

Parish Church of St. James, Christleton

Parish Magazine

St. James' Christleton



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Extracts from Christleton Parish Magazine for May 2002

Sunday May 12th - Christian Aid Week

COFFEE AND SANDWICHES
in the Parish Hall at 12 noon, after Family Service.

There will also be a TRADCRAFT stall.

We hope to see you ALL there, if only for a short while.
Nothing to pay, but a donation to Christian Aid would be much appreciated.

P.S. For coffee, read tea/juice etc.!
SEE YOU THERE!
The Pastoral and Outreach Committee

VOLUNTEERS PLEASE

Christian Aid House-to-house collection 12 –18 May 2002
To enable us to cover every house in Christleton, and to reduce the number of houses each collector visits, I'd be glad to hear from anyone willing to join the team of collectors.
Fiona Lee (335663)

A PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

We dare to pray:
Lord, let the world be changed,
for we long to see the end of poverty.
We dare to pray:
Lord, let the rules be changed,
for we long to see trade bring justice to the poor.
We dare to pray:
Lord, let our lives be changed,
for we long to bring hope where good news is needed.
In the strength of your Spirit and
inspired by your compassion,
We make this promise to work for change and
wait confidently for the day when you make all things new.

A CHRISTIAN'S VEGETABLE GARDEN

First plant five rows of peas:
Preparedness, Promptness, Perseverance, Politeness and Prayer.
Next to them, plant three rows of squash:
Squash gossip, Squash criticism, Squash indifference.

Then put in five rows of lettuce:
Let us be Faithful. Let us be Unselfish. Let us be Loyal.
Let us Love One Another. Let us be Truthful.

There is no garden without turnips:
Turn up for Church. Turn up with a Smile. Turn up with a New Idea.
Turn up with Anticipation.

CATHEDRAL LINK

The Cathedral Library
A specific Library Heritage grant will provide for an extension to the Cathedral Library. This will provide housing for the Library books, including work space and desks for researchers. This will be located within the medieval rooms above St Anselm's Chapel alongside the main Library, which will become an Exhibition Library for visitors and school parties. A new access has been made through the dividing walls.

The Song School

Estate Manager of the Cathedral, Steve Nicholson, says that many of you will have noticed the fine display of red and white coves that appear every morning in Abbey Square and Abbey Street, and that the Cathedral Green has disappeared beneath several tons of crushed stone. This is because work has started on constructing the new Song School after many years of dreaming and planning.
Before work could start on the school, there was a huge amount of work for the contractor to do. Linifords are the successful contractor, and the first few weeks will be spend constructing the compound on the Cathedral Green to protect shrubs and trees and also erecting timber protection to all areas of the existing stone work that could be considered vulnerable during construction. Special attention is being paid to windows and glazing in the Cloisters, Chapter House and Refectory.
Large scaffolding and a temporary roof will cover the east range of the Cloisters so that work can proceed even if the weather is bad. The North Cloister and part of the East Cloister have been closed off to protect the public from the building activity and to provide temporary storage for some equipment.
Everyone is looking forward to the completion of this exciting phase of development in summer next year. Please support the massive tombola which will be held in the Undercroft on 3rd and 4th May from 10.00 am whilst we also have a stall, Jams, Pickles, Marmalades and a Gardening Stall, including a large selection of hanging baskets.

Margaret Croston

BROWNIES IN NEED OF OWLS

Enthusiastic adults required to help in the running of our thriving local Brownie Pack. No previous experience necessary. Age no barrier but an ability to enjoy games/crafts/outdoor activities in the company of fun-loving 7-10 year olds essential! Must be available Monday evenings between 6 and 8 pm.
For further information contact Carole Rivers Tel. 336068.

W. I. NEWS

The meeting held on 10th April was given an audio-visual tour of many of the districts 'on our doorstep' by Mrs Anthea Howell.
She showed many of the local and more distant beauty spots, including market towns, old churches, stately homes and a selection of beautiful gardens. All this was accompanied by her comments on each item shown. A 'tour' enjoyed by the members.
W Thompson

CHRISTLETON VILLAGE SHOW

Saturday 13th July in Christleton Parish Hall
As in previous years we are trying something different. The theme this year is 'Jubilee Bonnets' and there will be a competition for the best! They will be displayed and worn during the afternoon session of the show in the Parish Hall and will be judged then. There is a separate leaflet with the rules etc attached to the Schedule.
The Hanging Basket Competition has become a traditional part of the show and adds wonderful splashes of colour to our village, so even if you don't win, you can take pride in your contribution to the beauty of our village. We are expecting a lot more exhibits this year with the village looking particularly 'floral' for Jubilee Year!
Residents of Littleton and Rowton are particularly mentioned this year as they are of course also residents of the parish of Christleton and in recent years have not been much in evidence, so take note!
Show entry forms and schedules are now available from Paul Jackson at the Post Office. Get your form early to avoid the queues and in designing your exhibit in good time.
Young people have their own schedule this year and it's a particularly interesting one which takes in what has been done at the schools this year, so there's no excuse not to enter for at least one category.
All the top 10 in the show will receive a certificate. If you have any difficulty, ring any of the people below.
We still need volunteers on the DAY. If you are interested in helping, please ring any of the committee below.

Chris Marsland (335424), Margaret Croston (335955), Judith Butt (335296), John Davies (336633), Sue Haywood (01829 741814), Charles Smeatham (335209), Janet Brown (335295), David & Beryl Cummings (332410), Pat french-Lynch (336050).

THE QUEEN MOTHER'S PROCESSION

The relentless beat of the single drum, the marching sound of highly polished boots as the various regiments kept in step, and the moving lanterns played by the military bands will remain with me for the rest of my life. I was one of the 400,000 people watching the procession of the late Queen Mother's cortege on the sunny, chilly Spring morning of Friday 5th April 2002 as it made its way from St James's Palace to Westminster Hall in London.
I was in The Mall before 8 o'clock in the morning when people were already lined up behind the barriers. The police had been there already for a couple of hours, as well as the cleaners, who were picking up every scrap of litter, and the photographers, official and otherwise. A kindly 'tobby' directed me round the back of the stand that accommodated the BBC cameras to a space beside it where there were only about four other people standing. It didn't take long before there was a crowd ten deep behind me. The position couldn't have been better – at the entrance to St James's Park, immediately opposite to Marlborough Road down which the procession would come before turning left up The Mall towards Horse Guards Parade.
The time passed quickly as there was always something happening. At about 10 o'clock the various regiments marched down, the Guardsmen peeling off to line the length of The Mall; the Lifeguards spacing themselves out along Marlborough Road; the Royal Air Force band playing its march past. The queeness of the crowd was impressive, some had brought bags to drape over the sarnier and there was one Union Jack with a big black bow sewn on to it. The London 'bobbies' were very friendly and the one by me gave me his 'walkie talkie' to hold whilst he fastened his boot laces – he couldn't do that still wearing his white gloves! In the distance the cars were emerging from Buckingham Palace taking various members of the Royal Family to St James's, and the Queen going direct to Westminster.
Finally, on the stroke of 11.30 am the cortege set off. The gun carriage bore the coffin draped with the Queen Mother's personal Standard, a single wreath of white roses and fribes from 'Lilibet' (the Queen) on top and surmounted with her Crown with its 2800 diamonds and the priceless Koh-i-Noor sending off sparks of light in the brilliant sunshine. Behind the gun carriage came members of the Royal Family: the Duke of Edinburgh, the Prince of Wales, the Princess Royal, and the Duke of York all in naval uniform, and Prince Edward, the Earl of Wessex, in morning dress. Behind them the great grandchildren: the Princes William and Harry and Peter Philips who were followed by other members of Royalty, members of the Bowes Lyon family and members of the Queen Mother's staff. The procession having passed, no one seemed inclined to move and I took ten minutes before people started to depart. Many of them stayed behind in the Park to have a picnic.
The previous day I had queued to sign the Book of Condolence in St James's Palace after having been vetted, along with everyone else, in a tent in The Mall and having my handbag searched and walking through a metal detector. Filas and teddy bears and photographs, and even a bottle of gin, covered the grass verges outside the walls of St James's Palace. The trouble and ingenuity of some of the things placed there was impressive.
Despite what some dissidents try to put across, it is obviously proved on such an occasion as this that the Monarchy is respected and wanted.
Margaret Croston

50 YEARS ON

It is just over 50 years since I stood vigil over King George VI at Sandringham Church. I worked as a gardener in the greenhouses and arranged the floral decorations at the Royal Household.
The vigil on two hours was over on the night in the candlelit church. This was followed on 11th February by a procession behind the gun carriage by all the estate staff to Wolferton Station on the journey to London.
I saw the King and Lord Fermoy on the evening of 5th February as I took flowers over to the House ready for a 6.30 am start the following morning. Imagine the shock when next morning we heard that the King had died during the night.
The King regularly came with his agent, Captain Fellowes, to watch us play cricket in the grounds during the Summer of 1951. He and the Queen often walked round the gardens and greenhouses during the summer evenings; the Queen was quite knowledgeable about plants.
On one occasion, the Head Gardener Mr Cook and myself were taking a party of blind people and their guides around the Garden. They were mistakenly under the impression that they were to meet the Royals. I mentioned this to Mr Cook who said that the King and Queen were with David Bowes Lyon and his wife at the other end of the garden. I explained the situation to them and the Queen said, 'Certainly bring them to the gates.' There they spent 20 minutes chatting, much to the delight of the visitors.
The hours were long but the pay not so good. The nine greenhouse staff lived in a Victorian bungalow, and we got free fruit, vegetables and milk. A lady came in to clean and cook breakfast and a midday meal during the week.
Having previously been a student at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, the methods of cultivation, composts and fertilisers and conditions seemed very old fashioned. Regardless of some of the disadvantages there are no regrets.
I consider myself fortunate and privileged to have worked there and meet their gracious Majesties, especially the lovely Queen Mum.
Two months later I married Edie and we celebrated our Golden Wedding on 19th April. We are fortunate. What a pity that the Queen had but 29 years of marriage, but now she has gone to join her beloved Bertie. God Bless Them.
Phil Haywood

A LABOUR OF LOVE

Raising a child is a long task for parents. Sometimes it can be fraught with worry. At other times it is fun and rewarding. Through good times and bad the Mothers' Union, an international organisation of Christian Mothers in churches across the world, has been there to support the spiritual nurturing of children of many generations. Most churches have an M.U. Banner, which is a symbol of their work. The St James' Christleton Banner depicting the Holy Virgin and Baby Jesus was made in 1947. Janet Brown's mother helped to make it.
In 2000 it was realised that the banner was in a very fair state so advice was sought about restoration. After discussion the Mothers' Union agreed that the banner was beyond repair and that it would be better to make a new one. Dorothy Colley was asked to help. By the Autumn of 2001 she was ready to submit ideas, paintings and samples of embroidery to the Rector and M.U.
Dorothy takes up the story.
It is difficult to create new designs and at the same time remain true to biblical truths, the spirit of holiness, and the message an M.U. banner carries. Following meetings with members, my thoughts were a mixture of the value of the work of the Mothers' Union, their love and concern for the spiritual nurturing of children yet understanding the pressures and strains of modern family life and the need to find ways to alleviate problems and suffering. Many young mothers are alone with their children and the wider group of the church family can be a haven and an example. The Church of St James in Christleton is full of young families and many of the services are inclusive of the little ones, but many younger women do not easily find time to join organisations or do voluntary work, so the membership of the M.U. has grown older.
I tried to find an image that would reach people now and yet be a reminder that Mary was a young Jewish woman from the Middle East and that her baby Jesus needed care and guidance as he grew through childhood. Mothers of all races, cultures and religions know this labour of love. The new M.U. Banner therefore depicts a mother and child walking ahead of us, walking in the light, walking in the way of Christ. The Cross is the symbol of Christianity. The path is not smooth. Their feet are bare to remind us that some people have nothing, not even shoes. The colouring is in harmony with the mosaics, tiles and windows in the sanctuary in Church. The material is linen, hand painted with fabric dye and then machine embroidered with the needle used freely as if drawing. The sea and the rocks are created with layers of dyed silk and transparent nylon. The background is a Mederian Machine Embroidery Rayon. The surrounding and backing fabric of Wedgwood blue is heavy cotton with a small self-coloured woven motif in lines. The inner lining of cotton gives stability.
Emma Colley, my granddaughter, digitised and machine-embroidered the lettering and the M. U. Badge from my painting on her industrial Toyota Corner machine. The badge took four hours to digitise and just over one hour to stitch. There were over 29,000 stitches in the three layers of embroidery needed to create the badge. She made a separate set to put on the back of the banner so that the name of the Church would be seen when the banner is paraded.
I would like to thank Jeanne Goulbourne, branch leader of the Christleton M.U., the committee and members, as well as the Rector, Dorothy Robinson, Phil Hodges for his help with the drawing and my husband Tim. We hope that many people will enjoy the new banner, which was completed on the 27th March 2002 and placed in the church for Easter Sunday, and which will be dedicated at the installation of the new Branch Leader, Margaret Renner.
Dorothy Colley

NATURE NOTES

The warm sunny days that we've experienced this spring have seen the emergence of many species of butterflies a great deal earlier than would normally be expected. I saw two small tortoiseshells near the River Dens on 1st March, with two beautiful yellow bumblebees flying along The Groves and in Grosvenor Park on 20th. Peacocks and tortoiseshells were flying in Christleton on 21st with a newly emerged orange wing tip on 8th April.
Chiff Chaffs and Willow Warblers arrived early. I saw my first swallow on 1st April, and four house martins on 5th. Both species, well ahead of their usual arrival dates, were probably on short feeding stops before migrating further north towards Northern England or Scotland.
The swans became firmly established on the nest site I built for them, a day after it was completed. Mating took place the next day, and when the first eggs were laid the cob sat on them whilst the pen fed herself up on the grass banks around the Pit. One egg is laid every other day until seven or eight eggs are in the nest. The pen then took over the incubating duties and she will sit for a further thirty four days, when all the eggs which are fertile will hatch within hours. I anticipate that this will be around the beginning of May.
I had a delightful surprise a week or so ago whilst carrying out a National Swan Census, when I found a Christleton cygnet from 1990, 2YV at Gresford Flash. It seemed very settled there and is clearly the pen that I hope to be able to report on another successful breeding season later in the summer.
David Cummings

CELEBRATION WEEK FOR OUR VILLAGE IN 2002:

PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITION & HISTORY & WILDLIFE TRAILS
Raising Funds for the Hospice of the Good Shepherd
Many local families will sadly be all too aware of the wonderful service our local hospice has provided and continues to provide for members of our village community. In the last year or so John Satter, Roy Fisher, Arnold Oxley and Gordon Williams were all cared for there in their last days.
In 2001 the Village Show Committee gave all the proceeds of its Garden Trail to Hospice of the Good Shepherd. This year we are going to go a stage further, and in celebration of our village heritage, I am organising a week of Village Trails, together with a Photographic Exhibition at St James' Church. There will be no charge but donations are invited in aid of The Hospice of the Good Shepherd.

Monday 10th June at 10.00am
Village History Trail *

Tuesday 11th June at 6.30pm
Wildlife Trail of Christleton PI & Birch Heath Common *

Wednesday 12th June at 6.30pm
Wildlife Trail from Christleton Lock to Waverton; return via Brown Heath and Skips Lane*

Thursday 13th June at 10.00am
Wildlife Trail of Hockentuff Flatts and River Goway Walk*

Friday 14th June 10.00am- 5.00pm Open Day at St James' Church
Exhibition of Christleton Photographs and Local History Records
Church Tours

Saturday 15th June 9.00am- 12.00noon Open Day at St James' Church
Exhibition of Christleton Photographs and Local History Records
Church Tours

Sunday 16th June 2.00pm-5.00pm
Wildlife Trail of Hockentuff Flatts and River Goway Walk*

* Meeting place for all walks is the Church Car Park. Please book in advance as there will be a limit of 20 persons on each walk. Bookings on 332410. Waterproof shoes are recommended for all the walks.
David Cummings
Chairman of Christleton Village Show and History Groups

THE SHINY RED HONDA GENERATOR

Many of you will remember our village efforts during Millennium year to raise funds for Ian and Claire Gray who work with the Tampulma Community in Ghana. Their request had been for a generator to help provide hot water for eye operations, especially for children with congenital eye problems, and to develop the Tampulma Language through film on a video machine. Well, the good news is that the generator is working, and... I'll let Claire and Ian take up the story.
Claire has just returned from spending some time with the Tampulmas in Lingbishi village. The purpose of the trip was to install the equipment to show the Jesus film in the Tampulma language for the first time. The 21" TV video and portable generator had to undertake quite a journey, but the canoe men at the 500-yard wide Volta River are very experienced and nothing was lost in transit. Once across the other side, everything was loaded on the tractor trailer for the first five-mile journey across a bumpy sandy road into the village. The first evening 500 children and adults sat or stood for two hours to watch the film, and you could have heard a pin drop. They were completely engrossed in the story. Claire had never heard the Tampulmas so quiet. The next day all the different churches sent their pastors and representatives to learn how to counsel the new converts. The film was shown for four successive evenings, and now the counsellors are left to do their work. Please pray that many will come through to know the Lord.
We're very happy to tell you that the airline baggage with the Koma Scripture books which went missing last October has now been found. The ladies and children have been delighted to receive these, along with the headscarves, handkerchiefs, pencils and bible bags, etc. which were packed with them.
Claire is busy working on Scripture lessons for the Bimboa people, whilst Ian has checked the book of Genesis in the Vedjari Siastasi languages here in Tamale (total of 3060 verses!), which will allow them to be printed and placed in the hands of the people. The impact of reading Genesis in their own language for the first time will be very great. Ian has other translators from other languages booked in through to the end of March to work on Exodus, Deuteronomy and 1 and 2 Samuel.
The weather remains cool, even though much of the Harmattan dust blown from the Sahara Desert has now lifted and we can see the sun again more clearly. Thank you so much for all your prayers and financial help which makes all this work possible.
With our Love in the Lord,
IAN and CLAIRE.

An excerpt taken from A book of laughs compiled by Graham Morgan

There was a man approaching middle age whose life was comfortable, but he felt an emptiness inside, a longing. So he decided to join a monastery.
The head monk told him that the road ahead was difficult: he would have to give up all earthly possessions, pray constantly, and he would have to stay silent. In fact, he could not speak at all, to any man. He was allowed only to say two words every five years.
The man becomes a monk and is silent. Five years go by and the Pope comes to visit. The man is summoned before the Pope who asks, 'So, how is everything?' The man answers, 'Bed hard.'
The Pope replies, 'Oh, I'm so sorry, we didn't know. We'll take care of that right away. You should be comfortable in bed.' And the bed is fixed.
Another five years go by, the man keeps silent and again the Pope comes to visit. He again asks, 'How are you, my son?' The man replies, 'Food cold.' To the Pope replies, 'Oh my, that's no good. We will take care of that problem right away. No more cold food.'
Again five more years go by, the man is the ideal monk. He prays and he is silent. This time the Pope can't visit, so the man is called before his superior who asks, 'How are you? Are you OK?' To which the man replies, 'I quit.'
His superior says in surprise, 'Well, of course you quit. You've been here for 15 years and all you've done is complain!'

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:

Infant 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.

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