.45 am	Holy Communion - followed by refreshments

The Rector's Letter

Dear Friends

Prayer of the Month

Each month in this magazine I include a 'Prayer of the Month' to go 'alongside' the Rector's Letter. This month I include, in my letter, a prayer sent to my sister by a friend in America. Minister Joe Wright was asked to pray at the opening session of the senate in Kansas and instead of the usual generalities he offered this:-

"Heavenly Father, we come before you today to ask forgiveness and to seek your direction and guidance. We know your word says 'woe unto those who call evil good and good evil' but that is exactly what we have done. We have lost our spiritual equilibrium and reversed our values.

We confess that we have ridiculed the absolute truth of your word, and called it pluralism. We have exploited the poor and called it the lottery. We have rewarded laziness and called it welfare. We have killed the unborn and called it choice: we have shot abortionists and called it justifiable. We have neglected to discipline our children and called it building self esteem. We have abused power and called it politics.

We have coveted our neighbours possessions and called it ambition. We have polluted the air with profanity and pornography and called it freedom of expression. We have ridiculed the time honoured values of our forefathers and called it enlightenment.

Search us, O God, and know our hearts today. Cleanse us of every sin and set us free. Guide and bless these men and women, who have been sent to us to direct us to the centre of your will; we openly ask these things in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ, the living Saviour. Amen."

You may not agree with every sentiment expressed in that prayer, and some of them could be given very unchristian interpretation if, for example, it were taken to imply that all welfare recipients are lazy. As

a whole, however, that prayer challenges popular 'secular' thinking in our society, which assumes the moral high ground. This 'high ground' is built on the assumption that freedom of choice and expression is everyone's right, and that there are no moral absolutes. Yet that assumption is shattered on the rocks of human frailty (or what the Bible calls our fallen nature). We obviously do not want freedom of choice or expression in extreme cases such as sexual abuse or racism, but that also extends to 'social' issues such as 'the neighbour from hell', noise pollution or vandalism. How do we decide what is right and what is wrong? Like it or not, decisions have to be made on value judgements, and judgements need standards and criteria against which they can be measured. Ultimately those standards will be shown to be arbitrary, transitory and biased if they are fixed by human decision, even if by the will of the majority.

We need to rediscover the spiritual dimension to life, and measure all decisions and behaviour against the absolute truth of God, as our moral imperative. Whether, or not, you agree with all the sentiments expressed in Joe Wright's prayer, may I invite us all to make our own 'Prayer of the Month' and rediscover our spiritual values. Have we been taking the ethical standards of our Christian background and heritage too much for granted? Are we free-wheeling on the memory of a faith and worship which once were ours, but is slowing to a standstill? Can we afford to relegate worship and faith to an occasional interlude, when other priorities and attractions allow? How can we re-invigorate the spiritual energy of our life and re-connect to our sense of God's presence so we feel in harmony with his purposes for creation? What challenges us in our society, and in our own life choices, that leads us to desire and seek God's purpose through our prayer? How can we as a Church help people to make this connection, not only as individuals but together, so we regain a sense of privilege and purpose as God's people?

Yours sincerely,

Peter Lee.

Feature of the Month. Christleton Gardening Club

Front Cover Illustration

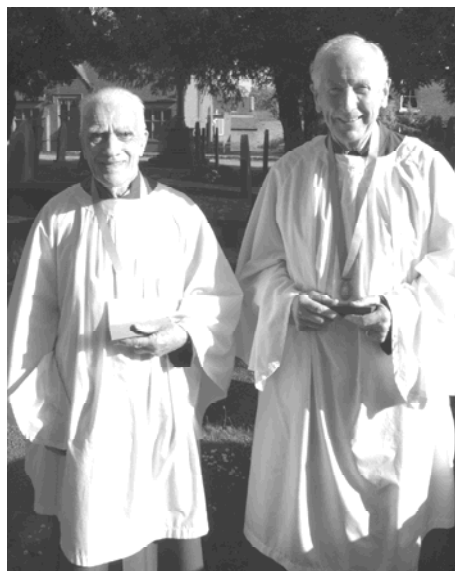
The Gardening Club was re started 5 years ago following an initial meeting of interested people. It quickly became an established Club in the village with a regular turnout of 30-40 members. The club meets on the second Tuesday of the month at the Methodist Chapel. They have been able to maintain a very high standard of speaker, due in part to two very generous donations from the Village Show and Village Fete Committees.

Talks vary tremendously, from those about particular species to more general talks on Gardens and Plants. Flowers, trees, vegetables and even composting have all been subjects for talks. Each year at least one outing is arranged, and visits have been made to Roy Dibley's nursery, which specialises in Streptocarpus, Well Garden at Tilston, Orchard Garden at Neston, and Stoneyford Cottage near Warrington. This year's visit is to Ness Gardens whose previous Curator, Peter Cunningham has been a regular

contributor to the Club.

Twice a year there is a popular plant swap, which always prompts much discussion about germination, propagation and best planting positions. New members and visitors are always welcome. For any further information 'phone Judith Butt 01244 335296

Parishioners in the News. Len Thomas & Alf Croston



On Sunday morning May 23rd, Len Thomas and Alf Croston were presented with gifts by the Rector on behalf of the PCC, to mark their retirement from some of their duties at St James'.

Christleton Parish Magazine

Len served as sidesman for thirty six years, eight years as churchwarden and has sung for over twenty four years in the choir. Alf recently retired from the PCC after thirty six years, served as church warden for nine years and also has twenty four years service in the choir. They both intend remaining as active members of the choir, and to help out in various other capacities in their service to the church in Christleton.

See Page 10

Birthday Greetings

Cynthia Siddall who will be
80 on 7 July

Jim Siddall who will be
85 on 21 August

Hilda Garner who will be
92 on 15 July



Christleton W.I.

Congratulations to the members of Christleton Women's Institute, who celebrated the 80th Birthday of the branch on Wednesday 9th June 2004. A cover picture and full feature will appear in next month's magazine.

THE VISIT

“Our church used to be very okay. We did all the things churches do just about as well as they could be done, and we talked about our founder with much reverence and proper gratitude. We said how much we would have liked to meet him when he was around and how much we looked forward to seeing him at some remote time in the future.

The unexpected news that he was going to pay us an extended visit now, in the present, was to say the least, very disturbing. Confident statements about ‘the faith’ tended to dry up. People who usually seemed reasonably cheerful looked rather worried. Many of those who had been troubled appeared to brighten considerably.

A man who always said that ‘atonement was a peculiarly Jewish idea’ became extremely thoughtful. Someone who had published a pamphlet entitled ‘The Real Meaning of the Resurrection Myth’ joined the mid-week prayer group and developed an open mind. Desperate folk just counted the

days.

Each of us, I suppose, reacted to the news in our own way, but I think the thing we had in common was feeling that the game (albeit a very sincere and meaningful game for some) was over. No more pretending when he came. He would know.”

This is an extract from Adrian Plass’ book THE VISIT. If you would like to read how the founder’s visit went, the book is in the church library, along with other good reads about our founder.

Margaret Bass

You are invited to a Party A Churchyard Work Party!

If you feel the Churchyard could look tidier now is your chance to make a difference.

Saturday 3 July

from 9.00 am – 1.00 pm.

All welcome. Please come (even if only for part of the time) to help us get the Churchyard looking at its best.

Enquiries to David Mercer
336155.

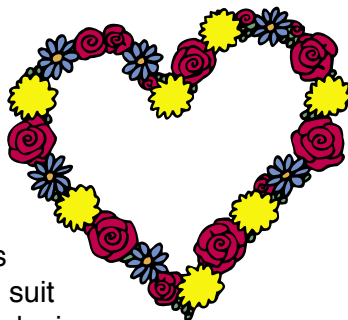
!!! It's thismonth !!!
CHRISTLETON VILLAGE SHOW
Saturday 10th July
Christleton Parish Hall



There is still time to get entry forms and schedules from the Post Office but don't forget to have entry forms in by the dates stated on the instructions. This is to give the recorders time to do the preparatory work.

The show is aimed at all ages particularly those between the ages of 3 – 93 and older. It is a super show and displays the skills and interests of our village talent. There are categories to suit all interests and levels of expertise in art; gardening; flowers; sewing; woodwork; cooking etc, you don't have to be an expert although the competition and standards are always high.

If you have Hanging Baskets why not enter that category – you may win, this year there are some beauties around the village, anyone in Christleton can join in, and you don't need to be an expert.



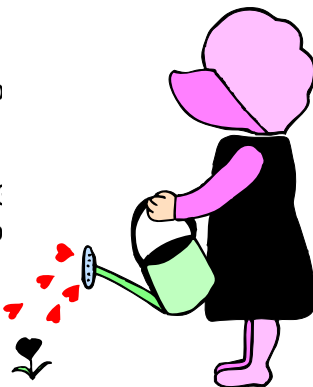
The show theme this year is “**ROMANCE**” as it is a leap year and the Theme Trophy will go to the exhibits(s) which best portray this.

Entering a category doesn't cost much, is great fun and you could win a trophy – there are lots of them.

If you can't enter the competition come to the exhibition on Saturday afternoon. There are wonderful refreshments, a Draw with fantastic prizes and it's a great meeting point for the village.

If you have any queries or if you would like to help (PLEASE) ring any of the committee below.

David or Beryl Cummings – 332410, Janet Brown – Charles Smeatham – 335209. Margaret Crosto 335955. Sue Haywood – 01829.741814. Chris Marsland – 335424. June Pearson – 335101. Judith Butt – 335296. Iris Foster – 332901.



Nature Notes

At the beginning of the month I had the opportunity to stay and walk in the beautiful Grazalema National Park in Andalucia, Southern Spain. It was a wonderful opportunity to explore a new area, staying in a medieval village with its distinctive “white houses”, walking through magnificent limestone scenery over 1000m high, and learning about its unique wildlife. On opening the window of my room I could usually hear nightingales singing in the valley below, together with cetti’s warblers, blackcaps, corn buntings, hoopoe’s, golden orioles and colourful chattering bee eaters.

A look skywards would usually result in seeing griffon or black vultures, booted or short toed eagles, but sadly not golden eagles or lammergeier’s which are also said to be in the Park. Although I had gone on a walking holiday, I couldn’t resist spending time photographing the wild flowers, and I ended up with a collection of photographs of sixteen species of orchids, almost all new to me, and three which were so rare that they were new to my local guide. My favourites were both single specimens, a

man orchid 75cm tall where each of the hundred or so tiny flowers on the stalk looks like a little man, and a beautiful blue, atlas orchid, one of the bee orchid family. Another highlight was to see a meadow full of tall purple iris, which also contained thousands of even deeper coloured purple marsh orchids. On the same walk there were some large and very beautiful mountain peony’s, deep crimson and yellow in colour. Whilst walking up on the highest limestone ridges we were also very lucky to see a good number of the rare mountain goats, the ibex.

The only downside was the weather. Spring has been very cold and wet over most of Europe including Spain, and that week was no exception, as we walked under stormy skies, and often faced torrential rain, including large hailstones, thunder and lightning. Several times we had to take shelter in derelict houses and mills, one of which memorably had several large bats flying around, even in the middle of the day.

David Cummings

Stop Press

Christleton Swans

I have to report very sad news in that today 11th June, I was called to Rowan Park to find two of our cygnets dead, and the other only just alive. Beryl & I spent an hour with blankets and hair drier trying to dry out its waterlogged feathers and body,

muscle was frequently flopping onto its back. The cause of the problem is not known as all three cygnets were in good condition and growing fast when I saw them yesterday. The RSPCA will carry out an autopsy in case there is a local problem, as two of the four cygnets from outside the Great Mills Store in Boughton also died



and as the cygnet began to show some signs of life, and seemed to gain a little strength, we took it over to the RSPCA Centre in Nantwich. However when we left the centre the signs weren't good, as it was displaying signs of lead poisoning, as the neck, its major

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suddenly a few days ago. There is just a possibility that it may be a bigger problem than we are aware of, because I understand that vets in several areas of the country have described seeing a number of seemingly healthy animals and birds dying suddenly

with a convulsive illness. It just might be that this is being caused by some kind of lead poisoning. I will keep in touch with Stapeley Grange and hopefully monitor our own cygnet's progress. It clearly is a fighter, so we can only hope for the best.

All had looked so different just three weeks ago when the family had walked through the village. Although it's a shame that they don't stay on the pit, more people have a chance to see them on the canal. They walked through the village to the Ring O Bells car park as usual, but by the time I got there, they had walked back towards the Village Green, and because they were a little later than usual, we had the problems of the busy school traffic to contend with. The best way of taking them to safety was to carry them, and with the help of the Rector and Sue Rees, we carried the family through the traffic in Village Road, along the Stile Footpath to the canal at Rowan Park, much to the delight of the people who saw our little procession. They remained there safely, moving easily each day between Christleton and Waverton, and growing fast until this morning's incident. I hope

that we can find out what has caused the problem and prevent it happening again. The cob and pen were looking slightly oiled when I left them, but I felt that the cygnet had to be dealt with first. I'm sure that they could sense something was wrong, because they were quite happy for me to handle the cygnets.

David Cummings

Graduation?

There were so many graduates waiting to receive their degrees that day, that speed was of the essence. Presenting their diplomas, therefore, the Chancellor simply smiled and said:

"Congratulations, keep moving."

It's actually good advice for all of life, and for your Christian life as well. If you've discovered the reality of God's love for yourself, you deserve congratulations, for in a very real sense, you have arrived...but keep moving! - there is so much more that God has in store for you!

Paul in 2 Timothy says "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day...."

So, wherever you have reached in your own faith pilgrimage, congratulations, but keep moving!



Parish Rambling Group. Sunday 18th July

Tiverton Circuit approx 5-6 miles easy walking. Scenic sandstone ridge views and very pretty canal side walk part of the way. Meet 1.30pm Church Car Park
Leader Liz McClure 409414

Advance Notice. Rambling Group Social Event (Everyone welcome) Saturday 30th August 5.00pm

Progressive Meal & Walk starting at 135 Queens Road, Vicars Cross and finishing at 25 Croft Close Rowton. A meal with three courses, along the way. We will be using paths and towpaths and as the Chester section of the canal is now well surfaced, we hope to encourage wheel chair users and cyclists to join us. The maximum return distance is 6 miles and transport could be arranged for those who just wish to go one way. More

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details will be provided in the next magazine and on Parish News Sheets, so please look out for details and let us know if you wish to take part, in order that we can arrange catering. Also offers of help with catering would be welcome.

Further details from Liz McClure 409414 or David & Beryl on 3324210.

Christian Aid

Very many thanks to all who helped during Christian Aid Week, by organising the service, and as collectors, counters and contributors during the house-to-house collection.

We broke all previous records and the final total for the week was **£3188.52:**

House-to-house collection:
£2931.87

Family Service collection
£256.65

Fiona Lee

Life is a journey that no one makes alone. (The more people you touch along the way, the more meaningful and rewarding your time. (- Anon)



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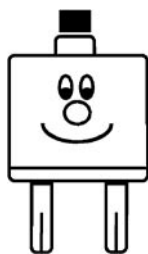
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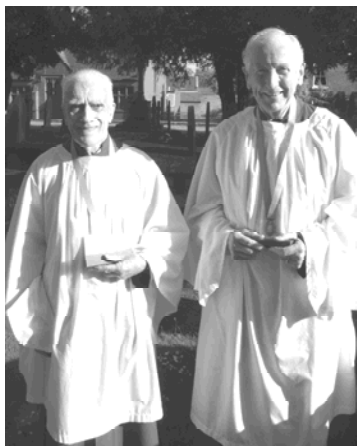


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PARISHIONERS REPLY



Len Thomas and I greatly appreciate the presentation made to us of silver butter knives on Whit Sunday morning 30 May. This was in recognition of Len's retirement after 36 years as a Sidesman, including eight years as a Church Warden, and my own service of 36 years as a member of the Parochial Church Council which included nine years as a Church Warden (1971-1980).

It has been a privilege and a pleasure for both of us to serve the family of St James Church and the village itself. Over the years we have known and worked with wonderfully kind and talented people, some of whom, sadly, are no longer with us – but are still remembered with

affection.

We have all been so fortunate over the years in the dedication and leadership given by our Rectors. Len and his late wife Dorothy were married by the Rev. Alun Guest-Williams. I only knew him for a short time, but he was spoken of with affection by those who had worked with him. We have been blessed that all four of his successors have had the unstinting support of their wives – Lawrie and Margaret Skipper, Charles and Betty Mack, David and Susanne Garnett and Peter and Fiona Lee.

The happy association with our Methodist and Roman Catholic friends is just one example of what makes Christleton such a wonderful place in which to live, with all its thriving activities.

How true it is that the more one puts into things the greater the pleasure of achievement that results.

Both of us thank you for your past and continuing support and friendship.

Alf and Len

Glenthorne Grasmere Weekend May 14th-16th.

Twenty-two parishioners met for dinner on Friday evening, some a little anxious, perhaps wondering what might be in store or even if they could be at their Sunday best for an entire weekend! A short period of silence in the Quaker manner preceded dinner, and seemed just right amidst the peaceful and tranquil surroundings. Indeed, throughout the weekend, only gales of laughter and sounds of happy fellowship interrupted the plentiful bird song.

The accommodation in both the main Victorian house and in the recently refurbished building within the gardens, once used for stabling by William Wordsworth, was excellent. The food was plentiful and there were three choices for each of the three courses. Coffee was served in the conference room where Liz McClure described the possible walks, finding routes to include everyone for at least part of the way. Alison Abercromby described her carefully researched programme for the non-walkers. There then followed favourite readings, both religious and secular, and

prayers. Contributors described the special reason for their choice, all having a point to make about the journey to faith, some of them very moving. The evening closed with prayers.

Saturday began with the promise of sunshine, and everyone but Alison's mystery tour set off up Easdale valley towards Helm Crag. At the start of the ascent, some decided to continue on the level, whilst the remainder successfully made the ascent to the summit. The substantial picnic lunch was eaten when the valley bottom had been regained. Fearful that they might miss afternoon tea some returned to Grasmere and eight were left to walk on to Easdale Tarn and were still back to the Hotel in time for tea. The sun was shining and we much enjoyed sitting and chatting outdoors before dinner. A wonderful day amidst the beauty of God's creation.

After dinner we celebrated a special birthday for Christine Abrams before listening to further readings and contributions. There was next an animated debate "what is the most important age group for whom to provide mission?" The conclusion was that we must seek ways to emphasise

the value of every individual so that all ages may work together in the body of Christ: there can be no special groups.

The sun shone even more brightly on Sunday. The party set out to walk around Grasmere and Rydal Water. Once again, everyone did as much as they wanted; some walked around Grasmere Lake and then went to Dove Cottage, others completed the entire walk. Tea for some, straight home for the rest!

Alison writes - the Not-so-active Group admired the views from the bottom rather than the top of the hills. The countryside looked at its spring best in the brilliant sunshine, and the colours in the trees, blossoms and shrubs were fantastic. On Saturday our objective was Blea Tarn. Gillian Brackenbury was the map reader - big mistake! After many unexpected detours we found that Gillian had been attempting to read the map upside down! We stopped for coffee at an attractive riverside setting where Mike Abrams was able to instruct us on the various birds (mostly finches), which joined us at our table to beg a crumb or two of the delicious cream cakes. Blea Tarn looked magnificent and was

well worth the extended journey! Sunday was spent pottering about Grasmere, visiting Dove Cottage, and enjoying lunch at the local Pub with some of the rest of the group before setting off for home.

Amidst such beauty and peace the words of the hymn came to mind:

"When through the woods
and forest glades I wander
and hear the birds sing
sweetly through the trees;
when I look down from lofty
mountain grandeur,
and hear the brook and
feel the gentle breeze;

Then sings my soul, my
Saviour God to Thee,

How great thou art! How
great thou art!"

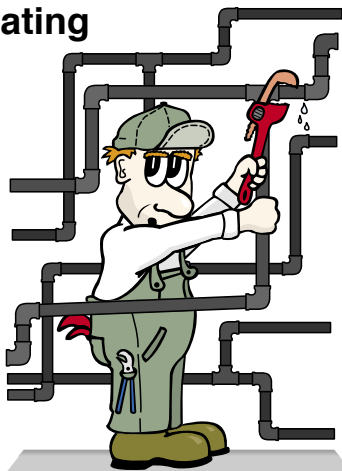
What a very worthwhile and enjoyable weekend. Many contributed to its success, but special thanks to Liz Mc Clure whose energy and enthusiasm started the whole thing moving and then organised it so well. Surely there is something here for everyone. Next year - why not come? Glenthorne is booked for us, June 10th to 12th.

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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

OPEN HOUSE GROUPS

The Monday Afternoon Group meet on the 4th Monday of the month at the home of Rena Griffiths, 24 Hawthorn Road, Christleton. Contact Margaret Bass (335517) for further information.

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.

LOCAL EVENTS DIARY



The next meeting will take place on 12 July when Caroline Riden will give a talk "What is Saffron?"

MOTHERS UNION TEA PARTY

We would like to extend a warm welcome to anyone who would like to come and join us at our Tea Party on Monday 12 July at 2.0 pm in the Parish Hall.

GUIDE DOGS FOR THE BLIND

Margaret Croston invites you to an afternoon tea at Rookery Nook, 5 Bridge Drive, Christleton on Tuesday 13 July between 2.0 pm – 4.0 pm in aid of above. Please come and bring a friend. Tea, cream scones & a raffle. Everyone welcome.

CHRISTLETON W.I. MONTHLY WHIST DRIVE

Meet in the Parish Hall on the last Wednesday of the month at 2.00pm.
All welcome

CHRISTLETON W.I.

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 14 July when a "Summer Social Evening" will take place.

COFFEE MORNING and BOOK SALE

Wednesday 18 August, at the home of Rena Griffiths
24 Hawthorn Road, Christleton
10.00 am – 12.30 pm
Bring and Buy/Raffle
In aid of Raby Hall Autistic Community, Wirral



LOCAL EVENTS DIARY

CAR BOOT SALE

A Car Boot Sale is being organised at the Cheshire Cat
on 18 September at 9.0 am

by Janet Milton and John Pearson

with proceeds going to the Christmas Charities nominated by St James Church. We are asking for your help. Can you bring a car boot with "new to you" items, things you've stored in the garage/attic & no longer want, and join us at the Cheshire Cat. A bacon sandwich breakfast will be supplied by the Cheshire Cat to all boot sellers. Please help towards this Christleton church and local community event by giving Janet Milton a ring on Chester 335469 or John Pearson a ring on 335101. Let us help others less fortunate than ourselves. Thank you.

THE CHRISTLETON SUMMER BALL

on **Saturday 10th July, 2004**

7.30 for 8.00pm

Carriages 1.00am (Black Tie)

£45

Champagne Reception

5 Course Meal

Live Rhythm and Blues band

Disco until late

For further details and to reserve tickets for individuals or tables up to ten, or if you are seeking superb advertising exposure for your company

Please contact Jim Gillson on 0870 300 9944
Christleton Cricket Club, Little Heath Lane,



You are invited to a

VILLAGE SUMMER TEA

on Monday, 12th July

at 2.45pm, in the Parish Hall

Theme “**Down Memory Lane**”

If you have a special memory,
or a treasured object from the past,
please share it with us.

(no obligation!)

All welcome

A WEEKEND IN GRASMERE

Alison, Gertrude, Pat and Jo
Janet and David, June and
John

Cynthia, Jim, Margaret and Don
Edward, Gill, Vera and Stan
Christine and Mike, Jim and Pat
Led by the invincible McClure
clan!

We headed up mountains
And sat on Helm Crag
Ate lunch by a stream
Then back down a new path

Homeward bound to Glenthorne
For a wash and shower
Then dinner at seven
Together again

We had champagne and
chocolates
And a wonderful time
Sharing special moments
together
In the evening hours

There were readings and
prayers
Meditations and tales
Music and poems
To treasure for sure

Chatted about steam trains
From days long before

Reminiscing with each other
In the grounds galore
We had laughter to share
The occasional tear
We opened our hearts
Without any fear

Most important of all -
Note those who weren't there -
We've already booked
To go back next year!

This was a truly special weekend spent at Glenthorne Quaker Conference Centre, a truly excellent "retreat" in Grasmere. So many moments that I will never forget, the friendship and camaraderie were second to none. I can thoroughly endorse the idea of us having time away as the family of St James'. Ron and Liz McClure had researched, with the aid of David Cummings, the area around the centre for us to explore.

David Bowden led a stimulating discussion about "Mission" which, in its conclusion, had everybody in agreement.

The whole weekend was enjoyable both spiritually and socially. St James' has 22 fitter members in its congregation. I am already counting down the days to May 2005 when we will

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Christian concern as Civil Partnership Bill has second reading in House of Lords

Following the recent second reading of the Civil Partnership Bill in the House of Lords, the Evangelical Alliance has continued to reject suggestions that there can be moral or legal equivalence between marriage and same-sex partnerships. The Evangelical Alliance opposes the Government's approach to legislating for same-sex relationships.

Don Horrocks for the Evangelical Alliance explains: "The word 'marriage' is effectively being hijacked, even though the Government claims these proposals do not amount to same-sex 'marriage'. However, this will clearly be the result, as the Bill will appropriate virtually the same rights as married couples. The very

text of the Bill itself largely mimics matrimonial law."

He continues: "Most Christians would accept that there are legitimate issues of basic human justice to be considered for same-sex couples. However, marriage is unequivocally a unique institution involving the life-long, exclusive union of one man and one woman. Christians highlight the importance of the creation of human beings as male or female in the image of God and emphasise the complementarity of husband and wife.

"We continue to believe it would have been preferable to deal with any perceived human rights injustices by amending existing law, rather than introducing a nationwide ideologically conceived Bill. We think marriage will certainly be further undermined by this Bill."

The Bill, which has now gone to

MAGAZINE CONTRIBUTIONS

Please ensure all items for inclusion in the August edition are sent to the Editor, David Bull, The Old Rectory, Plough Lane, as soon as possible **BEFORE Friday 9 July**

MAGAZINE DISTRIBUTORS

The July magazine will be available for collection from
Church on Sunday 25 July

Grand Committee for detailed scrutiny is expected to proceed through both houses of parliament for at least the remainder of the parliamentary session.

The Passion brings the highest response ever to Christian Enquiry Agency

Over two thousand people who have seen 'The Passion of the Christ' film have sent response postcards to Christian Enquiry Agency (CEA) asking about Jesus Christ, and more are arriving every day. "We've never known anything like this, and had to pull out all the stops to cope with the demand for information about Jesus. We've been totally overstretched, but it is great to be helping so many people," said Andrew Taylor at the CEA Enquiry Office. Around 150,000 response postcards were placed in cinemas across Britain in an ambitious outreach campaign to reach people who don't attend church. Churches have snapped up thousands more of the cards for outreach. Those who send the enquiry card back to CEA receive a free copy of the 'True or False' booklet produced by CPO, which relates to the film, plus a personal

letter offering further help and ideas. These include a free copy of one of the gospels in a magazine format, details of local Alpha courses, a telephone helpline, prayer and contact with a local Christian. Hundreds of people are now coming back with questions and requests for help. Commenting on the campaign, Jeff Bonser, the CEA Director, said "We felt it was vital to provide an opportunity for people to find out more about Jesus while they were still in the cinema and thinking about what they had experienced. "Cinema is the most popular form of cultural activity outside the home, attracting over 80% of the entire population in one year and more than 60% of all cinemagoers are under 35. This is the age group that is missing from churches and the film offered a great opportunity to reach them with the reality of the cost of God's love for us all." The response postcard also refers enquirers to the evangelistic website, www.rejesus.co.uk/thepassion. The website has background notes to moments from the film, covering the Last Supper, King Herod, the shadowy 'devil' figure, and other details – plus a special page on 'what happened next'. These pages have received thousands of hits.

CHRISTLETON CRICKET CLUB

Christleton 1st team have made an excellent start to the season. We stand in 3rd place in the league after some good results. The team are into the zone final of the National Village Knockout and have progressed to the 2nd round of the Boughton Hall Knockout. Currently we are holders of this tournament.

The 2nd team are halfway in their league and the 3rd team are top after achieving promotion last season.

An article appeared in The Daily Telegraph during early June '04 reporting on the progress of the Cricket Club during the last 4 years.

A reminder - tickets are on sale for the Summer Ball on the 10th July from J. Gillson – 01244 332982

Thanks to the following sponsors for matches during April and May:

Gareth Davies, Bill Malkin, Allington Hughes – Solicitors,

Phil White - Skips,
Paul Jackson – PO, Morgan Jones family, Mrs Gordon Williams, Simon Watt-Smith, RKQ82 and David Cummings.

Beware! Jim Partington is taking driving lessons on the new tractor.



CYCLE FOR SIGHT

DIEPPE, 10th-12th September 2004
Imagine you were born blind, are ten years old and live in a country where life is a struggle, even for the fully-sighted. That is the challenge facing children in places like the Philippines and India. Now Feed the Minds has received an urgent request for additional Christian Braille materials from partners in each of these countries.

So, as Feed the Minds this year celebrates its 40th anniversary, it has organized an exciting two-day road cycling event to raise the £15,000 needed. It is looking now for keen cyclists to join the event for “some first rate fun” amidst “breathtakingly beautiful countryside in the UK and France”, “fantastic camaraderie”, all with a “high standard of support and accommodation provided”.

The entry fee is low: £80 for a three day break (Plus £250 minimum sponsorship)

Details: www.feedtheminds.org/cycleforsight or ring 08451 21 21 02

Signs found outside churches...

- It is unlikely there'll be a reduction in the wages of sin.
- If you don't like the way you were born, try being born again.
- Looking at the way some people live, they ought to obtain eternal fire insurance soon.
- This is a ch__ch What is missing? (U R)
- Forbidden fruit creates many jams.
- In the dark? Follow the Son.
- Running low on faith? Stop in for a fill-up.
- If you can't sleep, don't count sheep. Talk to the Shepherd.

Power in the Word...

An elderly woman had just returned to her home from an evening of religious service when she was startled by an intruder. As she caught the man in the act of robbing her home of its valuables, she yelled, "Stop - Acts 2:38!" ("..turn from your sin...").

The burglar stopped dead in his tracks. The woman calmly called the police and explained what she had done.

As the officer cuffed the man to take him in, he asked the burglar, "Why did you just stand there? All she did was yell a scripture verse to you."

"Scripture?" replied the burglar, "She said she had an AXE and two 38's!"

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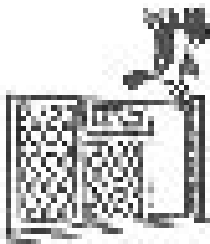
This traditional pub restaurant is located just off the A41 in a stunning building which has retained all the character and charm it has held since it's creation in 1801.

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ST. SWITHIN

July 15th is St Swithun's Day. St Swithun was the Bishop of Winchester in the 7th century. When he died in 862 he was buried in the churchyard because he had said that he wanted to lie where the rain would fall on his grave.

Nearly 100 years later however, the monks decided that they would rebury him in a much grander tomb inside the Cathedral. The story goes that the Saint was so angry that the monks went against his wishes that he made it rain for 40 days solidly until the monks gave up the plan.



Ever since then, if it rains on St Swithun's Day it is supposed to rain for the next 40 days. You had better watch what the weather is like on 15th July to see if the story is right.

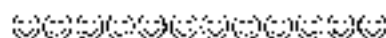
WET WORDS



Can you find these wet words? The words are all in the Bible and go up, down, backwards, forwards and diagonally and some letters are used more than once.

G A L I L E E D A D
S S A R E V L R E
E R N E T A B N A
T E F E L I A H A D
A T M I S N O W D S
R A E A C D L R E
E W D R E O U R O A
P E O A V R D O J G
C A O I A W T C L P
L Y P N R E T S I C

B A I H E B A Y C I S T E R N C L O U D S
E U P H R A T E S F L O O D D E A D S E A
G A L I L E E H A L L J O R D A N L A K E
P O O L R A I N R I V E R S N O W
S T R E A M W A T E R S W E L L



What are the wettest animals in the world?
Reindeer!

What never gets any wetter no matter how much it rains?
The sea

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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"Loop" system, for the hearing impaired

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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

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painting of the Church & Pump House by Phil Hodges.

£12.50 & (£2.75 postage & packing.)

Free delivery locally.

Christleton Village Trail

A self guided tour of the Village in aid of the "Well for Africa" Appeal.

£2.50. (+30p postage& packing))

From David Cummings, 25 Croft Close, Rowton, Chester CH3 7QQ

or from Christleton Post Office.

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_ years until school entry age are accepted.

Please contact the Supervisor, Carole Penney, 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.

READERS

Please remember to support our

Parish Registers for April 2004

Addition

The Funeral Service

22nd Gerald Walter Goodyer, Rose Cottage, 114 Tarvin Road,
Boughton

Parish Registers for May

Baptism

2nd Benjamin Edward son of Paul & Kerry Griffiths
18 Richmond Crescent, Vicars Cross.
2nd Daniel Ralph son of Alan & Jennifer Brown
10 Durban Avenue, Christleton.
23rd Jennifer Jin Yu daughter of Martin & Hazel Thompson
"Oakwood" Quarry Lane, Christleton.
23rd. Joshua James son of Timothy & Christine Allen
14 Henley Road, Chester.

We welcome you into the Lords Family"

The Wedding Service

29th David Christopher Bromley & Denise Margaret Elizabeth Jones
6 Muirfield Close, The Fairways, Holt Road, Wrexham.
"Those who God has joined together, let not man divide"

The Funeral Service

25th Thomas Leslie Mayers, Wenbrook, Barrow Lane, Guilden Sutton
28th Liliias May March, Birch Heath Lodge Nursing Home, Christleton.

"Rest eternal grant unto them"

Offertories.

May	Cash	CSE	2004	2003
2nd	251.24	692.90	944.14	848.18
9th	248.55	658.00	1006.55	1069.12
16th	287.17	558.00	848.17	511.20
23rd	320.60	786.20	1106.80	748.68
30th	123.85	587.80	711.65	697.44
Totals			£4617.21	£ 3,884.62

"Of your own do we give you"

SHOPPING & SERVICE GUIDE

ROCK HOUSE DENTAL PRACTICE

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Pamela Benson

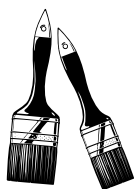
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	10.45 a.m.	Parish Communion	1st & 3rd Sundays
		Family Service	2nd Sunday
		Mattins	4th & 5th Sundays
	6.30 p.m.	Evensong	1st, 2nd & 3rd Sundays
		Evening Communion	4th Sunday
		Songs of Praise	5th Sunday
WEDNESDAYS	10.45 a.m.	Holy Communion	
SAINTS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

WHO'S WHO & WHAT'S WHAT

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

Wardens:	David Mercer, 13 Bridge Drive,	336155
	John Pearson, 2 Badgers Close	335101
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
BY ARRANGEMENT WITH THE RECTOR 335663**