

**PARISH MAGAZINE**      APRIL 2019      50p.

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



The Easter Garden in the Churchyard.

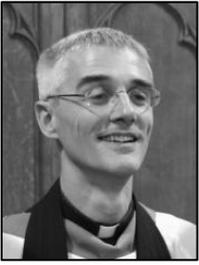


Are we paddling in the right direction?  
See Liz's article, Page 3.



Philip Chidell entertained us well at our Supper with Music on Sat 16th March.  
Page 4.

## LIVING WITHOUT FEAR:



I recall a conversation with a friend. He had just received the news he had cancer, and the diagnosis was terminal. The doctors were not sure, but perhaps he had months, maybe, a year to live. In the weeks and months that followed his life changed. The reality of this news, very real and present, shaped how he went about the business of living. Plans were brought forward, places and people he wanted to see were made a priority.

It got me thinking about how our perception of reality shapes how we live our lives. In thinking, I stumbled across an article about a woman who has a rare disease called Urbach-Wiethe. This disease has caused parts of her brain to harden, with the result that she is incapable of feeling fear. She did not panic when she was held up at gunpoint and knifepoint, nor did she panic when faced with a highly poisonous snake.

Indeed, doctors have cautioned against her identity being made public since people could easily take advantage of her. This woman lives without fear. I wondered how much of our living is driven by our fears. Fears about how we look, the future, whether we are loved, our past experiences, jobs, health, homes, children. How much of our living is shaped by the reality of our fears? I know mine is. I can often feel my own fears, their control, oppression, and excitement.

In about two weeks we are invited to remember the Easter story, and may I warmly invite you to any of our services.

The words of St. Peter will resound throughout the world of how Jesus, as Lord of all, brings peace. How God anointed Jesus with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. How he was put to death by hanging on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear. How the church testifies about him that everyone who

believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name. This story both now and then witnesses to a different reality of life.

I am struck about how this reality shaped the lives of those who first encountered it. For St. Peter, he saw that God showed no partiality, saying, how in every nation anyone who fears God and does what is right is acceptable to him. A reality which caused Peter and the church to begin the process of accepting others who were different from themselves; in this case Jewish. A process which, will not escape us, is ongoing to this day. For the guards outside of the empty tomb who were paralysed with fear. For Mary Magdalene and the other Mary, they too were paralysed with fear but somehow, and strengthened by their encounter with Jesus, were able to respond to this new reality, and went to tell Jesus' friends in Galilee. Jesus' love, made explicit in his death and resurrection, was able to cast out their, and Peter's, fears and allowed them to move to a different rhythm of life.

It seems to me then that experiencing Easter is a bit like experiencing the woman's disease, which meant that she did not feel fear. It does not mean life will be easy or we won't be taken advantage of as a community or individuals, but it will mean that, following the analogy, as our brains harden to this world through our growing openness to the things of God we will increasingly be able to let Jesus' perfect love cast out our fears, and this means how we live our lives may be profoundly different. We won't have to win that argument, fear the consequences of speaking truth to power, incessantly worry about our future or that of our children or grandchildren, exclude that group of people, store up treasures on earth, or, as my friend witnessed, let his terminal diagnosis of cancer crush his remaining life out of him. For his hope, his raising from death in the future is also our sure and certain hope.

I pray this Easter, with its encouragement to trust in Jesus' gift of peace and love to the world, will help cast out our fears, and gift us the power to live transformed lives. Amen.

With my love and prayers, *Stefan*

## TREASURER'S UPDATE:



Not being aware of last month's announcement of my absence by Brian, I was really surprised to find everyone asking me about New Zealand! I therefore presumed you would be

much more interested in what I did there rather than the church finances.

So, had I ever been in a sea kayak before? No! Had I ever done anything similar? A tiny bit of Indian paddle canoeing maybe 20 years ago in Florida. My main question was, "How many 70 year old Brits have you lost so far this year?" Mind you, it was only mid February. Could I manage to steer it? Would I capsize altogether and have to shout for help? Or would I be lost for ever in the deepest Fjord around – Doubtful Sound.

Well, do you know, it worked brilliantly, if a bit erratically and was the greatest experience, while being well supported by a crowd of ever so much younger beautiful people. I certainly had to learn to modify my paddling to form an orderly queue, and make more effective headway.

*(see photo on the front cover)*

I clearly couldn't enter into discussion from that distance – so I just went kayaking instead.

Did you wonder about our finances???? My annual report will be presented before this hits the press, and will appear in the May magazine.

Regarding January and February, here are the figures.

### INCOME

	Jan '19	Feb '19
collections	362	272
standing orders	2531	1916
donations	518	159
envelopes	1945	1151
Funeral/wedding net	710	535
Total: £	6066	4033

### EXPENDITURE

	Jan '19	Feb '19
Church salaries	753	514
Church utilities	183	644
Parish share	6545	6545
Church insurance	320	320
Total: £	7801	8023

The figures are in fact £3,000 down on last year at this time. Our standing orders are much better, but the donations are down, perhaps being unreasonably high last year at the launch of the stewardship campaign. In addition to that, looking overall at our income and expenditure this year, there is no cause for complacency as we are in surplus by only £140.

We have however spent almost £3,500 more than last year at this time, mainly on the blinds and the boiler servicing for parish hall, the blinds of course being a planned expense. Envelope income is the same as last year, standing orders income has doubled and the collections have dropped a little in comparison.

So what is the way forward to cope with paying our parish share?

To go back to the kayak, we are paddling furiously to keep afloat.

We are certainly planning to try new things, to take risks, to make changes, but certainly to do things within our supported community, perhaps modifying our paddling as we go along.

One of the new things is the contactless terminal which should be with us by the APCM, bought by generous donations. Any money donated via this will go straight into our account without me having to count the pounds, shillings and pence – phew!! please do have a go.

From the treasurer's point of view, please continue to gift aid any donations you do make, engage in our essential fundraising and consider reviewing your giving annually as

part of our ongoing Christian stewardship of the church.

I am beginning to sound like a record stuck in the groove! If you need information, please ask. Keep together and help us to keep afloat!

*Liz McClure*

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## **FUNDRAISING UPDATE:**

Just before we went to press, we successfully enjoyed 'Supper with Music' in the Parish Hall which had been transformed by soft lighting and the waft of a Boeuf Bourguignon meal and a glass of something into a comfy relaxed environment. A place in which to enjoy not only the food and the fellowship, but also the talented Philip Chidell who transfixed us with the amazing sound of his violin. A violin made in 1750. Many of the pieces he played were from musicals.

*(see photo of Philip on the front cover)*

A good deal of money from the sale of tickets was raised for the benefit of the Parish Hall, in fact about £950, and on top of that Philip sold some of his CDs. A good event worth all the hard work that was put in to stage it - well done and thanks to all involved.

Now, the excitement doesn't stop there as two more great evenings of entertainment are being put on for your pleasure, and for the pleasure of our treasurer.

The Kelsborrow choir are returning to popular acclaim to give us an evening concert of varied music in church on Saturday 18th May and The Jig Saw Jazz band are back playing for us in the Parish Hall on Saturday evening 22nd June. They are always a sell out.

Put those in your diaries and watch out for more details and ticketing information nearer the time. Thank you.

*Brian Inall / Christine Abrams*

## **JOHN BARNES:**

John Barnes has been in touch to apologise for not having been in contact or visited Christleton recently, as he has only just recovered from a triple bypass operation.

John was a choir boy at St James' Church and became a Church of England clergyman but later converted to a priesthood in the Roman Catholic Church in East Anglia. He has now returned to duty in Felixstowe, Suffolk.

Many will remember with affection John and his late parents Edgar and Winnie Barnes who were very active in our Christleton community. Edgar was Church Warden 1966 - 1971 along with Harold Whetnall whilst Winnie was greatly involved with the Mothers' Union, Wives Group, etc.

*Alf Croston*

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## **SUPPER ANYONE?**

I have never knowingly eaten supper although, with a body mass (BMI) just on the good side of obese, I cannot say that I have suffered. I have been fortunate to be able to have dinner, or sometimes tea, regularly but not supper.

Being a non-supper eater classifies me as working class along with serviette rather than napkin etc.. Irrespective of the path of my life since boyhood, the label "working class" is certainly true since I grew up in a solidly working class neighbourhood. And St Ignatius (or Aristotle, depending on which authority you accept) had a point when he observed "Give me a child until he is seven and I will show you the man".

As a teenager I was mildly surprised by the number of characters in the King James bible who apparently had supper. I could not believe that folk in the middle east only ate light meals, as the dictionary defines "supper". I probably concluded that when required to find an English word for the meals in the original language(s), the translators

chose a word from their current lexicon which would have been determined by their learning and class. In doing so, they left me in an unfamiliar world.

As an older bible reader, I learned not only to be sceptical about the words used but to extend that to some of the apparent messages and situations of the text itself. Writing about supposed racial bias in modern education, the journalist, Melanie Phillips, has said: "Many historical figures subscribed to attitudes that merely reflected the assumptions of their era". For my world is not that of the King James Bible and certainly not that of the ancient middle east.

I find the word "supper" mentioned seven times in the King James Bible and am pleased to note that a number of these have been replaced by "dinner", "luncheon" or "banquet" in the New International Version.

Whatever the difficulties with class, language or culture, I find reward in the pages of the bible. When I hear Sunday by Sunday, "This is the word of the Lord" I can reply "Thanks be to God" because despite the quaint language, I believe it is a message from God. The words used may change with time.

And I must remind myself that "supper" is just another word for "meal".

*Jim Hawkes*

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## **STOP PRESS! RESULTS OF THE ANNUAL MEETINGS:**

The Church Annual Meetings took place on Sunday 24th March - just a day before this magazine was sent to the printers!

At the first very short 'Meeting of the Parishioners' the churchwardens were elected for a further year, and at the main Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) that immediately followed, the PCC members were elected.

The make-up of the new PCC is as follows:

Rev'd Dr Stefan Collier (Rector, Chair)

Churchwardens:

Bettie Gilliatt (Deanery Synod)  
Tina Lightfoot (Lay Chair)

PCC Secretary: Janet Milton

Elected Members:

Christine Abrams; Sheena Cumiskey  
John Eccles; Paul Forrest  
Brian Inall; Mike Lightfoot  
Liz McClure (PCC Treasurer)  
Chris Platel (Electoral Roll)  
Joce Platel (Deanery Synod)  
Linda Rowe; Keith Smalls  
Ann White (Safeguarding)

Well done for those folk putting themselves forward in this way. A commitment to serve.

It can be expected that more information coming out from those annual meetings will appear in the May magazine. (*Editor*)

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## **CHURCH COMMUNICATIONS:**

Perhaps you've noticed the proposed new church logo on the cover which we are trying out. Together with the selection of photos, especially Liz's boating experiences, this justifies us splashing out on a colour cover this time. Thank you to all the contributors.

A new logo doesn't 'fix' a church or really do anything very much, but it is a small part in the task of generally improving the communications between church and community, and also within the church itself, and being easily recognisable.



I have to muse over some companies who have spent millions getting a new brand image which has only lasted a very short time before reverting back under the pressure of public opinion. (eg: Royal Mail - £2.5m.)

The older cross logo, with symbolic swan and shell, is still available but is not proposed as our main method of identity.

This magazine which was re-launched back in March last year is an ongoing example of improving communications. Hope you agree - feedback (and content) is always welcome.

The PCC has, or is, setting up various new sub-groups to tackle aspects of the church and they will be communicating with the PCC to ensure we are all 'singing from the same hymn sheet' and paddling (sorry Liz) in the same direction.

Can you help us? We are looking for people to assist us in our Marketing & Communications group. Doesn't matter whether you are a PCC member, a church member, or not. The group oversees the magazine, the web site, notice boards, the weekly notices, and publicity in general. Many hands make light work!

Just ask me for details. Thank you.

Brian Inall

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## Spread the word..... we're having an egg hunt

Please come along on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> April at 2pm to St James' Church Christleton and join in our 'Real Easter Egg' Hunt



Follow the story of Easter from Palm Sunday right through to Easter Day as you hunt around St James churchyard for clues and eggs.

In addition to eggs found along the way, each child will receive a 'real' Easter egg which includes the story of Easter

There will be refreshments for young and old on completion of the 'course'

There is no charge for children but donations would be welcome

For further details or to book a place contact: [thechurchwardens@gmail.com](mailto:thechurchwardens@gmail.com)

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## APOLOGIES TO RICHARD STILGOE:

*The Parish now has a new vicar,  
who says 'we must do things much slicker.  
Let me not hear anyone bicker -  
the hymns are too slow, so go quicker!'*

See 'Mrs Beamish' by Richard Stilgoe on YouTube for a good chuckle.

(Other short printable non-copyright poems always considered for the magazine! - Editor)

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## MESSY CHURCH - TWO BUILDERS

How appropriate the theme for this month was in the light of the storms, gales and flooding which struck the country in March! It was based on the well-known parable of the Wise and the Foolish builders which Jesus told to the crowds who came to hear him.

Naturally house-building was an essential activity: there were edible savoury houses constructed from breadsticks cemented with cream cheese and roofed with ryvita and sweet houses using sponge fingers with a mortar of butter icing; there were paper house templates to colour and place on firm rocky foundations or shifting sandy ones. Salt dough was used as a base for some beautiful hand prints and there was a particularly messy



opportunity for painting a storm mural with sponges, rollers and fingers to which giant raindrops were added. Tanks of sand and water were available for little hands to explore and, of course, no session with a theme of building could be complete without Lego!

Beryl told us the story of the foolish man who did not listen to guidance and built his house on the sandy ground without foundations so that when the river flooded it fell down whereas the house of the wise man who dug deeply and laid the foundations on rock stood firm when the flood waters burst against it. We thought about the message of that story in our prayer:

Heavenly Father, help us to put our trust in you so that when we face difficulties, problems, the storms of life, we may stand firm like the house on the rock built with strong foundations. As we learn more about you and your teachings, we pray that we might grow in wisdom, understanding and faith. Amen.

The musicians, joined by Richard for the first time, led us in a rousing rendition of 'The wise man built his house upon the rock' before we went out with joy to eat our shared tea. The centrepiece was a 'collapsed' cake house and there were plenty of Bettie's delicious meringue 'rocks'.

As 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in April is Easter Sunday the next Messy Church is Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> May BUT there will be a Real Easter Egg Hunt on Easter Saturday at 2pm in the churchyard.

*Joce Platel*

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## THE CREW GROUP 'SEWING BEE':

On Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> March the Crew met in full force in the parish hall and set about putting their sewing skills to the test aided and abetted with grateful thanks by Bettie and Sue.

Some had brought their own projects with them whilst others had a go at making a small gift for Mothering Sunday (no further details for fear of spoiling the surprise on the day).

All in all it was hectic and a bit of a scramble to get finished: very similar to the real thing in fact except Tina offered to take all unfinished gifts home to complete and return in time for the special day..... no pressure!

In between cutting, pinning and sewing we chatted about the proposed changes and the exciting opportunity that will open up for the group and other young people within our worshipping community. We're hoping to have some worship events which have been completely planned and led by our youth. Lots of ideas to work on and exciting times ahead so watch this space.

Sorry we have no photos of the 'sewing-Bee' in action but we were simply too busy to stop for breath, let alone pose for photos.

*Tina lightfoot*



**RIP - BETTY DUNNING 1926 - 2019**

# St James' Church Calendar

## April & May 2019

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

### APRIL:

- |  |                      |   |
|--|----------------------|---|
| Monday 1st:                            | 1.45pm:              | Mothers' Union in the Parish Hall   |
| Tuesday 2nd:                           | 2.30pm:              | Churches Together Lent Visit (4th of 5). St Peter's at the Cross  |
|  | 7.30pm:              | Home Lent Study Group (4th of 5) at Grange House, Village Road  |
| Wed 3rd:                               | 10.45am:             | Lent Study Group in church (4th of 5)   |
| <b>Sunday 7th:</b><br>(5th of Lent)    | 8am:                 | Holy Communion (BCP) followed by Breakfast in the Parish Hall   |
|  | 10.45am:             | Holy Communion. Refreshments.   |
|  | 6.30pm:              | Evening Prayer  |
| Tuesday 9th:                           | 7.30pm:              | Home Lent Study Group (Last of 5) at Grange House, Village Road   |
| Wed 10th:                              | 10.45am:             | Lent Study Group in church (Last of 5)  |
|  | 12 - 1.30pm:         | Churches Together Lent Lunch in Methodist Schoolroom  |
| Thursday 11th:                         | 2.30pm:              | Churches Together Lent Visit (Last of 5). Chester University  |
| Saturday 13th:                         | 10.30am:             | Churchyard Working Party and soup lunch.  |
| <b>Sunday 14th:</b><br>(Palm Sunday)   | 8am:                 | Holy Communion  |
|  | 10.45am:             | Holy Communion. Refreshments.   |
|  | 6.30pm:              | Evening Prayer  |
| Monday 15th:                           | 12.30pm:             | Luncheon Club in the Parish Hall  |
| Tuesday 16th:                          | 7.30pm:              | Home Discussion Group - at Sandheys, Plough Lane  |
| Wed 17th:                              | 10.45am:             | Holy Communion (BCP). Refreshments.   |
|  | 2.00 pm:             | Churchyard - Tidying Up session.  |
| Thursday 18th:                         | 7.30pm:              | Eucharist of the Last Supper, with tastes of a Seder meal.<br>A 1st Century Eucharist celebration, which ends with contemplation. |
| Friday 19th:                           | 2.00pm:              | The Last Hour. Christ's Passion. Contemplate with "The Reproaches".   |
| Saturday 20th:                         | 2.00pm               | Easter Egg Hunt around the churchyard - refreshments<br>and 'Real' Easter chocolate eggs. See page 6.                             |
| <b>Sunday 21st:</b><br>(Easter Sunday) | 8am:                 | Holy Communion  |
|  | 10.45am:             | Family Communion. Refreshments and Produce Sale.  |
|  | (no evening service) |   |
| Tuesday 23rd:                          | 7.30pm:              | Home Discussion Group - at Grange House, Village Road   |
| Wed 24th:                              | 10.45am:             | Holy Communion (BCP). Refreshments.   |
| <b>Sunday 28th:</b><br>(2nd of Easter) | 8am:                 | Holy Communion  |
|  | 10.45am:             | Morning Prayer (Trad). Refreshments.  |
|  | 6.30pm:              | Holy Communion  |
| Tuesday 30th:                          | 7.30pm:              | Home Discussion Group - at Sandheys, Plough Lane  |

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

## MAY:

- Wed 1st: 10.45am: United Holy Communion. Refreshments.  
7.30pm: Churches Together AGM at Christleton Methodists. All welcome.  
With talk about chosen charity: The Hospice of the Good Shepherd.
- Sunday 5th:** 8am: 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  
Tuesday 7th: 7.30pm: Home Discussion Group - at Sandheys, Plough Lane  
Wed 8th: 10.45am: Holy Communion (BCP). Refreshments.
- Sunday 12th:** *Start of Christian Aid Week (12th - 18th May)*  
(4th of Easter) 8am: 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 Grange House, Village Road  
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 (details to be confirmed)
- Sunday 19th:** 8am: 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 Grange House, Village Road  
Wed 22nd: 10.45am: Holy Communion (BCP). Refreshments.
- Sunday 26th:** 8am: 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.

*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:**

**NOTE:** From Pentecost (9th June) a new Sunday service pattern begins. Further details of which will appear in our May magazine.

- Sat 22nd June: A fundraising evening with "Jig Saw Jazz" in the Parish Hall.  
Sat 29th June: Christleton Village Fete. St James' Church will be there.  
Sat 13th July: Christleton Show. Theme: "Re-use and Recycle"  
Sun 14th July: Flower Service.



## **Churchyard Maintenance.**

**Next is:**

**Saturday 13th April**

**(and a Tidy Up session 2pm Wed 17th April)**

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 15<sup>th</sup> April 2019**

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  
(not meeting in April)

## **The Crew St James' Youth Group**

The next meeting in the Parish Hall  
Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> 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 10th April  
'Tai Chi' with Gerry Weatherston**

## **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.

## THE HISTORY FILE:

### Christleton Girls & Infants School 1940-45. Extracts from the School Log Book- Part 2.



This is the second part of the story of life at Christleton Girls and Infants School during WWII. I am delighted to say that following the printing of the article in last month's magazine, several people have come forward with their own memories. We will gather these together and print their story later. The Air Raid Shelter mentioned in the articles was in a field just beyond the junction of what is now Sandrock Road, and Quarry Lane.

#### 1941: Jan 20th

School abandoned on Rectors orders due to inclement weather. 25% attendance.

School was abandoned every day until January 27th due to the inclement weather.

Nov. 6th: School disorganised owing to ration book being distributed during the morning session.

#### 1942: Jan 20th - 23rd

School closed due to inclement weather 9% attendance.

April 15th The organiser of the Emergency Dinner Scheme called.

#### 1943: March 9th

The children were in the shelters from 12 to 12.30.

Dec 6th-13: Headteacher away due to her husband's leave from HM Forces.

#### 1944: Feb 10th - 17th

Headteacher away due to her husband's leave from HM Forces.

May 1st: School dinners were commenced 66 children receiving them. Mrs Gordon and Miss Powell were engaged as helpers.

June 19th: The Headteacher was granted leave of absence. Mrs Winifred Hughes was put in emergency charge.

Nov 1st: Reversion to Winter war time timetable:

Morning session 9.30-noon

Afternoon session 1.00pm -3.30pm

Nov 7th: Mrs Meadows Frost WVS visited school today re Evacuee clothing.

Nov 9th: Air Raid warning. Children in shelters from 2.30- 2.45pm.

Dec 14th: Miss Kershaw appointed Headteacher today.

Dec 21st: The school correspondent visited school today in response to a complaint about interference with Canteen Emergency Stores.

#### 1945: Jan 24

The School Correspondent visited school and suggested juniors and infants working together in one room to conserve coal supply which is running short. Note temperature in one room was 33F rising to 44F.

25th Jan: Everywhere frozen, except one lavatory and one tap.

School closed until 5th February. Still a burst which Mr Parsonage repaired by lunchtime.

May 8th & 9th: The school closed for 2 days Victory Holiday.

#### 1946: March 27th

Linda Thomas broke a bone in her foot jumping off the air raid shelter.

*David Cummings*

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## CHRISTLETON PIT GROUP:

The Christleton Pit Group is a small group of dedicated volunteers who look after The Pit and the area around Little Heath in Christleton. The group was formed by David Cummings and parents of children at the Primary School in 1976, and expanded into a formal Pit Group in 1987.

The conservation of the Pit has been a concern of the Parish Council since the 1890's

and many attempts to restore it were made through the next 100 or so years, until the Pit Group took over, funded by grants from The Parish Council, Cheshire West & Chester Council and WREN a well known environmental support agency. The Pit is a hole in the ground that fills with rain water, if conditions allow. It has no other source of water except from road & field drains.



The group has recently had the task of removing unwanted floating vegetation, stabilising the banks with coir rolls filled with native pond plants, and improving the surrounding grass banks by laying turf. We have also created 2 fishing platforms to be used by village young people. The Pit has many admirers, and was awarded National Status and a substantial grant in 2000 by the Millennium Commission. It would have been a demonstration pond for the North west of England Pond restoration scheme, had the scheme not been dropped for lack of resources.

The Group would love to meet new members, who can enjoy exercise and fun, and help to maintain this vital habitat and resource for the village Community, a space admired by visitors from a wide area.

Our work programme for 2019.

- a. Restoration of another section of the grass bank near the Alms Houses.
- b. Checking & restoring paths
- c. Creating a swan nesting platform
- d. General Maintenance

- e. Discussion with the Parish Council about the replacement of the white fence & posts, & possible new footpath.
- f. Checking drains & overflow.
- g. Clearing the filter bed/road drain area near Little Heath Road.

Initial Work Dates.

Saturday April 6<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> April, Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> April, all 9.30-11.30am. More to be added later.

*David Cummings*

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**A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY.**

Saturday 13th July 2019 - Christleton Village Show in the Parish Hall 2.00-4.30pm.

Do you grow, or sew? Can you make or bake? Whether you cook, or just want to look, the Show needs your support! Classes for flowers, art, crafts, produce, photography, and more. You could win a trophy! Enjoy delicious home-made refreshments; enter the raffle for some great prizes. This year's theme is "Re-use and Recycle".

The show is to be opened by our Rector Rev. Dr Stefan Collier and sponsored by Mike and Angela Haswell. Schedules are now available from Drakes Haircutters, Christleton Village Stores, Ring O'Bells, or download from [www.christleton.org.uk](http://www.christleton.org.uk)

*David Cummings*



## **CHRISTLETON PARISH COUNCIL NEWS:**

Again, traffic issues are top on the agenda list and the Parish Council are hopeful to have a Traffic Working Group in place following the April Parish Council meeting.

Several people have put their names forward to be considered for the group, including residents, businesses, organisations, the church and schools. The Council greatly appreciates their commitment to volunteer to take forward the recommendations agreed at the recent village meetings, which were well attended with some very positive feedback being received by the Parish Council who will be keeping the village updated on progress at the monthly Parish Council meetings.

News, on the application to build 42 new homes at the Christleton Hall which had been refused by CWAC Planning Committee, we have received notification that this proposal is now going to appeal. The Parish Council will be lodging a supplementary submission to the Planning Inspectorate to their previous objections and a representative from the Parish Council will attend the hearing to reiterate their position on this matter.

A request from Huntington Parish Council to join forces to request CWAC to re-establish the Christleton/Huntington footpath, which is a recognised footpath but is in poor condition and very hard to access in parts and is not commonly known about. The benefits of re-instating this footpath would give access to children from Huntington/Great Boughton who attend Christleton High School a safe journey and reduce the number of vehicles entering and leaving the village at peak drop-off and pick-up times.

The Parish Council are the recipient of the Les George OBE Memorial award which has been awarded to Christleton in recognition of their management of Little Heath Play Area and the Bike Track, the plaque has been installed at Little Heath Play Area.

Last but by no means least, the Parish Council would like to express their thanks and appreciation once again to the Christleton Pit Group for their unstinting efforts and hard work in maintaining The Pit and keeping it looking so beautiful, their efforts are truly amazing and Christleton is very fortunate to have such a loyal and hard-working group of volunteers.

*Sue Thwaite, Clerk to the Council*

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## **JOHN SELLERS EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION, CHRISTLETON**

This ancient trust was founded on 23<sup>rd</sup> 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 CWAC representative, two Parish Councillors) to try and increase the capital. Further donations or legacies, which could be used to increase the level of grants paid out, would be much appreciated.

Any Individual or group wishing to be considered for a grant should apply to the Clerk, in writing:

*P Pratt (Clerk)  
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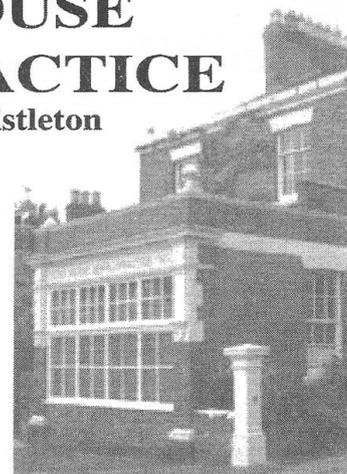
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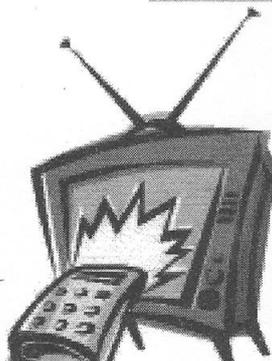
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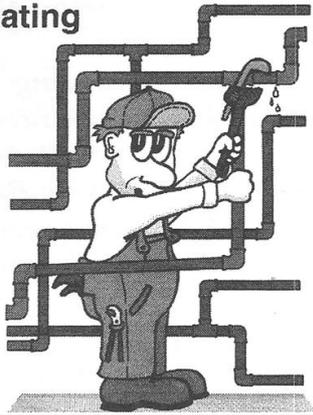
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## PARISH CONTACTS:

### RECTOR:

**Rev'd Dr Stefan Collier**

Tel: 01244 335663

[rector.christleton@gmail.com](mailto:rector.christleton@gmail.com)

(Day off is normally Thursday)

### OTHER CLERGY IN THE PARISH:

**Rev'd Gill Hibbert**

Tel: 01244 336544

[gillianhibbert582@btinternet.com](mailto:gillianhibbert582@btinternet.com)

**Rev'd Elizabeth Inall**

Tel: 01244 336500

[elizabeth@inall.co.uk](mailto:elizabeth@inall.co.uk)

### PARISH ADMINISTRATOR, PCC SECRETARY & HALL BOOKINGS:

**Janet Milton**

Tel: 01244 325529

For the PCC, the weekly notices and initial enquiries for weddings, funerals, baptisms:  
[pa.saintjames@gmail.com](mailto:pa.saintjames@gmail.com)

For Parish Hall bookings:  
[christletonhall@gmail.com](mailto:christletonhall@gmail.com)

### CHURCHWARDENS:

**Bettie Gilliatt**

Tel: 01244 335645

**Tina Lightfoot**

Tel: 07557 352592

for either warden:  
[thechurchwardens@gmail.com](mailto:thechurchwardens@gmail.com)

### VERGER:

**John Milton**

Tel: 01244 325529

### ST JAMES' CHURCH WEBSITE:

<https://www.stjameschristleton.org.uk>

### ST JAMES ON TWITTER:



**@StJChristleton**

### CHRISTLETON VILLAGE WEBSITE:

[www.christleton.org.uk](http://www.christleton.org.uk)

## MAGAZINE:

### EDITOR:

The editor is: **Brian Inall**

Tel: 01244 336500

[brian@inall.co.uk](mailto:brian@inall.co.uk)



*We are building the editorial team. If you think you can help please contact Brian Inall.*

*Deadline for submissions for the May magazine will be Monday 15th April.*

### COMMERCIAL ADVERTISING:

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Thank you for reading our magazine. We hope you enjoy it. Feedback is always welcome.

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

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