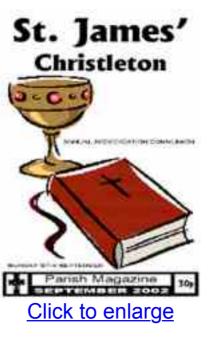
Parish Church of St. James, Christleton

# **Parish Magazine**

Extracts from Parish Magazine for September 2002

Romania <u>History of Christleton Show Part 2</u> <u>Nature Notes</u> <u>Christleton Local History Group</u> <u>Churches Together in Christleton</u> <u>Alpha</u> <u>Parish Council</u> <u>Cricket Club</u>



HARVEST PARCELS

Each year, St James Church delivers over 100 parcels made up from the produce given at the Primary School and Church Harvest Services. On the following Monday, volunteers assemble the donated goods into parcels, which are then distributed. This year we would appreciate more volunteers to help with this task, in particular, drivers to deliver the parcels. The parcels are normally assembled in Church from 9am onwards and distribution can usually commence shortly after 10am. If you are able to help in any respect, could you please sign the sheet at the back of Church, or alternatively inform the Rector. In addition, we also need a substantial supply of suitable containers in which to place the produce/plants/flowers. If you have any unwanted baskets or small boxes (max 18" x 12"/45cm x 30cm) could you please bring them to Church.

It was my privilege to work for two weeks in an orphanage in Romania this July. We must count our blessings.

Adele C. Pearson

### Romania.

A powerful amalgamation of need, hope and a whiff of change peeks, albeit gingerly, from behind the utilitarian, the makeshift, and the ancient constructions. Aside from this, is the animalistic savagery of the daily quest for survival of orphans, gypsies and ordinary folk.

Our cursory glances are directed first towards the rows of blank faces staring on in wonder, then to the backdrop of slums to which they will crawl into later. Like snails into their shells. To them, we are superstars. To us, they appear like zombies, misery and hardship reflecting in their stony eyes, despite the excitement that strikes them dumb. Funnily enough, we seem most stunned by the communal toilets that we encounter on the top floor of the orphanage, as we struggle for air in the brute heat of early evening.

It is a strange place. No one really wants to be there. No one properly associates with it. I notice there is a tint of misplaced pride among the undulations of jerky squabbling and the gentle rocking of those for whom it was intended. In the far corner of the "playground", they clamber, barefoot, through the garbage. One of them, strewn over the top of the piece de resistance, the rubbish bin, shouts in agony as another swings from his legs in a temporary bout of aggression and cruelty, or simply a lust for power. The mirror image of how they themselves are treated? Sensing what is to come, you start to edge towards the two boys. But they do not fight. Is it because they have known each other too long? Or do they know that if they get injured, their daily ration of attention will not be increased?

I buy a bar of chocolate. It is Marian's sixteenth birthday. I thought he was ten. There is no cake. No candles. No sweets. No congratulations. No celebration.

It is ripped out of my hand as I walk through the icing-white gate. The thief eats it without removing the paper, or the foil. Life is passing them by. But still, they snatch at it; they claw at it. My feelings are not pity. These children are too tough to be pitied. I respect them. Instead, a tumult of helplessness wallows within me; stealing is a survival trait for them.

I think we were happy as we played with the kids during "Happy Hour", from eight until nine. The name says it all. It is a magical time; indefinable. A lagoon of borrowed minutes between dusk and sunset. They sit on our knees; they hanker to be picked up; they all want to have a hand massage. Some even want to give you a massage.

It goes without saying; they want to be loved.

Some are mute, they have never been taught to speak. This is no extra barrier. Actions do speak louder than words.

Someone plays the guitar, shadowing the elf-like figures about him with a steady drone. He asks me if I believe in Jesus. He tells me that Jesus saved him.

An éclat of laughter and shouting emerges from the tennis court. Momentarily, I wonder if it will metamorphose into a prison when we are gone. They are playing football. Someone has scored a goal; how contented they are.

Not far away, I imagine the fat cats purring their way down grimy streets in their cheap Mercedes. A woman clutches at her shawl, spluttering in the filth, a child dressed in rags tugging behind. Emaciated horses pull rickety carts full of labourers, straining their rubbery necks to see. A sudden vision; the next instant they are gone, dodging the traffic, juggling around as if at the hands of some unseen clown.

Another world? No, this is the world in which we live.

## A History of Christleton Show (Part 2.)

In the first part of this article in the July edition. I wrote that the first Christleton Shows were either Agricultural, or for Fruit and Flowers, and occasionally a combination of both. The Agricultural Show, was clearly the highlight of the village summer, and after being held in the Rectory Grounds (these included the area of The Park and the High School grounds), transferred to a field along Birch Heath, and later to Little Heath, and after the war to Mr Hunters Field in Littleton. There would always be a big marquee which would hold displays of flowers, produce and particularly cheese. The shows were very popular locally, and attracted entries from all over the rural district. In addition to small money prizes, gold, silver and bronze medals were awarded, and just recently a medal from the 1907 show was up for auction at Northwich. This was a silver medal for mare with foal, and I have been able to discover from the 1907 show schedule, that it was awarded to a Mr Dodd of Oscroft for his mare Rustic Ruth. Mr Eric Beech from Brown Heath was also a regular winner, and has several winning certificates from the shows, and he confirms that the shows were always really well supported, and very popular events.

Many of those early shows, and village fetes, were sponsored by Lever Brothers of Port Sunlight, who seem to have had some connection with the village. They were keen to sell their products, and the shows provided a great place for them to advertise and sell their new washing powders and soaps. They were also given as prizes, and in 1901 there was a Ladies Sunlight Soap Washing Competition with the following prizes;

First Prize. A handsome case of Best Quality Electro-Plated TEA SPOONS and

TONGS value 21/-Second Prize. A case of SPECIALITIES, manufactured by LEVER BROTHERS Limited comprising --Sunlight Soap, Lifebuoy Royal Disinfectant Soap, Swan White Floating Soap, Lux, Monkey Brand, & with a beautifully illustrated Certificate for each Prize Winner. Consolation Prizes;- Twelve, Sunlight Towels will be distributed among the

Results from the 2002 Show.

unsuccessful Competitors.

The winners were;

In Millennium Year, the Show Committee re-introduced the award of medals to class winners, and this year we celebrated the Queen's Jubilee with awards of medals to the winners, and to younger members of the village for outstanding service to the community.

Best Exhibit; Hilary Marsland Best Exhibit; Pat Ffrench Lynch Rose Bowl; Wendy Lewis Produce Award; Margaret Croston **Overall Baking Award; Janet Brown** Best Fruit & Vegetables; Janet Brown. Hosptial Flower Display; Wendy Lewis Best Plant; Anne Butterworth Best Exhibit Floral Art; Susan Haywood. Art Local Scene. Jane Gratton Children's Overall; Victoria Seddon Most Successful in Flowers section; Bob Thompson Craft Award; Judith Butt 3 Most Successful Exhibits; Audrey Owen Best Photograph; Lewis Rees Best Exhibit by a child; Laurel Johnston Best Hanging Basket; Audrey Owen Best Group Hanging Basket; Cynthia Wilcox Millennium Trophy for Craft; Ben Williams Theme Shield/Jubilee Bonnet. Mary Lowe

Young Peoples Awards.

Up to 7yrs. George Thompson. Fiona Smith. N Beech. Mollie Ryan, Victoria Seddon. C de Winter. Thomas Adam. Up to 11years. Robin Donaldson. James Ross. Charlotte Seddon. Sarah Lou Roberts Coco Flood. Charlotte Seddon. Kelsie Chatburn. Up to 18yrs. Emily Ward. Laurel Johnson. Katie Earl. Gareth Salmon.

Jubilee Awards. For outstanding Service to the Community; Jim Partington. Christleton Brownies; Grace Pickering; Stephanie Jones. Christleton Guides; Suzie Crawford Christleton Beavers; Joseph Taylor Christleton Cubs. Aaron Muir Christleton Scouts. Tom Ambrose Hatchmere Ventures. Dominic Betteridge. Craig Rodric Christleton Scouter. Yvonne Harding.

## Funds for the Hospice.

The specially commissioned painting of Christleton Pit and the Swans, painted by Roger Stephens, was won by the Roberts Family of Plough Lane. Congratulations to them, and I'm sure you will be delighted to learn of the final figure for our Fund Raising for the Hospice of the Good Shepherd, was £560. Thank you to everyone who supported the various activities for this worthy cause.

David Cummings.

## Nature Notes.

During the warm sunny weather of late July, we've seen the emergence in and around the village of a number of large flying insects, the dragonflies. These incredible creatures are fascinating to watch as they hunt across the Pit, canal or river performing extraordinary aerobatics. When viewed in close up they have wonderful iridescent colours, which shimmer in the sunlight. They don't stay still for long, and a great deal of patience is needed to capture them on film. However I was fortunate to have been able to photograph three species in close up this weekend, Two were of the larger species of dragonflies, an iridescent green female southern hawker( Aeshna cyanea), and a beautifully marked male brown hawker (Aeshna grandis) There was also a Common Darter with orange/red body and black & yellow legs. These all belong to the class Ansioptera, whilst Damselfies, which are from the class Zygoptera, are another class of the insect species.

The most numerous local species of damselflies are the common blue which can be found almost everywhere, but the most spectacular are the banded Aragon, a large damselfly with striking deep blue wing spots which makes it looks like a helicopter, as it flutters over areas of water. It also has a metallic blue/green body which makes it stand out from the surrounding vegetation. The female however is metallic green tinged with bronze, but with clear wings, and is able to hide easily in the reeds and grasses where eggs are laid. Their young take two years to develop. Hockenhull Platts has the biggest population of this species ,and they can be seen usually around mid day, flying up and down stream on the Gowy around the middle bridge.

Dragonflies first appeared on earth over two hundred and fifty million years ago, and there are over 5,300 species in the world today. Most live in tropical countries, but some have adapted to cooler climates and there are 38 species in Britain. They will breed in all sorts of areas of water, ponds, pits, canals, rivers and bogs. They have a complex life cycle, taking two to three years to develop. When they emerge as adults they live for about six to eight weeks, living as carnivores, and eating anything from midges to butterflies. They eat up to one fifth of their body weight each day! Their large complex eyes help enormously whilst they are hunting, and give them a great edge over other creatures, including photographers, because they have 360degree vision.

#### David Cummings.

Christleton Local History Group

Indoor Meetings recommence at The Primary School in September. The first meeting at 7.30pm on Wednesday 18th September will be a short AGM, followed by a talk about the Romans, and how they lived their everyday lives in Britain with reference to Villas, Inns and Towns we see today. Places examined include Bignor, Fishbourne, Chedworth, Vindolanda, Carvoran and Chester.

The meetings are very informal, and each meeting starts with a glass of wine and nibbles. We have a guest speaker who talks about an aspect of history for about 45 minutes-to an hour. There is a small charge to cover the cost of speaker and room hire. Everyone is welcome

Future Indoor Meetings; Wednesdays 7.30pm at The Primary School. 16th October; 20th November; January 22nd; February 26th; March 19th; April 9th; Full details of topics in the next magazine. Outdoor Visits. May 21st; The Anderton Lift at Northwich June 18th. The Aqueduct at Poncystlite & Langollen Canal.

Wanted - September 7th

The Pastoral Committee is organising a fun day for the Parish on September 7th to precede the Rededication Service to be held the following day. The Beeston Outdoor Centre is the venue and has been booked from 3.00 pm to 9.00 pm. The setting is magnificent, with lovely views of the castle and glorious Cheshire countryside. There is plenty of space for outdoor games or enjoying the sunshine. If it should be wet there is accommodation indoors. It is hoped to organise long and short walks, outdoor games for the young, seats in the sun for those who wish to sit and talk and a camp fire and barbecue. Come for as long as you wish.

How successful it is depends on you! Volunteers to help and make it a Parish event to remember must be found.

Wanted:

Barbecues and cooks

Games organiser and helpers

Walks leader, long and short

Transport organiser

Car park attendants

Assistance with food preparation

Ideas!!!

Please contact David Bowden tel. 335705 John Pearson tel. 335101

or any member of the Pastoral Committee as soon as possible.

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAY

Congratulations to Hilda Lewis on her 80th birthday.

LIBRARY MATTERS A new addition to the Church library is a collection of sermons and addresses by the Archbishop of Canterbury elect, Rowan Williams. The topics covered are wide-ranging, including subjects such as suffering, sexuality, justice and war. The book is not a new one, it was published in 1994, but it gives helpful insight into the views of the new leader of the Anglican communion. The book is entitled Open to Judgement. Margaret Bass

<u>Top</u>

## **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.

NEW TO YOU SALE CHRISTLETON PARISH AHLL SATURDAY 14TH SEPTEMBER 2002 10.00 AM – 12 NOON

There will be refreshments available and a raffle. Admission will be 50p with accompanied children free. Proceeds will be added to those of the Christmas Fair which are donated to local, national and international charities.

We would be grateful for: &Mac183; Volunteers to help &Mac183; Good quality clothing &Mac183; Raffle prizes &Mac183; Bric-a-brac &Mac183; Books and tapes (NO electrical goods please)

amaeree, Beene and tapee (Ne electrical geode picace)

Goods can be left at the Parish Hall on Friday 13th September.

Contacts

Clothing: Cynthia Siddall (335486) Bric-a-brac: Moira Jones (336204) Other: Janet Brown (335785) Betty Dunning (335652) John Pearson (335101)

## GOLDEN JUBILEE DAFFODILS

When I was driving home to Christleton from Littleton in March I had the idea of planting some daffodils around and between the trees on the grass verge. This would celebrate the Queen's Golden Jubilee and be a lasting reminder of this occasion. I also thought it would be a lovely way to link the two villages in a joint project from which we would all benefit.

I would be very grateful for donations of bulbs and volunteers to help me plant them! I thought the weekend of 28th – 29th September would be a good time to plant, meeting about 10 am at the first tree on the verge nearest to Christleton and going from there, depending on how many daffodils and how many people respond. Some families have approached me already and like the idea of their children, in years to come, being able to say that they were involved in planting the daffodils..

Any ideas on the most economical way of obtaining the bulbs would be appreciated. I am very grateful to those who have already contributed and am holding the money in a Post Office account at the moment. If you are interested in supporting this project please contact me, Judith Edwards at 1 The Paddock, Little Heath Road, Christleton, Chester CH3 7AJ or by phone (332387). I look forward to hearing from you.

#### See you there! Judith Edwards

#### THE RETREAT HOUSE 11 Abbey Square, Chester CH1 2HU

You've heard of the Lost Gardens of Heligan – well, there's a lost one at the Retreat House that is being brought back to life by Warden Valerie Fisher and her helpers and neighbour (Bishop's House). Valerie showed me over the other day. What a surprise to see so much land behind the house which is being restored to a garden again. It involves a lot of hard work but the end result will be great.

Another project she has in mind is to provide a lift in the house and donations towards this are being invited. Quiet days and evenings can be arranged to suit individuals and groups; parish groups are welcome for their own retreats and conferences and private retreatants are welcome whenever the house is not fully booked. Bed and breakfast charges are £25, coffee, lunch and tea £16, supper, bed and breakfast £30 and a 24-hour stay costs £34. A Friday to Sunday stay is £60. You can ring Valerie on 01244 321801 or visit the website: www.chesterretreathouse.org or send an e-mail: chester.retreat@tiscali.co.uk If you write, please enclose a stamped addressed envelope for a reply. The Retreat House is a registered charity No.248705. Margaret Croston

**CHURCHES TOGETHER IN CHRISTLETON** 

A Date for Your Diary The Revd Jonathan Gorsky, a Rabbi, is the Education Advisor of the Council of Christians and Jews (CCJ). This organisation was founded in 1943 in London, at the height of Nazi persecutions of the Jews, to fight the evils of prejudice and intolerance. Our Archbishop is one of the CCJ's Presidents and the Bishop of Chester, our Bishop Peter, is Chairman of a committee.

The Revd Gorsky is a part-time lecturer at Bristol University. He is a desired speaker, addressing groups of people from all walks of life. He regularly talks to sixth formers and university students, and every year he sees about 1000 Northern Ireland students from Protestant and Catholic schools so that they can study together and learn about their common heritage; they have always been happy to discuss the Jewish roots of the early church and about communal tensions in environments other than Northern Ireland.

The Revd Gorsky is also a prolific writer and despite great demands on his time has promised to speak to us at Christleton on Wednesday evening 30th October 2002 in the Parish Hall. More details in the October magazine.

## <u>Top</u>

## ALPHA!

Further news! We are contacting a group of people who we think might be interested in the course, i.e. our Sunday School families and those who have recently had children baptized, and we are hoping to form a group. We will be holding an informal get-together with wine and light refreshments on 20th September from 7.30 pm – 9.00 pm in the Parish Hall, which will provide an opportunity for those who wish to find out more. If you know anybody who might be interested in Alpha please telephone either Gill Hibbert (336544) or Berenice Hogg (336779).

PS If you are interested in the course, but are not in the 20/30 year age group, do contact us and we will try and find a group that will suit you.

## THE ALPHA COURSE

an opportunity to explore the meaning of life

Looking for answers? The Alpha Course is an opportunity for anyone to explore the Christian faith in a relaxed, non-threatening manner over ten, thoughtprovoking weekly sessions.

It's low key, friendly and fun. And it's supported by all the main Christian denominations. You're not on your own either. Almost 4 million people worldwide have already found it to be a worthwhile experience.

So join us on a journey of discovery. There's a course running at a church near you! www.alphacourse.org

## CHRISTLETON PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

At the July meeting it was decided that Mrs Hilary Devenport would be thanked for decorating the lampposts in the village for the Queen's Golden Jubilee.

The repair or replacement of the sprung items of equipment at the King George V playing field area would be progressed. Mr Smeatham had been asked to estimate for repairs to the fencing. Graffiti in the tunnel would be reported to the City Council and it was noted that damage to the litter bins had occurred.

Local organisations were being contacted for evidence of use of Cotton Hall Lane.

Members referred to recent vandalism within the parish and to other crime which was known to have taken place. PC Tack indicated that high visibility walkabouts would take place. The Vice-Chairman referred to congestion in the vicinity of the primary school in the morning with vehicles parking on the footway. It was accepted this was difficult to police without parking restrictions. The Clerk reported the receipt of correspondence from PC Tack seeking community volunteers as part of Project Rural Matters.

The requested traffic count information, together with the response of the County Engineer to matters which had been raised, had been referred to Councillor Crawford. A report would be brought to a future meeting. Confirmation would be sought of the locations of the two counts.

Information was received from the City Council as to the availability of Local Panel funding during the current financial year. It was agreed that possible locations for additional dog bins would be considered.

The Clerk reported the receipt of correspondence from the Trees and Woodlands Officer of Chester City Council in connection with a hedgerow removal notice submitted by C.E. Walley Esq for the removal of a length of hedgerow on Plough Lane running from the junction with Rake Lane to enable a footway to be provided in the interest of road safety.

Regarding the Royal British Legion site, the Clerk reported that the application had been approved by the planning board subject to a legal agreement covering common land and highway issues. An indication had been given that the parish council could expect assistance with the legal aspects although the City Council could not act on the parish council's behalf.

The Vice-Chairman reported that he had attended a meeting at the Primary School which had discussed road safety concerns. The highway authority was to look at various points. Mr P Parry had indicated that he did not believe that the funding which was available for the provision of red patches on Quarry Lane represented good value for money. It was noted that land was available within the ownership of the County Council which could be used for an extension to the footpath to which the funding already agreed could be applied. It was resolved that this was seen as the best way forward. County Councillor Burke indicated he would be happy to expedite the matter.

Councillor Butt reported on a Home Watch meeting. A long-standing issue had been raised as to improved security lighting at The Square where a small number of front doors did not benefit from street lighting, requiring tenants to access their property in darkness. The possibility of financial support from the parish council was discussed. The Clerk would contact the Chester and District Housing Trust suggesting that the provision of security lighting would be a worthwhile improvement for the tenants concerned.

The next Parish Council meeting will be at the Methodist Church School Room on Tuesday 3rd September. Members of the public are welcome to attend. Margaret Croston

#### **CHRISTLETON CRICKET CLUB**

Recent results have been mixed following a shortage of players due to weddings, stag nights and holidays! However both 1st and 2nd teams have consolidated their positions in the first season in the County league. The 3rd team are producing excellent performances and are currently competing for promotion in their first season. The Ladies team are already champions having remained unbeaten throughout the season. Unfortunately our current 'scribe' is unable to fulfil his duties owing to ill health

and we are in need of a scorer. If anyone is interested please contact Brian Wareing on 01244 332326.

We wish to express our thanks to the sponsors for the August matches: Owain Davies

Geoff Stanworth Derek & Alun Garner Mrs Gordon Williams Martin Wheeler Terry Brooks Brian Ruks

#### 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:

Informal 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.

Readers

Please remember to support our magazine advertisers and mention where you have read their name.