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Parish Church of St. James, Christleton

Parish Magazine

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BELLRINGING

Firstly, may I thank all of you who supported our sponsored Pudsey Bear Quarter Peal on 26th November. We have not yet received all the sponsorship money, but the final figure will be between £400--£500.

The quarter peal of Grandsire Triples took 45 minutes. The band consisted of:

- 1 Janet Grocott 5 Peter Barlow
- 2 Ian Braithwaite 6 Mike Phillips
- 3 Sally Wright 7 Steven Everett (Conductor)
- 4 Jonathan Wright 8 Colin Harris.

We have one of the finest rings of eight bells in the Diocese but, unlike some years ago, we rarely ring all eight for Sunday services. This is because a number of our ringers are affected by new working practices – Sunday working and shift work.

We are therefore on the lookout for anyone of whatever age who might be interested in learning to ring. Our latest recruits are aged 10 and 12 and have made such good progress that they will be joining the Sunday ringing next year. Bellringing is an engaging activity as well as a being another way of serving the church, and we are a very ecumenical bunch. You don't need the strength of Samson to learn to ring so why not give it a go? You can always try it and them say "It's not for me".

For more information have a word either with me or my deputies whose names and telephone numbers are recorded on the back page of the magazine. We would be delighted to see you.

Roy Fisher

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MOTHERS' UNION

Thank you to everyone who helped to make our stall at the Christmas Fair such a success. We were given a very good selection of items to sell on our Handicraft stall and they made a splendid display. Our new Mothers' Union Link Partner for the next two years is to be St Paul's, Helsby, and we are looking forward to meeting up and exchanging ideas with our new friends.

Our November meeting was an Open Forum when we were all able to discuss our ideas for the future of our group. We felt that we should have a project for each year. Save the Family was suggested. We could help in a practical way, collecting much needed things for Plas Belin and including their families in our prayers.

We have had a very kind offer from Dorothy Colley to assist us in whatever decision we make regarding our Banner. We are hoping to be able to invite an expert on this area of conservation to speak to us all on her work in the new year.

In December we had our Quiet Hour in church, followed by mince pies in the Parish Hall. The AGM is to be held at the January meeting.

VISIT FROM SUSAN GUMBRELL

We had a special United Communion on Wednesday 6th December when we were pleased to welcome Susan Gumbrell, who is our CMS link, to our service in Church.

Later Susan spoke to us in the Parish Hall about her work as a Headmistress in southern Nigeria, where she is in charge of a boarding school for 700 girls. Susan gave a super talk, explaining the difficulties of trying to manage with limited water supplies and electricity, and talking about the tribal influences, the very long but extremely well-attended church services as well as the wonderful colourful clothing worn by everyone.

We were grateful to Susan for fitting us into her busy schedule and the delicious lunch served afterwards raised over £50 for CMS. Thank you to everyone who helped and came to support us.

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CHILDREN'S SOCIETY

Well done!

I am delighted to report that Box Opening 2000 has exceeded £1,000! With a few boxes still to come in, the present total is an amazing £1,083.33. Frank Maudsley, Area Fundraising Manager and Speaker at our Offertory Service, thanked everyone for their generosity, prayers and continuing support of the Society's work.

The following prayer, featured in a recent Children's Society magazine, was read at the service.

Lesley Morgan

A Prayer for All Children

We pray for children who put chocolate fingers everywhere
 who like to be tickled
 who stamp in puddles
 who can never find their shoes.

We pray for children who stare at photographs from behind barbed wire
 who have never counted potatoes
 who are born in places in which we wouldn't be seen dead
 who never go to the circus
 who live in an X-rated world.

We pray for children who bring us sticky kisses and fistfuls of dandelions
 who sleep with the dog and bury goldfish
 who hug us in a hurry and forget their lunch money
 who squeeze toothpaste all over the washbasin.

We pray for children who never have a pudding
 who have no comfort blanket to drag behind them
 who watch their parents watch them die
 who can't find any bread to steal
 who don't have any rooms to tidy, whose monsters are real.

We pray for children who spend their pocket money before Tuesday
 who throw tantrums in supermarkets and pick at their food
 who like ghost stories
 who get visits from the tooth fairy
 who don't like being kissed in public
 whose tears we sometimes laugh at
 and whose smiles make us cry.

We pray for children whose nightmares come in the daytime
 who will eat anything
 who have never been seen by a doctor
 who aren't spoiled by anybody
 who go to bed hungry
 and cry themselves to sleep

who live and move but have no being.

We pray for children who want to be carried and for those who must
for those we can never give up on and for those who don't get a second chance
for those we love to bits
and for those who will grab the hand of anybody kind enough to offer it.

We pray for all our children throughout the world.

We pray that you will make us worthy of them.

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CHRISTMAS FAIR THANKS

Purple & Silver Stall

A big thank you to anyone who contributed in any way to our stall. It was amazing to see what people found in these two colours. Often gifts were left anonymously, so we do thank you most sincerely. We were delighted that our stall made £170. I wonder what the colour will be next year? Watch this space!
Jan Bowden

I would like to thank the people who brought cakes and provisions to the Christmas Fair for the cake stall. It was very much appreciated. The money raised on the stall was £207.81.

Betty Dunning

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THANK YOU

Sylvia and John Davies and family would like to thank everyone for their kindness and support during the past extremely difficult year. John's operation was successful and he is now making a slow recovery.

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Map Story 22 - Children Add Rarity

It would not be unusual to assume that the oldest county maps are going to be more rare and expensive and will be the most difficult to add to ones collection. This is not necessarily so. All kinds of factors play a part in how many maps have survived to the 21st century. Some early cartographers ran out of money and were unable to carry on. Some atlases were more popular when published and went on to be republished. One sure way in the 19th century to guarantee rarity was to produce a map or atlas to interest children. So many were crayoned on and then discarded that a untouched copy is greatly appreciated by today's collectors. One such atlas is Reuben Ramble's Travels Through The Counties of England published in 1845. Each map is surrounded by hand coloured views in the county and the text is set in a large font.