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Parish Church of St. James, Christleton

Parish Magazine

Extracts from Parish Magazine for September 2001

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New-to-You Sale

Goods for the New-to-You Sale to be held on Saturday 15th September can be left at the Parish Hall on Friday 14th between 2 – 4 pm in the afternoon and 7 – 9 pm in the evening. Books, tapes, bric-a-brac, good quality clothing (no jumble please), unwanted presents etc are needed as well as help. Volunteers to deliver the surplus to charity shops on Saturday afternoon would especially be appreciated.

Contacts are Cynthia Siddall (335486) for clothing, Moira Jones (336204) for bric-a-brac (no electrical goods please) and Janet Brown (335785) and John Pearson (335501) for unwanted presents, books, tapes and Raffle Prizes.

The event will take place in the Parish Hall from 10 am – 12 noon. There will be refreshments available and a Raffle. Admission 50p, accompanied children free. Takings will be added to those of the Christmas Fair and donated to charities – international, national and local. We look forward to seeing everyone there.

The Village Show and Garden Trail

Thank you to everyone who supported the event this year. Although entries in some classes were down on previous years, probably due to the late date that the show was held this year, we still had a wonderful display of the creative talent that exists in the village, both in growing and displaying of flowers, fruits and vegetables, and in the various forms of art and crafts. The Reverend Graham Evans opened the event, supported by Rose Queen Elizabeth Arden, and a very happy afternoon was had by all concerned. The Village Show Garden Trail was held on the following afternoon, and many visitors enjoyed the rich and varied types of gardens that were open for display. A sum of £110 has been sent to the Hospice of the Good Shepherd in memory of John Salter from the sales of maps and teas. Thank you to all who helped in any way, and especially to the Garden owners for their hospitality.

Next year as a change, we will be holding a series of wildlife walks in and around the village, using village pathways, the canal, the pit, Birch Heath Common and Hockenhull Platts Nature Reserve, with the proceeds going to the Hospice in John's memory.

If you missed the Village Show or Garden Trail, log on to the Christleton website, www.christleton.org.uk and see them for yourselves.

Village Show Winners

Christleton Village Show in association with Littleton and Rowton was held in the Parish Hall on 21st July. There was a profusion of flowers and plants entered and many crafts and produce showed the skill of the participants. Trophy Winners were:

Best Exhibitor (Mike Jones Award) – Margaret Croston

Best Exhibit (Jackson Award) – Charles Smeatham
 Rose Bowl (Rowton Hall Hotel Award) – Cynthia Siddall
 Produce Award (Sainsbury Cup) – Roy Brackenbury
 Hospital Floral Display (Dean Bros. Cup) – Hilary Marsland
 Best Plant (Vicar's Cross Nursery Award) – Fiona Lee
 Best Exhibit Floral Art (Birch Heath Lodge Plate) – Hilary Marsland
 Art Local Scene (Rodney and Sue Witter Plate) – David Roberts
 Children's Overall (Trooper Inn Cup) – Charlotte Seddon
 Most Successful in Flowers Section (Massie Parker Salver) – Fiona Lee
 Craft Award (Croston Cup) – Judith Butt
 Three Most Successful Exhibits (Eric Neate Trophy) – Margaret Croston
 Best Photograph in Show (David Cummings Award) – David Cummings
 Best Exhibit by a Child (David Cummings Award) – Laura McKay
 Best Hanging Basket (John Salter Award) – Audrey Owen
 Best Group Hanging Basket (John Salter Award) – Cynthia Wilcox
 Best Overall Art Exhibit (Geoff & Judith Butt Award) – Jane Gratton
 Theme Shield (Susan Haywood Award) for Scarecrow – Harriet Butt

Tales of the Garden Trail

I put my garden in the Garden Trail again this year and was delighted to have 24 visitors. It was a lovely afternoon – not weatherwise – but in the discussions about the success or failure of my efforts and the encouragement offered by my visitors. If you have not yet entered your garden, then do think about it next time.

For me, an added bonus was to see my garden on the Internet again – that really made my day!

Anne Butterworth

Mothers' Union

There is a change of speaker for our meeting on 10th September. Mrs Wynne Bradley who was coming to talk to us about the work of the W. I. helping women in Romania cannot come to us as she has been invited to go out to Romania in September. Mrs Wynne Bradley will instead be able to come to our meeting on 8th October with even more information about the situation in Romania.

However, in September we do have another excellent speaker, Mr Len Morgan, who will talk, and with luck bring slides, about Chester churches and the Cathedral.

St James' Open House Groups

These will begin in September and we hope that many new people will attend. The house groups will be held as follows.

On the fourth Monday of each month at 2.30 pm, a group meet at the home of Rena Griffiths at 24 Hawthorn Road, Christleton, for Bible study and discussion. This group is supportive and friendly and gives the opportunity to study God's word in a relaxed manner in the welcoming environment of Rena's home. The next meeting will be on 24th September and any new members would be welcome.

We are running an Alpha Course, which is a 15 session practical introduction to Christianity. This will commence with a Supper on 27th September. This group will meet at the home of Gill Hibbert, "Whitehaven", Church Walks, Christleton.

A further group will meet on Tuesdays at 7.30 pm – details to follow later.

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Golden Wedding

Congratulations to Nancy and Ernest Catherall for their Golden Wedding Anniversary on 22nd September.

Silver Wedding

Congratulations to John and June Pearson on the occasion of their Silver Wedding Anniversary on 4th September.

Thank You

Very many thanks to all who supported and helped at the cream tea at Rookery Nook on a glorious summer afternoon. A total of £298 was raised. £88 went to the Millennium Window Appeal and £210 to the Chester Branch of Guide Dogs for the Blind.

In Memoriam

Arnold Oxley was a much respected and diligent member of St James', acting as Church Warden for 16 years. Shortly before he died, the Rector was able to present him with a silver Armada Dish, suitably inscribed, from the Church. His name also appears on the magnificent Peal Board in commemoration of the Bellringers' peal for the 100th birthday of the Queen Mother in August 2000. Our love and sympathy go to his wife Brenda and his sons Martin and Stuart.

Thank You

Brenda, Martin and Stuart Oxley wish to express their sincere thanks to family, friends, all neighbours, past and present, and all members of the family of St James' for the kind expressions of sympathy and help during their loss of Arnold.

A special thank you to Rev Peter Lee for his great support and guidance.

Arnold would have loved the service and great singing. Thank you everyone.

All your donations were gratefully received by the Matron of the Hospice of the Good Shepherd.

HELP!

Has anyone got a TV that they would be willing to give to Sunday School please? It needs to be a 16.5 inch screen at least. If you can help, would you phone Berenice (336779).

John Sellers Educational Foundation

This ancient trust was founded on 23 December 1779 for the education of poor children in Christleton and Littleton. It was to provide instruction in reading, English, writing, arithmetic- and for spinning, sewing and knitting.

The original minute book is still in use - is this a record?

The sole income is from the rent of a field in Plough Lane. It is the intention of the present trustees (comprising the Rector, a Clerk, a County Council representative, two Parish Councillors) to try to increase the capital, so that interest can be given out to comply with the original intention. Each year grants are given, but they are not available to individuals. This year £125 each has been given to the Primary School for books for their new Library, and to the Under-Fives' Group to purchase a construction set and a book to develop handwriting skills.

If any group wishes to apply, contact the Clerk to the John Sellers Foundation in writing at 5 Bridge Drive, Christleton, Chester CH3 6AW.

The next meeting will take place in November.

Donations or legacies would be very much appreciated.

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Extracts from the Minute Book (original cost 5s 6d) of The John Sellers Educational Foundation

24 June 1787: John Williams of Christleton, School master paid quarterly sum of 2s 6d for instructing the boys. Elizabeth Johnson to instruct the girls for 2s 6d a quarter.

8 July 1789: The children shall constantly attend divine service at the Parish Church of Christleton twice in every Sunday. Boys ...shall come to school from 1st April to 29th September at seven o'clock in the morning and that they do stay at school until five in the evening being allowed two hours from 11 to 1 o'clock for dinner time and from Michaelmas to the 1st April- school hours from eight o'clock until four o'clock with the same allowance for dinner time.

Paid 1s.0d for Mary Wilding a pauper belonging to Littleton for 7 or 8 weeks and then she ran away.

New Boys' School erected 1885 on the site of the Ring O'Bell's beerhouse at a cost, including purchase of the site, of £1,800.

The improvement in the appearance of the Churchyard and village by the removal of the old school and in addition of its site and the garden to the Churchyard was unanimously admitted, and further, it was considered that the building of the present school in its present position Mr Seller's intentions had been carried out most effectively.

New scheme for the charity 29 June 1907- public education.

February 11th 1929 "C Boddy a grant of £1 for his Educational Services at the Boys' School." The school is referred to as Charity School throughout.

Nature News

The swans have had the last word! They moved on a very busy morning in July having decided that the Pit was no longer to their requirements. Tension was high as they held up the busy traffic in the village centre, to the consternation of many drivers, including some staff from the High School who had already been held up by an accident on the Sainsbury's Roundabout. Paul Jackson was I'm sure doing a roaring trade selling newspapers to the queue of car drivers. In the event with the help of friend David Evans, who was running to school, I managed to divert the family into and along the Stile footpath and towards the Primary School. By this time I had the injured cob in my arms as I had found him staggering along, suffering from a previous hip injury, following the pen, who was by this time inspired to get up to running speed herself. They were in turn followed by a panting pair of cygnets, who exhaustedly flopped to the ground from time to time, desperate for mum to stop so that they could have a rest. After a short pause for breath outside the Primary School, this by now bedraggled band were joined by Chris Marsland, who bringing up the rear as a good sweeper should, helped me shepherd them safely along Quarry Lane, and onto the canal near Quarry Bridge.

I cannot explain why the swans move, but it seems to be a common habit of many other pairs in the country. The movement of Pit swans to the canal goes back in our village legend to at least the 1960s, but then how did these other pairs pass on the "movement genes" to new individuals. I have often tried to think of a practical reason why they should move, but the only thing I can come up with is a lack of the right kind of food!

When the Pit swans were caught and ringed a week ago, the cygnets, now CB07 and CB08, were on average 1.5kg lighter than the cygnets born much later on the canal at Rowton. This hasn't always been the case, but seems a significant factor this year. Since my last notes we have discovered another pair in the village on a small marl pit at Manor Farm. The pen is a sister of our Pit female and she too is in her first breeding season, producing two eggs and two cygnets. Unfortunately one died and the survivor is growing quite slowly, often being abandoned by the adults for days at a time. However the pen C181 is now in moult, so that should prevent this happening in the near future.

The recent spell of fine weather has seen a colourful emergence of peacock butterflies, together with holly blue, comma, red admiral gatekeeper, tortoiseshell, and speckled woods. The Gowy has a large number of the magnificent blue aragon damselflies, which flit around the reed strewn riverbed, like tiny dancing helicopters. If you are lucky you might also see some large darting brown dragonflies, the brown hawk, and the equally large southern hawk, a dragonfly blue in colour with bands of green and yellow, making it a very attractive sight, as it hovers towards and around you, almost enquiring to see whether or not you are a dangerous predator.

Next month I will write about my "orchid summer" and report on some of these most magnificent of our native wildflowers, which can be found in profusion in the British countryside, if you are lucky enough to be able to know where to look.

David Cummings

Millennium Window Appeal

The appeal now stands at the magnificent total of £13,500. A sincere thank you to all who have contributed to this fund in recent weeks. I hope to be able to give you details of the progress in the making of the window in the next edition of the magazine.

Cathedral Link

A message from Dean Stephen Smalley.

"My Farewell Eucharist on 15th July was a most moving and memorable service, with superb music, some of which had been kindly commissioned by the Friends. I was deeply touched to be surrounded by so much love and affection, and it was good to have so many representatives from the Diocese present. Thank you all for your hugely generous contributions to my gift, which will go towards the purchase of my new lap-top computer. I am warmly grateful. I shall always look back on my time in Chester with great happiness and fond memories. Thank you all so much for your friendship and support. God bless you each one."

Six charities will be benefiting from a Cathedral Abseil Event on 1st September. FM Radio will be broadcasting live from the Cathedral. The Education Department has been in existence for eight years and the number of children visiting the Cathedral this year has been about 8,000. The majority of the school groups visiting are doing so because they are studying the Middle Ages and are looking at monastic evidence and the day-to-day life of the monks. However, more and more go to look at the Cathedral as a place of Christian worship.

Next month Pilgrim Days will be held again in which several of our church members at St James' take part. Plans are well under way and places were booked up very quickly. The number of children will be about 180 each day coming from all over the Diocese. As always, the Organ Spot at lunch times is a highlight, and thanks are due to the Music Department for the time they are prepared to give to Pilgrim Days each year. Amongst other visitors, one of the groups from Chester College did so as part of a project to research the needs of disabled people and specifically the blind and partially sighted.

Margaret Croston

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Village Photographs

Last month I made a plea for new Reg Morgan photographs. Unfortunately none have been forthcoming. However we (the village) have just received a wonderful gift in the form of two very old prints from the housekeeper of the old Rector, A. A. Guest Williams. Both prints appear to date from between 1850-1860.

The first print shows the 1737 ivy-clad Georgian style church building at St James' from a new angle. However, the most exciting thing about this print is that it appears to be an original, and shows a west door to the tower! This would mean the main entry to church was through where the baptistry window is today, via the choir vestry. As far as I am aware this has not been known before, and it is not shown on the plans for this building in 1737, although the original plans we have are for a new nave and chancel in 1737 and not for the tower. It is a very exciting find, as is the second print, which shows an engraving of The Grange, as it was before being rebuilt by Canon Garnett. Another exciting discovery on the reverse of this print is the written description by the young man who lived there, H Rice Wiggins, describing even where the oak timber came from to make the frame that holds it. It is also signed by Mr E Wardell, Yarborough, and I hope to be able to reproduce both for you to see in the next month or so.

David Cummings

Web users can now see the [rare print of St. James' circa 1830](#)

Building a Welcome – Keeping Families after Baptism Diocesan Day Conference

"Build relationships"

The Bishops' High School

10 am – 4 pm Saturday 13th October, 2001

28 workshops to choose from.

Introduction by Nigel, Bishop of Stockport

Speaker: David, Bishop of Birkenhead

Workshop Themes:

Building relationships with families

Supporting families before baptism

Making the Baptism service special

Worshipping with young families

Growing into community

Nurturing faith in the home

To book a place on this Conference, please contact Sandra James at Church House, Aldford, Chester CH3 6HP, Tel: 01244 620444, Fax: 01244 620456, Web: www.chester.anglican.org, E-mail: sandra.james@chester.anglican.org

All bookings need to be done by Friday 14th September 2001.

The Milestone (from Wirral Christian Drugs Action)

An accessible, user-friendly Lifestyle Information Centre for young people and their parents.

An emphasis on healthy lifestyles, with advice and "signposting" on housing, training, sexuality, employment, diet, etc.

Computer-based and Internet access to information, particularly on the effects of alcohol and drugs.

Skilled advice and support for young people, individually or in groups.

Professional counselling support, particularly on drugs and alcohol issues with young people, especially the most vulnerable.

That is the vision Wirral Christian Drugs Action (WCDA), a long-established drugs education charity, also supported by St James' Church, has for the Wirral, based in central Birkenhead.

Drugs are now a feature of life for our young people. Most in secondary school and beyond, and many in primary schools, know where to get drugs. Nearly half will experiment with an illegal drug before they are 25. One in ten of those who experiment go on to develop a serious drugs problem. Alcohol use, and its misuse, are widespread among the young: one third of under-15s has already been drunk more than 20 times.

It is now commonplace that young people need honest, impartial and confidential advice about sexual issues. WCDA believes drugs are now so available young people need comparable help. For eight years we have been providing drugs education classes across the Wirral: last year, we taught 10,000 young people. We believe that as well as taking the message to schools, the need is now for somewhere young people (and their parents and families) can come that is safe, friendly and where they can get confidential advice about drugs issues and also information about other lifestyle questions, such as housing, health, training etc.

Our basic stance is to help young people say "No" to drugs, including tobacco and moderation in the use of alcohol, but we recognise the challenges they face and the sensitive support they need.

We also provide professional 1:1 counselling for young people who are using or who are vulnerable to drugs. We will help individuals alone or with their family.

WCDA is based in Grange Road West, just 200 yards from the MacDonalds in Charing Cross, Birkenhead.

We want to buy and convert the building to provide a controlled access drop-in centre for young people, where they can get individual help and advice or meet in groups helped by a professional youth worker. Behind this shop front would be computer facilities where young people could get lifestyle and drugs information, including controlled Internet access. This would include informative computer games and scope to use the computers to write projects, job applications etc.

The building would also include counselling rooms for individual or group meetings and provide the base for our continuing teaching work. It would also provide a base for those who have overcome drug addiction and now work as volunteers with WCDA as they re-enter normal life.

WCDA has been active in drugs work on the Wirral since 1985. We are the largest single supplier of drugs education on the Wirral, reaching 10,000 children and young people, using fully qualified and specially trained teachers and counsellors. We work within the National Curriculum and value our links with the local education authority, health agencies, the police and other voluntary bodies.

We are non-denominational and will work with all people, regardless of race, colour, creed, gender or sexual orientation. We witness by our work not by evangelising.

We are voluntarily funded, raising money from churches, schools, Trusts and through our own activities.

The Anglican Bishop of Birkenhead, Rt Rev David Urquhart, and the Roman Catholic Bishop of Shrewsbury, Rt Rev Brian Noble, are our patrons.

The Milestone?

Our Christian calling requires us to go the extra mile with people. The building in Grange Road West is The Milestone from where we will go beyond the statutory agencies.

It is modelled on The Market Place in Leeds run by Leeds Parish Church in close association with Leeds City Council and Calypso in Chester run by the YMCA, Cheshire County Council and sponsored by Calypso Soft Drinks.

For further information, please contact Rev Ian Urquhart, Chief Executive, WCDA, 68 Grange Road West, Birkenhead, CH41 4DB. Tel/fax: 0151 652 9907.

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Sorry Apollo!

Generations of doctors have either taken (or in many cases been deemed to have taken) the Hippocratic oath binding them to the ethics of their profession. This oath, sworn in the name of Apollo, has recently been updated for the new millennium at the instigation of a group of new doctors graduating from Imperial College. I was privileged to attend when my daughter Sacha together with the whole cohort of 2001 doctors promised the following:

Now, as a new doctor, I solemnly promise that I will to the best of my ability serve humanity; caring for the sick, preventing disease, promoting good health, and alleviating pain and suffering.

I recognise that the practice of medicine is a privilege with which comes considerable responsibility and I will not abuse my position.

I will practice medicine with integrity, humanity, honesty and compassion; working with my fellow doctors and other colleagues to meet the needs of my patients.

I shall never intentionally do or administer anything to the overall harm of my patients.

I will not permit considerations of gender, race, religion, political affiliation, sexual orientation, nationality, or social standing to influence my duty of care.

I will oppose policies in breach of human rights and will not participate in them. I will strive to change laws that are contrary to my profession's ethics and will work towards a fairer distribution of health resources.

I will assist my patients to make informed decisions that coincide with their own values and beliefs and

will uphold patient confidentiality.

I will recognise the limits of my knowledge and seek to maintain and increase my understanding and skills throughout my professional life. I will acknowledge and try to remedy my own mistakes and honestly assess and respond to those of others.

I will seek to promote the advancement of medical knowledge through teaching and research.

I make this declaration solemnly, freely and upon my honour.

Professor Lord Robert Winston, officiating, expressed the view that this new initiative is likely to prove a model for succeeding generations even if poor old Apollo no longer gets a mention!

David Bull

Map Story 30 – The More you Know the Worse it Gets

Like them or hate them computers are now a part of every day life for a great number of people. It was in the very early days of the personal computer some 16 years ago that I realised their use in storing all the descriptions of my maps. Even before this I was using a 7 foot long typesetter storing files on 9 inch floppy disks. The crack in the front step is a reminder of the day it moved into the house. Since then I have used and replaced over twelve computers. The other day when I switched on I found that that the records of tens of thousands of maps built up over the years could not be seen although I knew they were there in the computer. Panic then set in as I tried various ideas even resorting in creating an empty shell of the database and importing the records that I knew existed. A few hours past before I switched on a second monitor I use and there were all the maps intact. I had moved the image of the database from the main monitor to the second monitor before closing down the previous day. Do not let this put you off computers. Used correctly they are a wonderful tool.