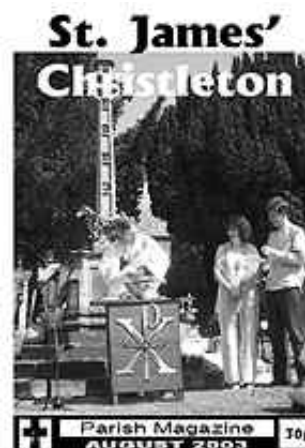


Parish Church of St. James, Christleton

Parish Magazine

Extracts from Parish Magazine for August,
2003



[Click to enlarge](#)

St James' Church - Restoration Appeal Events The Three Peak Challenge.

The team; Rector K P Lee, Nigel Seddon, Al Holland, Graham Ranger, Rod Alexander, John Pearson, Chris & Jos Platel and David & Beryl Cummings. Thank you very much to everyone who has supported our team on this epic challenge. 895miles of travelling, 14 - 20hours actual mountain walking including about 12,000ft of climbing. These statistics partly tell the story of the weekend, but not the sweat and blood of the physical effort, the almost perfect weather conditions, and the great fun and team spirit engendered. The team could easily be described as mixed in ability, with both sprinters and marathon walkers. Yet we achieved our challenge, albeit at different speeds. For several it was a major effort to achieve such goals, and the bonus of helping to raise funds for the church made the physical effort so much more worthwhile. The weather and scenery helped to, and when the mist and cloud cleared from the mountaintops, we had glorious views over some magnificent areas of countryside. We all have memories from the weekend and I share some of mine with you. Starting in near darkness at 4.00am on Saturday morning from the foot of Ben Nevis, to be met by 450 or so young people coming down the mountain having just completed four peaks, including the highest in Northern Island. No wonder the rescue helicopter was busy taking six exhausted walkers off the mountain. Ben Nevis proved to be a long hard walk, with spectacular views until the clouds closed in on the top, and we then walked across a very barren landscape, with deep gullies of snow even in June, and a considerable amount of debris & litter covering the summit.

The drive to the Lakes was spectacular, with thousands of orchids growing on the roadsides in both Scotland and England. The weather was warm and sunny, and we relaxed as much as we could enjoying the wonderful scenery of Glen Coe and Loch Lommond, before wending our way into The Lake District via Cockermouth, Whitehaven and Wastwater. At this point a certain amount of confusion was created, by a minor accident to one of our vehicles, and the lack

of telephone communication between us due to circumstances beyond our control. This led to only partial success by four of the team who climbed Scafell Pike and returned to Wasdale by the most difficult scree route in just under four hours. They had the most wonderful views of the Isle of Man, the Irish Sea, and over the whole of the Lake District and the Pennines. (It is surely one of the most spectacular views anywhere in Europe). That evening there was much sampling of the local brews (to replenish lost liquid you understand), before a well earned rest in a farmhouse b & b before setting off for Snowdonia early on Sunday morning.

We crossed the western edge of The Lakes through Eskdale and over Birker Fell with wonderful views back to the mountains before reaching the motorway, and a rather boring journey into Wales. Two cars managed to park at Pen y Pass and the walkers set off on the final climb to Snowdon along the Pyg Track. Another group tackled the route from Llanberis. What was fascinating on this final climb was to meet up with many other walkers we had met on both Ben Nevis and Scafell who were tackling the Three Peaks to raise money for various charities. It seems that on this one weekend alone that there were over two thousand young people participating in such a worthwhile activity, and I suspect that the older members of our group were definitely in the minority. Once again the cloud cleared as we reached the summit, giving spectacular views over the whole of North Wales. We were met on the summit by Clare, Isobel and baby Caroline Holland who had come up on the train passing the remaining team from St James. By six o'clock all ten members of the team had summited successfully completing the weekend challenge. Well almost!. Due to the problems on the Saturday in Wasdale, four of the team travelled back to the Lakes on the following Tuesday and climbed Scafell Pike from Langdale, a walk of 9 hours duration, so completing a really challenging experience. Thank you all for your excellent support, it was much appreciated. We hope to have raised a total of over £4,000 by our efforts. A full photographic account of the journey is displayed in church.

David Cummings

For your diary;

The next events planned are;

Sunday August 10th 2 - 4-30pm

Tea & Cakes in the garden.

Christine & Mike Abrams

Melrose, Roadside, Christleton.

Entrance £2. Everybody welcome

Friday 12th - Sunday 14th September. Parish Hall.

Photographic Exhibition of Christleton.

Friday 26th September 7.30pm Parish Hall

Ladies Retail Therapy Evening.

Saturday 25th October 7.30pm St James' Church

Concert by Chester Ladies Choir.

Saturday 1st November 7.00 Parish Hall.

Buffet Supper & Talk with Slides. The City of Athens & The Greek Islands of Samos & Ikaria "Nature's Wild Gardens"

Nature Notes.

I thought it would be appropriate this month to tell you about the wildlife seen on the 3 Peak Challenge. Our first sighting was of a magnificent stag and a group of red deer in Glen Coe, whilst in the mountains we saw many raven, hooded crows, buzzard, wheatear, stonechat, ring ouzel and snow bunting. There were singing skylarks, willow warblers, blackcaps, whitethroats and chaffinch, as well as hundreds of tiny rock, meadow and tree pipits. Mountain streams contained dipper, pied and grey wagtails and heron, and we actually saw and heard a cuckoo! (A rare sound this year.) There were far more butterflies in Scotland than England or Wales and we saw several of the beautiful scotch argus flying around Rannoch Moor. However we did have the sight of a painted lady which flew around and landed on the summit of Snowdon. Orchids too were much in evidence, with the deep purple common spotted, northern marsh, and spotted heath varieties to the fore. There were also many rarer small flowers but time didn't permit a close view, as well as wonderful patches of wild broom, ox eye daisies, cowslips, lady smock and foxgloves. One of the saddest sights was to witness a weasel stalk and catch a wheatear chick just off the Pyg Track, as mum and dad tried to prevent it doing so by calling out and flying at the weasel to try to make it drop the chick. DC.

WEDDING

On Saturday 21st June 2003 the Reverend David S Fisher (our David) was married to Miss Gillian Borthwick at his own church of St James, Gatley. David was a staunch member of St James, Christleton and a bellringer. His father, the late Roy, was Captain of the Tower.

The Rt Reverend Dr Peter Forster, Bishop of Chester, officiated and preached. Three young bridesmaids accompanied Gillian – her nieces Rachel and Laura Edwards and Miss Jessica Spalding. The Groom's supporters were Mr Roger Briscoe and Mr Jonathan Wright. The service was a Nuptial Eucharist. The Gospel, in Welsh, was read by David's friend the Rev. Paul Davies. Two readings were by Gillian's brothers Iain (Tobit 8:4-8) and sister Mrs Christine Edwards (1 John 4:7-12).

The church was beautifully decorated with posies on the pew ends and flower decorations on the walls. David looked splendid in a kilt! and his bride wore a simple, elegant cream dress with a slight train and transparent sleeves, and her hair done up in a coronet and no veil.

Photographs were taken on the village green outside church after the service, and parishioners and friends not attending the reception at Styal Mill were entertained to cake and champagne in the Parish Hall.

It was a pleasure and a privilege for us to be invited and we had a thoroughly enjoyable day. May God's blessing rest on them and their ministry in Gatley.

Life in the Big House. (Part 5)

It seems that funerals were a great expense for the family when someone close died. There were also many rituals to be carried out and paid for, including providing suitable clothing for the mourners. The most detailed accounts I have, relate to the funeral of Robert Townsend in 1791.

In this case Robert had died in Liverpool and a team of men were sent to collect his body and later take his body to church.

For John Barry for labour and attending the funeral. 2s 6d

George Moulton for labour and carrying him to church 2s 6d.

To John Radcliffe £3. 3s.0d for oak coffin.

To Mr Barton £2.12s 0d for black coffin.

To Mr Roper £ 5. 5s 0d for lead coffin.

To Dr Brandreth £5.5s 0d for attendance.

To George Wilkinson Painter.

For painting of achievements 6coats £5.11s 6d

18 silk escutcheons £4.14s.0d

8 crests £1.0s.0d

For hearse to Liverpool and return £8.1s.6d

Turnpike & Labour £ 7 9s 6d

For chase to Frodsham £ 12s 0d

St Georges Church Liverpool

For tolling bell at & 6 porters 13s 6d.

From Robert Yoxhall Blacksmith.

4 shoes for bay mare 1s 4d

8 shoes for 2 coach horses (steel) 4s 4d

4 shoes for grey gelding 1s 4d

To remove coach horse shoe 2d

To a bar on a shoe of coach horse 4d
 4 shoes on grey gelding 1s 4d
 8 shoes on coach horses (steel) 4s 4d
 4 shoes for grey gelding 1s 4d
 Total 14s 6d

Bill from Messrs Faulkner / Larden
 To boddying a gown 2s.0d
 50pairs of gloves for funeral £7.7s.0d
 3 gowns and coats for servants 12s.0d
 Silk banding 1s 0d
 18yds black cloth £4.14s 6d
 3 _ yds ravens black cloth £3. 9s 4d
 5 _ yds Rumsey shalloon 10s 6d
 2 1/2yds white flannel 3s 9d
 8 3/8 yds fine black cloth £7.14s11d

To Messrs Wright (Mercer)
 Providing hats/scarfs for men at funeral £50.13s.0d
 Making capes & lace £ 4. 7s. 0d
 2 black buckles 2s 0d
 To be completed next month.
 David Cummings

SPECIAL OLYMPICS

Just before visiting my Irish cousins in June, I heard that the Special Olympics were taking place there. Competitors with learning difficulties from all over the world took part in events ranging from swimming to volleyball. I attended the athletics for a day. Dublin and Eire did everyone really proud. The visiting teams had earlier been dispersed round the Irish provinces to spend two weeks in local communities and marvellous tales were brought back to the Games. Volunteers in coloured uniforms filled the streets and buses of Dublin and escorts and marshals by the score ensured that both getting to the venues and competing there were safe and happy processes for the visitors. Seventy five thousand flags for the Games were made by inmates of Mountjoy Prison. I have spend a life involved with young people and with sport, but never have I witnessed such unmitigated fun and generous friendship in a big event. Well done Ireland!
 John Carruthers

LETTER FROM SUSAN GUMBRELL

Dear Friends

Back in Nigeria

I knew I was back in Nigeria when I saw the petrol queue and had no electricity all night. Lagos airport has a pretty efficient air conditioning system but outside the heat soon hit. There are some interesting smells too! I stayed the night with friends in Lagos and the next day it took me nearly eight hours to arrive back at school. I was very warmly welcomed by everyone.

Being a Friday the students were collecting water from the bore hole, and after the initial shouts of welcome at the gate soon everyone came running. My return from leave had been delayed by a few weeks and all were happy to see that I had eventually arrived.

My first week back was full of visits from welcoming parents and picking up the reins of the school. All the good reports of activities were made – winning a science quiz at the local TV station; a well-organised and enjoyable service of carols and readings at Christmas; mock exams taking place; Mrs Areke having had her baby and another teacher returning from maternity leave with her son Emmanuel who had been born on Christmas Day. It wasn't until the following week that the reports of not-so-good things started coming – a student suspended for stealing; the burial of a class two girl's father; and some internal problems at the school.

Things soon settled down, however, and it wasn't long before I felt as if I'd never been away, with plans for the entrance exam to make, PTA and Management Committee meetings to attend, West African Exam Council examination sheets to fill, dates for end of term to be fixed, extension classes for years 3 and 6 to decide, and even fixing the date of the confirmation and valedictory service with the Bishop (13th July).

At last, a new generator!

One major achievement since I've been back is the buying and installation of a new generator for the school. We've had a 15-KVA plant since 1994 which used to be big enough, but with more fridges on the compound and higher maintenance costs, as well as having to share the power on alternate nights with different buildings, we needed a new one. The PTA decided to levy themselves 3000 per student (about £15). When I returned most had paid. One of the PTA executive members managed to organise everything

very quickly. We went to look at the new machine, speak to the managing director of the company, build a reinforced slab, buy the materials needed to install it, pay for it, install it and start using it in less than 10 days. I am used to things taking far longer than that. So we now have a brand new 100-KVA generator which seems to be drinking large amounts of diesel but which means we have plenty of electricity to supply the whole compound. We can even pump the bore hole at the same time as enjoying light in our houses. The whole thing cost over two million Naira (N200/£1).

Elections and Politics

As I write we are in the middle of election fever. These are the first civilian-run elections in 20 years. The last one in 1983 resulted in a military coup a few months later and it wasn't until 1999 that the civilians took over again. The way I see it, politics here seem to be entirely about money, influence and where candidates are from, not party or manifesto. Sadly, almost everyone says that it doesn't matter how or if they vote as the result is only dependent on who has bribed enough.

Yesterday I went into Onitsha where the vote from Saturday had been postponed till then. I saw burning tyres, broken windscreens and a car on its side – evidence of earlier political riots. Almost every vehicle displayed leaves and branches, which is supposed to give some protection should they meet a gang as it shows solidarity with whatever is being protested about.

The petrol shortage which has been going on for more than six months is possibly also politically motivated. Petrol is now 80 Naira a litre; the official price is 26. The university lecturers have been on strike for several months now, again perhaps a political move as students can't cause much trouble scattered in their homes as they could if they were concentrated on campus.

Please pray for peace and for a smooth handover to people (mainly men!) who fear God and will work for the good of all.

Easter Celebrations

Most of the students have gone home on Easter vacation but classes 3 and 6, who have external examinations soon, are here for revision lessons. On Palm Sunday we processed with palm leaves taken from the trees around and we also celebrated Good Friday and Easter together. Getting up to greet the risen Christ at dawn is not arduous here!

I trust that your Easter was joyful and that you will become more deeply aware of God's love for you.

With best wishes

Susan

Please thank God for my safe arrival back and good health.

Please pray for the new rulers of Nigeria, especially those who say they are Christians; for the class 3 and class 6 students as they sit their exams; for strength and wisdom for me as I deal with staff, and practical problems.

CMS CHILDREN'S LETTER FROM SUSAN GUMBRELL

Dear Friends

Small raindrops, when they gather together in a flood, become a mighty force which is very difficult to direct into a path it doesn't want to go along. Here in Nigeria the rainy season is starting, with tremendous thunderstorms and torrential downpours. Most roads are not tarmac-ed and few of them have proper gutters, so when it rains, the roads become rivers.

My school is, unfortunately, at the bottom of a hill, and the floods head in our direction. We try to channel them and have dug pits three metres deep to slow the water down, but it is a constant battle to stop the ground being washed away.

Near the school a gully has developed, caused by rain water. It is so deep that a five-storey building would not be seen if built at the bottom of it. This whole area should be equatorial rainforest, but the trees, which kept the soil together, were cut down and many buildings put up without planning. Massive erosion is the result as the land is very sandy, with no rocks or stone, and therefore nothing to stop it being washed away. I'm sure you know the story of the wise and foolish builders – one built his house on rock, which was much harder work than the other one who built his house on sand. The house on the sand collapsed when the rain, wind and floods came. Jesus said that people who heard his teaching and didn't put it into practice were like the foolish builder. When we learn about Jesus and know what he wants us to do, and then do it even if it is hard work, we know that our lives will be good, and that we will withstand troubles and God will bless us.

I hope you shouted HALLELUJAH on Easter Day and know that God loves you. I also hope that you didn't eat too many Easter eggs!!

Love from

Susan

your Mission Partner in Nigeria

BELATED BIRTHDAY CONGRATULATIONS

to Mrs Olive Brown who was 90 years of age on 15th July 2003.

MOTHERS' UNION

The Mothers' Union held a party on 13th July when they were joined by Helsby Mothers' Union. We have met twice a year with our Link Mothers' Union and greatly appreciated their friendship for the past three years.

There is no meeting in August but on Monday 8th September, Mrs June Hargreves, who is a lay preacher, will be coming to speak to us on the subject of "What's God doing in Pakistan?".

Sadly we have lost another member of our Mothers' Union: Margaret Hogg was a very loyal member, always supporting us despite health problems over the past few years. Margaret was an inspiration to us all.

At our June meeting we were asked to recall how our lives were affected by World War II. It was a wonderful discussion but unfortunately, we ran out of time so we are hoping to talk together again at a later date.

MONDAY AFTERNOON OPEN HOUSE GROUP

will now stop meeting for the summer and will recommence on the fourth Monday in September.

CHRISTLETON CRICKET CLUB

Christleton 1st team are currently top of the league despite losing their first game against Bollington. The last two weeks have seen the team return to its winning ways. The 2nd team have just won 3 games in a row, moving them into second position in their league. The 3rd team are now clear of their league remaining unbeaten this season.

Christleton Women's team is currently top of the Cheshire Women's league.

Recently we hosted a match between Holland and the Representative Cheshire County League. Jim Gilson, our 1st team Captain, opened the batting. Comments from both teams complemented our ground.

Junior coaching week is scheduled for 29th July - 4 days of intensive coaching by Todd Campbell. For details please ring: Brian Wareing 01244 332326

Our thanks to the following match sponsors for June:

David & Joyce Gray

John & Penny Bell

Simon Watt-Smith

Brian Ruks

Terry Brooks

Jim Partington

Allington Hughes

Towry Law

Rambling Group

We have had a wonderful spring and summer with brilliant attendance and enthusiasm - about 50 for the first, 25 or so for Moel Famau and about the same for Cader Berwyn - a 2 stage ramble with about 11 going right to the top. Again 20+ went to Hilbre and beat the tide back - a beautiful afternoon. To crown it, we followed this up with Snowdon the Pyg Track - 7 of us, with various artificial bits of our bodies and made it to the top - this was the same day as the 3 peaks weekend. Any retrospective sponsorship for the (not too old) crocks effort would be gratefully received by the St James restoration fund!

NEXT PLAN

August 15th, Friday pm.

We will repeat last years ramble along the river from Eccleston parish church to Aldford Church, ending up with a meal at the Grosvenor Arms. We will take the shorter route at the end this year so dont feel its too long. Level and easy. trainers OK.

Meet at Eccleston at 7.0 pm. Contact Liz McClure (01244-409414) for numbers please on this occasion to book the meal.

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, and including 8 pages of colour photographs. Laminated cover with water-colour 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 fortnightly: for details of when the van is next in your area, please telephone Upton Library on 380053.

Readers

Please remember to support our magazine advertisers and mention where you have read their name.

[Top](#)