



PARISH OF ST JAMES

*serving the communities of Christleton,
Cotton Abbots, Cotton Edmunds, Littleton
and Rowton*

November 2018

50p.

The Rector's letter



What does a healthy community look like?

I shared recently how stuck, I mean blessed, I was to find myself in a meeting. I daydreamed about what does it mean to be a church today? Surely it was more than a persistent striving to offer activities and programmes that leave a church community exhausted or judged by their failure to do enough. A real temptation for us as we begin a new season of life together.

As I recalled this rumination, I recalled another that I gave at our recent Parochial Church Council Meeting - a desire to grow, numerically and spiritually, a healthy church community, not a successful one per se. The key term being healthy, and very mindful of the pattern of Christian living as one that constantly involves death and resurrection.

I suspect, indeed am confident, that both the church and other non-church communities have much we can learn from one another on how we, together, might develop healthy

communities. This is surely one of the blessings of our parish, for it contains distinct, and I pray, united communities, with rich traditions and experiences. Blessings that I am gradually beginning to experience for myself – thank you.

Of course, an article such as this, especially one written in haste a day after the deadline, cannot expound in sufficient detail what a healthy church community looks like. But it might be helpful to simply inject one overview perspective, recognising there are many to explore and learn from, by way of planting seeds for our dreams and visions to come. This perspective, which goes by the name of Natural Church Development (NCD) and is rooted in empirical research, suggests that a healthy church community is characterised by eight qualities, where the adjective describing the qualities is of key importance. These are *passionate* spirituality, *inspiring* worship services, *empowering* leadership, *effective* structures, *gift-based* lay ministry, *loving* relationships, and *holistic* small groups. A church community that embodies these eight qualities is a healthy church community, and one that will grow. I wonder how we are doing? I wonder how, or if or to what extent, these qualities have analogues in the other communities we are part of? If you think about the different communities that you are a part of, what are they comprised of? What qualities bring them good health?

The months ahead will see us reflecting on comparable perspectives to the one above, as we seek to, together and in mutual interdependence with the other communities that we are all a part of – be it in our homes, workplaces, or other activities, grow a healthy church community in this place - in continuity and with thanksgiving for those who have travelled this Way before us. Reflecting, while we go on with our daily living, with all its joys and challenges. May the stained glass window of your parish church's lady chapel bring you hope, as you walk past it in the days ahead. Hope through Jesus' words – "Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke

upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." (Matthew 11.28-29).

With my love and prayers,

Stefan

Rector, Christleton

JUNK !

I often find myself thinking about junk. But before you suggest I seek professional help, I will explain.

On a dismal January evening, I was led by my son and grandchildren into a rundown Trading Estate in Walthamstow, London. A short distance in there was an old white warehouse building which declared in bright neon lighting that it was "God's own junk yard". I was a little tentative about entering but, once inside, was overwhelmed by the visual assault on the senses. For this place is the creation and celebration of the life and artistry of Chris Bracey who was an artist in glass and the creator of those iconic signs in the mid 1950's that, for many, characterised the age. Rising up the walls were multi-coloured illuminated signs that read "Stage door", "Exit", "Jazz club", "Bar" and the notorious "Topless bar" that folk quickly learnt had nothing to do with an unusual facility for dispensing drinks. Here was a celebration of the demi-world of the night and it was no surprise to learn that demand for the signs was prompted by the Soho district of London.

The floor of the warehouse was piled high with discarded and broken electrical items. Here were televisions, radios, white goods, kitchen appliances, computers, music keyboards, switchgear, plugs, wiring, telephones and a hundred other things that either I did not recognise or had forgotten ever existed. I walked among all this detritus along narrow pathways full of wonder at the

electrical age and challenged by the implications of the waste.

A visiting journalist described the place as "an apparition of heaven - psychedelic nirvana". I could certainly identify with the concepts of happiness and wonder at this place. With the intense brightness of the coloured signs it is a possible vision of heaven but I was challenged most by the idea of God having a junk yard. The dictionary records that junk can be discarded articles, rubbish, anything of little value or a Chinese boat. Despite the confidence suggested by the inclusion of "own" in the name of the warehouse, I felt sure that this place was not what it claimed to be simply because our transcendent God does not make mistakes and therefore has nothing to throw away. When thinking about the beginning of time, John wrote concerning Jesus "Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made". So what we have in Walthamstow is man's junk, some of it probably once regarded as worthwhile while the rest has simply been superseded. It has been made into a source of wonder and celebration of the past - warts and all!

If you get a chance to visit
(www.godsownjunkyard.co.uk), try the chocolate cake and coffee in The Rolling Scones Cafe and see what the whole experience says to you.

Jim Hawkes

Treasurer's Report

After a month's rest of article writing, I wonder if you really need to see the figures and hear my views from a financial perspective.

You may remember early last year around Burns' night I wrote an article regarding the cavalry coming over the hill in the way of the stewardship campaign. Well the cavalry HAS come over the hill. It would be great to imagine that Stefan is the full cavalry complement but the truth is that you wonderful magazine readers and church

family members have really risen to the challenge during the vacancy by responding generously to the stewardship campaign and working extremely hard to keep us afloat. It is you, yourselves, who are the true cavalry, who have put us in a position to support a full time member of the clergy; who have helped to carry the church work throughout the vacancy; and who continue to do so.

I have been incredibly fortunate in my own life to have always been able to live within my means, but I have observed the paralysing effect of lack of money in the business of the church – strained relationships; time taken over by financial constraints and spreadsheets; decisions made perhaps which we would have preferred not to have to make; and limitation of our ability to use the gifts of the Spirit which are abundant in our community.

Income	
collections	398
standing orders	1751
donations	22101
envelopes	1499
funeral/wedding net	- 785
total	24964
Expenditure	
Church salaries	320
Church utilities	162
Parish share	6385.50
Church insurance	-
Churchyard Wall	6330
Total	13,397.50

It is evident still that our basic giving income does not cover the parish share but a legacy of over £21,000 is a great benefit.

So we are now in the very midst of our new beginnings, of the visionary aspects of the next few years. Just temporarily, we are set free from the most severe of financial constraints due to the receipt of the above legacy from one of our church members now sadly deceased. The facility that this has the potential to provide, I would ask that we each consider this possibility. I make no apology for repeating this request as I am already observing the holistic benefit to the church.

As our previous mission statement put it, we want to be able to maintain the church and churchyard for generations to come, and for the time in their lives when they realise they too have a need to seek the peace and refuge it can provide.

So where are we now? At the end of 9 months, still there is a small surplus of £2000 (not counting the legacy).

Thank you so very much for your generosity so far. Although it would be great to relax our efforts, to maintain an ancient building and its surrounding churchyard, in addition to paying 125% parish share, provides for no complacency in this respect. Resting on our laurels is sadly not an option!!!

Overall at this time of the year, we are breaking even despite the large bill for the churchyard wall which has almost wiped off our hard won surplus. This is a massive improvement on last year when we were already several thousand pounds in deficit.

Cavalry, keep coming over the hill!

Liz McClure

Fabric and Maintenance report

We are pleased to report that a new architect has been appointed. He is Tony Barton a member of the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC) and Chairman of Donald Insall Associates here in Chester. He has a keen interest in historic buildings and has been involved in the restoration of important building landmarks in the northwest of the country. His role will be to advise the PCC on ongoing maintenance and repair of the Church, grounds and parish hall and to conduct the five-yearly inspection which is due again in 2022.

The next big task is to remove the Perspex covers on the large stained glass windows of the Church so that they and the windows can be cleaned. We are grateful to the High School for the loan of scaffolding to enable this to be done and we hope to make a start very shortly. Most of the smaller windows have been cleaned over the summer so that they now glisten in the sun.

The carpark/churchyard wall has now been completely rebuilt – quite a feat of jigsaw manipulation since the wall had been ‘rebuilt’ in the past in a haphazard manner. It was an expensive undertaking but it was becoming dangerous, so there was no option. The wall on the other (west) side will need attention in the future as it is being pushed out by the established yew trees.

When there is sustained and heavy rain, as we had a couple of weeks ago, water leaks into the transept near the vestry door. The fault has been traced to difficult-to-access valleys around the vestry chimney. This will be attended to shortly – weather permitting. Some of the rainwater goods have been painted by the Community Payback team, as well as the railings round the parish hall.

The dry-rot which was mentioned in the last Quinquennial report is now thought to have gone, although a watching brief is still maintained.

We are very grateful to Stuart Arden who arranged to have the carpark graded in time for Stefan’s installation. This grading is a short term measure. The carpark is extensively used by the public, particularly as parking is difficult in the village.

Other work that needs undertaking includes lifting one half of the lynch-gate; tightening the lock ring on the porch light; and attending to the outside light which is corroding.

Despite the fact that there is always something to repair or replace, we are quite pleased with the state of church. Like many churches in Chester it is built in sandstone which, although it has a very pleasing appearance, is porous and relatively soft.

All work done is only due to the generosity of the congregation and the public and for that we are very grateful

***Bettie Gilliatt
Paul Forrest***

Celebrating Harvest

Crew harvest festival at the allotment

The Crew Youth Group Harvest Thanksgiving service on the allotment is now a regular feature in St James’ calendar. It is hard to believe, but over the years we have been holding this service we have so far been

blessed with dry weather and this year was no exception. We had a gathering just short of 40 representing a great cross section of our congregation. For a few, including Stefan, celebrating harvest on the allotment was a new experience. It was a real joy to welcome new faces and old onto our plot for a wonderful service of thanksgiving followed by great fellowship. As folk arrived carrying chairs of various sizes along with mugs for their soup, members of the Crew youth group ensured everyone had the necessary service sheet and hymnbooks. Thanks to the dry weather, Huw and Tina were able to accompany the hymns with their guitars.

Our theme this year of preparing for poor harvests was based on the familiar story of Joseph and his interpretation of Pharaoh’s dream. This amounted to him predicting seven years of plenty followed by seven years of famine. Joseph advised Pharaoh that in order to survive the seven years of famine, they must prepare themselves during the years when the harvest is plentiful. This can be taken as a metaphor for our relationship with God. If we are to trust in him and be guided by him through the hard times in our lives, we must spend time getting to know God and building a relationship with Him during the good times in order to put our trust in him at moments in our life when we are struggling for whatever reason.

To set the scene Caroline and Jessica read to us an extract from Genesis chapter 41.

Following the short thanksgiving service, we tucked into refreshments of soup, bread, cottage pie and courgette cake (all homemade) served by Mike Lightfoot and Chris Abrams. Many enjoyed washing this down with wine provided by our good friends at Artichoke.

Some produce was available for folk to take away with them. Donations were in aid of the Indonesian Tsunami appeal.

Tina Lightfoot

Harvest festival at St James

The church was beautifully decorated for Harvest Festival on Sunday 14th October by



Olive Hammond and her team – *Team Olive*. The Primary School donated baskets of produce from their harvest

festival service on the previous Friday and

these were laid

in front of the

altar. At the

start of our

Harvest

Festival adults

and children

from the congregation brought the produce

that had been donated to the altar. This

produce was then distributed on the following

Monday to *Save the Family* and *Chester Aid*

for the Homeless.

Our Harvest Festival was a joyous occasion

and one of true celebration!



Apple Pressing



Fundraising Group has been busy in October. We were baking and preserving for the Produce Stall at the Apple Juicing event which followed our Harvest Festival.

John Eccles was press-ganged into

manning (should that be banned as a verb, ladies?) the barbecue in the absence of Mike. John was ably assisted by Stuart in the grilling of tasty sausages, chicken and burgers to be consumed while watching chopped-up apples being squeezed in an Apple Press to produce delicious 100 per cent natural juice. Chris did a sterling job on the press and many bottles

were filled to be drunk or stored for consumption over the winter. Since there were strong winds on the two previous days there were many windfalls to be processed! Although the gales abated, it was not the mellow autumn day we would have wished for, so we were forced to hold the event in the Hall and car park rather than on the church green. Most of the surplus produce was bought by those who attended Lunch Club on the following day. Many thanks to all who supported the event. As a result of your generosity we are able to send £220.70 to Christian Aid for the relief of flood victims in Kerala.

Fundraising

Keeping the Fun in Fundraising!

On Monday 22nd October we produced and served a lunch of soup, sandwiches and cakes to eighty avid bridge players who had purchased tickets for a Chicago Bridge Drive. No mean feat in a lunch break of only 45 minutes! The event has raised around £1000 which should cover the cost of blinds for the two small end windows in the Parish Hall so we are grateful to those who participated in this card-playing challenge.

The next event will be an **A Coffee Morning with a Difference**. On Tuesday 6th November there will be a coffee Morning at Grange House, Village Road, from 10.30 – 12.00. As well as a donation for your coffee and homemade biscuits you are invited to donate ingredients for Christmas baking - mincemeat, Christmas cake and puddings. So, bring along a packet of sultanas, raisins or currants or maybe suet, mixed peel or cherries and even Brandy! We will need quite a lot to then make the mincemeat etc. which will be sold at the Christmas craft sale we are holding on December 1st in the Parish Hall. More details about that elsewhere in the magazine. All the profits from both these events are for the Parish Hall refurbishment fund.

On Saturday 1st December there will be a Christmas Wreath and Decoration Day with lunch followed by a sale of Christmas decorations and produce. It is sure to be popular so put it in your diaries now. Tickets on sale soon.

Joce Platel

Messy Church

As this time of year is when we celebrate Harvest (as we did recently on Mike and Tina's allotment and at our Harvest Festival and Apple Juicing) it is good to remember that God has gives us so much more than we need as a sign of his love for us. So this month's Messy Meeting was full of colourful activities which linked to that well-known symbol of colour: the Rainbow! This was the sign God used after the Flood when He promised Noah a regular Harvest. There were colourful spinners to construct, delicious fruits of all the colours of the rainbow to thread on to skewers and to pop into little mouths, we made Thank You posters using colourful strips of rainbow chard, carrot and celery enhanced by mini apple prints. A large rainbow for the display arched over cut out pictures of the wealth of the natural world we inhabit.

Ann had made a beautiful golden crown decorated with rich jewels to represent God as the source of all we have. As God is light so he is all the colours of the rainbow. Ribbons of all the colours of the rainbow flowed from the crown: a reminder that our Rainbow-coloured God has given us a rainbow-coloured Harvest out of love for his rainbow-coloured people-US! Jan used a basket of rainbow coloured bounty from her garden to show the richness of our wonderful world. We all said a very LOUD "Thank you, God" for the world, for Harvest and for making us his rainbow people before singing 'Thank you Lord for this fine day' with musical accompaniment from Huw, Will and Tina, as well as the instruments played by smaller hands. Needless to say Bettie and her helpers had produced a scrumptious rainbow-coloured tea for us all.

Messy Prayer

Beryl brought a Celtic prayer that fitted very well with our theme:

May the blessing of the earth be on you that you may be rooted in God

May the blessing of the rain be on you that you may never dry up

May the blessing of the wind be on you that you may be blown God's way for ever.



Churches Together

"What the Quakers did for the Jews of Europe" - 1st October 2018



It was with much pleasure that we welcomed the return of Peter Kurer after some years and we were not disappointed. At 87 he is full of vigour and enthusiasm and determination that what the Quakers did should be known and recognised. Towards this end he has worked for many years, particularly to have his thesis "The Missing Chapter" accepted at the Holocaust Museum in Jerusalem; but also by means of his travels, lectures, writings at home and abroad, to inform us all just how generous, compassionate and huge was the contribution made by the Society of Friends

(Quakers) towards the rescue of so many Jews from Holocaust.

Many of us know (a little) of the Kindertransport: how a fairly unconcerned public and government here in the 1930s at first imagined “things would get better” in Germany, then feared the financial drain on the state if many from Nazi Europe came here. Chamberlain was still wishing to appease Hitler. At last, after the Kristallnacht Pogrom in November 1938, and persuaded by Quakers and Jews working together in Germany, Austria and London, the Government agreed that young Jews should come here. It was not easy for Jews to use public transport, but was arranged that Friends should meet these children at European stations (no emotional goodbyes) – then travel with them to Holland, thence to England, where on arrival they were again met by Friends who arranged homes in safety for them. (December ‘38- May ‘39.)

Peter came from Vienna in 1938 aged 7 with his brother and parents to stay in Manchester with a “wonderful” Quaker family, the Goodwins, who had “guaranteed” them – another less known contribution by the Quakers. The Government had decreed that if a British citizen raised £50 (today £4,000) for a Jewish person, s/he could obtain a visa to come here. Quakers “guaranteed” an estimated 7,000 Jews. But that was just the start! These families provided housing, food, clothing, education, help for every eventuality – often real challenges, met quietly and fully. Peter spoke warmly of the Goodwins who lived in a large house and found other Friends to “guarantee” all 9 members of his family. He had 2 years free education at a Quaker boarding school after which his Father could afford to pay.

Yet another way for Jews to come here was for them to obtain a post. The Manchester Society of Friends placed adverts in newspapers asking for posts needed – maids, cooks, butlers – jobs no one here wanted. In this way, many more Jews were saved.

Peter spoke of many other things, firmly believing all this showed FAITH in ACTION - something from which we can all learn. Our sincere thanks to him. **Jan Bowden**

Thank You from

**The
Children's
Society**

I have received the following letter from The Children's Society, thanking us for the donation raised by Box Opening 2018.

‘Thank you so much to the members of St James’ Church Christleton for helping in our mission to improve the lives of vulnerable children. Your generous donation of £1,291.24 in support of our work is truly outstanding and exceeds our expectations. Please extend our heartfelt appreciation to all who participated in helping to raise these funds- we really don’t take it for granted.

Your donation will allow us to continue reaching out to thousands of vulnerable children who are faced with challenging issues of hardship, abuse and neglect- often without any support. By supporting us, you’ve done something truly life-changing for thousands of children. Across the country we are all working together to ensure that more children have the care and support they need and deserve.

On behalf of everyone at The Children's Society and the young people we work with, thank you for your valued support of our mission to make children's lives better’

If you would like to collect loose change for the Society and become a box holder, please do get in touch.

*Many thanks **Lesley Morgan***

Olive Hammond to everyone who helped her decorate the Church for Harvest Festival. Olive sends a big thank you and says how much she appreciates the support she had from ‘Team Olive’!

Churches Together to all those that helped with and supported Sunday Teas over the summer, helping to raise £1,500 for Rock of Joy Trust in Uganda.



PARISH OF ST JAMES

CALENDAR NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2018



November	
Every Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday	9.00am: Morning Prayer
Sunday 4th All Saints	8.00am: Holy Communion (BCP). Followed by 'Breakfast@8' in the Parish Hall. 10.45am: Holy Communion. Refreshments in the Parish Hall. 6.30pm: All Souls Service.. Refreshments follow in the hall..
Monday 5th	1.45pm: Mothers' Union meeting in the Parish Hall.
Tuesday 6th	10.30am: Coffee Morning , Grange House, Village Road (<i>see advert</i>) 7.30pm: Weekly Discussion Group at the home of Brian & Elizabeth Inall (336500).
Wednesday 7th	10.45am: United Holy Communion. Refreshments in church.
Saturday 10th	10.30am: Churchyard Working Party. 7.00pm: Christleton Local History Group. Commemoration of Christleton during WW1. at Christleton High School.
Sunday 11th 3rd before Advent	8.00am: Holy Communion. 10.45am: Service for Remembrance Sunday. The service will start at the War memorial.. Refreshments afterwards in the Parish Hall. 6.30pm: Holy Communion.
Tuesday 13th	7.30pm: Weekly Discussion Group at the home of Brian & Elizabeth Inall (336500).
Wednesday 14th	10.45am: Holy Communion (BCP). Refreshments in church.
Sunday 18th 2nd before Advent	8.00am: Holy Communion. 10.45am: Holy Communion. Refreshments in the Parish Hall. 4.00pm: Messy Church in the Parish Hall. 5.00pm: Worship with Messy Church in the Parish Hall. 6.00pm: The Crew Youth Group in the Parish Hall. 6.30pm: Evening Prayer.
Monday 19th	12 noon for 12.30pm: Luncheon Club In the Parish Hall.
Tuesday 20th	7.30pm: Weekly Discussion Group.
Wednesday 21st	10.45am: Holy Communion (BCP). Refreshments in church.
Saturday 24th	9.30am - 4.00pm: PCC Away Day at St John's Church Centre, Hartford.
Sunday 25th Christ the King	8.00am: Holy Communion. 10.45am: Morning Prayer. Refreshments in the Parish Hall. 6.30pm: Holy Communion.
Tuesday 27th	7.30pm: Weekly Discussion Group..
Wednesday 28th	10.45am: Holy Communion (BCP). Refreshments in church.

December	
Saturday 1st	Christmas Wreath and Decoration making day in the Parish Hall (<i>see advert</i>)
Sunday 2nd Advent 1	8.00am: Holy Communion (BCP). 'Breakfast@8' in the Parish Hall. 10.45am: Holy Communion. Refreshments in the Parish Hall. 4.00pm: Christingle Service.
Monday 3rd	1.45pm: Mothers' Union meeting in the Parish Hall.
Wednesday 5th	10.45am: United Holy Communion. Refreshments in church.
Sunday 9th Advent 2	8.00am: Holy Communion. 10.45am: Toy Service, with the Rose Queen. Refreshments in the Parish Hall. 6.30pm: Holy Communion.
Tuesday 11th	7.30pm: Weekly Discussion Group.
Wednesday 12th	10.45am: Holy Communion (BCP). Refreshments in church.
Sunday 16th Advent 3	8.00am: Holy Communion. 10.45am: Holy Communion. Refreshments in the Parish Hall. 4.00pm: Messy Church in the Parish Hall. 5.00pm: Worship with Messy Church in the Parish Hall. 6.00pm: The Crew Youth Group in the Parish Hall. 6.30pm: Evening Prayer (BCP)
Monday 17th	12 noon for 12.30pm: Christmas Luncheon Club In the Parish Hall.
Wednesday 19th	10.45am: Holy Communion (BCP). Refreshments in church.
Sunday 23rd Advent 4	8.00am: Holy Communion. 10.45am: Morning Prayer. Refreshments in the Parish Hall. 6.30pm: Service of Nine Lessons and Carols. Festive refreshments afterwards.
Monday 24th Christmas Eve	4.00pm: Crib Service. 7.00pm: Carols 'Round the Tree'. Festive refreshments afterwards. 11.30pm: Holy Communion.
Tuesday 25th Christmas Day	8.00am: Holy Communion. 10.45am: Morning Worship with Holy Communion.
Wednesday 26th	10.45am: Holy Communion (BCP). Refreshments in church.
Sunday 30th 1st Sunday of Christmas	8.00am: Holy Communion 10.45am: Holy Communion 6.30pm: Evening Service.
CONTACTS	
Rector	Rev'd Dr Stefan Collier 01244 335663 Email: rector.christleton@gmail.com N.B. Thursday is the Rector's day off
Churchwardens	Bettie Gilliatt 01244 335645 Tina Lightfoot 07557 352592 For either warden email: thechurchwardens@gmail.com
Parish Administrator	Janet Milton 01244 325529 For Weekly Notice sheet, PCC enquiries and initial enquiries about weddings, funerals and baptisms email: pa.saintjames@gmail.com For Parish Hall bookings email: christletonhall@gmail.com

The next

Luncheon Club

is at 12noon (for 12.30) in the Parish Hall on
Monday 19th November

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

No charge but donations welcome.



Churchyard Maintenance Saturday 10th November

Once a month 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



Coffee Morning *with a difference*

Tuesday 6th. November

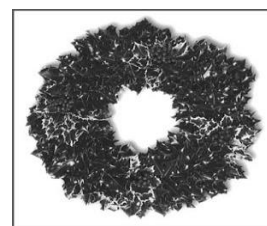
10.30 am – 12 noon

Grange House, Village Road

See Page 5 for further details



Fundraising event for Parish Hall Refurbishment



A Christmas Wreath Making Workshop

at
The Parish Hall, Christleton

Saturday 1st December

10 am – 4 pm

Tutor: Angela Haswell

Soup and Sandwich Lunch

Cost of day: £15

***Produce stall and exhibition of work open to
public from 2.45 pm***



For more details ring Christine 01244 335562

In aid of Parish Hall refurbishment

**Christleton Methodists
Invite you to**

**COFFEE AND HOMEMADE
BISCUITS**

**Saturday 3rd November
10am – 12 noon**

**Charity Christmas Cards, Cake Stall
White Elephant, raffle**

Proceeds to the Fund for World Mission



Birthday Celebrations at Christleton High School

Wednesday October 10th 2018 was a highly memorable day. Not just because it was the hottest October day recorded but because it was the day chosen to celebrate the 60th birthday of Christleton High School which was officially opened by Sir Edward Boyle MP, the then Minister for Education, on October 3rd 1958.



Past pupils, parents and former members of staff were welcomed into the school building, the familiarity of which varied according to how long it was since they had attended, visited or worked in the school. So it was with great interest and curiosity that visitors crowded into the Exhibition Hall(which used to be called the Crush Hall in the early decades of the school's existence) to see how many familiar faces they could spot (allowing for the changes caused by the passage of time!). There were reunions, hugs, laughter as memories were swapped. We were taken on tours of the school in small groups led by Year 8 pupils who were happy to answer questions and talk about their current educational experiences. Lively discussions of how lesson content and teaching methods had changed over six decades ensued.

We returned to the Assembly Hall-still the same original building, but refenestrated,

refloored and repainted, where the current Head, Damian Stenhouse, reminded us of some of the key moments in the school's history in an illustrated address. We were entertained by the changing styles of school uniform; how short those seventies hemlines were! Pictures of the huge horse chestnut tree which blew down in April 1989 reminded us what a miracle it was that no one was hurt. Aerial photos showed how much the school has grown but Damian assured us the school motto of 'I learn to serve' was still in operation along with being a 'happy, hardworking and courteous community'. A strong tradition of music, drama productions and sport has been maintained throughout the sixty years along with a wide range of extra-curricular activities, a recent addition being the formation of a cadet company.

No birthday is complete without a cake so former heads, Phil Hodges and Geoff Lawson, were invited to cut a cake decorated in school colours. Phil played tribute to the contribution of Les George, Head from 1958 to 1980, in establishing the positive ethos and subsequent popularity of the school. Geoff remembered having to manage the challenges faced by the introduction of the National Curriculum in buildings which were, by 1990, in need of renovation.

The balmy autumn weather meant that the commemorative photos could be taken outdoors- on the steps by the copper arch- by in house photographer Kate de Winton. By coincidence, Kate's husband's grandmother, Joan de Winton, was the very capable school registrar in the days of Les George! Several faces in the photo of pupils who were at the school in its opening year will be familiar to our readers.

The exchange of memories continued over coffee and pastries back on the exhibition school where our recollections were stimulated by a rolling slide show highlighting the rich variety of experiences shared by staff and pupils over the last 60 years from drama productions to trekking in the Himalayas. It was a lovely occasion and the school is hoping to organise more alumni events.

More birthday celebrations in the village....

October is clearly a significant birthday month in the village of Christleton. On Saturday 13th October a number of local residents joined David Cummings in the Parish Hall as he treated Alf Croston to a photographic trip down memory lane- frequently featuring Alf and Margaret in a range of period costumes- to mark his 93rd birthday. Then on Monday 15th Luncheon Club diners were treated to birthday cake to mark the combined birthdays of David Cummings, Janet and John Milton, Tim Rowe and Liz McClure- a total age of 466 years!

Joce Platel

CHRISTLETON WEDNESDAY GROUP

Christleton Wednesday Group was started over 50 years ago by a group of Mums with young children. They were looking to raise monies for children's charities. Their first venture was knitting articles for Dr Barnardo's. Since then, over £300,000 has been raised.

Each year a different charity is chosen by the group and every event during the year is in support of that organisation. Often the charities are local and, for example, the chosen charity this year is Dorin Park School who are in need of more outdoor specialist equipment.

The group has done almost every possible event in order to raise money. They have organised fashion shows, barbecues, Pud and Pop nights, Spring and Christmas lunches, flower arranging demonstrations, as well as bridge competitions and much more.

In recognition of the Group's charity work, four representatives were invited to a Garden Party at Buckingham Palace.

The Group meetings are held monthly in members' homes to organise and plan upcoming events. Anyone wishing to join the Group would be most welcome. Please phone 332234

Pat Powell

CHRISTLETON WEDNESDAY GROUP



invites you to

The Holly and the Ivy Christmas Flower Arranging Demonstration by Angela Haswell

on Wednesday 5 December 2pm.

at

The Burley Memorial Hall, Village Road,
Waverton

Tickets: £10

Enquiries: 01244 335055

Raffle, Tea and Cakes

Wildlife Watch October 2018

A gaggle of five greylag geese have been the surprise visitors at the Pit, being seen there for about six weeks now. Several big fish have been seen jumping high out of the water, and as a grey heron is almost permanently present I guess that the small fish population is also very good. Late butterflies seen in the village have included small tortoiseshell, red admiral, peacock and comma. Good numbers of fieldfare have already been heard flying over the village indicating that autumn migration from Scandinavia is well on the way, which somehow seems to be much earlier than usual. Parties of starlings have also been seen more regularly in the area, and these too are probably migrants from Eastern Europe. Common snipe also visit us for the winter from the same south easterly direction, and several are now present on the wet meadow at Hockenhull. They are so well camouflaged that they can disappear in the reeds and tall grasses very easily, and it's only when they are disturbed and fly away, that they can be more easily identified by their peculiar flight pattern. They also have a very unusual breeding display in spring, when the males fly

around the reserve in a zig zag pattern and making a distinctive drumming sound as they do so. Another fascinating feature this autumn has been the roost of up to 80 pied wagtails in the reed beds along the Gowy, and although good numbers of lapwing were seen earlier in September, they now seem to have moved on.

The reserve has also been very interesting in the last month, with 2 rare water rail being present, and both barn and tawny owls being seen throughout August, September and early October. The otters are still very active with fresh spraints being left on their favoured ledge under the middle bridge most days, and a fox has been sighted regularly stalking the meadows and reed beds. The Hockenhull otters had two youngsters this year, which have now almost certainly been driven off to find their own territory and a fresh holt site. The Cheshire Wildlife Trust built three artificial otter holts along the Gowy about twenty five years ago, and it is probable that they are currently all occupied. This is excellent news, as they will finally drive out the wild American mink that were first released from fur farms in Shropshire twenty five years ago.

Good numbers of smaller birds are coming into our gardens after a partial summer migration. Robins are singing loudly proclaiming territory, with wrens also being much more active and vocal. Nuthatches too are very noisy, and greater spotted woodpeckers can be seen and heard drumming loudly again. A green woodpecker has also been seen and heard calling with its strange laughing (yaffling) call. The two main species of woodpecker you are likely to see are the green and the greater spotted. The lesser spotted woodpecker is only the size of a great tit, so although it is a possible visitor, it is really very unlikely. I've recently spotted several family parties of long tailed tits flying in the area, sometimes with as many as forty in a group. They have a delightful high pitched call as well as their distinctive long tails, as they flit from tree to tree. Both great and blue tits are active again, and I've had several

reports of coal tits being seen in the village. Several people have also told me that buzzards occasionally visit their gardens, and you will also hear a lot of calling from them at present, with groups of up to five buzzards in view, floating above both Christleton and Rowton where there are nest sites, often being chased by jackdaws or crows.

David C



Long-tailed Tit

People we remember.

A Tribute to David Wain OBE 1927-2018



David Wain a very well respected member of the Christleton community for almost all of his life, died in September aged 90. He was born in 1927 and was educated at the King's School in Chester. He joined the family firm of Boat builders in Skips Lane, Christleton which was one of the first yards to build and hire leisure craft for people to enjoy holidays on Britain's canals. Initially it was called the "Inland Cruising Association Ltd", and later Inland Hire Cruisers Ltd. It was a very successful business until the demands of WWII, when everything became rationed including fuel. David served in the Royal Air Force between 1945-49 before re-joining the family firm and taking over as chairman and managing director after his father's death in 1956. David & his wife Norah were prominent members of the Christleton Players Theatre Group for many

years, and were members of Chester Round Table and Ladies Circle respectively. Norah was an excellent cook, and together with Margaret Croston travelled to France on a cookery course, and together with David often hosted special events at their home in Skips Lane. Alf and David also became great friends and often shared journeys to London, staying at The Royal Overseas League whilst on business.

David developed a deep interest in the canals and waterways of Great Britain, and became friends with Lionel Thomas Caswell Rolt and his family. Lionel Rolt was the inspiration for the revival of the canal system in the late 1920's, and wrote many excellent books, which became best sellers. He was born in Handbridge, Chester and his mother Annie was the sister of Rector Lionel Garnett, and whose life is commemorated with a memorial plaque at St James' Church. Tom Rolt is also remembered locally with a plaque in the canal basin in Chester, and an Education Centre named after him at the Ellesmere Port Boat Museum.

From 1954 to 1963, David was a committee member of the Inland Waterways Association's North West Branch. He served as National secretary for seven years between 1962 and 1969, and from 1969-1974 as National Chairman of the Pleasure Craft Operators. In 1968 he was appointed a Council member of Government newly created advisory body on Inland waterways, the Inland Waterways Amenity Advisory Council, becoming Chairman in 1977 until he retired in 1992. In 1983 he was appointed an OBE for his services in the development of tourism and recreation on Britain's Inland Waterways. David created a very successful canal museum at Llangollen, which received the British Tourist Authorities top award for that year's outstanding Tourist development in Great Britain.

Water and waterways were in his blood, and he became Vice President of the British Canoe Club organising the World Championships in North Wales. His son and daughter Nick and Sarah won many canoeing events including national championships. In 1992 he became IWA Vice President, Vice President of the Trent & Mersey Canal Society, Vice President of the Shropshire Union Canal Society, as well as a trustee of the Anderton Boat Lift Trust and Boat Museum in Ellesmere Port. Previously he served as a trustee for the Rainbow Boats for the disabled which operates from Christleton from 1979-1997, and the Waterways Trust 1999-2003. He was President of the British Canoe Club from 1975-1990, and Chairman of the National Waterways Museum (1994-2001)

David & Norah were founder members of the Christleton Local History group in 1976, and contributed greatly to the first two main publications, "Christleton the Story of a Cheshire Village" published in 1979, and "Christleton 200 years of History" published for the Millennium. He was always so caring and friendly, a delightful man with a kind word for everyone. His smile was infectious, and his enthusiasm for life was there even on the last time I visited him, to tell him about the Christleton Great War Stories project. His many friends in Christleton will miss his good judgement and sound advice.

David had a wonderful sense of humour, and often told stories about his youthful exploits in the canal yards, and especially about one incident in the severe winter of 1963 when he drove his old Vauxhall Victor over the frozen canal from Christleton to Waverton and back. Another of his exploits that winter also came to light, when as part of a lecture on the collection of paintings in the Grosvenor Museum, we heard by chance about him driving his car across the frozen Dee near the old Dee Bridge. The last image the lecturer showed that evening was a painting of the frozen River Dee in 1963. He had heard the story that several youths had driven their cars across the ice. He thought that this crazy adventure was so very risky, and commented on the stupidity of such a journey. As he told the story, David went into a fit of almost uncontrollable giggles, and to the great embarrassment of the speaker stood up and said, "Well young man, I'm that so and so silly person who drove his car across the river. It was really quite fun!!"

David was one of the nicest people you could ever meet. His enthusiasm for life was infectious and his memory will live on through all who knew him, for many years to come. We express the deepest condolences of the Christleton community to his wife Norah and family.

David Cummings & Alf Croston

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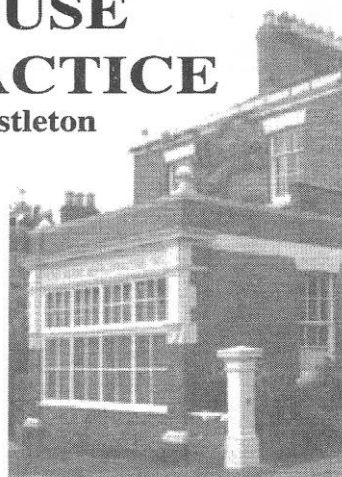
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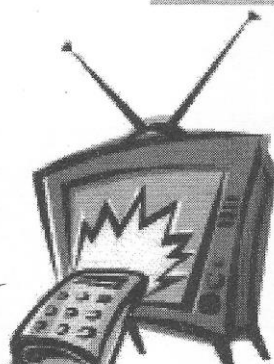
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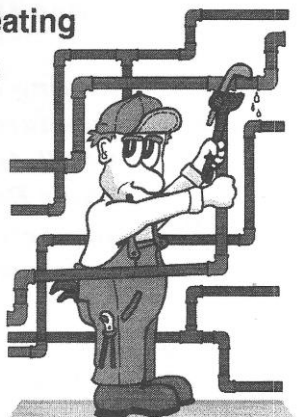
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