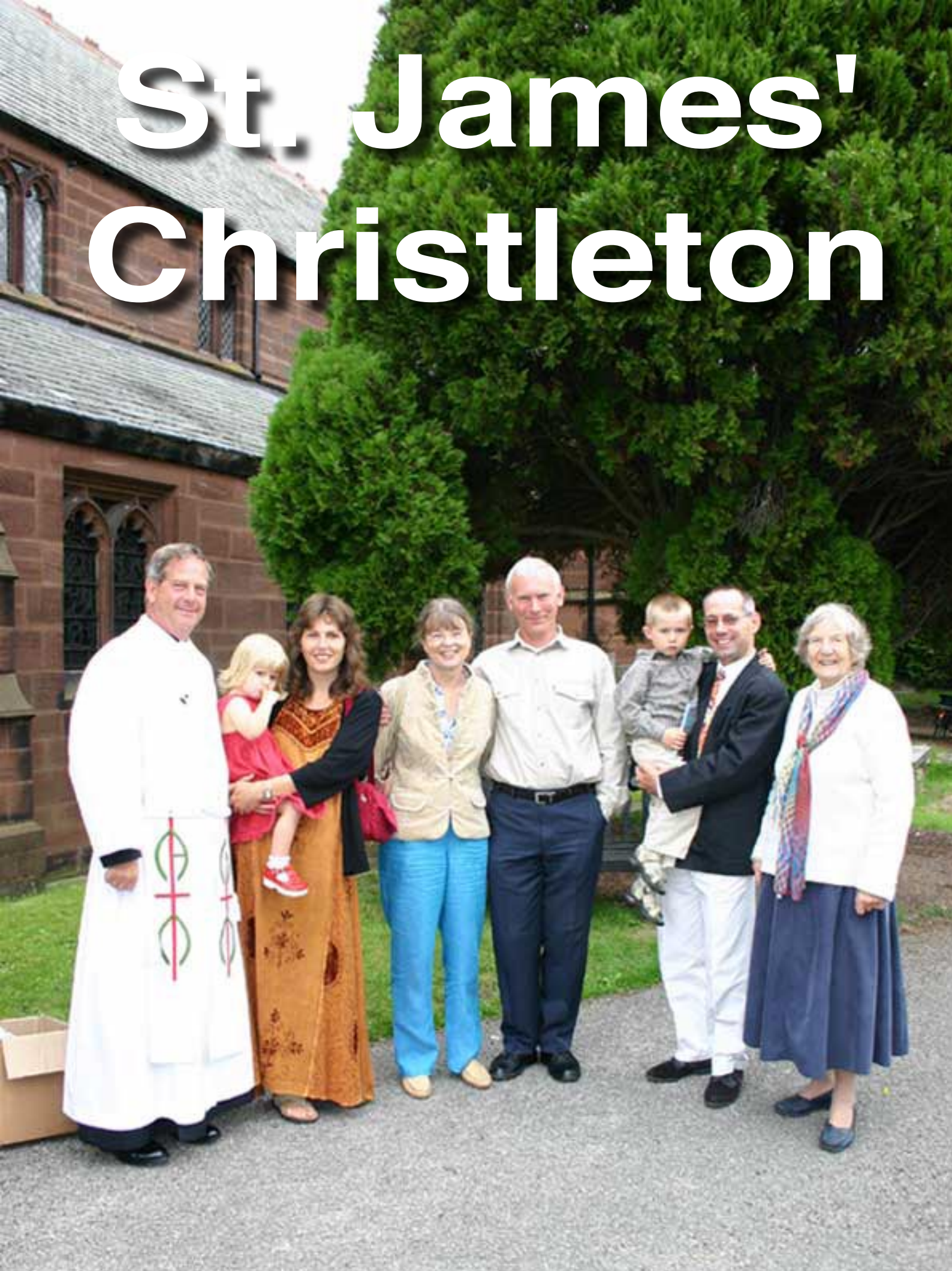


St. James' Christleton



PARISH MAGAZINE

**OCTOBER
2005**

OCCASIONS IN OCTOBER

Sat 1 7.30 pm Concert by Rhos Male Voice Choir - St James
In aid of Hope House Hospice

Sun 2 The Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity - Proper 22

8.00 am Holy Communion - Order 2
10.30 am Sunday School - Parish Hall
10.45 am Parish Communion - Order 1
6.00 pm The Crew Youth Group - Parish Hall
6.30 pm Evensong - followed by refreshments
Prayer Link: Durban Avenue Neighbourhood Link: Audrey Williams

Mon 3 10.45 am Holy Communion at Tarvin Court Nursing Home
11.20 am Holy Communion at Oaklands Nursing Home

Wed 5 10.45 am United Communion - followed by refreshments

Thur 6 7.30 pm Diocesan 'Roadshow' - Ellesmere Port

Fri 7 6.30 pm Choir Practice

Sat 8 Harvest Supper & Skittles - Bickerton Poacher

Sun 9 HARVEST FESTIVAL

8.00 am Holy Communion - Order 2
10.45 am Harvest Family Service - followed by refreshments
6.00 pm The Crew Youth Group - Parish Hall
6.30 pm Festal Evensong
Prayer Link Road: Fir Tree Lane Neighbourhood Link: Bunty McLelland

Mon 10 9.00 am Preparation & distribution of Harvest Parcels

2.00 pm Mothers' Union - Parish Hall

Wed 12 10.45 am Holy Communion - followed by refreshments

11.30 am Holy Communion at Birch Heath Lodge Nursing Home

Fri 14 6.30 pm Choir Practice

NB: Last date for any contributions for November Parish Magazine to David Bull (332234). Earlier if possible.

Sun 16 The Twenty First Sunday after Trinity - Proper 24

8.00 am Holy Communion - Order 1
10.30 am Sunday School - Parish Hall
10.45 am Parish Communion - Order 1
6.00 pm The Crew Youth Group - Parish Hall
6.30 pm Evensong
Prayer Link Road: Greystone Road Neighbourhood Link: Len Thomas

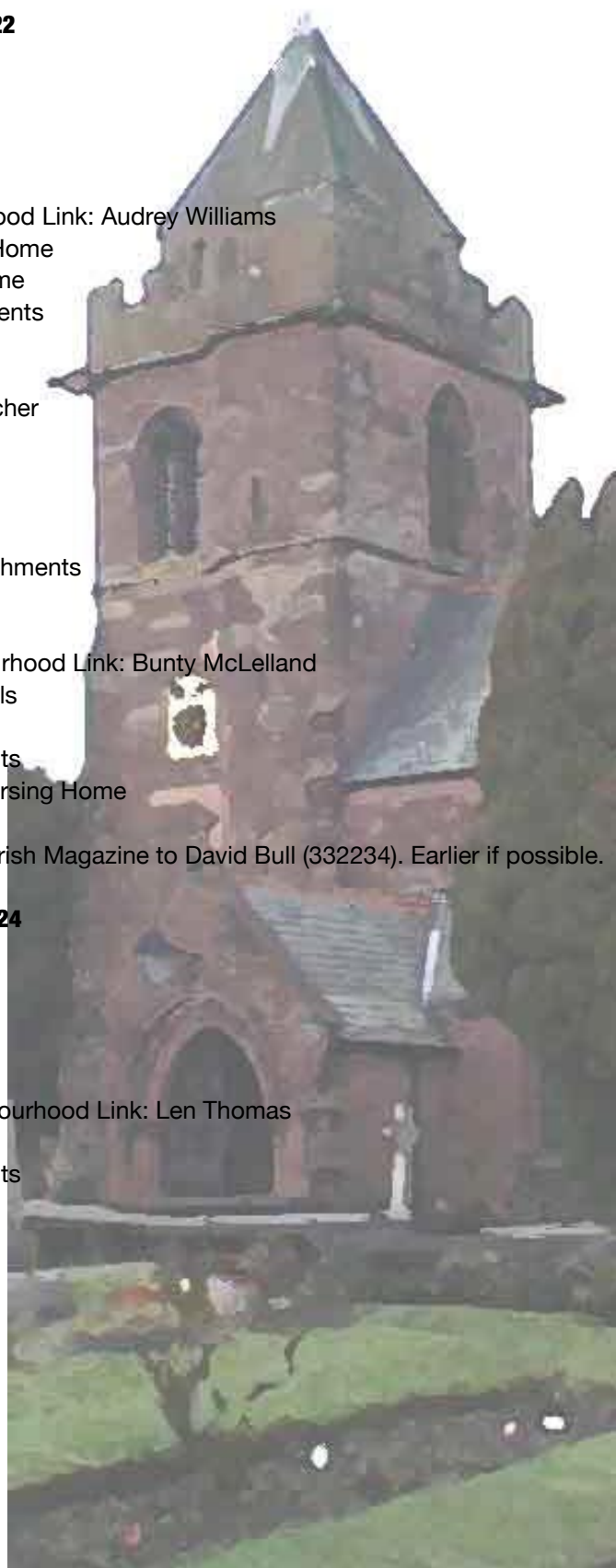
Mon 17 2.30 pm Parish Visiting Group - White Haven

Wed 19 10.45 am Holy Communion - followed by refreshments

Thur 20 One World Week Evening - Parish Hall

Fri 21 6.30 pm Choir Practice

Sun 23 The Last Sunday after Trinity - Proper 25



		8.00 am	Holy Communion - Order 1
		10.30 am	Sunday School - Parish Hall
		10.45 am	Matins - followed by refreshments
		6.00 pm	The Crew Youth Club - Parish Hall
		6.30 pm	Evening Communion - Order 1
			Prayer Link: Grove Gardens Neighbourhood Link: John Carruthers
Wed	26	10.45 am	Holy Communion - followed by refreshments
Fri	28	6.30 pm	Choir Practice
Sun	30		Fourth Sunday Before Advent
		8.00 am	Holy Communion - Order 1
		10.30 am	Sunday School - Parish Hall
		10.45 am	Matins
		6.00 pm	The Crew Youth Group - Parish Hall
		6.30 pm	Evening Worship
			Prayer Link: Those worshipping at St James' who live outside the parish
			Neighbourhood Link Area Secretary: Leo Carroll

Parish Registers for August 2005

Baptism

28th Harry Geoffrey Blythin son of Alexander & Fiona Blythin
20 Bythom Close, Christleton.

"We welcome you to the Lord's family"

Wedding Service

13th Lucas Perry & Rebecca Louise Brown 2 Chapel Cottage's Moor Lane,
Waverton

20th Steven James Barrett 19 Guerin Square, Bow, London &
Louise Helen Platel "Sandheys" Plough Lane, Christleton.

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

The Funeral Service

5th Robert Charles Fisher (Bobby) Cilcain Hall Cottage, Rhys y Cae Road,
Mold.

9th Nora O'Connell 20 Sandrock Road, Christleton (Interment only)

19th Ian James Tolladay 35 Bridge Drive, Christleton.

26th Kenneth Riley 12 Barley Close, Great Boughton

30th Hilda Marion Steen 12 Cotes Place, Blacon. (Interment only)

"Rest eternal grant unto them"

Offertories

August	Cash	CSE	2005	2004
7th	146.49	564.60	711.09	820.64
14th	257.00	661.50	918.53	994.37
21st	134.55	533.00	667.55	718.40
28th	206.91	727.00	933.91	749.76
Totals			£3231.08	£3283.17

THE RECTOR'S LETTER

Dear Friends

ONE WORLD

Some years ago I had the routine of listening to the radio programme "The World at One" each day, over lunch. The title was invariably correct in that it began at precisely one o'clock. It was never, however, an accurate title of the world it described, torn apart by violence, confrontation or natural disaster. The same is at least as true today as we witness apparently increasing fragmentation between opposing cultures, countries, people and interests. I believe it is more important than ever that we, as Christians, go back to the basics of our faith. The Bible starts with the words:- "In the beginning God created ...", and the Prologue to the fourth Gospel starts:- "In the beginning was the word ...". Logically, as well as chronologically, our faith starts with Creation. Creation is the basic building block of our faith, and that is something we share with other faiths. In this month, as we celebrate Harvest and One World Week, that is something we need to rediscover.

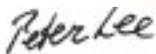
The Old Testament not only establishes the foundation of Creation, but lays upon us the duty of care for the world God has created. The Covenant established the relationship between God and his people, that the gifts they enjoyed in God's world were to be used responsibly in accordance with his purposes, and acknowledging his authority. It also establishes that God creates in wonderfully rich diversity, not in uniformity. The relationship of Creation is to be one of mutual respect and harmonious co operation. It has nothing to do with a dull, monochrome sameness where all is reduced to a lowest common denominator.

When we move to the New Testament, we find that Jesus always used nature to teach the deepest truths about God's Kingdom. Nature is not so much an illustration of God working in the world, but an example of how God invites us actively to share in his work of creation; co operating with his creative power in harmony and 'oneness'. Supremely, as St Paul wrote:- "God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself, and he has entrusted us with this message of reconciliation." So, St Paul was able to see that :- "In Christ Jesus there is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Jesus Christ." But our 'oneness' in Christ is not just to do with human reconciliation. In the Gospel accounts of the crucifixion we read of signs in the natural world and again Paul wrote of :- "The whole created universe groaning in eager expectation. ..." Jesus, the Word, active from the beginning in Creation, brings the whole of Creation into a new harmony.

It is this spiritual understanding of the 'oneness' of Creation that the saints discovered, and lived out in their lives. From the Desert Fathers to Francis of Assisi; from Columba on Iona to Cuthbert on Lindisfarne, they lived lives in harmony with God's Creation, encompassing not only their human brothers and sisters, but the animal and plant world, the seas and the skies, the sun and the stars. We make our God too small if we limit his grace to human activity.

Churches Together in Christleton will observe One World Week with a 'One World Meal' on Thursday 20 October (see elsewhere in Magazine). As we celebrate Harvest and observe One World Week may we rediscover the roots of our faith. In the past perhaps the Church has neglected the importance of Creation and our stewardship of the world's natural resources. But the 'oneness' of the whole created universe goes to the heart of our faith, and the total significance of Redemption. It is only by recognising that everyone and everything has its common origin in God that the world will ever be truly 'The World at One'. That starts with each one of us recognising and respecting our common humanity in God's world.

Yours sincerely



Prayer of the Month

(Brian Hudson)

Holy Father, unite us all in joy at the beauty and diversity of the world you have made: from frozen wastelands to searing desert heat, from snow-capped mountain top to unexplored ocean depths. All is your creation, and we all share the same planet.

Holy Father, unite us all in joy at the beauty and diversity of the peoples of the earth: from nomadic tribes surviving in barren and sparsely populated regions to city-crushed people surviving in high-rise ghettos; from those living in huts that fight encroaching jungle to those manicuring their lawns in the heart of commuterland. All are your peoples, and we all share the same planet.

*Help us to care for each other.
Help us to share with each other.*

As Christ died for all, so may we work for all. Amen.

PARISH CHURCH OF ST. JAMES CHRISTLETON

SUNDAYS	8.00 a.m.	Holy Communion
	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

Rector:	The Rev'd Canon K. Peter Lee, M.A. The Rectory, Birch Heath Lane, Christleton 335663	
Wardens:	David Mercer, 13 Bridge Drive 336155 Lois Dickinson 8 Old Mill Court, Mill Lane Upton 378320	
Reader Emeritus	John Roberts, Cerisy, Birch Heath Lane 332207	
Verger	David Ellis 336879	
Sacristan:	Betty Dunning 335652	
Sunday School:	Berenice Hogg 336779	
Mother's Union Branch Leader	Margaret Renner 332005	
Organist & Musical Director:	Steve Roberts 815277	
P. C. C. Secretary:	Margaret Croston 335955	
Treasurer:	Cec Rydings 336483	
Stewardship Envelope:	Betty Dunning 335652	
Gift Aid Secretary	Martin Wheeler 336644	
Bellringers	Ian Braithwaite 300565	
Bellringer Vice Captains	Michael Phillips 01829 771357 Ian Crossan 332280	
Parish Hall Booking	David Mercer 336155	
C. M. S. Secretary	Janet Brown 335785	
Children's Society Sec.	Lesley Morgan 335088	
Visiting Group:	Gill Hibbert. 336544	
Library	Margaret Bass 335517	
Church Flowers	Olive Hammond 336562	
Magazine Editor	David Bull 332234	
Magazine Compiler	Richard Nicholson 336004	
Magazine Distributor	Margaret Dromgoole 341406	
Neighbourhood Link Co-Ordinator	Janet Bowden 335705	
Parish Resource Person for Child Protection	Susan Alexander 335077	

BAPTISMS, WEDDINGS & APPOINTMENTS
BY ARRANGEMENT WITH THE RECTOR 335663

Christleton Pit Project needs your Muscles!



Christleton Pit Group exists to keep The Pit as an alive, vibrant and recreational open space for the village. Founded in 1974, it has served the village well, with members giving hours of unpaid voluntary work, and working with the Parish Council, made a great impact on village life and the local environment. The state of The Pit regularly draws favourable comments from judges of the Best Kept Village competition, tourist buses come through the village to see it, and it is a favourite place for thousands of people. Our team currently works for about six sessions a year depending on any task necessary, and as our strength and muscles are declining with age, we would welcome any newcomers to join the team. If you enjoy getting covered in mud, row a boat, or drive a wheelbarrow we would

like to hear from you. For more information please contact David Cummings on 332410 or Eric Kenyon on 335587.



Visit by Paul & Sarah Wright & Family from Nepal

Paul and Sarah are Mission Partners with the Methodist Church, and for the last seven years have worked in Nepal. They came to Christleton for a few days stay at the end of August and gave a talk at morning service at St James' on the 28th, as well as participating in an informal open evening at Rowton later in the weekend. Paul & Sarah live in Katmandu, with their delightful children Jack (5) and Asha (2.1/2) and work for a Christian development agency called the United Mission to Nepal. They have accomplished many tasks in Nepal, including teaching literacy to help the spread of the gospels in remote villages, but their main role is now changing, with Paul taking up the position of advisor for disaster relief, so important in developing countries like Nepal. Sarah will continue her busy life as mum, whilst teaching, taking bible classes and carrying out occasional speaking engagements. They like many other enthusiastic young people are carrying out God's work in demanding situations, in troubled areas of the world, and it's good for us to meet and share with them, so that we too have a greater understanding of the needs of others.

DC/GK



LOCAL EVENTS DIARY

CHRISTLETON W.I. MONTHLY WHIST DRIVE

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

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN CHRISTLETON

ONE WORLD MEAL for ONE WORLD WEEK

Thursday, October 20
7.15 for 7.30p.m start
in the Parish Hall.

Soft drinks provided; please bring own bottles of wine if wished.

Tickets:£5

Numbers and money by 10 October, please.

We hope you will ALL come!

CHRISTLETON WEDNESDAY GROUP

*Charity Christmas Card Sale
& Coffee Morning*

Saturday 15 October

Christleton Parish Hall
10.00 am – 12.00 noon

Come & buy all your Christmas cards from:
Claire House, Guide Dogs for the Blind, Hope House, Hospice of the Good Shepherd, RNLI. St James Christleton, Save the Children,

Also toys, plants, cakes for sale

Admission 50 p

includes coffee tea & biscuits

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.

CHRISTLETON LOCAL HISTORY GROUP.

Wednesday 19th October 2005

7.30p.m. at Christleton Primary School in Quarry Lane.

Speaker David Cummings. Egypt "Land of the Pharaoh's"

Take a guided tour through this amazing country, and visit Siwa, El Alamein, Alexandria, Giza, Luxor & Karnak, The Valley of the King's, Aswan, Philae & Abu Simbel.

Admission £2, which includes a glass of wine.

All welcome.

CHRISTLETON LADIES GUILD

Held at the Christleton Methodist Church, commencing at 2pm, Tuesdays fortnightly, £1 admission includes refreshments. For further information contact Joan Webb, 335518.

All very welcome.



Luke Disley

Noticeable by his absence from choir practice, our youngest member has been honing his cricketering skills for much of the summer. However, Luke Disley (11) pictured above hasn't been neglecting his singing. He has been busy with the Chester Music Society Youth Choir, and also working with the National Youth Choir (Northern Boys). At a recent NYC course in Harrogate, Luke joined the other choir members for 4 days intensive choral and musicianship training, culminating in a concert at Ashville College, where he gave a well-received solo performance of Andrew Lloyd Webber's "Any Dream Will Do". Luke is now looking forward to the forthcoming choral challenges offered by Harvest & Christmas- busy, but very enjoyable, times of year for all singers!

Luke would welcome support in the church choir from any young members of the congregation, or young people from the village. Singing in a choir or playing an instrument gives an excellent discipline for life, and a common musical language that can be shared by like minded people throughout the world, whatever spoken language they use. The church choir meets on Friday evenings from 6.30 to 8.00pm, sings at Church services on Sundays, and at many weddings and concerts during the year. New adult members would also be most welcome. Please contact Steve Roberts on 815277 for more details.

JOHN SELLERS EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION, CHRISTLETON

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

The primary source of income is from the rent of a field in Plough Lane. It is the intention of the present trustees (comprising the Rector, Clerk, A County Council representative, two Parish Councillors) to try and increase the capital and use the interest to provide the grants. Further donations or legacies, which could be used to increase the level of grants paid out, would be very much appreciated.

This year's money has been given to the Primary School and to the High School, but applications are encouraged from individuals in exceptional circumstances who would like to apply in confidence.

Any individual or group wishing to be considered for a grant should apply to the Clerk, in writing, before November.

M Croston (Clerk) tel 335955
Rookery Nook, 5 Bridge Drive
Christleton
Chester CH3 6AW

APPEAL LODGED

The Freemasons Hall [Chester] Ltd, Cheshire View, Plough Lane, Christleton, Chester applied for a variation of a new premises licence to allow them to consume alcohol and provide entertainments and music for 6 days out of 7 a week until 2 am. This was granted at a Hearing on 16 August when many people are away on holiday and were, in any case unaware of the application, but some objections were lodged because of the possible noise, traffic and nuisance in the small hours. It is unclear as to whether all the objections were heard at the Hearing.

On the advice of our local Councillor, Brian Bailey, an Appeal has been lodged at the 11th hour to the Magistrates Court.

MUSSELS FOUND AT THE PIT!

One of the things about the arrival of September in the village is that it's the time when the Pit Group springs (or perhaps staggers) into action once again. A small number of us assembled, to make a start on reducing the amounts of amphibious persicaria (*Polygonium amphibium*) which has formed



large islands of dense growth in the clear water. We set to work and within minutes Eric Kenyon found and held up a large shellfish. We identified it as a Swan Mussel (*Andonta Cygnea*) and soon found we were all finding swan mussels every few steps, varying in size from about 3 to 6 inches in length. The swan mussel is a large bivalve mollusc, which is found in slow flowing rivers, canals and lakes. Its distribution is "widespread but local" in England, Wales and Ireland, but scarce in Scotland. It lives partly buried in silt, and is a "filter feeder" on organic particles, which it sifts from the surrounding water via a siphon. It moves about by using a large powerful foot. We were all delighted with our discovery because, although we have been closely associated with the Pit for many years, none of us recalls seeing or hearing of swan mussels in the Pit before.

We don't know, at this stage, how or where they've come from, but we estimate that the population density could be in excess of one per square metre. I wonder what other exciting animals or plants, lie in the Pit waiting to be discovered!

Will Edwards

NATURE NEWS



A visit to the Groves on Sunday 3rd September saw that the swan population there had declined from 52 at its maximum down to 21, as the moult flock begins to fly away having grown new flight feathers. All seven Chester cygnets have left, whilst the Christleton family are still together on the canal. As all cygnets mentioned above have been ringed it will be interesting to get reports of their first flights from fellow observers. Other significant sightings at the Groves, were the gathering on telephone wires of large numbers of swallows and house martins preparing for their migration journeys to Africa, and the presence of 8 cormorants and 7 herons around the weir, a most unusual number to be seen all at once. Maybe there had been a shoal of fish trapped above or below the weir, and they were taking advantage of the easy pickings. Readers might also be interested to know that on a recent canal journey by canoe from Llangollen to Ellesmere Port, my friend David Jones and I found at least 16 distinct territories of kingfisher, which indicates both the cleanliness of the canal, and the availability of a good food supply.

David Cummings

RETAIL THERAPY NIGHT

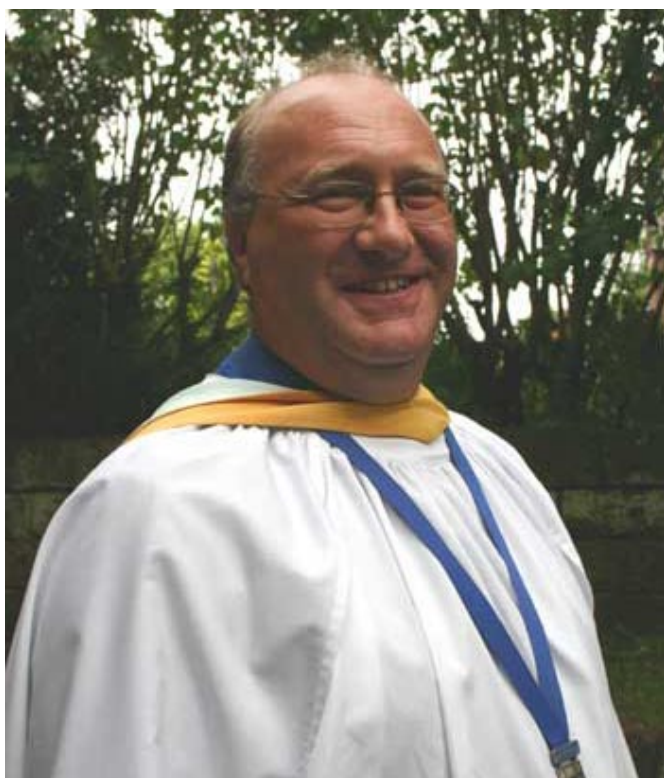
WEDNESDAY 2 NOVEMBER
AT 7.00 pm in THE PARISH HALL

There will be
Shoe-b-Do (Spanish shoes & handbags)
Costume Jewellery
Ladies Lingerie & fashions
Candles
Cake Stall
A Chocolate & Wine Tombola
Coffee & biscuits
Admission £2.50.

Tickets will be available at the back of church and also from Christine Abrams (335562),
Gillian Brackenbury (329346), Janet Milton (335469).

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

.....



Steve Roberts

Congratulations to Steve Roberts, Organist and Musical Director at St James, on reaching his half century on October 9th. Steve contributes superbly to the musical life and worship at St James' and his friends wish him continued success in all his musical ventures.



Alf Croston

Congratulations also to choir member Alf Croston, who celebrates his 80th Birthday this month. Alf, has served the church in many capacities over the last forty years, and is still very active, in church, village, business and city life. We wish him a very happy birthday on the 13th.

CHESTER LECTURE SOCIETY

The Chester Lecture Society will be starting up again on 8 October at the Grosvenor Museum with interesting lectures. Annual Subscription is only £21 for 18 lectures! All meetings start at 7.30 pm, non-members can pay at the door (£4). Contact Anne Large, 34 Bridge Drive (336108) or Margaret Croston, 5 Bridge Drive (335955). No meetings in December.

OCTOBER 2005

6 Gordon Yates – Islay Magic

With his relaxed and likeable personality Gordon Yates introduces us to Islay.

13 David Alison – The Splendours of the Settle-Carlisle Railway.

Marvels of Victorian engineering, scenery, wildlife, and trains, of course.

20 Roger Mitchell

South to the Sun.

Roger looks at the historic architecture of Florida, 1850 – 2000.

27 Roy Willis - A walk along the Camino.

NOVEMBER

3 David Cummings – Story of a Street – 2000 years of Bridge Street.

What we don't know about a local street.

10 Halam Murray – Patagonia 11

Halam describes travels through remote parts of the Southern Andes, and some history.

17 Simon Ward – Mountains, temples and home-made trowels

Adventures in Nepal from Chester Archaeologist Simon Ward.

24 Ed Milius – Six walks from Kitzbuhel

Highlighting the Tyrolean scenery and a visit to an old farmhouse museum.

COMPETITION

JIM & THE SCARECROW



Thanks to all who took part in the Competition. The winner of the Bottle of Wine is Lewis Rees of Rowton Bridge Road, for his caption "Well Jim, a day in the field's knocked the stuffing out of me. What do you fancy for tea- a beefy square cut, or a fine leg?" I think this is a most appropriate caption for Jim, being our village butcher for many years, Christleton Cricket Clubs greatest supporter, and Mr Christleton. Thanks Jim for allowing us to have some fun at your expense.

David Cummings

CHRISTLETON CRICKET CLUB

At the end of August Christleton 1st team are 3rd in the league. This is a tremendous performance in our first season playing in the Premier league.

Good results from the final two games could achieve 2nd place. No other county league team has finished so high after promotion from Division 1.

The 2nd X1 have won 10 games and drawn 5 out of 19 games. They are currently in 4th place in their league. The 3rd X1 are in promotion contention with one game remaining.

Chairman Gareth Davies can be pleased with the progress of all teams so far this season.

Our thanks to the following sponsors for their support for August & September:

Jason & Jill Lee

Mike Jacobs

Walker Smith Way

Rita & Jack Swift

McCormick Architecture

Phil Morrey

Morgan Jones family

WG Jones

Brian Davies

Owain Davies

Christleton CC expenses continue to increase now we are in the Premier league, and the support of all sponsors is vital for our continual progress.

CATHEDRAL

LINK

Can you spare a few hours or days in a week?

We are always on the look out for new volunteers, especially in the areas of Welcoming and the Shop. If you would like to give a few hours or days per week, please hand in your name, address and telephone number to the Office, or to Ian Atkinson and someone will contact you for a brief chat.

Saints' Windows in the Cloisters

St John Chrysostom was known for his sermons and earned the title "Chrysostom" (golden mouthed). The sermons were always on a point, and explained the scripture with clarity and sometimes went on for hours! He was Archbishop of Constantinople.

He criticised the rich for not sharing their wealth and fought to reform the clergy, he called for fidelity in marriage and encouraged practices of justice and charity. He died from exhaustion caused by enforced travel on foot from one place of exile to another.

The New University of Chester

Over recent months, you will have heard that authority has been granted by Her Majesty the Queen in Council for Chester College to become the University of Chester. This highly significant change of status will impact importantly on the life of Chester, and on the Cathedral. It will be marked by a special Service of Thanksgiving and Dedication in the Cathedral on Sunday 25 September at 3.30 pm, during which His Grace the Duke of Westminster will be installed as Foundation Chancellor of the new University.

This inauguration event is a cause for civic pride and celebration, and it pays tribute to the history of high academic standards maintained by staff at Chester College over many years, while the College was associated with the University of Liverpool. Although it will be Britain's newest University it has a venerable history which goes back to 1839, when it began as a foundation of the Diocese of Chester. The links between the new University and the Cathedral are strong; several of the Cathedral clergy teach there, and the new Vice Chancellor of the University, Canon Professor Tim Wheeler, is a very active member of the Cathedral Chapter.

Gordon McPhate
Dean of Chester

Obituary of LIONEL GARNETT Part 1

Lionel Garnett was without doubt the most influential Rector in the history of the village, who lived in Christleton from 1869-1911. Whilst many things have been known about him, no detailed account has ever been found, and many questions unanswered, until I came across an account of his death, in the obituary columns of the Chester Chronicle for May 4th 1912. This gives us a greater insight into village life at that time, and of his life and work. It will be printed in two parts for your interest.

**Report in the Chester Chronicle May 4th 1912.
Death of Canon Lionel Garnett, in Belfast. 1st
May 1912**

The



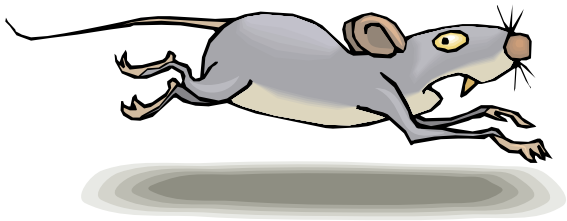
news reached Christleton on Wednesday morning, of the death of the Rev Lionel Garnett MA formerly Rector of Christleton and an honorary canon of Chester Cathedral. He had been on a visit to Captain & Mrs Clarke for the purpose of baptising their child, and in Belfast, he was seized with a sudden stroke. He was assisted to a hospital, and in the institution passed away. Twelve months ago he had a similar unexpected seizure in Chester, and ever since he had been ailing more or less. He was 68 years of age. The unexpected tidings of his sudden death caused great sorrow in the Parish of Christleton, and were heard with great regret throughout the whole District of Chester. Canon Garnett resigned the Rectorship of Christleton after over forty years of faithful service in the Parish in February last year (1911), and went to live in Wyreside with his brother Captain Garnett. His departure from the parish was deeply felt by older parishioners, and at a touching farewell gathering, he had

been presented with a gold watch and address, and his wife with a pendant-chain. Generous tributes were paid to his high character and his faithful work in the parish. He came to Christleton (succeeding the Rev Daniel Shaw) in the year 1869, two years after his ordination by the Bishop of Ripon. In the interval he held a curacy at Sheffield. He was the second son of Mr Henry & Mrs Garnett of Wyreside and had the private means to support a rectory that stood well amongst country houses in the neighbourhood. An ardent rose grower as the late Dean Hole, and an all round horticulturist, the rector could point with pride to the rectory gardens wonderful richness of colour, and perfection of form in flowers and fruit, and the rectory garden became a place of parish joy. In the rectory grounds was held the first village show, and on all matters touching the art of flower or fruit growing, Canon Garnett was a recognised authority. Not only in his own parish, but in the neighbourhood for miles around, and notably his connection with the fine chrysanthemum or fruit shows of the Chester Paxton Society, where often he was an official judge.

Canon Garnett had a quiet reserve personality, and one of the best types of country parson, who, with something of the tastes of a country squire, can enter into rural life with an insight of one to whom the mysteries and joys of gardens are an open book. As a clergyman he was quiet and unobtrusive in his methods of work, but his work was not the less effectual for being modestly done, and his record of improving the church, and building the schools, and, in ministering day by day to the spiritual needs of his people, was no slight one. To the fund for the rebuilding of the church and schools he himself gave generously, and other well to do people he influenced likewise.

The church after its structural improvement was re opened in 1877 and the schools rebuilt in 1888. The church as it was before Canon Garnett set to work to make it weatherproof and comfortable, was described by Mr Earlam at the public presentation "The best view of it was from the outside". "The roof used to let in water every rainy day, and that there were several old fashioned pews labelled, "Marquis of Westminster". There was an old gallery in the church at the west end and on the right hand side, which extended almost to the middle of the church supported by four large iron pillars. The harmonium, which did duty for an organ, was situated behind the choir. Services were held twice on Sundays and with the exception of the great festivals there were no other services." It was not the church alone he built", continued Mr Earlam," he thought of the young men of the parish, and rightly considered that they needed some legitimate means of spending their evenings, to their pleasure and comfort. Hence it was he who started the Institute, and who had kept it going to the present day"

David Cummings



RETURNING RODENT

Despite fully filled seed and peanut holders wild birds disappear from part of my garden during the summer. No doubt Mother Nature is providing a far more attractive source of food in the fields and hedgerows than I can offer. The onset of autumn with its grey sky, lower temperature and damp lawn does tend to attract rodents nearer the shelter of the house. It was still a surprise, however, to find a reddish coloured harvest mouse scurrying up and down the kitchen units and along the windowsill. Frantic shouts for a fishing net were too late before the mouse, which for the sake of simplicity I shall call Mickey flashed though the quarter inch the door was left ajar. Making chase I lost him in the third room.

I have a very old mousetrap peppered with a selection of wormholes. Not the nipper type that makes a mighty snap in the middle of the night when you are fast asleep. This one is rather more humane in that the mouse crawls down a tube, round a bend and into a box with wire netting windows. The IQ of a mouse, which I have always considered to be on the generous side, does not, however, allow it to retrace its steps out of the trap. The trap was set in the last reception room Mickey entered. A selection of the no longer needed birdseed I mentioned earlier put inside with a few crumbs of M&S deluxe butter scones around the entrance hole. The next morning the trap was empty but his droppings were scattered by the exit kitchen door. See what I mean about the IQ of a mouse. He had found his way back to his point of entry, which proves that the design of the house does not resemble an old mousetrap. During that day he was seen in the lounge. The room was turned upside down and outside doors opened which on reflection could have allowed the rest of Mickey's family in. Mickey had disappeared. The next night the trap was placed by the kitchen door and the morning dawned with a scrambling sound inside the trap. Taking the trap to the bottom of the garden I released him and off he scampered. Within 24 hours he was back in the house. Out came the scones again and within the hour he was back in the trap enjoying a second helping of birdseed. This time I carried him out through the front gate and down to the road. On release he ran down the pavement and dashed through our neighbours gate. The fun of all this big game hunting began to wear a bit thin when Mickey returned inside the house the next day. He was caught yet again in his favourite trap with his favourite bait. This time he was going further than the front road. I put the cage in the basket on

the front of my bike and cycled down Pepper Street and then Birch Heath Lane. Peter Lee our Rector and his wife Fiona were outside the rectory. They did not volunteer to provide Mickey with accommodation so I cycled on until I reached Christleton Common. There I bent down with the cage and released Micky into a large field. There was no hesitation in his movements. As soon as he exited the cage he did a sharp left turn and dashed off back in the direction of Pepper Street. I made it back home before he did. I am fairly sure of this as his empty cage has been baited for many days and nights but just like the summer birds Mickey must have found something a bit better than I can offer.

FOR THE SADDENED HEART

*Death beckoned him, with outstretched hand
And whispered softly, of an unknown land.
But he was not afraid to go
For though the path he did not know
He took death's hand, without a fear
For God, who safely brought him here
Had promised He would lead the way
Into Eternity's bright day.*

*For none of us need go alone
Into the valley that's unknown
But guided by our Father's hand
We journey to the promised land.
And as his loving faithful wife
Who shared his home and heart and life
You will find comfort for your grief
In knowing death brought sweet relief.*

*For now he is free from all suffering and pain
And your great loss became his gain.
You know his love is with you still
For he loved you in life and always will.
For love like yours can never end
Because it is the perfect blend
Of joys and sorrows, smiles and tears
That just grows stronger, with the years.*

*And love like this can never die
For you take it with you to the sky.
So think of your loved one as living above
No farther away than your undying love.
And now he is happy and free once more
And he's waiting for you at eternity's door.*

Rena Griffiths.

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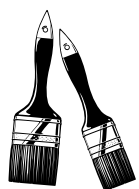
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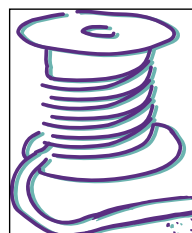
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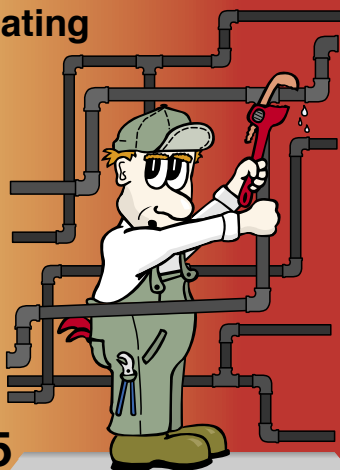
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