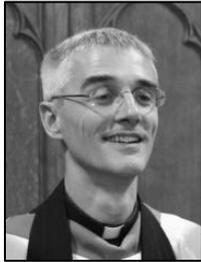


Serving the communities of: Christleton, Cotton Abbots, Cotton Edmunds, Littleton and Rowton.

NEW SUNDAY SERVICE PATTERN LAUNCHING SOON:



From the Feast of Pentecost, which celebrates the birth of the church, on 9 June, our new Sunday service pattern will be as follows and as detailed in the Table at the end of this note.

A 9am Holy Communion service. This service will last about 1 hour, and include (a minimum) 3 hymns and a sermon. It is hoped this service, accompanied by an organist, will provide a space for a more traditional expression of worship to flourish, including space for our choir to grow and develop.

A 10:45am Morning Worship service [the name may change], with a Holy Communion once a month. This service will also last around 60 minutes, and use technology to assist with the delivery of a more contemporary style service which will include, we hope and for example, high quality modern music and different ways of engaging with our Anglican tradition of Reason, Scripture, and Tradition. It is hoped this service will provide a space for a more contemporary expression of worship to flourish, including the formation of a music group in due course.

A 4pm afternoon service. This service "slot" will initially include a mix of traditional and contemporary styles. The latter being a mix of a young person spiritual community and Messy Church. The former being, initially, a traditional Book of Common Prayer [BCP] evening prayer and contemplative communion services. It will intentionally be a more experimental space for developing spiritual communities for today, with the understanding that it may cease to exist unless it helps grow spiritual communities in the future.

There are, at least, two things which should be made clear about our new service pattern from the beginning. First, both our main morning services, at 9am and 10:45am, are intended to be spaces where all ages and people are welcome. The 10:45am service is not an exclusively young person service, just as the 9am service is not exclusively an older persons service. We hope the 10:45am will attract and give an opportunity to people for whom church is less familiar and perhaps seen as less relevant. While at the same time be a service that our regular community, and new members, will deeply value also. The same ethos applies to our 9am service.

Second, our main act of hospitality, that is tea, coffee, and biscuits, (initially in the parish hall) will be offered between the 9am and 10:45am services in order to give an opportunity for people from the different worshipping communities to meet; hence it will begin at about 10:05 and end around 11:00am.

You might ask why an earth are we doing this?

It's a good question and one we have sought to answer in detail elsewhere, as well as providing pastoral support to the worshipping community at this time of significant change. The very short

answer is – we are doing this because our Sunday attendance has been in significant decline over the last 10 years, we are not connecting with about 80% of the demographic of the communities we serve, making our Sunday worship more accessible to younger people is shown to be important in developing a healthy church community, and other local and national service patterns suggest the pattern we are moving too will help develop a healthy church community.

That is we are making a change to our Sunday service pattern because we believe the above data points us in this direction. We are also making these changes because we believe it will better enable us to participate in God’s mission as understood through the five marks of mission in future years.

These five marks of mission are:

1. To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom
2. To teach, baptise, and nurture new believers
3. To respond to human need by loving service
4. To transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and pursue peace and reconciliation
5. To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth

Is it the right thing for us to do?

The honest answer is we can’t say with 100% confidence it is. We can, however, say that we are making a sincere attempt to follow Jesus, and as Dietrich Bonhoeffer reminds us in his book “The Cost of Discipleship” - following Jesus means we will regularly be dragged from our relative security into a life of absolute insecurity (which is paradoxically a life of absolute security and safety in Christ), and this absolute insecurity is, in an important sense, void of all content.

This alone may give us great confidence for the future. For wherever this particular decision takes us - and we will review and respond appropriately in the months ahead to it, we can know that Christ is with us.

Please consider this the first, of many no doubt, personal invitations to share and get involved in our new service pattern so that we may better participate in what our Lord is already doing in this place, among us, and through us to the praise and Glory of our Lord.

With my love and prayers,

Stefan, Rector

Table 1: St James’ new Sunday Service Pattern post 9 June 2019

	1st Sunday	2nd Sunday	3rd Sunday	4th Sunday	5th Sunday
9:00am	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Holy Communion
10:45am	Morning Worship	Morning Worship	Morning Worship with Holy Communion	Morning Worship	Morning Worship
4:00pm	Young Person Service	Evening Prayer BCP	Messy Church (Parish Hall)	Contemplative Communion	Taizé Service

FABRIC REPORT



The major item of maintenance this year has been the re-building of the east wall between the churchyard and car park. The wall has been in a poor state of repair for some

time mainly due to the roots of three large trees in the car park pushing the wall inwards. The wall had been re-built sometime in the past and the stones had not been graded properly, which meant quite a jigsaw puzzle for the stone masons when they came to putting it back together! However, the result is very pleasing and should last a long time. Further down the wall, the coping stones have many gaps and require re-pointing, one of the many jobs on the to-do list. In all, the essential masonry repairs to the Church and grounds amount to almost £7,000 and we hope to have these done gradually as funds permit. The Church would then be in excellent shape for some time. Although a beautiful stone, sandstone is soft and vulnerable to erosion from the elements, rain, wind and frost. We keep our fingers crossed each time high winds are forecast particularly as the roof is vulnerable.

We now have an arrangement for an annual inspection of the Church roof, cleaning gutters and valleys and small repairs such as slipped slates. This means that we should be able to identify possible defects at an early stage.

We have also been conducting an experiment with the Church heating. Listed building advice recommends a temperature of 8 to 12 degrees C. By keeping the thermostat at 12 degrees when the building is not in use, our heating does not cost any more than previously when it had to cope with raising the temperature from a much lower base to an acceptable and comfortable one for services.

We continue to monitor regularly any movement in the building, the tower and the external boundary walls.

It is noted that there has been some minor movement in the west wall beside the public footpath and probably caused by the roots of the large yew tree there.

The Church bells now require essential repairs. The list of repairs is quite long but several things have been identified as being essential. The clappers must be overhauled and re-bushed as well as the replacement of joint pins and central bolts. Roller wheels also need to be replaced on all but two of the bells. Some of the work to remove items can be done locally which will keep the cost down. Were we to implement all the recommendations, the cost would be eye-watering, so repairs will be done when (and if) we raise the funds to do so. We are greatly indebted to the bell-ringing team who ring twice each Sunday and practise every Tuesday evening

As the Church clock has to be wound manually, we are seeking quotations for automating the mechanism.

We continue to be very grateful to the Community Payback team for the regular maintenance of the grounds, which enhance the village of Christleton and to the monthly work put in by the dedicated volunteers working alongside the Payback team. We have a very large churchyard to maintain and there is never a shortage of tasks – each month we also share lunch with the team, outside when the weather permits. Everyone is welcome to join in – notice of the dates is posted on the notice boards and on the weekly news-sheets.

The Parish Hall was painted, and everyone has been aware of the lack of window coverings – the old curtains were despatched to the Community Amenity. Now thanks to generous sponsorship and fund-raising we have window blinds which conform to all Health and Safety regulations. The Hall performs a vital role in the life of the community being a space where meetings and



functions can be held and with the heating problems of last year now solved (are we asking for trouble here?), we can enjoy it in comfort. The emergency lighting is due to be up-graded this month again thanks to the fund-raising and

we hope to find funds for a weather-proof Perspex cover on the west window.

Bettie Gilliatt and Paul Forrest

CONTACTLESS TERMINAL:



As promised, the new Contactless Terminal is now in use. It sits near the church entrance with a pretty and reassuring blue light all ready and waiting for your contactless debit or credit card.

Briefly place the card over the front of the terminal get a beep and there you are - a few pounds the poorer (£3, £5 or £10 options) and the church a few pounds the richer! Thank you. Here is a picture of Liz posing next to it.



LABOUR LOST

A working life in six words.

My friend and long-time work colleague died after a short illness about three and a half years ago. Although we never talked about it, I assumed that he was a Jew. I did not know if his Jewishness had any significance for him beyond ethnicity. I never noticed if he avoided meat on Fridays and can confirm that he never requested a special diet. When we travelled together, his choice of reading was either the Economist or Private Eye. Thus we shared a sceptical view of society and got along very well for many years.

His death came as a shock. The Jewish tradition is to arrange burial within 24 hours of death. Despite her grief, his wife, by now a family friend, was determined that my wife and I should have the opportunity to attend. Hence she was on the telephone giving details of the cemetery and advising that the only requirement was that I covered my head. (The advice for my wife was just everyday clothes.) I do not own a hat and certainly not a Jewish yarmulke. All I had was a thing resembling a tea cosy. She declared that perfectly acceptable.

The service in the Jewish "chapel" at the cemetery was memorable for its dignity, solemnity and the large number of folk who attended. We were arranged standing on each side of the plain wooden coffin, men on one side and women on the other. The service was in Hebrew - I think - but the rabbi's address was in English. He covered the familiar ground of family history; life as a family man; the involvement with the communities in London and Manchester; and the role as a trustee of Jewish charities. The latter part was new to me.

Then the rabbi said "He worked in the chemical industry". Just six words. The briefness of that sentence stunned me at the time and continues to challenge to this day. My friend spent more of his waking hours working for that "chemical industry" than he

spent with his family. His contribution was widely acknowledged, giving him an international reputation. With that seniority came a good financial reward but to suggest that money was my friend's only motivation would be to insult his memory.

Since my distressed reaction to the apparent dismissal of a lifetime of work, I have reached a more nuanced view. Perhaps the Jewish tradition does not rate paid work highly. Perhaps I am too accepting of the implication of the royal ice breaker "And what do you do?" Or perhaps there was simply too little time to enquire about my friend's work life.

My problem is that it is only through my paid work that I feel that I have made any sort of contribution to the lot of mankind. Without it I have largely been a consumer of the world's physical and intellectual resources. So I am both encouraged and challenged by Paul's words to the Thessalonians "Make it your ambition to lead a quiet life, to mind your own business and to work with your hands, so that your daily life may win the respect of outsiders and that you will not be dependent on anybody". Thus I must leave the recording of my friend's (and mine) work achievements to God. And that has to be sufficient.

A postscript to my friend's burial service. After the coffin had been lowered into the hole, I, with the other men present, was invited to shovel the soil back in until it was piled above the ground level. It was an act that I shall never forget.

Jim Hawkes

CHURCHES TOGETHER LENT PILGRIMAGES 2019

We have just completed our five mini pilgrimages through Lent, to local chapels with chaplaincies. This has proved to be a thoroughly interesting and enlivening experience. Everywhere we were greeted by

the chaplain or one of the team, who explained to us the work involved and its influence on the many with whom they come into contact.

We began in the beautiful chapel at the Hospice where Gill, our own priest and good friend, told us of the all-encompassing and caring work which takes place in this calm and peaceful place catering for people of all faiths and none, patients and families alike, and is run almost entirely by means of donations and fund-raising - less than a third of running costs is provided by government funding. Everyone spoke so highly of the gentle and reassuring atmosphere there.

It was a similar picture at the Countess of Chester hospital where John and two members of his team told us of the joy they experience in their work as daily they are faced with every kind of (sometimes very unexpected) circumstance. For many of us this was our first visit to this lovely chapel upstairs in the hospital.

In between these two visits was the turn of the Catholic High School in Handbridge where Anthony, the full-time chaplain has spiritual responsibility for every student and not just the 60% who are Roman Catholics. He sees every class for a service in the chapel each term and sees students individually when there are problems needing pastoral care. Everyone was given a small card to take away, with a quote from Colossians, 'He holds all things in Unity'.

At St Peter's at the Cross a large number squeezed into the chapel adjoining this wonderful old church right in the heart of Chester city. Jonathan amazed and inspired us as he told of all that goes on there - much of it unknown to us. Fantastic! (Do you know about the Night Church on Saturdays?)

And finally to the University of Chester chapel, such a beautiful Victorian building. Fr Paul, as the Roman Catholic chaplain in the team, regaled us with its history (and the history of education, as well as much much more of

interest). He pointed out the stunning stained glass windows- the huge East window designed by students, and the modern West window with the University's motto -, and the old choir stalls with names carved on them, as he spoke of the chaplaincy's spiritual care for ALL students.

In every place we were welcomed most warmly and were able to chat over tea and biscuits. In all, a very worthwhile venture, and special thanks to Fr Paul who organised these visits for us. Sorry if you missed them!- but you can be assured there is a wealth of caring taking place in and around the city of Chester.

Jan Bowden

THY KINGDOM COME:



This is a global prayer movement inviting Christians to pray during the nine days between Ascension Day and Pentecost for more people to come to know Jesus Christ.

Thousands of individuals, groups and churches worldwide have responded to this call and each year 'Thy Kingdom Come' inspires local prayer events.

We at St James have responded. Last year we looked at individual ways that we find helpful personally, and had prayer corners in our church. This year we are looking at ways that we find relevant to our worship and the outcome will be in our Weekly Notices as we participate in this event. It includes a prayer station in church for the whole period, and a prayer walk on Saturday 8th June (2pm-3pm) ending back at St James with refreshments.

Gill Hibbert

MORNING PRAYER AT ST JAMES:

Stefan says morning office daily. On four days of the week, (Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday) he invites us to worship with him



in church. It is a simple service, which can be found on the Church of England website.

Basically, it comprises of a psalm, two Bible readings and the Benedictus, followed by prayers. It lasts for about 25 minutes.

Numbers have been encouraging, up to 9 or 10 on some days. Stefan also encourages members of the congregation to take the lead. It starts at 9am, if you are free give it a go! Great way to start the day.

Mike Lightfoot

HUNTED TO EGGSTINCTION:

It was a race against time. The sun was hot! The challenge to find several parts of the Easter story around the churchyard, and small chocolate eggs, and by learning and retelling that story to be rewarded by more 'Real Easter' chocolate. What is there not to like? Over 20 children officially joined in, but other babies and children were there as well, plus a whole lot of adults so a rough guess might be



well over 70 altogether. Then those assembled together sang a song called 'Jesus is Alive' that involved jumping, high fives, shouting, spinning around and clapping.

Refreshments were served that involved yet more chocolate treats which by this time were becoming soft and in desperate need of consumption.



A good time and the joy of Easter. Thanks to Tina and the Messy Church team for organising it.

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK IS HERE— 12-18 MAY 2019

Christian Aid week gives any church (indeed any people) an opportunity to participate in something big, really big. It is possibly the biggest single act of Christian witness in this country each year.

Joining in connects us with Christians in neighbouring churches and all people who wish to share what they have with those in need, throughout the country.

Each envelope or pound collected builds to support Christian Aid in its work to make God's kingdom a reality.

It introduces us to the underlying issues that are preventing so many of the world's people from living life to the full. We can be led through this to be part of the campaigns that are continuing and start to appreciate what it really means to pray, 'Thy Kingdom Come'.



So please be generous in your giving, and, if you can, volunteer to help with the house to

house collections that will take place during Christian Aid week in and around the village.

Contact *Chris Platel* (Tel: 332466) for details.



KELSBORROW CHOIR

The return of the CHOIR and SOLOISTS for a CONCERT in St James' Church on Sat 18th May 2019 7pm for 7.30pm start

A delightful programme of music with refreshments including wine & soft drinks.

All inclusive tickets from Christine Abrams (335562) or from PCC members. £10 each, under 14s free.



Raffle!



look good **feel better**

FACING CANCER WITH CONFIDENCE
Workshops are held at the Countess Of Chester Hospital

LOCAL LADIES! Save the Date!

**WEDNESDAY JUNE 5th at 7pm
St James' Parish Hall, Christleton.**

**YOU ARE INVITED.....
to a evening of skin care, make up (and lots more)
for ladies of all ages. (Gents also welcome).**

**Mary Kay Cosmetics experts are coming to visit us
with advice, special tips and lots of fun,
.....all in aid of:**

**"Look Good, Feel Better"-
helping ladies (and men) with cancer
face every day with confidence.
Raffle in aid of "Look good feel better"**

Light refreshments will be served. See you there!

St James' Church Calendar

May & June 2019

Every **Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday** and **Friday**: 9am: Morning Prayer

MAY:

Wed 1st: 10.45am: United Holy Communion. (Churches Together). Refreshments.
7.30pm: Churches Together AGM at Christleton Methodists. All welcome.
With talk about chosen charity: The Hospice of the Good Shepherd.

Sunday 5th: 8.00am: Holy Communion (BCP) followed by Breakfast in the Parish Hall
(3rd of Easter) 10.45am: Holy Communion. Refreshments
6.30pm: Evening Prayer

Monday 6th: 1.45pm: Mothers' Union in the Parish Hall (to be confirmed)
Tuesday 7th: 7.30pm: Home Discussion Group - at Sandheys, Plough Lane
Wed 8th: 10.45am: Holy Communion (BCP). Refreshments
Saturday 11th: 10.30am: Churchyard Working Party, and lunch

Sunday 12th: *Start of Christian Aid Week (12th - 18th May)*
(4th of Easter) 8.00am: Holy Communion
10.45am: Morning Worship. Refreshments.
6.30pm: Holy Communion

Monday 13th: 7.30pm: Archdeacon's Visitation Service - St John's, Aldford
Tuesday 14th: 7.30pm: Home Discussion Group - at Sandheys, Plough Lane
Wed 15th: 10.45am: Holy Communion (BCP). Refreshments
Saturday 18th: 10.00am: Parish Council Open Morning (Parish Hall). St James will be there.
7.00pm: Kelsborrow Choir Concert in Church (see ad on page 7)

Sunday 19th: 8.00am: Holy Communion
(5th of Easter) 10.45am: Holy Communion. Refreshments and Produce Sale
4.00pm: Messy Church in the Parish Hall
6.00pm: Crew Youth Group in the Parish Hall
6.30pm: Evening Prayer (BCP)

Monday 20th: 12.30pm: Luncheon Club in the Parish Hall
Tuesday 21st: 7.30pm: Home Discussion Group - at Sandheys, Plough Lane
Wed 22nd: 10.45am: Holy Communion (BCP). Refreshments

Sunday 26th: 8.00am: Holy Communion
(6th of Easter) 10.45am: Morning Prayer (Trad). Refreshments
6.30pm: Holy Communion.

Tuesday 28th: 7.30pm: Home Discussion Group - at Sandheys, Plough Lane
Wed 29th: 10.45am: Holy Communion (BCP). Refreshments
Thursday 30th: 7.30pm: Ascension Day - Holy Communion Service.

'**Thy Kingdom Come**' runs from Ascension Day, 30th May, through to Pentecost, 9th June. St James' Church will be supporting this annual international church prayer event. This year the theme is 'Joy'. See Gill's article on page 6, and other advertised details.

Note: 'BCP' means the service uses the Book of Common Prayer.

JUNE:

Sunday 2nd: (7th of Easter)	8.00am: 10.45am: 6.30pm:	Holy Communion (BCP). Breakfast in the Parish Hall Holy Communion. Refreshments Evening Prayer
Monday 3rd:	1.45pm:	Mothers' Union in the Parish Hall
Tuesday 4th:	7.30pm:	Home Discussion Group - at Grange House, Village Road
Wed 5th:	10.45am:	United Holy Communion (Churches Together). Refreshments
Saturday 8th:	10.30am: 2.00pm:	Churchyard Working Party (date to be confirmed) Prayer Walk (Thy Kingdom Come) ending with refreshments at St James. More details to come.

NEW SUNDAY SERVICE PATTERN BEGINS:

Sunday 9th: (Pentecost)	9.00am: 10.45am: 4.00pm:	Holy Communion. Refreshments Morning Worship. Evening Prayer (BCP) - The conclusion of 'Thy Kingdom Come'.
Tuesday 11th:	7.30pm:	Home Discussion Group - at Grange House, Village Road
Wed 12th:	10.45am:	Holy Communion (BCP). Refreshments
Sunday 16th: (Trinity Sunday)	9.00am: 10.45am: 4.00pm: 6.00pm:	Holy Communion. Refreshments and Produce Sale Morning Worship with Communion. Messy Church & Worship in the Parish Hall (no service in church) Crew Youth Group in the Parish Hall
Monday 17th:	12.30pm:	Luncheon Club in the Parish Hall
Tuesday 18th:	7.30pm:	Home Discussion Group - at Grange House, Village Road
Wed 19th:	10.45am:	Holy Communion (BCP). Refreshments
Saturday 22nd:	7.00pm:	Jig Saw Jazz evening in Parish Hall (ticket details TBA)
Sunday 23rd: (Trinity 1)	9.00am: 10.45am: 4.00pm:	Holy Communion. Refreshments Morning Worship. Contemplative Communion Service
Tuesday 25th:	7.30pm:	Home Discussion Group - at Grange House, Village Road
Wed 26th:	10.45am:	Holy Communion (BCP). Refreshments
Saturday 29th:	1.00pm:	Christleton Fête at the Primary School. The Church will be there.
Sunday 30th: (Trinity 2)	9.00am: 10.45am: 4.00pm:	Holy Communion. Refreshments Morning Worship. Taizé Service

All Calendar entries subject to correction or change. Check also the "What's On" calendar on the church website as this may show more up-to-date information.

LOOKING FURTHER AHEAD:

Sat 13th July:	2.00pm:	Christleton Show. Theme: "Re-use and Recycle"
Sun 14th July:	10.45am:	Flower Service.



Churchyard Maintenance.

Next is:

**Saturday 11th May
and Sat 8th June (to be confirmed)**

Once a month at 10.30am we hold a working party to help maintain our church yard. If you would like to join us just come along in old clothes with gloves and basic gardening tools (not essential). For further information please contact:

Mike Lightfoot - Tel: 07787 421357

Luncheon Club

The next lunch is at
**12noon (for 12.30) in the Parish Hall on
Monday 20th May2019**

A tasty hot meal. All welcome, but please book a place if you haven't already by calling:

Liz: 409414; Janet: 325529;
or Christine: 335562



Messy Church

on

Sunday 19th May 2019
4pm in Christleton Parish Hall
Craft, Worship & Food

The Crew St James' Youth Group

The next meeting in the Parish Hall
Sunday 19th May at 6 pm



CHRISTLETON WI

Meets on the 2nd Wednesday each month.
7.15pm in the Parish Hall

New members welcome.
Details from Elizabeth Inall (Tel: 336500)

**Next meeting: Wed 8th May
'Swifts' - Roger Nutter**

CHRISTLETON PARISH HALL

Available for
Meetings, Parties, Functions, etc.
The Hall has wheelchair access and
specially adapted facilities.

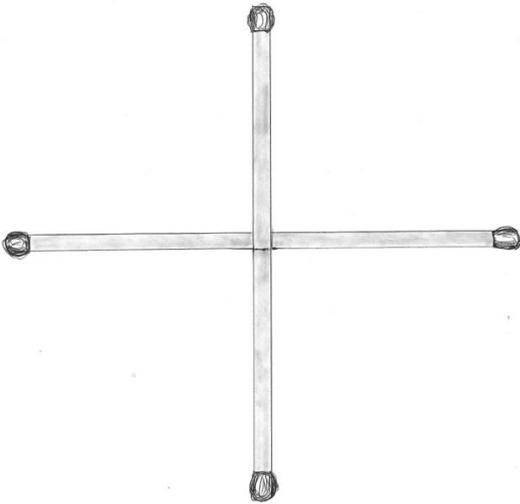
For bookings please contact the
Booking Secretary

Janet Milton

Tel: 325529 (before 8.00pm)
email: christletonhall@gmail.com

You are invited to join us for:
Coffee, Cake and Chat
First Thursday each Month
Christleton Methodist Church 10 - 12 noon.

ARE YOU A MATCH FOR THIS?



An old puzzle is this match test. Can you move just one of the 4 matches to make a square? The other 3 matches must not be moved. Get four similar matches and try it yourself on a table - it *can* be done.

I'm not giving an answer here, but if you're really stuck then talk to me. (*Editor*)

PS: Health & Safety warning - Don't play with matches!

**Congratulations to Ron & Pat Handley
who celebrate their Diamond Wedding
Anniversary on 2nd May.**

**Love and best wishes from all their
friends in the village.**

Every time I pass a church
I pay a little visit,

*So when at last
I'm carried in
The Lord won't
Say:*

"Who Is It?"



**The spring is sprung,
the grass is ris,
I wonder where the birdies is?
Ah! There's the birdies
on the wing,
Ain't that absurd!
I always thought
the wings was on the bird!**

(This poem comes in various forms and has been attributed to Spike Milligan, although others say he just borrowed it from somewhere else.)

NATURE NOTES:



Spring migration is now well under way, with regular sightings of swallows seen around the Parish. 12 sand martins accompanied by several swallows were seen flying along the Gowy at the end of March. Good numbers of chiff chaff could be heard everywhere from the middle of March and were joined by the superb song of several blackcaps around Legion Meadow at the beginning of April. This song was followed by that of the willow warbler, a species that had disappeared for several years and now seems to have made a welcome return. During a walk along the canal towards the village in early April we heard all the species mentioned above, as well as dunnock, blackbird and a very loud song thrush. A kingfisher has also made the occasional appearance on this long stretch, and more recently several pied wagtails can be heard and seen. The prize for the loudest bird song in the village at present must be

given to a male nuthatch which seems to blast its loud song out from the large beech tree in the Dixon's houses gardens.

A superb male brimstone butterfly flew across Legion meadow in the middle of March, and on the same day a small tortoiseshell, a red admiral and four peacock butterflies were seen around the meadow and at The Pit. This was a really good sign of early spring, but the cold weather of the beginning of April seems to have driven them to look for cover, although a newly emerged peacock was seen feeding on brightly coloured blue aubrietia at Croft Close on the 3rd April. The first orange tip butterflies are also on the wing on the wet meadow. Several brimstones were again spotted near the playing fields in mid April, as were a number of peacock butterflies feeding on nettles below the black and hawthorn hedgerows.

The first wild flowers in the countryside are usually celandines, as they were this year, closely followed by bright yellow king cups or marsh marigolds. The appearance of delicate creamy white or pale blue lady smock sometimes known as May or cuckoo flower is the key to the emergence of the orange tip butterflies. These delightful butterflies are very visible in May, but then having laid their eggs disappear from view, with only a few sightings later in the season. Although lady smock grows mainly on wet meadows, the edge of the canal bank from Christleton Lock to the Boughton ring road has a line of them in flower as I write.



Have you noticed how friendly robins are? Single birds will often be quite inquisitive and

follow you around in the garden, often sitting on a spade or fork, presumably on the look out for worms. In the countryside you can often get up very close and personal to a robin, and get some really nice pictures as shown. I've even known one come into the house, although when they are being territorial they will fight fiercely and be very aggressive to other robins. The three robins which over wintered in the garden have now split and we just have one pair nesting in the hawthorn hedge. I wonder how many readers have been aware of the sudden influx of goldfinches in our gardens and in trees around the village. They have a very bubbly call and although they will feed on bird feeders, they seem to prefer newly emerged dandelions at the roadside. They are one of our most colourful garden birds and a delight to have around.

David Cummings

PEOPLE WE REMEMBER:

Betty Dunning, who was one of the loveliest ladies you could ever meet, died in February aged 92. She was someone who was instantly recognisable, both at St James' and in the wider area in and around the village. In latter years she was an almost ever present figure at church, where she had been a devoted Sacristan for many years, and helped care for both the congregation and the building. She was also a member of the Ladies' Guild and the Mothers' Union. Betty was also often recognised as the lady on the bike who used to cycle up and down to church each day, or down Caldy Valley to Sainsbury's. Betty always had a wonderful smile for everyone, something she was known for even at her Primary School in Hoole all those years ago.

Betty was born in Wrexham, but had lived in Chester and later Christleton all her life. Despite living almost entirely in England she was proud of her Welsh Heritage and this was reflected at her funeral service, with the playing of Calon Lan at the beginning of her service, the singing of Cwm Rhondda, and

Love Divine to Blaenwern during the service, and the Welsh National Anthem as she was carried out of the church.

Roger Wiltshire her son in law spoke eloquently about her life on behalf of her family, a loving wife to husband Herbert, and mum to her three boys and daughter, and grandmother to 8 grandchildren and also a great grandmother. The Rector, Dr Stefan Collier led the service and gave the address, and prayers were said by her longstanding friend Revd. Gill Hibbert. Betty had led a wonderful life, someone who gave everything to her family, her church and local community. She started work at Bradley's in Chester, where she met her husband, and later with Securico as Office Manager.

Following the early death of Herbert after wonderful family holidays, she spent a great deal of her time with many loyal friends including Betty Mack. Betty loved gardening and with Betty Mack was an active member of the Caldly Valley Gardening Club. She also loved wildlife, her favourite bird being the lapwing, and she was delighted in recent years when I was able to tell her that they had returned to both Hockenhull Platts and the village after many years absence. She was also very fond of butterflies.

Betty loved village life and many people will remember her being very active as the organiser of the Rose Queen & her Retinue at the annual Village Fete, leading them through the village in the parade to the Primary School Field, or later to church for the Flower Service.



Betty was a genuinely delightful person, always with a broad smile, and a good word for everyone. She had really good friends in Olive & Baz Hammond and Janet Brown, who helped her get about in her later years. Most of all she was the proud mum, grandma and great grandma of her family who were all around her in the Parish Hall when they held a very happy party for her 90th Birthday just a couple of years ago. Betty was devoted to them, to her faith and to her church. She will be sorely missed by everyone.

David Cummings

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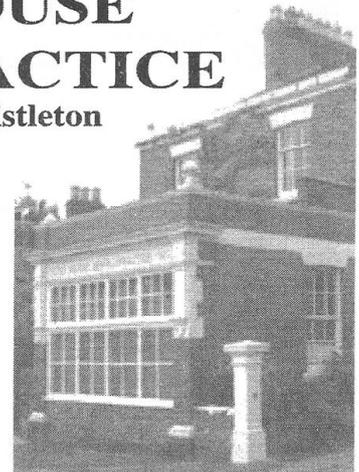
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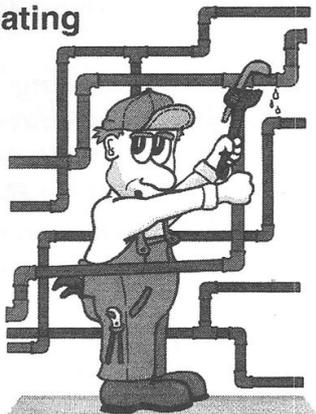
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Rev'd Elizabeth Inall

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We are building our Communications and Magazine team. If you think you can help in any way please contact Brian Inall.

Deadline for submissions for the June magazine will be Tuesday 14th May.

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Thank you for reading our magazine. We hope you enjoy it. Feedback is always welcome so please let the editor know what you think about the magazine.

Do also look at our church website for more information including a 'live' calendar.

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