

# St. James' Christleton



Parish Magazine  
**SEPTEMBER 2004**

30p

# Starting in September

Wed 1 10.45 am United Communion – followed by refreshments

Fri 3 6.30 pm Choir Practice

**Sun 5 The Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity – Proper 18**

8.00 am Holy Communion - Order 2

10.45 am Parish Communion – Common Worship – Order 1 – with Baptisms

6.00 pm Young Peoples Meeting with Andy Putt – Parish Hall

6.30 pm Evensong – followed by refreshments

Prayer Link Road - Bythom Close Neighbourhood Link – Stan Smith

**Mon 6 10.45 am Holy Communion – Tarvin Court Nursing Home**

11.20 am Holy Communion – Oaklands Nursing Home

7.45 pm Bereavement Support Group - Rectory

2.00 pm Mothers' Union (Parish Hall)

Wed 8 10.45 am Holy Communion - followed by refreshments

11.30 am Holy Communion at Birch Heath Lodge Nursing Home

2.00 pm PCC Standing Committee – Rectory

Thur 9 7.45 pm Faith & Worship Committee – Rectory

Fri 10 6.30 pm Choir Practice

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

**Sun 12 The Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity – Proper 19**

8.00 am Holy Communion – Order 1

10.45 am Annual Family Rededication Communion - followed by refreshments

6.30 pm Evensong

Prayer Link Road: Chapel Close Neighbourhood Link: Gwen Knight

Mon 13 2.00 pm Mothers Union – Parish Hall  
7.45 pm Pastoral & Outreach Committee – Plough Lane

Wed 15 10.45 am Holy Communion - followed by refreshments

Fri 17 6.30 pm Choir Practice

Sat 18 9.00 am CAR BOOT SALE – Cheshire Cat  
Proceeds to Christmas Fair Charities

**Sun 19                      The Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity – Proper 20**

8.00 am Holy Communion – Order 1  
10.30 am Sunday School – Parish Hall  
10.45 am Parish Communion – Order 1  
6.30 pm Evensong (Common Worship)  
Prayer Link Road: The Paddock Neighbourhood Link: Judith  
Edwards

Tues 21 7.30 am Parish Ramble Group leaves car park for Lake District  
9.00 am Holy Communion for St Matthew

Wed 22 10.45 am Holy Communion - followed by refreshments

Thur 23 7.45 pm Deanery Eucharist – St James

Fri 24 6.30 pm Choir Practice

**Sun 26                      The Sixteenth Sunday After Trinity – Proper 21**

8.00 am Holy Communion - Order 1  
10.30 am Sunday School – Parish Hall  
10.45 am Matins with Baptisms – followed by refreshments  
6.30 pm Evening Communion – Order 1  
Prayer Link: Claypits Lane Neighbourhood Link: June Owen

Mon 27 2.30 pm Afternoon Open House – All Welcome – 24 Hawthorn Road

Wed 29 10.45 am Holy Communion for St Michael & All Angels  
7.45 pm PCC Meeting – Parish Hall

# The Rector's Letter

Dear Friends

## NEW LIFE IN GOD'S FAMILY

On 12<sup>th</sup> September at 10.45 am we shall have our Annual Parish Communion and Rededication Service so we can rededicate our lives as God's family for the coming year. It seems a good time to have this after the summer break, as the schools go back, and a new season gets under way. Each year we use the words from the service when I was Inducted as Rector, so we can renew the promises we made as people and priest on that occasion. These focus on:- New Life in God's Family (at the Font): Growth in God's Family (at the lectern): and Worship in God's Family (at the Altar). At each of these we commit ourselves to work together to build up the Body of Christ in this Parish. I do hope you will make a special effort to be there so the whole Church family is represented, as we respond to Christ's call in ministry and mission to be his people.

This year will have special significance in that we shall be welcoming **Andy Putt**. He is joining us in the Parish as a Light Team Project Worker to work with us in encouraging our younger members to have a greater sense of belonging to our Church family, and to help them grow in faith. The Light Project was initiated by the Churches of Hoole to encourage a Christian outreach across Chester. Each year young people join as Light Teamers to work individually with particular Churches, to work together in projects across Chester, and to develop their own training and skills in Christian youth work. Andy will be working with us at St James for 20 hours per week. There is an invitation to all young people of secondary school age to come to the Parish Hall on Sunday 5th September at 6.00 p.m. to meet Andy and talk about what they want, and try to arrange the best time to meet regularly. Obviously Andy cannot do this on his own, so we need a team of adults who will support him. If you think you could help and would like to get involved, please let me know.

Another sign of new life in our Church family will be the Licensing of **Wayne Morris** as a Reader in October. Wayne has been worshipping with us at St James since taking up his appointment last September. This work involves lecturing in Applied Theology at University College, where he is also responsible for representing the needs of students with disability. Added to this, he has a Diocesan appointment in training people for the ministry of Readers in this Archdeaconry. Wayne has a wealth of experience and depth of knowledge in applied Theology and I welcome his contribution to the life of St James. As Reader his ministry will include preaching, assisting with Communion and generally sharing his particular gifts in our Church family. Nevertheless, we recognise his other responsibilities such as 'signing' for deaf people at a Church service near Crewe once a month, which will mean he has to 'ration' his involvement!

It is encouraging to look forward to welcoming Andy and Wayne, but the Christian Church is an every member ministry. Our Rededication Communion recognises, and endorses, the part each and every one of us plays within the membership of our Church, and invites each one of us to make it our own personal rededication. As we think of all the different expressions of our Parish life in worship, Sunday School, Mothers' Union, Choir, Bellringers, PCC (with its Committees of Stewardship, Faith and Worship and Pastoral and Outreach), House groups, Parish Magazine and so on – we realise how we all have a part to play, and depend on each other in responding to God's call to be his family. May we all then be renewed in faith and fellowship as we seek God's blessing in rededicating ourselves in the mission and ministry of Jesus Christ and welcoming new life in God's family.

Yours sincerely

*Peter Lee.*

### **Prayer of the Month:**

*(A New Creed – the United Church of Canada)*

*We are not alone, we live in God's world.*

*We believe in God:*

*who has created and is creating,  
who has come in Jesus, the word made flesh,  
to reconcile and make new,  
who works in us and others by the Spirit.*

*We Trust in God.*

*We are called to be his Church:*

*to celebrate God's presence, to love and serve others,  
to seek justice and resist evil,  
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope.*

*In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us.*

*We are not alone. Thanks be to God. Amen*

## PARISH HALL

By the time you read this the Parish Hall will have been completely redecorated so please take care of it! Earlier this Summer David Mercer discovered wet rot in the flooring by the emergency exit in the main hall. On investigation this was found to extend round the outside wall. Our thanks are due to David who has done all the work to make it good by taking off the panels, removing the damaged wood, laying a damp course and renewing the wood. He has inserted vents in the panelling to prevent any recurrence and much else besides. You will notice he has also installed new lighting in the annexe and renewed rotten skirting boards. When I asked David a week or so ago how much time he had put in, the answer then was well over 50 hours and he has done much more since. We are indebted to David for all he does in looking after the Parish Hall and giving so much time and professional expertise. Our thanks to him and Barbara for all their work.

*Peter Lee*

## READERS' ROTA

We are well blessed at St James by a good number of volunteers who read the Lessons in our Services. Each month Liz Michie, Pat Hawkes and Jenny Davies take it in turn to arrange the Rota. Liz is now giving up this task having done it since before I became Rector here. So thank you Liz for all you have done.

If anyone would like to join the Readers' Rota please let me know so we can add your name to the list.

*Peter Lee*

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### **World Church Mission The Sunday School has bought a cow!**

When Ian and Claire Gray from Wycliffe Bible Translators visited us on the 11<sup>th</sup> of May, Claire explained that to enable their work to continue in Ghana when they had retired, it was necessary to provide an income for the trained local people who would continue the work. Her practical solution is to build up a herd of cows to be managed on behalf of the Bible Translators, and provide them with an income. The chil-

dren have been sponsored to buy a cow and have named her "Daffodil", which should cause some puzzlement in Ghana! It is hoped that this will be the start of a dialogue between our Sunday School and Christian families associated with Bible translation in Ghana. A wonderful example of practical Christian mission by which everyone gains something!

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### **Feature of the Month.**

#### **Christleton Play Group**

Christleton Play Group is featured on this month's cover. The children were photographed playing in the warm July sun at The Scout Hut before they broke up for their summer holiday.

#### **Christleton Play Group**

The Play Group is a registered charity 1022817, and is a warm, caring and friendly place, in which children are encouraged to learn explore and grow, through a variety of play related activities. Our staff are experienced dedicated and approachable, and we recently received an excellent Ofsted report. As the Pre - School Group is run by a committee, parents are able to participate

fully in all decision -making, and are encouraged to share ideas and opinions. We offer places to all children from aged 2 ½, and all 3 year olds receive free places from September 2004. We open five mornings a week, from 9.00 – 11.45am, and also run an afternoon "Rising Fives" session on a Thursday afternoon, for those children due to start school the following September. You are very welcome to come along and visit us at any time we meet in the Scout Hut on White Lane Christleton (opposite "The Old Trooper"). Alternatively, you can contact Carole Penny, our supervisor, on 01244 336586. Ali Bird Pre- School Chair.

Congratulations to  
**Michael and Christine  
Abrams**  
on their Ruby Wedding  
Anniversary  
10th October, 2004

# Gardening for Wildlife

## Part 1

**M**any people have mentioned to me that their gardens have been lacking in wildlife recently. So instead of writing my nature notes for the next few months I plan to give you some hints on how you can do simple things to attract wildlife, even into the smallest gardens. In this first article I'll outline some of the problems, and some of the natural changes that have occurred.

Since the World War2 Britain has lost;

- 95% of its wildflower meadows.
- 72% of its lowland heaths
- 50% of its remaining woodland
- 50% of lowland marshes
- tens of thousands of miles of hedgerow
- a large number of country ponds
- many SSSI 's lost to house and road building.



Most native species of birds have dropped dramatically in numbers including, thrushes, house & tree sparrows, buntings, most of the finches even the humble wren. Farmland birds like the skylark, lapwing, curlew, and snipe, have all but disappeared from this area. There have been gains, eg more birds of prey such as owls, sparrow hawks, buzzards and red kites, but the wildlife in gardens and countryside generally has really suffered in the last fifty or so years. A recent change for the good is that road builders now have to put back something for land & habitat that



is lost. The new RSPB Reserve near Conway, was created to compensate for the loss of land to build the road tunnel under the river. In Spring just marvel at the millions of cowslips now growing on the banks of the newly built A55 to North Wales. See the newly created wildflower meadows on recycled, industrial land at Pickering's Pasture near Widnes, using ash waste from Fiddlers Ferry Power Station. Also the creation and preservation of wildlife habitats through the development of special reserves, by organisations such as the RSPB, the Wetland & Wildfowl Trust and the County Wildlife Trusts. There must also be a large number of new small gardens out there because of the publicity Charlie Dimmock, Alan Titchmarsh and co. give to the gardening industry. In fact there is probably a gardening programme on television in the UK every day, with more and more gardens opening to the public.

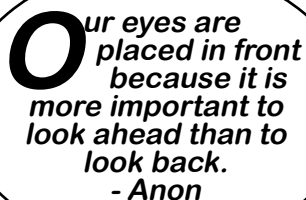
TO BE CONTINUED.

*David Cummings*

## **A Message from the Revd Graham Evans:**

Grateful thanks to all those who contributed to the very generous retirement gift I received from Churches Together in Christleton. The development of ecumenical work in Christleton has been one of the most positive aspects of my time as a minister in this part of the Chester Methodist Circuit. It has been a privilege not just to take part in ecumenical events but to see the developing relationships and friendships between people from different Christian traditions. I trust that the future will continue to see a growth in that local sense of unity as we continue to explore the future shape of the Church. Grace and peace to you all.

*Graham Evans*



**O**ur eyes are  
placed in front  
because it is  
more important to  
look ahead than to  
look back.  
- Anon

# **GLENTHORNE 2005 RAMBLING AND FELLOWSHIP WEEKEND**



The Glenthorne Rabling and Fellowship Weekend is now booked for June 10th, 11th and 12th, 2005

We have 30 places and 18 have already been booked. Please let Liz have your mini-deposit of £10 to secure your place as soon as possible.

We hope to have an Inactive Group, and Active Group and a super fit group, the last under David Cummings supervision. Plenty of time to do your own thing also, and time for fellowship throughout and in the evenings.

Contact Liz McClure, 01244- 409414

# HISTORIC CHESHIRE CHURCHES PRESERVATION TRUST

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Cyclists, Walkers, Riders, Runners and Car Drivers to join  
Edward Elliott and Gillian Brackenbury in this

## **Annual 'Bike-Ride Day'**

enjoying the beautiful Cheshire countryside whilst visiting as many  
historic churches as possible to raise money for this worthy cause.

We require volunteers to participate in visiting the churches and to  
help Gillian to keep St. James open for visiting participants from  
other parishes, from 10.00am to 5.00pm in half hour shifts.

*Entry / Sponsorship forms and rota sheet  
from the back of church at St. James', Christleton  
or from Edward Telephone 01244-336659*

## Sequel to Normandy

**O**n a recent visit to the D-Day Exhibition at the Imperial War Museum, we were surprised and delighted to see Sgt. Major Hollis's Victorian Cross on display, on loan from the Green Howard's Museum. One could also use a handset and hear the actual voice of the hero talking about his D-Day experiences. After the war he couldn't settle and opened a pub, but died at the age of 59.

*Margaret & Alf Croston*

### JESUS NOT A SWEAR WORD

**A** campaign has been launched to challenge people to rethink their use of blasphemy in everyday language. Postcards designed with the caption 'Jesus not a swear-word' placed on a motorway sign, parking meter, taxi meter and as a text message have been sent to over 100,000 homes.

Posters with the same designs have been put up on billboards, and across the backs of buses. Christians are being encouraged to place them in their windows and at work in a bid to raise

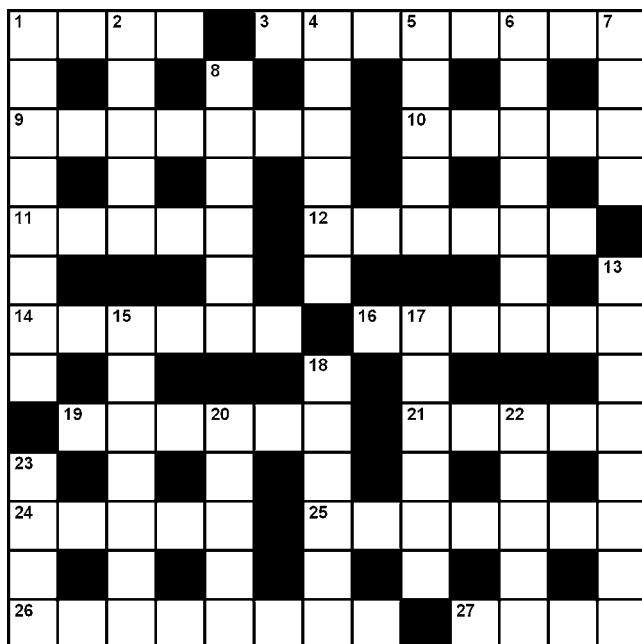
awareness that blasphemy is not acceptable. The campaign is now attracting national interest.

Lloyd Cooke, director of Saltbox, the charity behind the campaign explains: "Our aim is to challenge people about their use of language. In today's society many people are concerned about offending other religions. Indeed, there would be outcry if people began to use Buddha or Mohammed as a swear word." Details: [www.jesusnotaswearword.org](http://www.jesusnotaswearword.org)

## CROSSWORD

### Across

- 1 Contributions to aid the poor (4)
- 3 Robber freed instead of Jesus Christ (8)
- 9 Impregnable city assaulted by Sennacherib (7)
- 10 Leniency or compassion (5)
- 11 A valley near Jericho, meaning trouble (5)
- 12 A diplomatic representative of the Pope having ambassadorial status (6)
- 14 Small houses built of wood (6)
- 16 A food prepared from the pressed curd of milk (6)
- 19 First of the three sons of Caleb by Azubah (6)
- 21 The lion of God (5)
- 24 Tangled mass of prickly plants (5)



25 Home of Lazarus and his sisters (7)

26 Son and successor of Solomon (8)

27 A song of praise (4)

### Down

1 An agreement between nations or groups (8)

2 A prophet, the son of Mephibosheth (5)

4 Home of the altar to an unknown god (6)

5 Son of Lot (5)

6 Wife of Herod (7)

7 Speaks (4)

8 Brook which flows through the Valley of Jehoshaphat (6)

13 A follower of John Wesley (8)

15 A mark or flaw (7)

17 An area near a fireplace (6)

18 Land between the Red Sea and the Persian Gulf (6)

20 Mountain range containing Sinai (5)

22 Country of Rome (5)

23 Founder of the Hebrew race (4)

*Solution on page 26*



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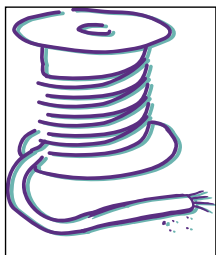
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## A silly American joke to mark the end of “the silly season”

**O**n the first day God created the cow. God said, “You must go to the field with the farmer all day long and suffer under the sun, have calves and give milk to support the farmer. I will give you a life span of sixty years.”

The cow said, “That’s kind of a tough life you want me to live for sixty years. Let me have twenty-five and I’ll give back the other thirty-five.”

And God agreed.

On the second day God created the dog. God said, “Sit all day by the door of your house and bark at anyone who comes in or walks past. I will give you a life span of twenty years.”

The dog said, “That’s too long to be barking. Give me ten years and I’ll give you back the other ten.”

So God agreed (sigh).

On the third day God created the monkey. God said, “Entertain people, do monkey tricks, make them laugh. I’ll give you a twenty year life span.” The monkey said, “How boring, monkey tricks for twenty years? I don’t

think so. Dog gave you back ten, so that’s what I’ll do too, okay?”

And God agreed again.

On the fourth day God created man. God said, “Eat, sleep, play, have sex, enjoy. Do nothing, just enjoy life, enjoy. I’ll give you twenty-five years.” Man said, “What? Only twenty-five years! No way, man. Tell you what, I’ll take my twenty-five, and the thirty-five the cow gave back, and the ten the dog gave back and the ten the monkey gave back, that makes eighty, okay?”

“Okay,” said God. “You’ve got a deal.”

So that is why the first twenty-five years we eat, sleep, play, have sex, enjoy life, and do nothing; The next thirty-five years we slave in the sun to support our family; The next ten years we do monkey tricks to entertain the grandchildren; and the last ten years we sit on the front porch and bark at everyone.

Life has now been explained.

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**O**ur eyes are placed in front because it is more important to look ahead than to look back.  
- Anon

## **JOHN SELLERS EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION CHRISTLETON**

**T**his 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, but in recent years donations from individuals and grants from other bodies have been gratefully received. 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 money has been given to the Pre-School Group, 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)  
Telephone: Chester 335955  
Rookery Nook,  
5 Bridge Drive  
Christleton  
Chester, CH3 6AW

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### **The Benthams in Zimbabwe**

**S**id Hardy has placed in the library what appears at first glance to be a scrapbook showing aspects of the time Ben and Lisa, together with their boys, spent in Zimbabwe. However, it is very much more than a scrapbook, for it shows not only the personal, the pastoral and the parochial, but it also gives stark insights into the underlying corruption and violence that pervades this sad land. For example, there are extracts from the press, detailing political events and ensuing violence; there is a copy of a “complaint and charge



sheet" issued by the Province of the Anglican Church of Central Africa against a corrupt Bishop described as a "government plant"; there are facts and figures on the HIV/AIDS situation. In short, it is a powerful snapshot of a tragic country and it makes compelling reading. Do look at it and let it speak to you.

*Margaret Bass*



## **Parish Rambling Group Sunday 26 September**

Starting in the Tarvin Community Woodland, a circumnavigation of Tarvin led by John Carruthers (01829-740810). John created the first parts in the Woodland in 1983 and will illustrate the progress made since.

*Easy walking,*

*approximately 3 ½ miles.*

*Meet 1.30 pm St James church  
car park.*

## **Signs & Symbols Chancel Screens**

Next time you are planning a holiday, or just fancy a short break, why not try Devon? It's the county that is noted for its magnificent fifteenth century wooden chancel screens.

Last month this series looked at altar rails and how they replaced chancel screens. But what were chancel screens, anyway, and why were they used? In one church in Derbyshire there is no longer a screen but there is a column at the start of the chancel where there's this funny little door opening on to a short set of stairs that don't go anywhere. There's also some stone supports high up that have nothing on them. Signs that tell you that it used to have a screen with a loft above it where the musicians and choir, and possibly the organ and organist, would have been.

But first, let's just go back a step. You'll remember that church porches had been used for lots of civil administrative work when churches were pretty much the only community building in most villages. Well, porches were built, in large part, to take those activities out of the church itself. In medieval times the body of the church - the nave - was used for many secular purposes so it was usual to erect a screen to divide the nave from the chancel which was the 'Holy' part of the church.

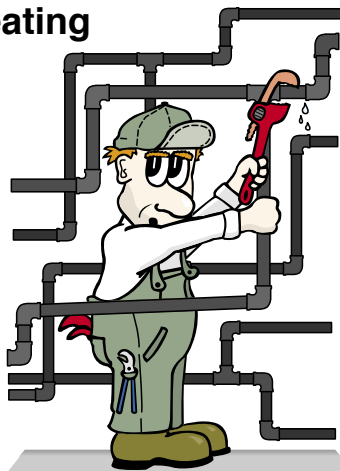
The screen defined the boundary between nave and chancel; the parishioners being responsible for the repair of the nave and screen, and the rector that of the chancel. Once you know that you can see why the two parts of a church building can be so different - in size, date, style and general maintenance. Some of our church buildings today have been re-ordered and divided into a similar arrangement: community use at the back of the church and a worship area in the front and chancel. You can almost feel the wheel of time turning round!

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## LOCAL EVENTS DIARY

### SUNDAY SCHOOL

Held in the Parish Hall from 10.30 am – 11.45 am each Sunday during term-time, except when Family Service is held at St James. For further details please contact Berenice Hogg, 336779.

### CHRISTLETON LADIES GUILD

Held at the Christleton Methodist Church, commencing at 2pm, Tuesdays fortnightly, £1 admission includes refreshments. For further information contact Joan Webb, 375076.

*All very welcome*

### OPEN HOUSE GROUPS

The Monday Afternoon Group meet on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month at the home of Rena Griffiths, 24 Hawthorn Road, Christleton. Contact Margaret Bass (335517) for further information.

### 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 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month at 1.30pm. Details of any events can be obtained from the Secretary, Mrs Edna Ellis telephone Chester 346497.

### CHURCHYARD WORK PARTY

**On Saturday 2 October from 9am to 1.00pm.**

Please come along, if only for some of the time, to tidy up the Churchyard ready for Winter. For further information contact David Mercer 336155.

## LOCAL EVENTS DIARY



Meet the second Monday of the month. The next meeting will take place on 13 September and will feature Deva Orchids. There will be a sales table.

### **CHRISTLETON W.I. MONTHLY WHIST DRIVE**

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

### **CHRISTLETON W.I.**

The next meeting will take place on 8 September when a WI Produce Show will take place.

### **Christleton Ladies' Guild**

Recommences on  
14th September

### **The Christleton Toddler Group**

Meet at the Parish Hall every Tuesday from 10.00am to 11.45am. If you have a child between 0-3yrs of age then please come along. We have a baby area, book corner and larger toys for older toddlers. Each week there is an activity taking place and we finish the session with songs.

We would welcome mums, dads and carers to bring their children along to have some fun. The Toddler Group return for the Autumn term on Tuesday 7th September. We look forward to seeing you!

### **MOTHER'S UNION**

Our next meeting will be on Monday, September 13th. We look forward to welcoming Mrs Anne Parsons as our Speaker.

Her subject will be  
'Life in a Vicarage'.

*All welcome.*



## LOCAL EVENTS DIARY

### GROSVENOR MUSEUM SOCIETY

All meetings at the Grosvenor Museum, Chester, at 7.30 pm  
Entrance: Members free, Non-Members suggested donation £4.00

**SEPTEMBER** – Thursday 9<sup>th</sup>  
Edward Morris

#### **The Making of the Lady Lever Art Gallery:**

Its creation by Lord Leverhulme  
*Sponsor: Brian Dykes*

**OCTOBER** - Monday 4<sup>th</sup>  
Glyn Parry

#### **A Journey in Black and White:**

Antarctica Revisited – images from the Ross Sea  
*Sponsor: His Grace, the Duke of Westminster*

### HARVEST SUPPER

A Harvest Supper will be held at the Bickerton Poacher on **Saturday 16 October** with an evening meal and skittles.  
Contact Janet Brown 335785 for details.

### **CAR BOOT SALE** **at the Cheshire Cat on** **18th September at 9.0 am**

Organized by Janet Milton and John Pearson with proceeds going to the Christmas Charities nominated by St James Church. We are asking for your help. Can you bring a car boot with “new to you” items, things you’ve stored in the garage/attic & no longer want, and join us at the Cheshire Cat. A bacon sandwich breakfast will be supplied by the Cheshire Cat to all boot sellers.

Please help towards this Christleton church and local community event by giving Janet Milton a ring on Chester 335469 or John Pearson a ring on 335101.

Let us help others less fortunate than ourselves. Thank you.

## Statistic of the month

**Fewer people will marry!**

**T**he latest figures from the Government Actuary's Department indicate that the proportion of the population who will be married will decrease from the current 55% to 45% by 2021.

One reason is that cohabitation is becoming increasingly popular, with 3 million people expected to be cohabiting in 2021. The highest percentage then will be among those aged 30-49, of whom more than fifth, 21%, will be cohabiting. Another reason is that many more people are preferring to live alone. Single people will be about a quarter of the population, many of whom will be single parents, mostly lone mothers.

It is therefore important that the church finds ways of welcoming those who cohabit or who are single parents into their friendship and community. Larger churches may find this easier as they are more likely to have several people in this life-stage who could bond together in fellowship.

By Dr Peter Brierley Executive Director, Christian Research

## Choice

**T**oday we can choose anything from our hair colour to even the gender of our unborn child. But is an increasing array of choices really a good thing? So many of the choices available to us today seem to be not clearly right or wrong and we have a harder and harder time knowing how to choose.

Because we are human and made in the image of God, we have indeed been given the ability and responsibility of choice. God purposely created us with this ability, this will to decide. We know this to be true from the earliest story about humanity, the story of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. Even in the garden with all its beauty and pleasure, God provided humanity with right and wrong choices. Significantly, however, where there were a multitude of good choices, with all the seed bearing plants and trees on the face of the whole earth, Adam and Eve could make only one wrong choice - eating from the tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. And we all know how that story ends.

Now why was the tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil put in the garden? Why didn't God just protect Adam and Eve from making that wrong choice? To answer that we have to understand that God created us in his image with minds, wills and emotions.

## **PAVEMENT PASTORS ON PATROL 'STREET PASTORS' PROGRAMME LAUNCHED IN MANCHESTER**

**T**his summer Street Pastors took to some of Manchester's toughest streets. The ambitious 14-strong team, in distinctive blue jackets and baseball caps, believed they could play a vital role in building bridges between the young and disenfranchised.

The scheme was pioneered by Pastor Les Isaac of the Ascension Trust, and is supported by Greater Manchester Police, with funding from various bodies including Manchester City Council. Pastor Isaac says, "This is what I call the urban trinity. We have to work with the local authorities and with the police. We're in this for the long haul. Street Pastors bring hope, hope that life can be different, hope for education and training, hope for employment. The most important thing is to address self-esteem. There has always got to be hope."

Manchester is the third city after London and Birmingham to have Street Pastors. In one part of the capital, where the initiative has been operating for more than

a year, "reported crime rates are down by 30 percent", says Pastor Isaac. Chief Supt Neil Wain from Greater Manchester Police said, "Street Pastors can, I believe, make a substantial and useful contribution to the policing of crime and gangs in some of our more deprived communities. Such assistance and outreach to those caught up in that lifestyle has been effective in other areas in bringing informal social control and potentially offering a route out to those who want to stop participating."

Street Pastors will work at weekends from 10pm to 4am. They are trained in many areas including conflict resolution, counselling skills, drug awareness, and social historic development. The team comes from very different backgrounds and includes a business manager, a receptionist and a chef.

Street Pastors is set up by local churches with support from CARISMA and the Ascension Trust. For more information see [www.carisma.me.uk](http://www.carisma.me.uk)



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# Saints' Days

**SEPTEMBER 3<sup>RD</sup>, GREGORY  
THE GREAT C 540 - 604**

**P**ope Gregory never called himself 'the Great', but instead 'the Servant of the Servants of God'. Nevertheless, Gregory was one of the most important popes and influential writers of the Middle Ages. The son of a very rich Roman senator, he left the service of the State upon his conversion as a young man. Gregory then sold off his tremendous estates to found six monasteries in Sicily and a seventh in Rome, and gave generously to the poor. He became a monk and adopted an austere lifestyle. But he was destined to be a frustrated monk, because successive popes kept appointing him to jobs with major public responsibilities.

Christians in England owe him a great deal. When Gregory came across some English slaves for sale in Rome, he asked who they were, and was told, 'They are Angles.' Moved with compassion for these humiliated and despised men, he replied, 'They are not Angles, but angels!' He wanted to lead a band of missionaries to England to evangelise the Angles, but then plague broke

out in Italy, and during this time he was elected Pope. Reluctantly he accepted, and then sent to work to deal with the crises facing Christendom: plague, floods, famine, and a Lombard invasion. But busy though Gregory was, he did not forget the Angles. He sent Augustine to England, and so became the apostle of the English

**SEPTEMBER 21<sup>ST</sup> - ST  
MATTHEW**

**M**atthew was one of 12 apostles. But he began as a publican i.e. a tax-collector of Jewish race who worked for the Romans, before he left all at the call of Christ. From earliest times, he was regarded as the author of the first of the four Gospels. The Gospel of Matthew is in correct, concise style, very suitable for public reading.

His usual emblem as an evangelist is a man, because his genealogy emphasised the family ties of Christ. In art, he has been represented as either an evangelist or as an apostle. As an evangelist, he has been depicted sitting at a desk, writing his gospel with an angel holding the inkwell. In the Middle Ages he was even given

a pair of spectacles. Matthew was martyred by a sword or a spear, some think in Ethiopia.

He did not create us as slaves or robots. In including the tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil in the garden, God gave Adam and Eve the chance to operate their wills and exercise their ability to choose.

God also gives us the amazing ability to choose. We can choose a life that follows God's plan and purpose with all the goodness of the earth and the heavens included in the package, or we can choose a life that is independent from God, outside of his protection and plan for us. What makes it especially difficult today, however, is that instead of being limited to only one wrong choice (as were Adam and Eve) we live in a fallen world with an ever-increasing array of ways to choose independence from God. In the midst of this confusing array of choices, may we be especially diligent in seeking God's wisdom, asking him to help us discern his will for our lives.

As Paul urged the Christians in Ephesians (ch 5) "Be very careful then how you live, not as unwise, but as wise..."

## **My prayer for you**

*This morning when I wakened  
And saw the sun above,  
I softly said, "Good morning,  
Lord,  
Bless everyone I love."  
And right away I thought of you  
And said a loving prayer,  
That He would bless you  
specially,  
And keep you free from care.  
I thought of all the happiness  
A day could hold in store,  
I wished it all for you because  
No one deserves it more.*

---

## **JURY SERVICE**

Ministers of all denominations are now eligible for jury service after changes in the Criminal Justice Act, which came into effect this Spring.

The Department for Constitutional Affairs (DCA) decided that the pool of potential jurors needed to be expanded to include priests, the police, magistrates, doctors and politicians. Under the new system, both the Prime Minister and the Archbishop of Canterbury could now be called to sit on a jury.

# CHRISTLETON CRICKET CLUB



**W**ith 5 games to play Christleton 1<sup>st</sup> 1X are top of the league, 14 points clear of Toft, after some great performances in July. Maroof Khan has regularly made big scores and has proved to be an excellent acquisition. The team who narrowly beat Christleton in the last 8 of the Village Knockout have now progressed to the final at Lord's! Chairman, Gareth Davies and President, Jim Partington have put their best suits into mothballs, confident that next year we will go all the way!

The 2<sup>nd</sup> X1 which comprises a mixture of youth and experience are currently in 2<sup>nd</sup> place in their league, as are the 3<sup>rd</sup> X1. The Women's team remain top of

their league.

There is still no progress regarding a new lease from the Parish council. Many villagers have enquired and expressed concern that despite the excellent management of the Sports fields over the 30 years the future of the Sports Club is being threatened.

We would like to express our thanks to the following match sponsors for their support in July:

Walker Smith Way, Brian Davies, The Bike Factory, V. Parsonage, Buck & Hickman, Derek & Alyn Gardner, Owain Davies

A	L	M	S		B	A	R	A	B	B	A	S
L		I		K		T		M		E		A
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I		A		D		E		O		N		S
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C	A	B	I	N	S		C	H	E	E	S	E
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R	E	H	O	B	O	A	M		H	Y	M	N

It is religion without love  
that has been responsible  
for most of the misery of the  
world.

- Anon

---

Opportunity knocks but  
once but temptation leans  
on the doorbell

## MAGAZINE CONTRIBUTIONS

Please ensure all items  
for inclusion in the  
October edition are  
sent to the Editor, David  
Bull, The Old Rectory,  
Plough Lane, as soon  
as possible **BEFORE**  
**Friday 10 September.**

## MAGAZINE DISTRIBUTORS

The September  
magazine will be  
available for collection  
from Church on Sunday  
26 September.

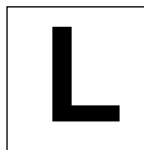
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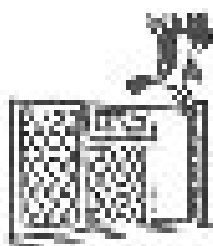
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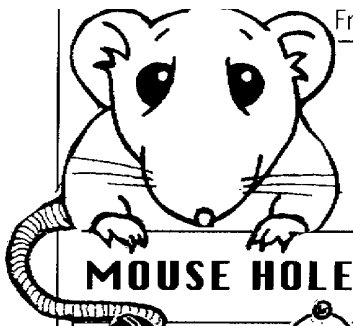
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From my home in the church I learn about all sorts of things...



After the great flood GOD said:

"As long as the world exists,  
there will be a time for planting  
and a time for harvest.

There will always be cold and heat,  
summer and winter, day and night"

Genesis 8:22



## HARVEST

is a time to REMEMBER

that GOD made the world:

He made the land we live on,

the air we breath,

the water we drink and the food we eat.



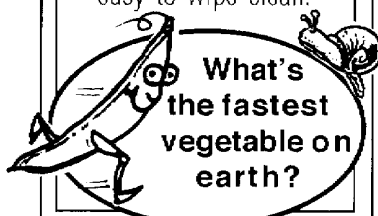
## My Favourite Things

Make a place mat  
with pictures of your  
favourite foods on.

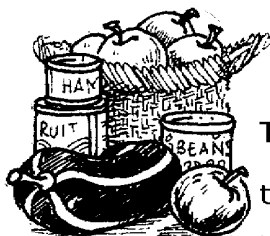


Draw pictures of your  
favourite foods in pencil  
or paint or cut pictures  
from old magazines.

Glue onto a sheet of card  
then cover with clear  
sticky-backed plastic  
to make the mat  
easy to wipe clean.



A runner bean

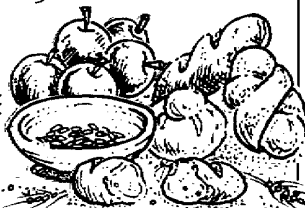


## HARVEST

is a time to say  
**THANK YOU** to GOD  
for giving us all the  
things we need to live.

## HARVEST

is a time to SHARE  
with others all that  
GOD has given us.



Can you think of different foods to  
finish these HARVEST 'acrostics'?

Honey

A

R

Vegetables

E

S

Tomatoes

H

Apple pie

R

V

E

Sausages

T



## **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**

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## **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**

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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 weekly: alternate Thursdays all day and alternate Fridays in Quarry Lane 11.15 am – 12.45 pm. For further 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.



# Parish Registers for July 2004

## Baptism

- 4<sup>th</sup> Charlotte Kate Parkinson daughter of Robin & Wendy Parkinson  
7 Littleton Lane, Littleton.
- 18<sup>th</sup> Edward James Alexander Mc Garva Brown  
son of Nicholas Brown & Joanna McGarva Brown  
1m Riet 14 8712 Staefa, Switzerland
- 18<sup>th</sup> Elizabeth Elle Bennett daughter of John & Diane Bennett  
74 Queens Road, Vicars Cross, Chester.
- 25<sup>th</sup> Sophie Elizabeth Penk daughter of Stuart Penk & Heather Hill  
133 Whitchurch Road, Christleton.

*"We welcome you into the Lords Family"*

## The Wedding Service

- 17<sup>th</sup> Darren Binns 9 Mimosa Close Elton &  
Emma Jane Fisher 19 Sandrock Road, Christleton

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

## The Funeral Service.

- 21<sup>st</sup> David Anthony Dawson 4 Waters Ream, Great Boughton.

*"Rest eternal grant unto them"*

## Offertories.

July	Cash	CSE	2004	2003
4 <sup>th</sup>	241.00	726.00	967.00	754.00
11 <sup>th</sup>	260.52	743.00	1000.52	961.68
18 <sup>th</sup>	260.63	794.30	892.52	653.91
25 <sup>th</sup>	282.02	610.50	892.52	653.91
<b>Totals</b>			<b>£3,918.00</b>	<b>£ 3181.19</b>

*"Of your own do we give you"*

## SHOPPING & SERVICE GUIDE

### ROCK HOUSE DENTAL PRACTICE

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**Damian Murphy**

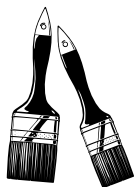
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<b>SUNDAYS</b>	8.00 a.m.	Holy Communion	
	10.45 a.m.	Parish Communion	1st & 3rd Sundays
		Family Service	2nd Sunday
		Mattins	4th & 5th Sundays
	6.30 p.m.	Evensong	1st, 2nd & 3rd Sundays
		Evening Communion	4th Sunday
		Songs of Praise	5th Sunday
<b>WEDNESDAYS</b>	10.45 a.m.	Holy Communion	
<b>SAINTS</b>	9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion	

### WHO'S WHO & WHAT'S WHAT

**Rector:**                                **The Rev'd K. Peter Lee, M.A.**  
**The Rectory, Birch Heath Lane, Christleton .... 335663**

<b>Wardens:</b>	David Mercer, 13 Bridge Drive, .....	336155
	John Pearson, 2 Badgers Close .....	335101
<b>Reader Emeritus</b>	John Roberts, Cerisy, Birch Heath Lane .....	332207
<b>Verger</b>	David Ellis .....	336879
<b>Sacristan:</b>	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**