

St. James' Christleton



*..... unto us
a child is born*



Parish Magazine

DECEMBER 2004

30p

Countdown to Christmas

Wed	1	10.45 am	United Communion followed by refreshments
Fri	3		NB: Last date for contributions to JANUARY Parish Magazine to David Bull (332234). Earlier if possible please
		6.30 pm	Choir Practice
Sun	5		The Second Sunday of Advent
		8.00 am	Holy Communion - Order 2
		10.30 am	Sunday School - Parish Hall
		10.45 am	Parish Communion with Baptism
		6.30 pm	Youth Service - Parish Hall (NB: No service in church) Prayer Link Road: Hawthorn Road Neighbourhood Link: Jayne Roscoe
Mon	6	10.45 am	Holy Communion at Tarvin Court Nursing Home
		11.30 am	Holy Communion at Oaklands Nursing Home
		7.30 pm	College of Law Carol Service
Wed	8	10.45 am	Holy Communion - followed by refreshments
		11.30 am	Holy Communion at Birch Heath Lodge Nursing Home
			3.30 – 5.30 pm Distribution of Christmas Cards to Neighbourhood Links - Lady Chapel
Fri	10	6.30 pm	Choir Practice
Sun	12		The Third Sunday of Advent
		8.00 am	Holy Communion - Order 1
		10.45am	Family Toy Service - followed by refreshments People are invited to bring wrapped Christmas gifts of toys (labelled with the appropriate age and sex) to be given to less fortunate children in the Chester area.
		6.00 pm	The Crew Youth Group - Parish Hall
		6.30 pm	Evensong Prayer Link Road: Home Close Neighbourhood Link: Gertrude Wright
Mon	13	2.00 pm	Advent Quiet Hour
		7.30 pm	Women's Institute: Gowy Group Carol Service
Wed	15	10.45 am	Holy Communion - followed by refreshments
		2.00 pm	Primary School Carol Service
		7.00 pm	Primary School Carol Service
Fri	17	6.30 pm	Choir Practice
Sat	18		The Crew Party

Sun 19

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

8.00 am Holy Communion - Order 1
10.45 am Parish Communion - Order 1
6.30 pm Festival of Carols and Ceremony of Light
Prayer Link: Little Heath Road & Pearl Lane
Neighbourhood Link: Sheila McCausland

Wed 22 10.45 am Holy Communion - followed by refreshments

CHRISTMAS EVE

7.00 pm Carols round the Tree
Fri 24 Followed by mince pies and mulled wine in the Parish Hall
11.30 pm Midnight Communion - Order 1

CHRISTMAS DAY

8.00 am Holy Communion - Order 2
Thurs 25 10.45 am Christmas Family Service
11.45 am Holy Communion – Order 1

Sun 26

St Stephen

8.00 am Holy Communion
10.45 am Parish Communion - Order 1
No Evening Service
Prayer Link Road: Littleton Lane & By-Pass
Neighbourhood Link: Judith Willacy
Mon 27 9.00 am Holy Communion for St John
Wed 29 10.45 am Holy Communion - followed by refreshments



*Our thanks to Phil Hodges for his
Open and ink drawing for this years
Christmas Card - Madonna and Child,
drawn from a 15th century carving in
Colmar, Alsace -*

The Rector's Letter

Dear Friends

What do you expect?

“May I ask what you were expecting to see out of a Torquay hotel bedroom window? Sydney Opera House, perhaps? The Hanging Gardens of Babylon? Herds of wildebeest sweeping majestically across the plains of Africa?” Basil Fawlty’s words from the ‘Communication Problems’ episode are immediately recognisable to all Fawlty Towers fans. But may I ask what you are expecting, – from life, – at Christmas, – of others, – of yourself? It’s a question which takes us to the heart of Advent, and our preparation for Christmas. The Jews had been waiting for generations for the promised Messiah – so long many had given up expecting him, and so missed him. Mary could not help but expect Jesus – her whole life was changed and transformed by her pregnant expectation: Joseph expected Jesus reluctantly: John the Baptist would call people to expect Jesus: Simeon kept watch, waiting patiently. And when Jesus came he was missed in the bustle of busy Bethlehem – crowded out of superficially busy lives. It was the shepherds; alert, keeping watch over their flocks by night, who saw the vision and heard the message of the angels: it was the Wise Men who looked for signs and scanned the heavens, and who were ready to make a long and arduous journey, who knelt to offer their gifts.

Advent is a time when we are called to renew our sense of urgent expectation, and look for signs of Jesus’ coming. But do we only look for the spectacular and expect to be alerted by some dramatic event? ‘Advent Readings From Iona’ recounts the occasion of a great Church Centenary celebration when the Deaconess was waiting to greet the new mayor as the guests arrived. A chauffeur driven car pulled up in the specially coned off area, and she greeted the impressive looking gentleman who emerged, and introduced him to others. He tactfully informed her he was not the new mayor, and she apologised profusely. Meanwhile she had missed the real mayor. He had passed her in the corridor, but how could she have known? Not only was he ‘chainless’, he had walked to the Church, looked ordinary and had come in through the back door. It was the caretaker who pointed him out to her. “Yes, I know Bert,” he said, “I used to do the soup run with him.” Jesus warned us that he will come in the guise of the poor and needy, and we shall be judged by whether we recognise him and expect to find him in their company.

What do you expect? If you are expecting to find the meaning of Christmas in the parcels and parties, the food and festivities, the alcohol and indulgence, then that is what it will mean to you – that, and that alone. If you look out of

your window (even if it is in Chester and not Torquay!) and only expect to find the physical and material, then that is all you will see. But Advent calls us to expect to find something deeper. Sometimes it is only when some tragedy or dramatic event comes our way, that we are jolted into seeing life in a truer perspective according to deeper priorities. All of a sudden we treasure the things we usually take for granted, and see below the surface of life. The things that usually dominate our attention suddenly seem less important. Christmas means that God became human in the Babe of Bethlehem, giving sanctity to all life. If we look out of our window and expect to see something more than the physical and material we shall find all of life touched, suffused by the divine, giving a spiritual dimension to the physical and material. If, then, we begin to look at the starving children of Darfur or the homeless nearer home: the plight of ordinary people in Iraq devastated by the hostilities or the victims of terrorism or oppression the world over, perhaps we begin to recognise the Christ child in our midst and gain a greater sense of urgency in responding to their plight.

If we expect to find a spiritual depth and meaning in the Christmas festivities, we really will have something to celebrate. Christmas means that because God became man in the Babe of Bethlehem all of life is holy: the common becomes special, the ordinary becomes extraordinary and we can look out of our window to a new view on life all the year round.

With best wishes for a happy Christmas.



Prayer of the Month: A Prayer-reflection from:
"Advent Readings from Iona"

*For millennia the light of the stars has travelled.
For a thousand years this cross has withstood the winds.
For a hundred years of war wave has followed wave
while people walking in darkness have longed for peace.
But before our time, before all time:
in the beginning, the word.*

*In this moment the snowflake, a perfect crystal is formed and falls.
In this moment the snowdrop, in the dark earth,
waits for the returning sun.
In this moment a child is born, a life begins, blooms ...
And in this time, our time, God's time:
in each beginning, the word. Amen*

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

“Domestic Violence? Oh no, not in our Parish, not in Christleton” A common and natural and response to any suggestion that anything so unpleasant could happen in one’s own neighbourhood. It is, however, a quite mistaken attitude, as I quickly discovered as I sat round a table recently with representatives from both voluntary and statutory agencies at training session run by Cheshire Domestic Abuse Partnership which I attended as Parish Representative to the Deanery Committee for Social Responsibility

Having defined Domestic Violence, the aims of the course were to give information about the scale of such violence ; to explode some of the myths surrounding the subject and to explore ways in which individuals and agencies can work together to support those experiencing this abuse, in whatever form.

Domestic Violence is defined as “emotional, physical or psychological abuse of a person by their partner, family member or someone with whom there has been a relationship”.

– adult bullying in fact.

The statistics regarding Domestic Violence given to us immediately dispelled any misconceptions we might have had about the prevalence and causes of such violence. For example we learned that Domestic violence is 23% of all violent crime, that 1 in 4 women experience domestic violence or abuse, that 1 in 4 women visiting their GP experiences domestic violence and that 1 woman is murdered every 3 days by a partner or ex partner. Shocking indeed

Another myth which was exploded is that Domestic Violence occurs only in a certain type of family. It happens in families of every class, race and culture The Partnership stresses that abuse in the domestic context takes many forms other than physical eg depriving the partner of sleep, money, friends, constant criticism and/or isolation of the partner etc Although the abuse is generally of women by men, in a number of cases the reverse is true

During the afternoon I also learned how to take seriously and in complete confidence any suggestion that some-one is

suffering or knows of some-one who might be suffering such abuse and of ways in which help and support can be offered.

If you would like more information on the subject do please contact me on 01244 335468.

Liz Evans

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Canon Laurie Skipper

Congratulations to former Rector Canon Laurie Skipper for his role in the recent "Grosvenor" wedding at Chester Cathedral. I know that Parishioners have been delighted to see him feature in the news, and to know that he is still serving in his Ministry with great enthusiasm. He will have officiated in four weddings, in almost as many weeks and each one will have given him enormous pleasure.

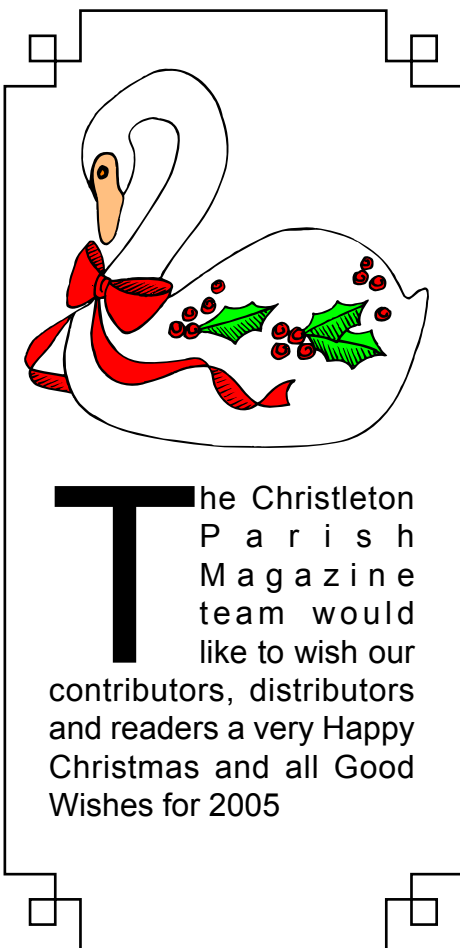
CONGRATUATIONS

To William Moorley of Littleton who will be 96 on 5 December.

THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the memorial fund for the late Stan Wood. A total of £469.90 was raised and is to be shared 50% each to the Children's Society and the Red Cross Ethiopian Fund.

Vera Wood



The Christleton Parish Magazine team would like to wish our contributors, distributors and readers a very Happy Christmas and all Good Wishes for 2005

CATHEDRAL LINK

PILGRIM DAYS 2004

Once again we welcomed 900 children into the Cathedral for the week in the Autumn term that is known as Pilgrim Days. We were able to offer all the usual work shops; stained glass, calligraphy, illuminated lettering, tapestry, screen printing, handbell ringing, drama, choir, clay tiles, mosaics, sign language, poetry, and this year's new addition was a Dance workshop led by a lady who had previously worked in Blackburn Cathedral and travelled from Darwen in Lancashire to be with us.

The children enjoyed dressing up as monks in order to learn something of the monastic tradition and taking part in a role-play of pilgrimage. Each child had the opportunity during the day to say something to God whilst holding the candle and many of them anonymously wrote down what they had said. Each day finished with an act of worship.

The 60 volunteer helpers who make Pilgrim Days possible were as enthusiastic and generous with

their time and skills as always and their help is greatly appreciated.

Judy Davies
Education Officer

CANON L ROY BARKER

It is with much sadness that we have to inform you of the death of Canon L Roy Barker. His funeral took place in the Cathedral on Monday 1 November.

“Roy’s enthusiasm was infectious and he encouraged so many people. For almost 20 years, Canon Barker was responsible for the Cathedral Library. His efforts secured successive grants to improve Library facilities and to preserve treasured books neglected in earlier times. Gathering together a dedicated band of volunteers, Roy directed an ongoing programme of conservation. Eager to let the library treasures be seen by all, he initiated regular open days. Roy’s kindly and wise presence will be much missed in the Cathedral.”

Dean – Gordon McPhate

ADOPT A BOOK

Those who wish to help conserve our literary heritage some times use our Cathedral Library “Adopt a Book” scheme. With a gift,

say from £25, a personalised plate can be inserted in a book professionally conserved. Professional conservation varies with every book though most cost at least £100. Enquiries please through the Cathedral Office.

John Roff's Final Service – was at the 10.00 am Cathedral Euchariston Sunday 21 November.

INSTALLATION OF TWO NEW HONORARY CANONS

On Monday 8 November, during Evensong at 5.30 pm, the Reverend Richard John Gilpin, Rural Dean of Frodsham and Vicar of Christ Church, Crowton and the Reverend Gordon David Geddes, Rural Dean of Nantwich and Vicar of St Peter's, Minshull Vernon and Chaplain of Leighton Hospital, were installed as Honorary Canons.

A NEW VERGER

We have a new Verger starting on 1 December. His name is Peter Lowe, his wife's name is Kirsty. We would like to welcome them both into our Cathedral community and hope they will be very happy here.



They knew the Word

(from prophets heard?)

*And wisely sought the
beacon star*

And having found

With joy unbound

They travelled from afar.

We have God's Word

Our hearts are stirred

To love and peace of mind

As those of old

We have been told

To seek and we shall find.

DATES IN DECEMBER

Dec 6th - St Nicholas

Father Christmas is as old as Europe. Once he was Woden, lashing his rein-deer through the darkness of northern midwinter. Then he encountered the Church, and She transformed him into a saint, the much-loved Nicholas, Bishop of Myra (in south-west Turkey) in the fourth century. St Nicholas became the patron saint of children, and was given 6 December as his day. Since the 6th century St Nicholas has been venerated in both East and West, though virtually nothing is known of his life. Some believe he may have been one of the fathers at the Council of Nicea (325), imprisoned during the Emperor Diocletian's persecution. According to legend, Nicholas was an extremely generous man. He revived three schoolboys murdered by an innkeeper in a tub of pickles. He rescued three young women from prostitution by giving their poverty-stricken father three bags of gold. (Hence the use of three gold balls as the pawnbroker's signs.) Over the centuries many, including children, sailors, unmarried girls,

pawnbrokers and moneylenders have claimed him as their patron. (Moneylenders? Still true today – just think what will be on your Visa card by Christmas!) Perhaps it was on account of S Nicholas' generosity that that in recent centuries children began to write little notes sometime before 6 December, to tell him about the toys they specially wanted. These notes were then left on the windowsill at night - or else on a ledge in the chimney. But St Nicholas Day chanced to lie in the magnetic field of a much more potent festival... and after awhile his activities were moved towards Christmas. Then in Bavaria the children still left their notes on the window sill, but they addressed them to Liebes Christkind - Krishinkle as they knew him - and the saint's part in the matter was simply to deliver the letters in heaven. The most popular result of the cult of St Nicholas has been the institution of Santa Claus. He is based on Nicholas' patronage of children and the custom in the Low Countries of giving presents on his feast. Santa Claus has reached his zenith in America, where the Dutch Protestants of New Amsterdam (New York) united to it Nordic folklore legends

of a magician who both punished naughty children and rewarded

Dec 21st - Winter Solstice

A Midwinter festival has been a part of life since pre-Christian times. When the hours of daylight are fewest, the warmth of the sun weakest, and life itself seemingly at a standstill, our ancestors, the pagan peoples of Europe and Western Asia, kept festival by lighting bonfires and decorating their buildings with evergreens. Perhaps they believed that the dying sun could be enheartened by fire, and the life of the buried seed assured by the presence of evergreen branches. With the advent of Christianity, the Spring Gods became identified with Christ, and the birthday of the sun with the birthday of the Light of the World. The early church father Tertullian did not approve of Christmas decorations. "Let those who have no light in themselves light candles!... You are the light of the world, you are the tree ever green..." But by the time of St Gregory and St Augustine, four centuries later, this had changed. Pope Gregory instructed Augustine not to worry about harmless outward customs,

December, 2004

as long as the right God be worshipped through them. And so many Anglo-Saxon customs were never discarded, but simply endowed with a new significance. By 1598 one John Stow of London wrote how: "Against the feast of Christmas, every man's house, as also their parish churches, were decked with holme, ivie, bayes, and whatsoever the season of the yeare afforded to be greene."

Dec 25th - Christmas Day

Why does it begin at midnight with Holy Communion? The hour was first chosen at Rome in the fifth century to symbolise the idea that Christ was born at midnight – a mystical idea in no way hindered by historical evidence! No one knows the hour of his birth. Certainly in recent times, Holy Communion at midnight on Christmas morning has proved popular with modern families. One British writer pointed out its "domestic convenience" in 1947: "for where there are children and no servants, husband and wife may be unable to communicate at any other time." (So things don't change, then!)

Elaine & Rachel walk the Offa's Dyke Footpath for Cancer Research UK

Elaine Mc Farlane and Rachel McGuicken from the village recently undertook a great challenge, walking 183 miles along the Offa's Dyke Footpath from Chepstow to Prestatyn to raise funds for Cancer Research UK in memory of Mitch Baines.

This is Rachel's account of that wonderful adventure.

WE MADE IT!

Elaine and I got to Prestatyn on Saturday afternoon 25th September, after 10 days walking as planned. We

were greeted by family and friends, Mitch Baine's family and friends, (Mitch was a friend from Littleton who died of leukaemia last year), sunshine breaking through the clouds which had threatened our last stretch from Bodfari- and bubbly! We ended properly and in style; in the sea, and then singed the 'I've made it' book in the Offa's Dyke Centre! The writing's shaky, but they are our signatures! The training really paid off; Neither Elaine nor I suffered blisters at all, and incredibly, our muscles didn't complain or impede our journey very much either. The physical weariness of walking around ten hours a day took its toll early on, though, (and still is, I have to say) and we did

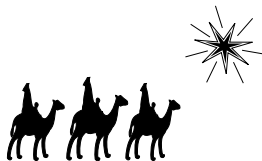


have our very quiet moments when, with gritted teeth, Offa introduced us to yet another climb and descent towards the end of each day. On Day 9, the day we had to tackle the Clwydian Range (Moel Famau, Moel Arthur, Penycloddiau etc etc) we did weakly discuss, at crawling pace, why Offa had not considered building bridges, rather than boundaries! Despite the hard work, the weather was kinder than had been forecast, and we were treated to fantastic views across and beyond the Welsh border, interspersed with magnificent monuments in the landscape, which we had to tear ourselves away from in order to get to our beds for the night! It was a worthwhile challenge, and an unbelievable experience! And there are lots of pictures and stories to tell! Sponsorship is now coming in, and it looks as though we should get in excess of £2,000 for Cancer Research UK! For those of you who did not doubt that we would do it and paid in advance, thank you very much for your support- and your confidence! For those of you who have pledged, or would like to sponsor us, please send a cheque payable to Cancer Research UK, c/o

December, 2004

R McGuicken 56 Toll Bar Road,
Christleton, Chester CH3 5QX.
Thank you very much, in advance.
Thank you all,

Rachel & Elaine.



*Tell me, weary traveller, of your
journey*

*Tell me of your long and laboured
quest*

*Tell me of a holy, high impelling
Burning like a beacon in your
breast.*

*Tell me how you left a distant
country*

*Following a rare, effulgent light
Tell me how it led you through the
desert*

*Shining through the bitter, stretching
night.*

*Tell me how unerringly it led you
To the Babe, and tell me how you
kneel*

*Pouring out your worship and your
treasure*

Tell of the exceeding joy you felt.

*Tell me how I too may seek and
worship*

*Tell me how I may proclaim the
Word*

*Telling, as you did, the blessed story
Telling, until all the earth has heard.*



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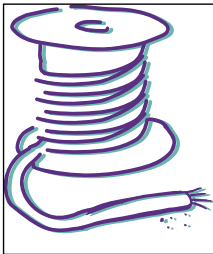
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SIGNS & SYMBOLS

The Advent Wreath

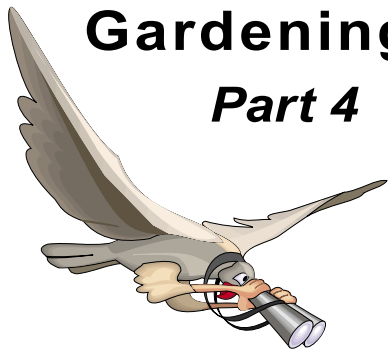
During Advent, churches will often have an Advent Wreath, a tradition which goes back to the ninth century. The Advent Wreath is made up of four candles, joined together in a single candelabra, candleholder or in a ring. On the fourth Sunday before Christmas Day, one of the candles is lit with a prayer; additional ones are lit on each Sunday. Often there is a single candle in the middle that is then lit on Christmas Day itself. The progressive lighting of the candles symbolises the expectation and hope surrounding our Lord's first coming into the world and the anticipation of his second coming to judge the living and the dead. The candles are in different colours to give a visual clue to their meaning for each particular Sunday. Each of the four Sundays reminds us of those who prepared for the coming of Christ. The first three are purple or blue to symbolise penitence; Advent being a time of getting ready, getting prepared, of cleaning up. Advent 1 is for 'The Patriarchs' such as Abraham and David and that day the prayers focus on Hope. Advent 2 is for 'The Prophets' such as Isaiah and

all who foretold of the Messiah's coming. Prayers that day are focussed on Peace. Advent 3 is for John the Baptist and the prayers are for Joy. On the last Sunday, Advent 4, we concentrate on Mary, the Mother of Jesus, and so the candle's colour is rose and the prayers are of Love. Some churches also have a central candle lit on Christmas Day which is either white or gold to symbolise purity, perfection and kingship. The whole Wreath is usually decorated with evergreens all of which have traditional meanings signifying victory over persecution and suffering, immortality, strength and healing. The circle of the wreath, which has no beginning or end, symbolizes the eternity of God, the immortality of the soul, and the everlasting life found in Christ. Any pine cones, nuts, or seedpods used to decorate the wreath also symbolize life and resurrection. All together, the wreath of evergreens depicts the immortality of our soul and the new, everlasting life promised to us through Christ.



Gardening for Wildlife

Part 4



Education of the younger generation is vital. I have spent hundreds of hours of my life helping children understand about nature, and the needs of the natural world. Our work at Christleton Pit, on the nature reserve at Hockenhull Platts, and in the village is well known, and I'm convinced that children today are much more aware than we were, about food chains and webs, and about the natural world. Despite the problems that some people see in education today, children now are far better informed about the need for conserving our own wildlife species, as well as the more important aspects about looking after the world, global warming and issues of biodiversity. We must do everything we can to provide the knowledge, so that future generations will actually have species to see.

There are clearly many issues we don't fully understand. Global warming & genetically modified crops for food are just two, but we can all make a difference by how we care for our very local, native species, and a great deal of this can be done at little or no cost to us in our own gardens. Our garden is very small, 20 & 10m at the front of the house, and 10 & 15 metres square at the back, which backs on to the canal. We have a very sandy soil, and grow many of our own plants from seed, but also buy plugs or mature plants from Garden Centres, or the local Scouts. One of the best benefits we have is the old hawthorn hedge that lines the canal. It is at least 200years old and is an excellent habitat and feeding station for birds and wild creatures.

Encouraging wildlife into our gardens.

Some of the things you can do depending on the size of your garden

Have areas for weeds, and wild flowers. Provide hiding places for insects, beetles,

hedgehogs, mice and shrews. Don't have everything tidy, have uncut grass, nettles, piles of fallen leaves, log piles etc. Recycle material, i'e compost heaps, for worms & soil dwelling decomposers, dead wood for fungi and woodboring insects. (This will make good garden mulch.) Grow native shrubs, climbers and wild flowers. Provide a bird feeding station, with a variety of foods and a supply of water, and or bird bath. A small pond, or wetland habitat if the garden is big enough. Provide nest boxes for birds, and mammals. Just providing some of these items will bring you hours of pleasure watching their use.

To be continued
David Cummings

Operation Christmas Child celebrates its 15th trip delivering "Love in a Box"

From being the idea of one man in Wrexham in 1990, Operation Christmas Child has become something of a national institution. Now reckoned to be the biggest Christmas gift programme in the world, the Operation Christmas Child shoe box campaign has become an annual expression

of love to thousands of suffering children throughout the world. That first Christmas of 1990 several thousand shoeboxes went to Romania. This year Operation Christmas Child will send their 2 MILLIONTH shoebox to Romania— never mind hundreds of thousands of shoeboxes into other needy countries throughout eastern Europe. Belarous will receive its one millionth shoe box this year. Simon Barrington, General Manager of Samaritan's Purse UK, says: "From junior Sunday Schools through to Senior Citizens, everybody can take part in contributing their shoe box to the total provided by their church. This year's campaign also sees us break new ground with the addition of Kyrgyzstan and Mozambique. "The 2004 campaign is exciting, and our volunteers have been gearing up for another massive challenge. The churches are a bedrock of our success and we are confident that congregations across the UK and Ireland will back us with their much appreciated hard work, kindness and tremendous enthusiasm."

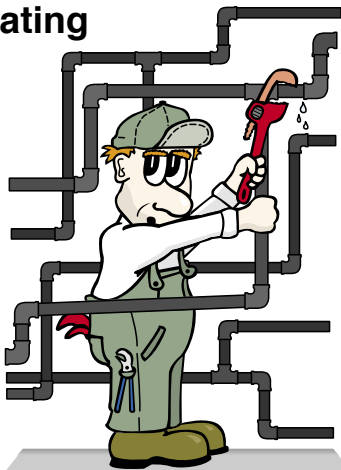
And it's still not too late! If you would like to send a shoe box to a needy child, ring 01978 367722 or visit www.samaritanspurse.uk.com/occ/.

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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.

MAGAZINE CONTRIBUTIONS

Please ensure all items for inclusion in the January edition are sent to the Editor, David Bull, The Old Rectory, Plough Lane, as soon as possible **BEFORE Friday 3 December.**

LOCAL EVENTS DIARY

CHRISTLETON GARDENING CLUB

The next meeting will take place on 13 December when Mrs Jenny Hendy will speak on "Topiary"

CHRISTLETON W.I. MONTHLY WHIST DRIVE

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

Whist Drive in December

Will take place on 15 December (NB this month not the usual last Wednesday of the month).

CHRISTLETON W.I.

The next meeting will take place on 8 December when we will celebrate with a "Christmas Evening".

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CHRISTMAS MUSIC BY CANDLELIGHT

at

St Alban, Tattenhall
Sunday, Dec. 12 at 7.30p.m.
Tickets: £6

St. Mary, Handbridge
Saturday, Dec. 18 at 7.30p.m.
Tickets: £7
including refreshments

Box Office: 01244 335705 or
Chester Tourist Information: tel.
01244 402111

MAGAZINE DISTRIBUTORS

The December magazine will be available for collection from Church on Sunday 28 November.

THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY

Gala Concert in Aid of "Safe in the City, Manchester Project"

Sir Willard White/with Guy Barker, the Kinder Children's Choir & St Helens Youth Brass Band
Sunday 12 December
7.0pm at The Lowry, Salford Quays

Sir Willard White is one of the world's greatest opera singers, known for his enormous rich voice and powerful stage presence.

Mercury Prize nominee Guy Barker is a renowned trumpeter who won the British Jazz Award for Best Trumpeter in 1996.

Performing alongside these famous names will be the Kinder Children's Choir and St Helens Youth Brass Band both of whom have a national and international profile.

The Children's Society Safe in the City, Manchester Project – Running away from home or care can put children and young

people at risk. Children from all around the North West head for the big city, many of whom leave home due to family conflict, violence or abuse. Each day alone, around 50 children under the age of 11 run away from home for the first time. One quarter of runaways sleep in unsafe places such as back alleys, public parks, and bus shelters, putting themselves at serious risk of harm.

Tickets available at £17.50, £20.00, £22.50, £25.00
Book Online at
www.thelowry.com or
Telephone 0870 787 5790

CHRISTLETON WEDNESDAY GROUP

Invite you to a
FESTIVE LUNCH
Friday 3 December
at 12.00 noon

In Christleton Parish Hall
Tickets £8.00 including a glass of wine
In aid of
Claire House & Hope House Hospices



November Ramble Sunday 21st

Higher and Lower Wych, near Malpas.. This is a fairly short ramble, max 3 miles, along a very unspoilt length of rural Welsh border. Should be good for autumn colours if we're not too late! Meet 1.30 in church car park to accommodate the hour change.

December Ramble Sunday 19th

Join us again for an exhilarating pre-Christmas scramble up Dinas Bran, Llangollen, and for mince pies and mulled wine at the top. Meet 1.30 in Church car park



Christleton Youth Club
(see page 27)

CHRISTLETON WI

Come and join Christleton WI at a
CHRISTMAS MORNING

in aid of the

ALZHEIMER'S SOCIETY

At The Old Farm

Mulled Wine And a Slice of
Something Nice

Saturday 11 December

10 am – 12 noon

Cakes/Raffle/Bring & Buy

£2.00 All welcome

Wisdom for everyone with relatives coming to stay this Christmas...

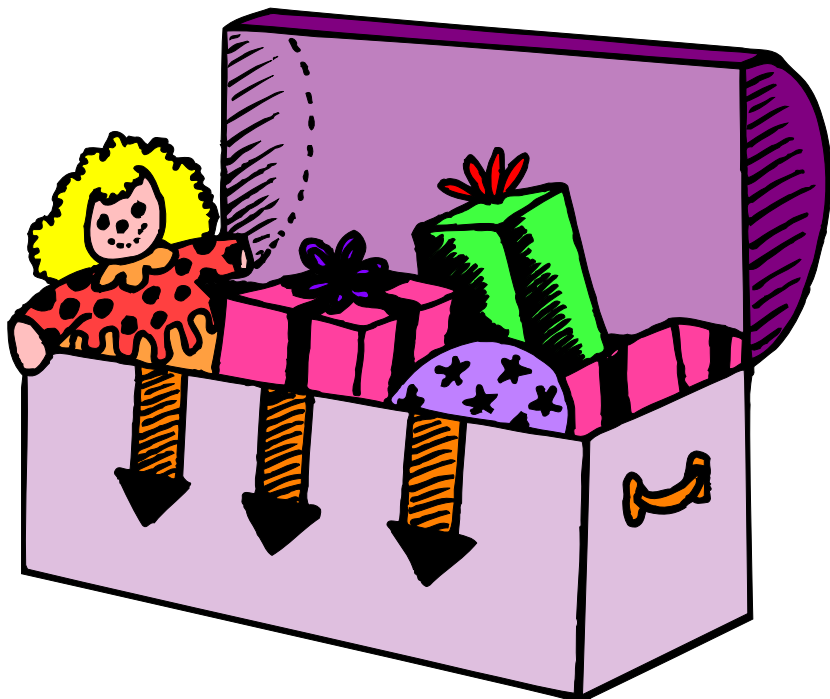
The real art of conversation is not only to say the right thing at the right time, but also to leave unsaid the wrong thing at the tempting moment. - Anon

When we are out of sympathy with the young, then I think our work in this world is over. - George MacDonald

Age doesn't always bring wisdom. Sometimes age comes alone. - Anon

Long-suffering is a grace of silence. - Willaim Bagshawe

Family 'Toy' Service at St. James



Sunday 12th December
at 10.45 am

You are invited to bring wrapped Christmas gifts of toys (labelled with the appropriate age and sex) to be given to less fortunate children in the Chester area.



ABERSOCH – HOLIDAY HOME

IVY COTTAGE

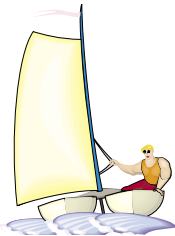
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Nature News

There was more bird of prey excitement for villagers in October, with the frequent aerial displays of five beautiful buzzards over the centre of the village. These birds were probably parents and three young, and the adults were teaching the youngsters to soar and fly using the air currents above the village. It was wonderful to hear their plaintive call, like that of a cat mewing, as they called to each other in encouragement and togetherness as they explored the thermals. This family are one of several nesting in the parish, and as I've said regularly in the magazine, one of the more successful species in terms of increasing numbers in Cheshire at



present. The buzzard feeds on carrion and I've no doubt that they, like the Harriers and Kites of previous months have probably fed on the huge number of rabbits that seem to be around at present. Incidentally look out for the spectacular kingfisher on the canal, as there have been several sightings in recent days, and for jays, woodpeckers and mistle thrushes around the churchyard. There are flocks of redwing and fieldfare

in and around the hedgerows between Birch Heath Lane and the Sports Ground and I've also seen a now quite rare yellowhammer on Birch Heath Common. Our resident swans are still on the canal and haven't yet shown any sign of returning to the Pit.

David Cummings

CHURCH SEEKS PARTNERSHIPS TO UNLOCK THE POTENTIAL OF CHURCH BUILDINGS

The Church of England is calling for partnership with national, regional and local bodies, as well as government at all levels, to unlock the potential of church buildings as catalysts for regeneration and safeguard their role as centres for a wide and often unacknowledged range of community activities. The call comes in 'Building faith in our future', a 'green paper' from the Church of England's Church Heritage Forum, that aims to celebrate church buildings and the achievements of the volunteers who maintain them.

RELIGIOUS BELIEFS IN THE UK TODAY

15 per cent of the population of the UK, or 8.6 million people, say they have no religious affiliation. This is the finding of Focus on Religion, a new report by the Home Office, and based on data from the 2001 Census. Christianity remains the main religion in the UK, with 71.8 per

December, 2004

cent of the population saying that they belong to the Christian faith. Those with no religion form the second-largest group. Five per cent of the population belongs to a non-Christian religious group. Muslims, at almost three per cent, make up the largest group. Hindus make up one per cent.

CHRISTIANS MUST CHANGE THE WAY THEY 'DO' CHURCH

Christians need to step outside the church bubble, according to Dr Pete Ward, a lecturer in youth work at Kings College, London. Referring to the parable of the lost sheep, he pointed out: "We've reversed the numbers – there's one sheep in the fold, and the rest are out there doing their thing. We believe that if we look after the one sheep nicely enough, some will come back." "But," he said, "We need to ask, where is Christ working? Where are the relational connections? What can we give people to help them to connect to God?"

Father Christmas or Jesus?

- Father Christmas lives at the North Pole... JESUS is everywhere.
- Father Christmas rides in a sleigh... JESUS rides on the wind and walks on the water.
- Father Christmas comes but once a year.... JESUS is an ever present help.
- Father Christmas fills your stockings with goodies... JESUS supplies all your needs.
- Father Christmas comes down your chimney uninvited... JESUS stands at your door and knocks, and then enters your heart.
- You have to wait in line to see Father Christmas... JESUS is as close as the mention of his name.
- Father Christmas lets you sit on his lap... JESUS lets you rest in his arms.
- Father Christmas doesn't know your name, all he can say is "Hi little boy or girl, what's your name?"... JESUS knew our name before we did. Not only does He know our name, He knows our address too. He knows our history and future and He even knows how many hairs are on our heads.
- Father Christmas has a belly like a bowl full of jelly... JESUS has a heart full of love.
- All Father Christmas can offer is HO HO HO... JESUS offers health, help and hope.
- Father Christmas says "You better not cry"... JESUS says "Cast all your cares on me for I care for you."
- Father Christmas's little helpers make toys... JESUS makes new life, mends wounded hearts, repairs broken homes and builds mansions.
- Father Christmas may make you chuckle but.... JESUS gives you joy that is your strength.
- While Father Christmas puts gifts under your tree... JESUS became our gift and died on the tree.

It's obvious there is really no comparison. We need to remember WHO Christmas is all about. We need to put Christ back in Christmas, Jesus is still the reason for the season. Yes, Jesus is better, He is even better than Father Christmas.



'The crew'

What is it?

A youth group for young people aged between 11 and 16.

Based at

Christleton Parish Hall. We meet on a Sunday evening at 6pm until 7.30. On a standard evening we will have Pool, snooker, table tennis, board games, food, chill and chat. The focus of the group is having a bible study for 20min at 6.30. In the bible study we look at stuff which is relevant to the young people. In the bible study we will have drama, sketches, art and discussions in groups.

Over the last term we have had great fun. We had a half term special which was an evening of messy games where the floors got a good clean after.

On Saturday 13th November we took 12 young people Bowling and McDonalds. Fun was had by all, including the Leaders. 2 games of bowling and McDonalds.

On the 5th December the youth are running a youth service in the Parish Hall instead of the evening service in the church. We would love to see you there.

If you wish to join The Crew or wish to help out please contact Andy Putt by e-mail or phone on andy.putt@lightproject.org.uk or 07815675870

Within the next 2 months we should have a website up and running. Keep looking at www.thecrewonline.org.uk

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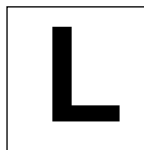
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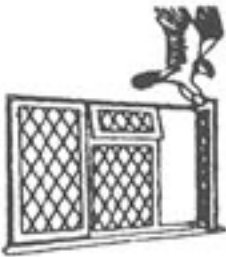
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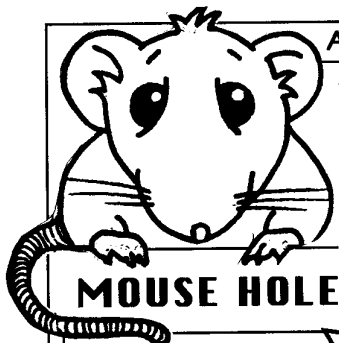
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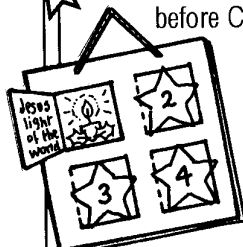
Unit 4, White Lane Depot, Christleton, Chester

A Happy Christmas to all!



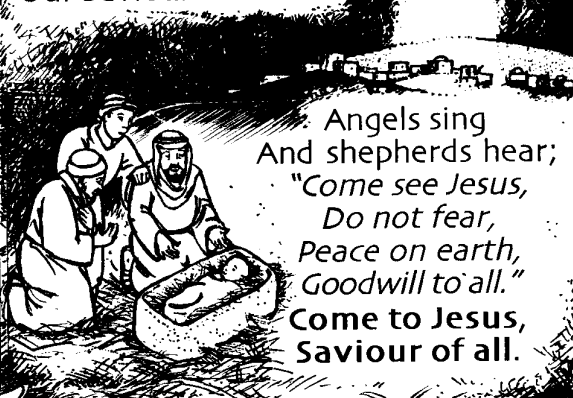
MOUSE HOLE

Make an **ADVENT** calendar to count down the four Sundays before Christmas.



Get an **adult** to cut windows in the front of a folded card. Number them, write a bible verse on the back and decorate on the front and behind each window.

Eastern Star,
White and bright,
In deep darkness,
Shining light.
Points to Jesus,
God's precious Son,
Lord and King,
Our Saviour has come.



Angels sing
And shepherds hear;
"Come see Jesus,
Do not fear,
Peace on earth,
Goodwill to all."
Come to Jesus,
Saviour of all.

"For God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not die but have eternal life." John 3:16

'ADVENT' comes from the Latin 'AD VENTO' and means 'ARRIVAL'

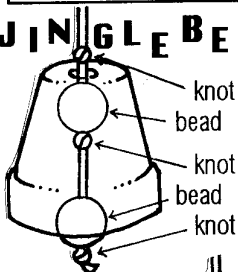
MERRY CHRISTMAS

from all over the world

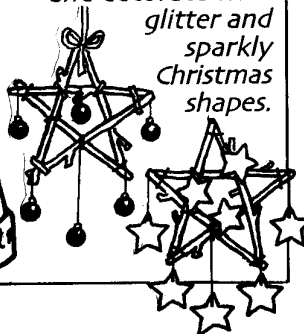
- ★ **GOD JUL** (Swedish)
- ★ **JOYEUX NOEL** (French)
- ★ **FELIZ NAVIDAD** (Spanish)
- ★ **BOUN NATALE** (Italian)

JINGLE BELLS

Make Christmas stars from lengths of twig, lolly sticks, or wooden skewers. Glue or tie together and decorate with glitter and sparkly Christmas shapes.



Decorate a small flower pot and thread with large beads on thin ribbon.



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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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,

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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

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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 October 2004

Wedding

9th Richard Hooley & Hayley Jean Spilsbury
61 Hatchett Road, Moss Nook, Manchester.

“Those who God has joined together, let not man divide.”

The Funeral Service

11th Grishilda Wasley 40 Cedar House Round Hill Meadow, Great Boughton.
13th Hilda Mary Clarke Birch Heath Lodge Nursing Home Christleton (Burial of ashes)
14th John Dennis Bright 2 Powys Close Queensferry (Formerly of The Square, Christleton)
14th Joan Wilkins 55 Queens Road, Vicars Cross, Chester.
15th Herbert Stanley Wood 29 Sefton Road, Hoole, Chester.
25th Florence Hilda Jenkins Oaklands Nursing Home, Littleton.
27th Hazel Jennifer Shone Orchard End, Greenfield Lane, Rowton.

“Rest eternal grant unto them”

Offertories

October	Cash	CSE	2004	2003
3rd	165.85	623.90	789.75	755.79
10th	466.54	731.20	1197.74	1069.32
17th	159.15	629.00	788.15	684.56
24th	192.23	628.50	820.83	671.40
31st	136.05	762.50	898.55	899.60
Totals			£4,495.02	£4080.67

“Of your own do we give you”

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Pamela Benson

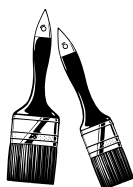
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	10.45 a.m	Parish Communion	1st & 3rd Sundays
		Family Service	2nd Sunday
		Mattins	4th & 5th Sundays
	6.30 p.m	Evensong	1st, 2nd & 3rd Sundays
		Evening Communion	4th Sunday
		Songs of Praise	5th Sunday
WEDNESDAYS	10.45 a.m.	Holy Communion	
SAINTS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

WHO'S WHO & WHAT'S WHAT

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	John Pearson, 2 Badgers Close	335101
Reader Emeritus	John Roberts, Cerisy, Birch Heath Lane	332207
Vergers	David Ellis	336879
Sacristan:	Betty Dunning	335652
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Treasurer:	Cec Rydings	336483
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Gift Aid Secretary	Martin Wheeler	336644
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Children's Society Sec.	Lesley Morgan	335088
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Magazine Distributor	Margaret Dromgoole	341406
Neighbourhood Link Co-Ordinator	Janet Bowden	335705
Parish Resource Person for Child Protection	Susan Alexander	335077

**BAPTISMS, WEDDINGS & APPOINTMENTS
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