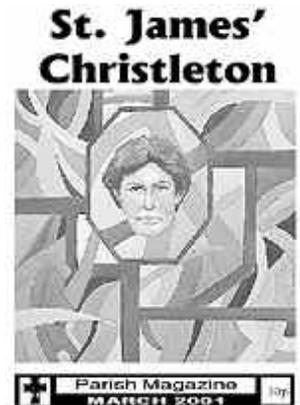


Parish Church of St. James, Christleton

Parish Magazine

Extracts from Parish Magazine for March 2001

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CHRISTLETON MILLENNIUM GROUP WELL FOR AFRICA APPEAL

The final act of the group has been to allocate the Well for Africa Appeal funds.

A donation of £2,593.73 has been made for the provision of a well, water supply and other facilities for two new schools in Kamatuza in Uganda through Wilmslow Wells for Africa.

A donation of £750 for the provision of a portable generator for the Tampilma Community in Ghana, through Ian & Claire Gray and the Wycliffe Bible Translators.

A donation of £500 to the Social Justice Group of Kargil Ladakh to enable refugee children to benefit from a literacy project through Bilques Giri.

The money remaining in the day-to-day account, £128.57, is to be given to the Scout Hut refurbishment appeal, and any money from future book sales will be shared between the Community Playgroup and the Mother & Toddler Group. I have already received grateful letters of thanks from Wilmslow Wells and Ian & Claire Gray, and photographs of our gift equipment in operation in Uganda and Ghana will appear in future magazines. The photograph is of Dr Barbara Tonge, who visited Uganda two years ago for a similar Wells Project, and who, with her husband Dr. Vincent, advised us on linking up with Wilmslow Wells for our own project to have success.



The picture she is holding shows her visiting several exciting new wells in Uganda. I'm sure everyone who has known of her work promoting health, social justice and peace issues over many years, will be delighted that she was awarded an MBE in the recent New Year Honours List.

May I express my grateful thanks to everyone who has helped, taken part or supported the activities of the Millennium Group during the last four years. We have had wonderful support from the village to the events of Millennium Year, and for our very successful Wells for Africa Appeal. Thank you very much indeed.

David Cummings
Chairman

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DID YOU KNOW?

Age Concern Chester has now joined with Cheshire. This includes Ellesmere Port.

Heathfield Coffee Morning in aid of Age Concern, Tools for Self Reliance and other organisations has become something of a tradition. A large part of the money goes to Age Concern Chester. Last year the money was not needed for the Heathfield Day Centre, so it has gone to one of the four Day Centres in Ellesmere Port, The Regency, which needed money for essential decorating and repairs. It has actually paid for replastering the walls. The Regency is open from Monday to Thursday every week and caters for many people.

It is good to know that this link has been made in an area where day care is even more needed.

There will be another Coffee Morning this year – Saturday 9th June.

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NATURE NOTES

The recent combination of severe flooding and quite icy conditions has seen large numbers of wintering swans on the River Dee in Chester with a peak total of 42 at The Groves. Further out on the estuary marshes up to 150 Beswick, whooper and mute swans have been feeding together on the rich supply of grasses. At the W.W.T. Reserve at Martin Mere they have had a record number of 1500 whooper swans fly in for the winter, as well as up to 100 or so Beswicks. The Beswicks and whoopers will stay for a few more weeks before flying home to Iceland, Greenland or Russia where they breed, before making the return journey to Britain next autumn. They will be joined by thousands of other wild birds, ducks, geese and swans on their migratory journeys. Similarly from the middle of March we will receive an influx of thousands of birds from warmer countries to the south, starting with wheaters, chaff and willow warblers, and closely followed by cuckoo, sand & house martins and swallows. Also look up into the sky at times for the possible sighting of passage birds of prey such as the osprey and red kite.

Despite the recent icy conditions, the length and warmth of sun during the day has persuaded some mature pairs of mute swans to begin to pair off, and chase immature swans from "their patch". The Christleton pair have returned to the Pit from their journeys around the district to be confronted with up to four other mute swans. Fighting has inevitably taken place, and despite several attempts to chase off the intruders, one pair has remained persistent. The cob from this pair is from the same clutch as the new young female, and he too recognises that Christleton Pit is by instinct and breeding his own territory!! The floating nest site will be supplied with straw at the end of February, in order that cygnets can be produced in early May.

David Cummings

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MOTHERS' UNION

Mothers' Union members, Mrs Margaret Renner and Mrs Rona Wearing transferred to our Branch and Mrs Mary Butt and Mrs Wyn Thompson were welcomed as new members at Holy Communion in Church on Wednesday 17th January. Mothers' Union members were present and we were very pleased that our new members have joined us.

At our meeting on 12th February, a representative from Save the Family came and spoke to us.

On Monday 12th March, we will be having our Lenten Meeting in Church followed by tea in the Parish Hall.

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Do things ever change?!

Conservation and Traffic from 1973

"The proposal to make Christleton a conservation area brought more than 150 villagers to the Parish Council AGM, the most for many years. Many people expressed deep concern about the increasing amount of traffic passing through the village to the Secondary School, Marina and Inn, and the further increase anticipated when the College of Law and the Sports Centre open. Some felt that the conservation plan should be delayed until a traffic census had taken place and the problem alleviated, whilst others felt that our becoming a conservation area would hasten action being taken to divert traffic from the village centre.

After full discussion, it was proposed and agreed that Christleton become a conservation area, and it was also proposed and agreed that the meeting call upon the Parish Council to demand that the County Council carry out a traffic census with a view to alleviating the traffic problem!"

(Anyone visiting Christleton and seeing the traffic chaos between 8.35 and 9.00am and 3.20 to 3.45pm will wonder if anything ever did come of the idea of a traffic census to alleviate Christleton's traffic problems!)

David Cummings

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Christleton High School CD

The High School spent one day recording a music CD recently. Recorded by Horizon Music, it features Wind Band favourites such as the themes from the James Bond films and Jurassic Park. Other tracks include the Senior Orchestra playing Panis Angelicus and the Muppet Show theme. The Jazz Band, the Junior Choir and the Brass and Woodwind Ensembles all give a demonstration of their talents, and the String Groups perform a moving rendition of Massenet's Meditation. This celebration of music from Christleton High School's talented pupils provides more than an hour of listening. The cost of each CD is £10.00. Copies can be ordered from the school office addressed to Angela Major, Head of Music.

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God's World

Lord, you gave us beauty, but we do not always see.
 So much around us and all of it free.
 The shimmering colours of the dragonflies' wing,
 The sweet, shy violet hiding beneath the verdant, forest fern,
 And the wild beauty of the daffodils dancing in the spring.
 The glory of the sunset as it fades towards the night,
 As the golden moon arises trailing stars like diamonds in their flight.

So much around us and all of it free.

Lord, you gave us music, but we do not always hear
 That tiny bird, the wren, whose clear sweet song reflects God's glory,
 Only rivalled by the blackbird, as when purple shadows of the evening fall,
 He sings his heart out to his mate upon the neighbouring garden wall.

The lovely sound of children as they sing their childhood songs
 And the tinkling sound of the brook as it travels along
 Through the woodland scene as the leaves begin to fall,
 Softly and gently they drift beneath our feet,
 Rustling and whispering onwards winter's day to greet.

So much around us and all of it free.

Lord, you gave us love, and this I think we understand
 But do not always cherish it as we should.
 Your greatest gift was your own Son, who showed us in those few brief years
 The full significance of love in all its ways.
 Help us, O Lord, to try to follow Him and share our love.
 Open our eyes, our ears and hearts to cherish all the gifts
 That you have given to us.

So much around us and all of it free.

I wrote these words on returning home from a Methodist Ladies' Guild meeting where David Cummings gave a talk and showed us some stunning slides of Hockenhull Platts.

Rena Griffiths

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Stewardship Envelope Covenants

To everyone who covenants their giving to St. James' through the envelope scheme, may I remind you that the end of the tax year approaches! I know that most of you ensure that you are up to date with your envelopes at the end of each calendar year but, from the point of view of our dealings with the Inland Revenue, it is even more important that you are up to date at the end of the tax year on 5th April. We are allowed to reclaim tax on the amount covenanted or on the amount given – whichever is the lower. Thus, underpayment in one year leads to a loss of tax rebate which cannot be compensated for by an overpayment in the following tax year.

So please may I urge each one of you to ensure that all envelopes dated 1st April 2001 and earlier are handed in by 1st April at the latest, so that we can reclaim the maximum amount of tax.

This does not apply to anyone who has recently given a Gift Aid Declaration form as, with Gift Aid, the tax can be reclaimed at any time. Finally, on behalf of the PCC, I would like to thank everyone for their ongoing regular financial support for St. James'.

Martin Wheeler
 Covenant & Gift Aid Secretary
 22 Sandrock Road,
 Christleton
 Tel: 01244 336644

Map Story 24 - A Love of Maps

My interest in antiques was ignited by working for three years with no pay in the auction rooms of Browns of Chester. My first passion was antique silver which then moved to antique maps. The only similarity appears to be that both can be accurately dated. Another man who had a passion for maps was Alfred Wainwright (1907 - 1991) who inspired so many fellwalkers. In *Fellwanderer, The Story behind the Guidebooks*, published in 1966 he wrote.

'I like to follow streams up from the valley to their source in the marshes of the upland combs beneath the summit crags, and if I cannot do it on the ground I like to do it on maps, my own maps. I like to stand on a summit and see the valley below as on a map. Maps have always been my favourite literature. I would always rather study a map than read a book, even a map of a place I have never been to and never will!'

Richard Nicholson