

From the Registers

Baptisms

18th October:

'I turn to Christ'

Imogen Grace **Webb**
Hannah Cheliotis **Robinson**
Isobel Cheliotis **Robinson**

1st November:

Shaun Andrew **Young**
Alexander Stephen **Young**

15th November:

Amber Grace **Hilton-Smith**
Katie Elizabeth **Harrison**
Ethan John **Lyons**
Macey Ellen **Lyons**

Weddings:

10th October

'To love and to cherish'

Jonathan David **Cain** & Lynne Jacqueline **Carbery**

16th October

Andrew Nicholas **Jackson** & Rebecca Louise **Butterfield**

17th October

Matthew Christopher Joshua **Whitfield** & Claire Natalie **Barlow**

26th October

David Benedict **Ali** & Jenifer Katherine **Shone**

Funerals:

13th October

'Underneath are the everlasting arms'

Michelle **Williams**

19th October

Henry **Westhead**

5th November

Eunice **Corlett**

9th November

Sonia **Lock**

Christmas Carols, Cakes and a Cuppa!

Gary and Karen Renison would like to issue an open invitation to all ages who are available to join them in the Church Hall on Saturday December 12th anytime between 2-4pm for an informal Christmas Tea. They look forward to seeing you then.

Vestry Hour

Please note that there will be no Vestry Hour on Tuesday 22nd December or Tuesday 29th December. Vestry Hour will resume after the Christmas and New Year break on January 5th 2010.

All Ladies!

Walk and Talk or Run for Fun!

Mondays at 7.30—8.30 p.m. or Wednesdays at 7.00—8.00 p.m.

Meet at All Saints' Church Hall—All Ladies Welcome!

'CONTACT' is delivered to homes throughout the Parish of All Saints' Childwall. It gives a flavour of what goes on in our historical church building. You will be welcome to join in any of the events that are mentioned. The newsletter comes with good wishes.

Should you wish to contribute an article or notice to the next edition of 'CONTACT', please contact Heather Billington on 0151 722 6769 or Email:heather.billington@btinternet.com

"CONTACT"

The Parish Newsletter of
ALL SAINTS',CHILDWALL

December 2009/January 2010

Issue No. 158

All
SAINTS
CHURCH

'In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God' John 1 v 1

In my rose-tinted memory, my late childhood and early teenage Christmas Day afternoons always followed the same reassuring pattern. A fulsome lunch at my elder sister's would be followed by a brisk walk, before solemn attention was given over to the Queen's speech. Then games would be played until – in those halcyon pre-multichannel days of television – we sat down as a family to watch the Christmas feature film. A light tea would intervene before we excitedly gathered to view what must have been the highlight of television broadcasting in the 1970's, the Morecambe and Wise Christmas Special.

Now memory – as with goldfish – expands to fill the space available, and obviously the older I get there is less remaining space to be found. But, whenever I think back to those Christmases, though Morecambe and Wise changed their guests, there is one constant that remains in my mind. That is, the Christmas feature film always registers as 'The Sound of Music'. I cannot remember watching any other film at my sister's. It must either have been repeated annually or Julie Andrews must have impacted upon my psyche so deeply that she is now permanently seared on my Christmas memory.

One line from that film helps me to connect with what John is doing in the opening words of the Gospel that bears his name. In dispensing a dose of wisdom to the Von Trapp children, and before they begin contentedly to sing about 'dohs' and 'rays' and 'fahs', she advises them to 'start at the very beginning, for it's a very good place to start'. Such is what John is doing.

For John does not begin his account of Jesus' life, death, resurrection and ascension with His miraculous conception or birth, for He knows that they are not the very beginning; though they are, of course, the beginning of the story of the incarnation of Emmanuel. Instead, John takes us back in his opening sentences to the time before time and into the space before space. He locates Jesus precisely where He should be: at the very beginning. Before anything was, John declares, Jesus, the Word, already is.

Contd. over

Vicar: The Rev'd Gary Renison, The Vicarage, Childwall Abbey Road. Tel: 737 2169

Curate: The Rev'd Scott Davies, 80 Green Lane North. Tel: 737 2214

Pastoral Assistant: Joan McClelland, 33 Montclair Drive. Tel: 722 3737

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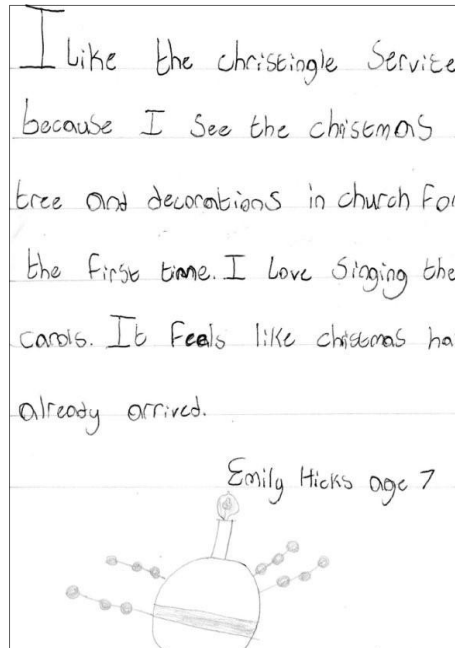
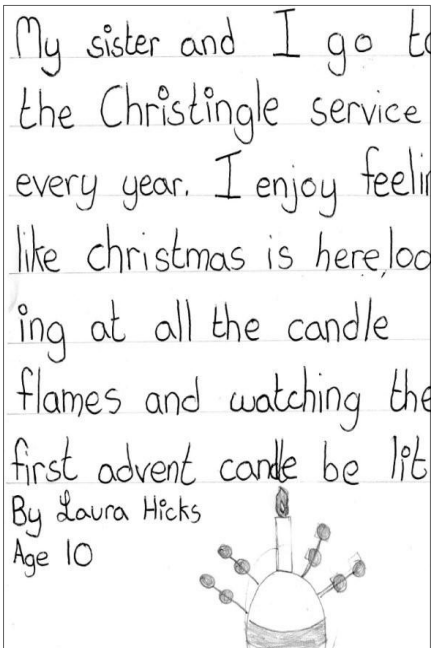
In doing this, John invites us to look through the doors of a stable and into the arms of a mother, and gaze wondrously into the eyes of a baby. Understand that those eyes, asserts John, saw the void before creation: look at the tiny, furled hands of that newborn boy, he continues, and remember that those were the very hands that moulded galaxies and shaped the sun.

It is only when we begin to comprehend that this baby is the pre-existent Christ of God that we appreciate why the angels sang 'Glory to God!'. It is also only then that we understand why we, too, should bow in adoration at the manger-throne before the One who from the very beginning is Christ the Lord. Have a wonderful Christmas,

Reverend Gary Renison

Christingle Service Sunday December 6th at 5.30pm

Christingle means 'Christ Light'. At our Christingle Service we give to each of the children and young people present a lighted Christingle to remind them that Jesus is the Light of the World. As the articles written by Emily and Laura Hicks detail below, the Christingle Service is a wonderful service for children and young people to attend. We offer you a warm invitation this year, whatever your age, to join us for this special service of worship.

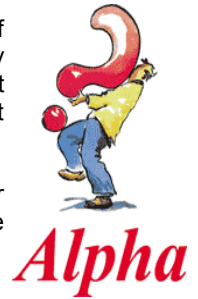


Alpha Celebration Supper

You are invited to join us for a Celebration Supper to mark the end of the current course and tell you more about Alpha – it is on Thursday 10th December at 7.30pm in the Church Hall. This is a great opportunity for you to bring friends to find out about Alpha and how it may help them.

Please contact Sally Loveridge on 283 5971 or sallyloveridge@blueyonder.co.uk by 6th December to put your name down.

There are three more Alpha Courses arranged for 2010 from January to March, April – July and September – December.



Aphta Alpha - 7th January – 25th March 2010

If you have ever completed an Alpha course, this is for you!

If you are interested in finding out about Aphta Alpha please contact

Alison Kefford on 0151 724 4259, mobile 07748 334 122 or email alisonkefford@f2s.com or Jim Harrison on 0151 280 9287 mobile 07999 516 612 email jim27harrison@hotmail.com

Meetings will take place on the same dates as outlined on page 6 for the Alpha courses.

Candlemas Service

There will be a short, simple and informal Candlemas celebration at 4pm on Sunday January 31st to which all who have been Baptised in recent years, and their families, will be invited.

Candlemas is the feast at which we remember Jesus' own presentation at the temple by his parents when he was a baby and so it is, therefore, an appropriate time to have this service during which a lighted candle will be given to all children/families.

All are warmly welcome to come and join with us and to share in light refreshments afterwards.

For further details please contact Chris Thomas. [722 1232]



Alpha Course - 7th January – 25th March 2010



Alpha

We would like to invite you to join us on the Alpha Course which starts on Thursday 7th January. The course will run for 10 weeks in the Childwall Abbey Pub from 7.30pm – 9.30pm.

Each evening will begin with an evening meal, followed by a talk on Christian basics and then an opportunity to join a discussion group. The dates are:

7 th January	Who Is Jesus?
14 th January	Why Did Jesus Die?
21 st January	How Can I be Sure of My Faith?
28 th January	Why and How Do I Pray?
4 th February	Why and How Should I Read the Bible?
11 th February	How Does God Guide Us?
18 th February	HALF TERM - NO MEETING
25 th February	How Can I Resist Evil?
27 th February (Sat)	Who is the Holy Spirit? What Does the Holy Spirit Do? (Church Hall 9.45 am-3.30pm)
4 th March	How Should We Tell Others?
11 th March	How Does God Heal Today?
18 th March	What about the Church?
25 th March	Alpha Celebration Supper

If you can't make this course there are two more courses booked for 22nd April – 15th July 2010 & 9th September – 25th November 2010.

If you would like to take part in the course please fill in this slip and return it by hand or by post to :

Sally Loveridge, 25 Dowsefield Lane, Liverpool, L18 3JG, or e-mail your details to sallyloveridge@blueyonder.co.uk or telephone 283 5971.

We will contact you just prior to the course to give further details.

Name _____

Address _____

_____ Post Code _____

Home Tel _____ Mobile _____

E-mail _____

Please tick this box if you are under 18

Please indicate any dietary requirements or allergies _____

Christmas Services

Toy Service and Parade

On Sunday 13th December at 11am we will be having our Toy Service and Parade, to which you are warmly invited. You are encouraged to bring to the service a toy or two which will be collected during the service. The toys will once again be given to the Lord Mayor's Appeal and will be distributed, via a number of charities, to underprivileged children in Liverpool and beyond. Please do not wrap any of the toys that are brought to the service as they will need to be unwrapped before they are distributed. Many thanks in advance for your kindness and generosity.

Nativity Service

This year our Nativity will be at 11am on Sunday 20th December and will be led by all the children in Rock Club. All are warmly welcome to share with our children in this lovely and moving act of worship.



Carols by Candlelight

This enormously popular and profoundly beautiful act of worship will take place in our ancient parish church on Sunday 20th December at 6.30pm. Afterwards there will be mince pies and refreshments in the Church Hall. You are most welcome to join us in this wonderful act of worship.

Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Services

On Thursday 24th December there will be a service of Holy Communion (BCP) at 10.45am and a Christmas Eve Holy Communion at 11pm. On Christmas Day (Friday 25th December) we will have a service of Holy Communion at 8am (BCP) and an All Age Christmas day Communion at 10am – please note the time of these particular services. Please join with us at any or all of these services to celebrate the joy and wonder of Christmas as we remember Jesus' birth.

Last chance to choose your favourite carol!

On Sunday 27th December at our 6.30pm Informal Holy Communion Service there will be an opportunity for you to choose a carol that you would like us to sing for one final time before our carol books are packed away for another year. Please come along and bring your favourite carol to share with others.



Watchnight Service

On Thursday 31st December at 11.15pm there will be an opportunity in church to draw 2009 prayerfully to a close, whatever the year has brought to you, and pray for God's mercies and blessings as 2010 opens itself up to us. You are very welcome to join us for this service.

Please note

There will be NO Holy Communion Service at 10.45am on New Year's Eve (Thursday 31st December). The service will resume on Thursday 7th January 2010.



Alternative Gifts

Three quarters of people in the UK admit to wasting £50 on unwanted Christmas presents every year!

Why not buy gifts that could make a difference in someone's life for Christmas, a birthday or an anniversary? A number of Christian organizations provide this opportunity. These gifts can be gift-aided if you wish.

WORLD VISION

Buy a gift for someone and create a free personalized card. All gifts are part of real projects and have been asked for by communities living in poverty. Choose from 70+ gifts including a mosquito net (£6), fruit tree (£9), water containers for the elderly (£10), a goat (£16), bio sand water filter.

Order at: www.greatgifts.org or by phoning 0845 600 6446 (ask for a catalogue to see the full range of gifts)

CHRISTIAN AID

For each present you will receive a gift card to personalize. There is a variety of gifts including 7 beekeeping hats (£8), nutritious meals for 80 children (£10), 16 ducks (£25). **Order at: PresentAid.org**

TEAR FUND

"Living Gifts" is a voucher scheme that lets you choose a card and the amount you want to spend. The person who receives the gift chooses how and where their gift is used. Vouchers are for £8, £15, £25, £50, £100.

Order at: www.livinggifts.org.uk or by phoning 0845 241 7782

Jesus - the reason for the season!

SMALL GROUPS

Small groups are a vital part of our life and ministry together as a Christian community. They are places of safety and support, of laughter and fun. Good friendships develop. Those difficult questions which bother us can be explored openly and with integrity.

There is always a very warm and open invitation to anyone who would like to join, or explore joining, a group. There is a variety of groups meeting at various times during the week. A number of them are about to start new studies, as part of their time together, so it is a good time to join. You would be most welcome.

Speak with Garry Critchley (722 9643), Ruth Davies (737 2541) or Malcolm Colmer (722 4523).

Looking towards 2010

Sermon Series Cards 2010

Sermon cards giving details of our teaching themes from January until Easter will be available in church from the middle of December.

Covenant Services – January 5th 2010

Many Christians find the Covenant Service of enormous help in re-committing themselves to God and His purposes, whatever that may demand of us in the coming year. The service itself has its origins in the Methodist tradition, but is now used widely across many denominations at the beginning of the New Year.

We will incorporate the central parts of this service in both our 9am and 11am services of worship on January 5th. Please join us for one or the other of these services and experience the profound challenge and comfort of the Covenant Service, as together we re-focus all we are and do in the context of the covenant God offers in Jesus Christ.

Rock Club 2010

Following the Christmas and New Year festivities, our Sunday work with pre-school and primary age children begins again at 11am on Sunday January 5th. If you are new to Childwall or new to our church we would love you and your family to join us in worship in the New Year.

Please be assured that your children would be made to feel very welcome in our Rock Club (Sunday School). Rock Club meets at 11am, the same time as our more informal Sunday worship service is offered. Please just turn up on any Sunday or else phone Wendy Taylor on 475 0869 for more details.

Church Pastoral Aid Society

The CPAS is one of our Mission Partners. On Sunday, 31st January 2010, a representative will speak at the combined 10 am morning service.

Messy Church

At Messy Church so far we have made gardens, decorated cakes, made aeroplanes, birds and windstreamers, learned a bit of Gaelic, had grace in French and enjoyed an indoor BBQ (and some tasty cake!). We sang songs, danced and learned about an Extraordinary Jesus and that the Holy Spirit helps us to choose God, Love God and Live for God.

Missed Out? Don't miss Messy New Year on 23rd January 2010 3-5pm! Messy Church is Church for families with Children 0-11. Children must be accompanied by adults.