

The St. James' Church *PARISH* *MAGAZINE*

April 2021



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

Free on-line



ON THE THIRD DAY CHRIST WAS RAISED UP - ALLELUIA !!!
We wish all our readers a Happy and Blessed Easter.



Launching The Friends ...

It has been a long time coming. It was first spoken about many years ago, but other things have taken priority or got in the way - not least Covid-19. It's a way to engage with more people in this community who value St James' Church as a beautiful and needed building and includes both those who may or may not be so interested in belonging to it and worshipping at it.

John Norbury has taken the lead and chairs 'The Friends'. Its full name is the lengthy title of: THE FRIENDS OF ST JAMES' CHURCH CHRISTLETON BUILDING, but we'll all get to know it as 'THE FRIENDS'. Unashamedly it is about raising funds for the preservation of that building for the community. A heritage for future generations. The church members do their best but are unable to fund everything and they need this help. Please read John's message inside.

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During this Covid-19 crisis this magazine will be free via the church website and will not be printed or delivered to homes. Please encourage others to read the magazine online. Feedback and contributions always welcome - please contact the editor.

ST JAMES' CHURCH WEBSITE:

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

Website maintained by Jonathan Gilliatt
jonathan.gilliatt@btinternet.com

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CHRISTLETON VILLAGE WEBSITE:

www.christleton.org.uk



THE FRIENDS:

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Website:

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

THE FRIENDS OF ST JAMES' CHURCH **CHRISTLETON BUILDING**



PURPOSE?

The purpose of The Friends is to ensure the continued existence of the St James' Church building as an iconic feature of Christleton for the benefit of the whole village and wider community.

WHICH EXPLAINS THE FULL TITLE?

Yes - the full title is, therefore, "The Friends of St James' Church Christleton Building".

HOW WILL THE FRIENDS RAISE FUNDS?

This is a new initiative and a 'Friend' is in effect a household. There are two ways to become a Friend. A subscriber sets up a regular standing order which is a minimum of £10 per month or £100 per annum. Payments above these minimum levels will of course be very welcome. We wish to be inclusive so there is the financially lighter method which is a one off donor in the calendar year.

WHAT WILL THE FUNDS BE USED FOR?

The full terms of reference are available on The Friends website:

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

Essentially, the funds will be used to help with the preservation of the fabric of the building and grounds.

WHAT WILL THE FUNDS NOT BE USED FOR?

The Friends does NOT exist to provide support for the practice of Christian worship at St James' Church. This will remain the full responsibility of the PCC and the members of the church community.

SO IT'S NOT AIMED AT THE REGULAR CHURCHGOERS?

No. The Friends is aimed at those occasional visitors for baptisms, weddings and funerals who appreciate St James' Church continuing to be available in good condition for these important events. Also, it will be a vehicle for contributions to be made by those who have

nothing to do with St James' Church or religion in general, but who appreciate the value to the village and surrounding community of keeping the building of St James' Church in good condition.

IS IT AN INDEPENDENT CHARITY?

No. The Friends is a sub-committee of the PCC which will cover all governance issues. The Friends does not need to have a formal AGM but the plan is to invite Friends to an Annual Meeting in order to provide an update on funds and expenditure.

DOES THE FRIENDS DECIDE ON EXPENDITURE?

No. The PCC has responsibility for the maintenance of the building and will decide on how the funds will be spent.

HOW DO I CONTRIBUTE?

Details are available on the website or contact John Norbury on 07971 556714 or email: john_norbury@btinternet.com

(John Norbury)

EASTER - THE BIGGEST HISTORICAL EXPLOSION HUMANS HAVE EVER SEEN

I wonder if we can think of Easter as a supernova.



A supernova is 'the biggest explosion that humans have ever seen. Each blast is the extremely bright, super-powerful explosion of a star.'

These explosions distribute heavy elements through

space from which life has gone on to be formed. They can perhaps also trigger the formation of stars, as they pass through clouds of dust and gas.

That is from death, the death of a star, comes life, literally, as we know it.

Every Easter Christians remember and celebrate this same dynamic of death, and new life. The biggest historical explosion humans have ever seen. Jesus Christ, God's own son, is horrifically crucified on a Cross by the Roman authorities, and laid to rest in a nearby tomb. Days later, the tomb is found empty, and Jesus is revealed as having risen from the dead.

Just as we can attest to the reality of supernovas through their large bursts of energy over some days, so can we attest to the comparable large bursts of energy of Jesus' death and new life through the explosion of the Christian church around the Mediterranean world and beyond and the movement of the Jewish Sabbath day, a Saturday, to the day of Jesus' resurrection, a Sunday. Bursts of energy which create life through our receiving of them, and entering into the life of Christ which reconciles us to God and each other.

It is a great joy we bathe in this Christ light, this Christ explosion, this creation of life here in our parish communities. The signs of which are all about us, and cause of great thanksgiving. Not least. The creation of The Friends of St James' Church building (an especial thanks to John Norbury). The wholehearted recommendation to train for ordination Tina Lightfoot, one of our churchwardens, recently received from the national church (we are still dancing with joy Tina, congratulations). The plans we have made and the permissions we are now seeking to open St James Church to community use throughout the week. These are but a few of the signs of life we may notice in our parish. The signs of the biggest historical explosion that humans have ever seen.



I pray as the signs of a supernova provoke awe, so too may the signs of Easter, signs of life together, provoke awe in us this Easter.

With my love and prayers,

Stefan

GIVING THANKS FOR YOUR VACCINE

By the time you read this, the majority of our readers will have had or been offered their first vaccination and some of us will have had both.

So many have reported just how well organized the vaccine rollout has been and the efficiency of the system. In addition, they have been impressed with the welcome they have received from the staff working in the various vaccination centres.

There is a sense that people are immensely grateful for all those involved from the scientists responsible for developing the vaccine and those people prepared to participate in the initial trials to the volunteers manning the welcome desks in each centre and providing calm reassurance. We have been truly blessed but we know only too well that there are many millions throughout the world less fortunate.

One way of showing our gratitude and acknowledging just how fortunate we are is to donate to one of the organizations who are dedicated to providing essential care and equipment to those in need as well as helping to roll out the vaccine to those less prosperous nations. The organizations below all have appeals related to coronavirus and giving on their websites couldn't be easier

The Disaster Emergencies Committee has an appeal to raise funds to support people in states such as Yemen, Syria and Sudan in the fight against Coronavirus.

<https://www.dec.org.uk/appeal/coronavirus-appeal>

Covax AMC is part of the vaccine alliance and seeks to ensure poorer countries receive their fair share of vaccine supplies

<https://covaxamc.ctdonate.org/index:payment.html>

Soap, masks and hand sanitiser are vital weapons against coronavirus and Christian Aid is raising funds to provide such essential equipment to the people of Benue State in Nigeria which has been ravaged by famine, disease and violent conflict and where families can't afford these basic items.

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/emergencies/coronavirus-emergency-appeal>

*Those who are generous are blessed,
for they share their bread with the poor
(Proverbs 22:9)*

Tina Lightfoot

CHURCH ANNUAL MEETINGS:

Sunday 16th May
at 11.30am

The Meeting of the Parishioners followed by the main Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) will be held **ONLINE** using Zoom.

Parish residents are invited to the first meeting where Churchwardens are elected. All Church members are invited to both meetings where reports will be given and PCC members are elected.

The Zoom invitation will be on the church website. If uncertain then please ask.

NEWS:

Did you complete the online census on 21st March? If you haven't yet, then best do it soon.

Voting for your PCC? In this case the Police and Crime Commissioner. Election on Thurs 6th May either by postal vote or at a polling station.

Beer Wine & Banter has now stopped for the summer season. More info from: Mike Lightfoot.

If you wish to put yourself forward as a churchwarden or as a PCC member then you need to get nominated ahead of elections at the Church Annual Meetings on 16th May. Fill in a form. More details from the PCC Secretary (see page 2).

The Electoral Roll will be updated ahead of the Annual Meetings. If you wish to go on it and become a member of our church with voting rights then fill in a form. Info from Chris Platel (tel: 332466).

Have you noticed the swings in the popular play area near The Pit are out of action? Christleton Parish Council are planning essential repairs (replacing rotten wood) and they should soon be swinging again. Sorry for the inconvenience.

IF MUSIC BE THE FOOD OF LOVE, PLAY ON:

If only!



Hannah, our previous musician, left us last year to take up her studies. Therefore, we have to play recorded hymns and songs at our services. Under Covid restrictions we can't sing out loud in church anyway, but that is going to change soon.

So then, what are we going to do? Sing to recorded music or sing unaccompanied?

If there are people in our community who are able to play the organ or piano on a Sunday morning then Stefan, our Rector, would love to have a conversation with you.

Talk to him on: (01244) 335663. Thank you.

CAN YOU HELP PLEASE?



MAGAZINE EDITOR/COMPILER:

Do you like designing and creating documents on your computer? Do you need a good excuse to do this?

Then you'd make a great assistant editor for this magazine! We'd be pleased to hear from you.

Contact the current editor, Brian Inall. See page 2.

Make an Online Donation

Support St James' Church with a donation via the website:
<https://www.stjameschristleton.org.uk>. Thank you.

TREASURER'S SPRING ARTICLE

- HOPE AND HAPPINESS POLICY

What an exciting year this has been so far!

As for coping with another lockdown, now about to be eased, this has complicated the finances even further. Are we actually becoming accustomed to living with such uncertainty? I wonder.

I am being asked to consider forecasts, budgets, predictions and all sorts of plans in the future. Sadly, it doesn't seem to go down well when I say I really haven't a clue as historical data are really not very helpful compared to their use in normal times – I have a lot of sympathy for our chancellor. Maybe he hasn't really a clue either!

As we look forward to the Spring, the new flowers, all the catkins, the warblers beginning to arrive and sing their hearts out, and even the potential easing of lockdown, of course for me the golf course, I wonder what our attempted budgetary predictions will show! (perhaps I shall need to consider my position...if it all goes pear-shaped).

Our main uncertainty, looking at our income, is that to balance the books even on a reduced parish share of 1.05, we appear to be relying on potential unrestricted donations of £18K. This is only our best guesstimate in this uncertain world, of course.

If we wanted to pay the full parish share of 1.25 (our allocated figure), we would then require donations, or other increased income, of 18k plus another 13k to make up the full amount.

This sounds like I am being completely miserable! The reason we have been able to pay our parish share of 1.05 over the last year is thanks to the incredible support of all our parishioners who have responded to the difficulties and allowed me to encourage increased online payments, standing orders and all this clever stuff which helps a great deal in predictability – what a blessing you all are!

So, should we have a "Reserves" policy? How many months expenditure should we keep in reserve??

Our normal cash flow doesn't have a reserve in my experience, but thanks to the legacies over the last 3 years we do in fact have a reserve in our investments. Should we reinstate a charitable giving policy? The answer must surely be yes, on principle, but see above uncertainties.

We have in fact finalised some adjustments to the Legacy Policy which I produced after the last but one stewardship campaign – it is much tidier. Any offers of legacies will be incredibly gratefully received and I can signpost anyone to the guidance for this, and can even discuss it. Legal advice is of course recommended.

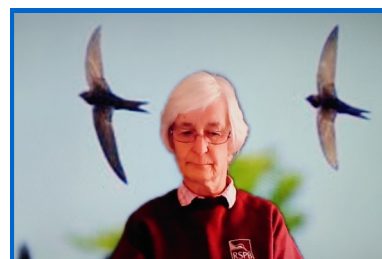
You may be beginning to work out what the stewardship group, and I, do in my spare time. You may wonder – is there more excitement?

Well, we are in process of the new audio-visual project which we hope will facilitate much wider connection with the community – I have set up a designated fund for this, and have already received donations to provide some support to this purpose – I just hope lots of people are more clever on the technological front than I am but even I have learned to add pictures onto my zoom background!

Once again, all donations gratefully received. Most exciting of all, the long awaited "Friends of St James' Church Building" is being launched – it is a miracle that Stefan is still speaking to me after my criticism of his colour scheme on the website – congratulations to him! In my spare time I am hoping to do lots of treasurer work for The Friends as well.

Thank you all so very much for your support over this complicated period but Spring is in the air and the swifts will soon be back again.

Liz McClure



THE SHERIFFS OF CHESTER

Chester is thought to be the first English town to have a Sheriff. The office is certainly much older than that of Mayor, having been first mentioned in a charter granted to St Werburgh's Abbey (later Chester Cathedral), around 1121-29.

From 1250, Chester had two Sheriffs at a time, originally appointed by the Earls but later elected by councillors and citizens. They were responsible for assisting the Mayor in carrying out legal duties; in particular they



Ken Holding

presided over the Pentice and Passage Courts which dealt with cases of debt and trespass (the former took its name from a building adjoining St Peter's Church, which , until it was demolished in 1803, was the main centre of City government in Chester.

The Sheriffs were also responsible for the City Gaol, which, until the early 19th century, was housed in the Northgate. In addition, they had to arrange for the execution of criminals condemned by both the City and County authorities, and were only relieved of this task in 1868.

The Sheriffs' financial duties included the collection of fines imposed in all the City courts, and the collection of tolls at the City Gates and customs payable on entering the port. From the 16th century, the Sheriffs were also responsible for the administration of Parliamentary elections in the City, ensuring, as far as possible, that there was no bribery or corruption!

Under the Local Government Reorganisation Act, 1974, Chester City became part of the District of Chester and as a Borough , the Council was allowed to make appointments to "offices of dignity", and subsequently resolved that a new Sheriff be elected, now one of only fifteen such office-holders in England and Wales.

Today the office of Sheriff of Chester, although essentially ceremonial, is vital in the City's civic life. The holder works alongside the Lord Mayor representing the people of Chester in variety of ways, both formally and informally (from attending civic services and functions to having lunch with members of local voluntary associations). Together the civic team carries out around 1,000 engagements annually, effectively contributing to the Council's image and work.

Ken Holding, former City Councillor, Sheriff of Chester, 1996/7 and a member of St James' Church.



THE SILENT WITNESS OF RESURRECTION.

Easter reminds us that our faith is in things unseen. While it touches life now it rests in the future.

I am often asked " What will heaven be like?" It is hard to give a satisfactory answer. It will always be a mystery, for we are limited to human horizons yet one full of promise. Every year I see a miracle. We live in such a beautiful corner of the world, and I see families walking past my window full of joy, children on scooters, dogs pulling at the lead, away from the traffic fumes.

My small garden is only one of thousands of millions of resurrections.

Through the country in towns and cities, in streets, parks and fields there are thousands of silent witnesses to the mystery of creation. Every bush, tree, blossom, fruit, nut and berry soundlessly shouts "See, I live!" Yet do we see them? Apple plum, pear and cherry, hazel nuts on wild hedges, conkers, sweet chestnuts to roast in winter, how is it that we do not hear every branch singing songs of praise?

Lord in my short and hurried day may I pause for long enough to touch a leaf, or breathe the fragrance of a flower, and in that moment may I be in quiet communion with your endless life-giving love.

"Ever-living God, help us to celebrate our joy in the resurrection of the Lord. May the Lord Jesus place his hands on our eyes that we may begin to catch sight of the things that are not seen, more than the things that are seen. May he open our eyes that they will alight on the things to come, more than the things of this age, so he unveils the vision of our heart that it may contemplate God in Spirit. Amen."

Gill Hibbert

THE IMPORTANCE AND RELEVANCE OF A CHURCHYARD.

St James' churchyard like many others throughout the country is special. From the memorial stones accumulated over many centuries, boundary walls, trees and the native species of plants and wildlife that thrive in this environment.

'Caring for God's Acre' (www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk) a Diocese of Hereford initiative has been helping parishes to understand and share their churchyards. The seasonal

changes in our churchyard appeals to visitors and the community of Christleton. A churchyard is not only a place of the dead, it is a thoughtful place, where expressions of history are found, full of personal and community stories inscribed on the headstones.

Churchyards in some areas have the only protected ecosystems, where remnants of the local flora and fauna can survive. A walk through a the wild area of a churchyard in late spring can give you a sense of botanical diversity that was once common in lowland Britain before modern farming practices destroyed more than 80% of our wild flower grasslands.

The pandemic has helped us to focus carefully on what we actually do with our sacred area. The community payback team who keep the churchyard looking good had to stop coming last year from March to August, which essentially was a huge part of the growing season. As a result the grass grew long, wild flowers such as red valerian, yellow ragwort, meadow saxifrage, pignut, buttercups and cuckoo flower all appeared. They added to the delight and serenity of the space. Some people loved it, others didn't.

We made a decision. When the payback team came back in late summer, we concentrated on the front of the church, this area would be mown, trimmed and weeded. The North side of the church beyond the footpath would receive similar treatment. The older parts on the west and immediately north of the church we would 'wild', but they would be made accessible by regularly mown paths so visitors could walk, stop, listen, watch, contemplate and reflect in quiet prayer at the beauty surrounding them.

'The heavens are yours, the earth is also yours, the world and all that is in it, you have founded them'.

Psalms 89. 11.

Mike Lightfoot



Red
Valerian



Yellow
Ragwort



Meadow
Saxifrage



Pignut



Buttercup



Cuckoo
Flower

CHRISTMAS IS REALLY FOR THE CHILDREN.

Christmas is really
for the children.
Especially for children
who like animals, stables,
stars and babies wrapped
in swaddling clothes.
Then there are wise men,
kings in fine robes,
humble shepherds and a
hint of rich perfume.

Easter is not really
for the children
unless accompanied by
a cream filled egg.
It has whips, blood, nails,
a spear and allegations
of body snatching.
It involves politics, God
and the sins of the world.
It is not good for people
of a nervous disposition.
They would do better to
think on rabbits, chickens
and the first snowdrop
of spring.

Or they'd do better to
wait for a re-run of
Christmas without asking
too many questions about
what Jesus did when he grew up
or whether there's any connection.

By: Steve Turner
(supplied by Elizabeth Inall)

THE NUN OF MYANMAR:

For people of many faiths, and even none at all, it can feel lately like the End of Days is near.

The world is in the grip of a great plague (Covid-19) and ravaged by wildfires, earthquakes and extreme weather. Swarms of locusts are decimating crops across the Middle East, leading to widespread famine, and wars rage across many parts of that region. But amongst all the doom and gloom, there have been many inspiring acts of faith, of which my favourite took place in Myanmar (Burma) at the beginning of March.

On February 1st the democratically elected government of Myanmar was overthrown by the military and many government officials, including the Democratic leader, Aung San Suu Kyi, were arrested. The military also have a history of violence against religious and ethnic minorities in this majority Buddhist (90%) country. Christians have been persecuted for over 50 years, but worst hit have been the Rohingya Muslims, who have been the subject of ethnic cleansing and forced to flee to India.

Since the February coup, then there have been almost daily protests, demanding the return of democracy, which have been viciously suppressed by the military. More than 200 protesters have now been killed and many more seriously injured. On March 8th, protesters took to the streets of Myitkyina wearing hard hats and carrying homemade shields. As police began attacking them, three Catholic nuns, led by 45 year-old Sister Ann Rose Nu Tawng, approached the police. Sister Rose knelt in front of them and begged them not to hurt the protesters, but to treat them kindly. "I knelt down ... begging them not to shoot and torture the children, but to shoot me and kill me instead." Although two of the police knelt with her, others began shooting and killing protesters. Sister Rose tried to lead several of the injured to a clinic which the nuns run nearby, but she was overcome by tear gas.



This wasn't her first encounter with the police. On February 28th Sister Rose also knelt before a line of riot police and pleaded with them to stop shooting. On that occasion, she was hit in the leg and chest, but suffered only minor injuries. "I have thought myself dead already since February 28th. I can't stand and watch without doing anything, seeing what's happening in front of my eyes while all Myanmar is grieving," she said.

Videos of Sister Rose kneeling and trying to negotiate with the police have gone viral and been reported on all major world news networks. Her bravery has been praised by Pope Francis and, notably, by Buddhists across Myanmar and Hindu leaders in India.

Sister Ann Rose Nu Tawng was ready to give up her life to save her fellow citizens, which is especially poignant as these events took place a few weeks before Easter, when Christ gave his life for us.

Martin Thompson

A SINGER SEWING MACHINE

[a family heirloom]

I lived in Battersea S.W. London and had a sister 10 years older than myself.

In 1924 at the age of 14, my sister obtained an apprenticeship in the tailoring department of Harrods, travelling each day by train from Battersea to the centre of London.

Every week the Rag & Bone Man came down our street and my father always went out to see what he had on his cart. One day in 1935, he came back with a treadle sewing machine for which he had paid 8 shillings, a lot of money in those days.

In 1939, when war was declared, Harrods' work shop changed. They no longer altered clothes for rich customers, and my sister made uniforms for Queen Alexandra nurses. At Harrods she had met a young man who was to become her husband. He was a window dresser and then worked in the barbers and he had joined the Territorial Army and was one of the first to be sent to France.

As the British forces were being overrun they were told to fall back to Dunkirk. A German plane dropped a bomb on his party and he couldn't remember anything else until coming to in a hospital in Scotland suffering from what is now called post traumatic stress. He was invalided out of the Army and married my sister in 1941, a baby boy arrived in 1943. He got a job on the buses and rented a house in London.

In the meantime in 1939, I had been sent to live with an Aunt in Great Sutton and returned in 1941 to go to a school in Surrey. In 1944 I was at home when a flying bomb fell on the house destroying it and killing my father. My sister's house had also been made

uninhabitable in the bombing . My mother had had enough and, when we were offered a large empty house in Childer Thornton, we all returned north. The sewing machine came with us.

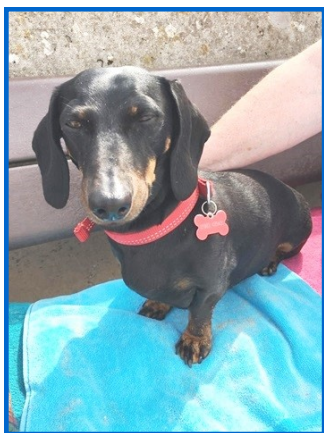
My brother-in-law eventually bought a house in Whitby, Ellesmere Port, and got a job at the Shell refinery. My sister studied in Salford, gained a teaching certificate and taught needlework at the Grange School, Ellesmere Port, eventually becoming head of domestic science. She also taught tailoring in night school. She bought an electric sewing machine and we acquired the treadle machine.

We had it about 50 years before giving it to my daughter, also a needle woman. It has been cleaned and the woodwork polished, and from the serial number, she found out it had been made in 1869. It is now over 150 years old and it is still in good working order.

Jean Williams

DAISY'S ADVENTURES - Part VI

Thank you very much to all those lovely humans who telephoned to ask if I was completely recovered from my recent tummy upset – you really are very kind.



Yes I did recover very well thanks to the medication from the vet but also from the attention I got from my Mummy who really looked after me just like a baby – in fact I overheard her saying to someone that in many ways it was just like treating a baby so that must account for all the extra cuddles I got which I'm not complaining about of course.

So, now that I was on the mend we continued on our daily walks for a while until all of a sudden my Daddy said he was taking me out each morning and I wondered why the change of plan, but it soon became clear, when again I heard 'she who must be obeyed' telling someone that she had to isolate for 10 days due to having a cataract taken off her eye. It really is amazing what I pick up due to my very acute hearing!

And then, disaster! I was poorly again with the same symptoms as before so off we go to the vet and the same procedure as before but this time it was a man who took me in and examined me. It seems I had a temperature and he thinks it was a bug which lots of dogs have contracted recently and duly gave me an injection and another syringe of pro-biotic to make my tummy better and of course, another bill!! I must be costing a fortune – but I'm worth it.

Needless to say I wasn't eating because I felt so poorly so I just lay in my bed or across my Mummy's knee and slept most of the time.

The next day I felt a bit better but I was told we were going in the car - and I love rides in the car - because this was 'operation day' and my two adoring humans decided they didn't want to leave me so off we went to the hospital. I was very excited when my Mummy came back to the car although she looked different with a patch over her eye, but she still gave me cuddles and kept me warm on her knee on the ride home to Chester. My appetite had started to improve that evening, perhaps due to all the excitement, and I'm pleased to say I'm back to my normal self . Let's just hope I don't get any more bugs because I think the piggy bank might have to be broken into.

See you next time I hope

Daisy - (Published by kind permission of Janet Milton)

BEER, WINE & BANTER:

Beer, Wine & Banter has now stopped for the summer, and is expected to resume in the autumn. Coffee and Chat continues on a Tuesday morning and there's nothing to stop anyone setting up impromptu online meetings using Zoom or other methods.

CHRISTLETON STORES:

Even though the children have gone back to school and are patronising the shop again please continue supporting your local shop to secure its future.



St James' Church Calendar - APRIL-MAY 2021:

THE ST JAMES' CHURCH BUILDING IS OPEN FOR WORSHIP.

Open for private prayer (Wed 2 - 5pm and Sun 9am - 2pm).

Open for 9.00am Morning Prayer. All welcome.

Open for 10.00am Sunday Worship.



All Covid-19 precautions remain in place - hand cleaning, masks, social distancing, etc.

FROM SUNDAY 28th MARCH **the Sunday pattern will be:**

10.00am: Holy Communion in church
11.30am: Sunday Worship online. (Zoom)

Sun 28th Mar: **Palm Sunday**, Start of Holy Week.
10.00am in church, 11.30am online.

Wed 31st Mar: **Stations of the Cross**
12 noon: In church and 7.30pm: Online.

Thu 1st Apr: **Maundy Thursday**
7.30pm online only. Quiet service. Bring food and drink as we remember the Last Supper.
9.00pm The Watch - in church.

Fri 2nd Apr: **Good Friday**
2.00pm The Last Hour Service, in church.

Sun 4th Apr: **Easter Day**
10.00am in church, 11.30am online.

Sun 11th Apr: 2nd of Easter
10.00am in church, 11.30am online.

Sun 18th Apr: 3rd of Easter
10.00am in church, 11.30am online.

Sun 25th Apr: 4th of Easter
10.00am in church, 11.30am online.

Sun 2nd May: 5th of Easter
10.00am in church, 11.30am online.

Sun 9th May: 6th of Easter. Rogation Sunday.
10.00am in church, 11.30am online.

Thur 13th May: **Ascension**.

Sun 16th May: 7th of Easter
10.00am in church,
11.30am Annual Church Meetings online.

Sun 23rd May: **Pentecost**
10.00am in church, 11.30am online.

Sun 30th May: **Trinity Sunday**
10.00am in church, 11.30am online.

NOTE: All arrangements subject to change.

Monday - Friday: 9.00am: Morning Prayer - in church. Everyone is welcome to this short time of devotion to start the day.

Tuesdays: 10.30am: Online Coffee Morning. Join this Zoom meeting, and chat and drink coffee or whatever. More details from Liz McClure.
8.00pm: Online Night Prayers or Compline using Zoom. A short time of prayer to end the day. More details from Tina Lightfoot.

Wednesdays: The Wednesday morning service is not yet restarted. Further details will be given when known.
Beer, Wine & Banter. This has now STOPPED for the summer period. More details from Mike Lightfoot.

For online services and online meetings a Zoom invitation will be needed. They can be found on the St James' Website. For Sunday Worship click on the red Sunday Worship button on the home page - this will take you to a Sunday Worship Resource page which includes an Order of Service, the Zoom invitation and hymns. For other online events go to the What's On calendar and you'll find the invitation in the event description. You may find it in other places as well. If you need help then please ask.

SPINNING PLATES:

Have you ever watched someone spin plates?



There is skill, obviously, and there is a huge amount of judgement and timing. They are in a constant state of alertness, watching the plates slowing down, moving with agility and speed to the slowest ones to get them going again, judging which one to go for next, weighing up distance versus wobble, risk of falling versus risk of not getting back for others, it's a real test of stamina and concentration. It must be exhausting after a while yet the fear of all the plates coming crashing down keeps the adrenaline going.

Life is also a game of plate spinning, we are all spinning all sorts of plates, child care, work, family commitments, money, our homes, etc., but also in amongst those plates are other plates we cannot see, self image, mental health, traumas from the past, worries about the future, anxiety and many more. How often are we multitasking? Taking children somewhere whilst trying to decide what to have for tea, whilst simultaneously worrying about the argument with someone and trying to decide which car insurance to get, and at the same time hating how we look and remembering we forgot to post that card, life is hard! And we desperately don't want to drop the plates, fall apart, let anyone down.

The world as we would know it has been very different recently, although we have been physically restricted in many ways, we have had our worries increased and more time to spend at home where we have had to adapt to new situations. People working in close proximity at home, Zoom calls, children's anxiety, fear of going out, looking after others, new routines etc., more plates to add to our repertoire.

Here is a little secret, you can drop some of your plates! How? Well one way is to embrace the concept of living in the present moment. Now is all you have, you are alive and living right now, reading this, everything else is either memories or predictions. There are many books, podcasts, TED talks etc on the concept of being fully present and they all point to the same fact, that if you are worrying, over thinking, dwelling on the past, worrying about the future then you are missing your life as it happens right here, right now. If you are fully

present in any moment, if you are truly listening, watching, and engaging then it is not possible to be worrying, etc., and those plates can be put down for a while.

It's a lot easier said than done, it's not easy in our busy lives to act upon this advice, but by practicing little and often, we can make a change. So here's a thought - when you wake up tomorrow, lie for just a minute and feel the comfort and warmth around you and breathe deeply before your mind wakes up. When you are out running errands, notice the daffodils and the warmth of the spring sun on your face. When someone talks to you, listen with the intention to understand not just reply. When you are driving the car, focus on your children chatting in the back, their voices change as they grow and won't sound like that for long. When you are clearing up the tea things, pause to be grateful for the fullness you feel.

Try to feel fully present as you move through your day, be organised with the plates that need to be spun and see if those others, unseen or unnecessary plates can be left to drop.

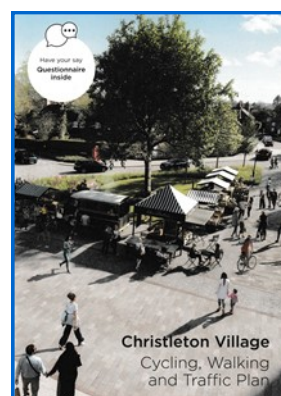
One last thought - self love. Many unseen plates are about self image, confidence, acceptance, and feeling unlovable. The more you can learn to love yourself and give yourself permission not to be perfect, the less you will worry and over think. You are enough just as you are. You don't need to compare yourself with anyone else. Take time to analyse your thoughts and if you need help to put some plates down then ask for it. Counselling, talking to friends, asking for help, these are all ways to better your quality of life, never a sign of weakness. Be kind to yourself and enjoy the moment, it's all you have! To quote Master Oogway from Kung Fu Panda "Yesterday is history, tomorrow is a mystery, but today is a gift, that is why it is called the present."

Katherine James

CHRISTLETON RESIDENTS:

All Christleton households will be receiving this booklet describing plans for the village centre, and including a questionnaire.

Please respond by the deadline of 10th April, either online or on paper.



Please remember our neighbours around the world this Christian Aid week (10-16 May) and give generously.

Give Thanks for Your Vaccine!

As more of our family, friends, and neighbours receive their COVID vaccinations, we rejoice and are glad that our loved ones are protected. We give thanks for all the NHS staff and key workers who continue to save lives across the UK.

For the poorest and most vulnerable communities across the world, there is little hope of a vaccine rollout. These people already face a lack of water, food, and healthcare. Some are homeless. Some are disabled or are living with underlying health issues like HIV.

Christian Aid is already on the ground, helping keep people safe from coronavirus with practical support – but with your gift of thanks we can do more.



Have you or your loved ones had your vaccine?

Give thanks to help protect our global neighbours while the vaccine is out of reach.



CHRISTLETON

Come and join Christleton WI Meetings held on the second Wednesday of each month in the Parish Hall at 7.15 pm. Tea and biscuits served with time for a chat. We have speakers who talk on a wide range of topics, outings arranged and meals together.

For the present time our second Wednesday monthly meetings are held on Zoom but we hope to resume normal meetings in the Parish Hall in September 2021 (COVID permitting).

Contact: Elizabeth Inall Telephone: 01244 336500
Chris Orgill Telephone: 01244 335163

WE WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

CHRISTLETON PARISH HALL

The Parish Hall will remain closed for April.

Although Boris announced that village halls would be able to open after Easter in line with step 2 on 12 April, the detailed guidance on permitted activities has the effect of pushing that date back to step 3 on 17 May, save for specific types of activity for children and with the exception of the hall being used as a polling station for the election of a new Police and Crime Commissioner on Thursday 6 May.

Some permitted activities may commence from 17 May, but these hirers may decide to wait until step 4 on 21 June when (we hope!) all activities will be able to resume as normal without any Covid 19 restrictions. The usual activities run by St James' Church are not expected to return before September, and a number of groups who regularly use the hall have indicated that they too will not return before September.

All of this is, of course, subject to ongoing government guidance. A further update will appear in the May magazine and, meanwhile, if you wish to enquire about using the hall please contact Maria Norbury (below) for details:



Maria Norbury: Tel: 01244 335499.

maria_norbury@btinternet.com (See also the church website.)

CONGRATULATIONS: To **Pauline Cook** who is a regular bell ringer at St James and who celebrated her 90th birthday on 10th February. Well done!

FROM THE REGISTERS:



FUNERALS:

Mrs PATRICIA SMITH	Died: 1/11/2020. Funeral & Burial at St James' Church 25/3/2021
MONICA FALLON (Mullins)	Died: 3/3/2021 aged 96. Funeral & Burial at St James' Church 1/4/2021
DAVID BOWDEN.	Died 12/10/2020 aged 81. Burial of ashes at St James' Church 4/4.2021
Mrs MARGARET DOREEN SPENCER	Died 21/3/2021 aged 87. Funeral & Burial at St James 13/4/2021
Mrs PATRICIA SMITH	Died 1/11/2020. Burial of ashes at St James' Church 22/4/2021

PETER MORGAN:

Early in March Professor Peter Morgan from Kent got in touch with the Magazine asking for any information about Cliff Boddy, as he was his father's best friend at Love Street School, and he had a book of poetry that Cliff had written in 1928.



Cliff Boddy

Lots of correspondence has followed and we have established other links in the village. As a result I thought I would share with you two of Cliff's early poems, and also share part of his memories which he dictated to me over several months in 1998.

You can find the full article on the Village Website www.christleton.org.uk/christleton4

David Cummings

Sonnet

All through the day I think of Love and Thee,
And curse the fates because I am too base
To be thy lifelong mate. Alas! For me
No other memory can thy name efface;
Perhaps 'tis vane that I should love thee so,
But yet, 'tis not for me to choose my fate:
As God would have me do I needs must do,
But e'en for this my love will not abate.
I think of thee (all other thoughts despising,)
From break of day till set of golden sun;
I think of thee—and send my heart arising
To the Gates of Heaven- but yet thou must be won!
And well do I to e'er remember this,
Else other lips than mine thy lips will kiss!

The Bells

Clash out, ye bells
Wake up the dells,
The fields, the woods, the people,
With all thy power
Oh! Shake the tower,
And make to rock the steeple!

Crash, reel, and lurch
Call us to church,
Ring out thy mingling measure:
Give us no choice
With brazen voice
Call us from work or pleasure

In death or life
In peace or strife,
Ring out thy mingling measure;
Ring merrily,
Make us to see
In thee we have a treasure.

When funeral byre
Comes near the spire,
Toll out so sad and slow;
When blushing bride
Comes to thy side
Then make thy tongues to go!

Clang, reel and crash
Ring loud and rash,
Throw out thy resonant ringing!
And tho' we die,
ring merrily,
Cease not thy sonorous singing!

Cliff Boddy

THE MEMORIES OF CLIFF BODDY

(A short selection)

Chorister, Scribe, Sacristan and Verger who served the congregation at St James for 79 years.

I was born in a house in Fir Tree Lane, Littleton. My mother was an orphan who had been adopted by a Mrs Boswell from Fir Tree Lane. My father came from Spital Walk Boughton, near St Paul's Church. I had two brothers, Stanley and Austin, but I was the eldest in the family. We all wore wooden clogs, and they made a great noise as we walked to school mainly over cobbles. Everyone had clogs, and you could hear them clip clapping along the lane. We got them from a shop in Watergate Street called Cowleys. In fact I think it is still there. We started school in the Girls and Infants School at the bottom of the village near the Blacksmith's. You could start at three years of age in those days if you wanted to. My teacher was Mrs Fleet, the blacksmith's wife.

When I was five I went up to the Boys' School opposite the church, and the teacher I remember was a man called Hullah. He was there before Tom Solloway. I always wanted to walk to school even when I went to Love Street School in Chester. It was about three miles each way every day, and then Woodfines of Tarvin started a bus service. The bus ran from Tarvin and Tattenhall through Christleton to Chester. We paid him 9d return per week on a Monday morning and used to start school at 8.30am.

The teachers could be all right, but they were very strict and often kept order by using a stick, but I never had it. I stayed at Love Street until I'd taken my school certificate, and I left in 1928 when I was 15. There was a slump on with no jobs, none at all. I wanted to be an architect, but there was no chance at all of anything like that. I had to take the first job that came along. I went to an electroplating company in City Road, where the Bank of Scotland is now, and I started as an apprentice silversmith; I stayed for 45 years.

One of my proudest jobs was doing work for the Mayor of Denbigh. He brought in a pair of Elizabethan maces from about 1580. They had been knocked about and had been repaired before with pieces of any old metal, brass and tin. It was terrible- a sacrilege. I had the job of restoring them as best I could. It took two or three weeks, and when they were ready, the Mayor himself came to collect them. He had a shock and said they weren't theirs, but I showed him the hallmarks and he knew they were. He then had proper cases made for them, all plush lined. I was very proud of that job, and it

was one of the most interesting things I did. I developed an interest in heraldry after that and copperplate handwriting.

The track between Christleton and Littleton was mainly a dirt track, and it was called Quoit Alley. I suppose because they used to play quoits there. I can remember a brickfield near the stile in Fir Tree Lane going across to the Manchester Road. It was big field. I remember all the kilns looking like bee hives. I remember those kilns quite well, but the time I was talking about the bricks weren't made there any more, and the kilns were falling to pieces.

For the full story find it on line at
www.christleton.org.uk/christleton4

NATURE NOTES:

Christleton Pit has had an amazing start to the year.

Record annual rainfall in 2019 and 2020 followed by almost 14 inches of rain in January and February meant the water has been flowing steadily through the overflow pipes until the last few days. This was an extraordinary occurrence which hasn't happened on this scale before. As a result the water in the Pit was as high as it is possible to be, with the fishing points and dipping platform completely covered for several weeks.



Assorted waterfowl seem to have enjoyed these very wet conditions, and two very noisy greylag geese and up to five Canada geese have joined the mix of mallards and shoveler ducks on the water. Everyone is delighted to see swans back, but it has been an extraordinary sight to see three separate groups appear. First there was a

pen and two cygnets, then two different cygnets, and just in the last two weeks a cob and a cygnet.

As all these birds are not ringed I can't give you any information as to where they have come from, but it is exciting to see them here. Sadly there is no combination of these birds that can form a breeding pair, unless the pen and the cob meet up somewhere else and come back to the Pit. Cygnets can't breed until they are at least three years old, and although parents can mate with their young, it is unusual.

The old Christleton cob (27yrs old when he died) mated with one of his cygnets C175 and over ten years they produced 40 cygnets to the stage where they could fly from the area. One of their cygnets was recorded at Kensington Palace Gardens in London.

Christleton Pit has supported a very successful mute swan breeding programme over twenty five years. Between 1990 and 2016, 2 cobs (2SL, & VZN re ringed also as CP58 CBS7) and five pens 2SD, TOV, C175, CBS8, & CDF9 produced 175 eggs, hatched 147 cygnets of which 109 flew. 63% of Christleton cygnets survived until at least September each year, much higher than the National average. The ringing programme by the Cheshire Swan study Group has enabled us to follow their progress if they were sighted or caught in another area.

Christleton cygnets almost always flew to Sandy Lane or the Groves in Chester for their first flight, but then all sorts of adventures occurred. Sightings of our swans came from Rhyl, Caernarvon, Portmadoc and Aberystwyth. Other sightings came from Runcorn on the River Weaver, Spike Island at Widnes, Southport Lake and the Martin Mere WT Reserve. Two swans were seen at Douglas on the Isle of Man, in Northern & Southern Ireland, whilst two others were seen on Windermere in The Lake District and at Glasgow on the Clyde. Another of our swans was seen on an RSPB reserve at Fairburn Ings in North Yorkshire, whilst others have appeared at Ellesmere in Shropshire and Shrewsbury, Telford, Bewdley & Worcester on the River Severn.

Sightings of our swans further south have been from The Wetland & Wildlife Centre at Slimbridge, Plymouth Ho and Kensington Palace. What an incredible record! Unfortunately there has been a sad demise in the swan population nationally during the last ten years, for a variety of reasons, so there are now very few swans in the Chester area. The fact that we have had so many recent visits to the Pit is encouraging, and the Pit

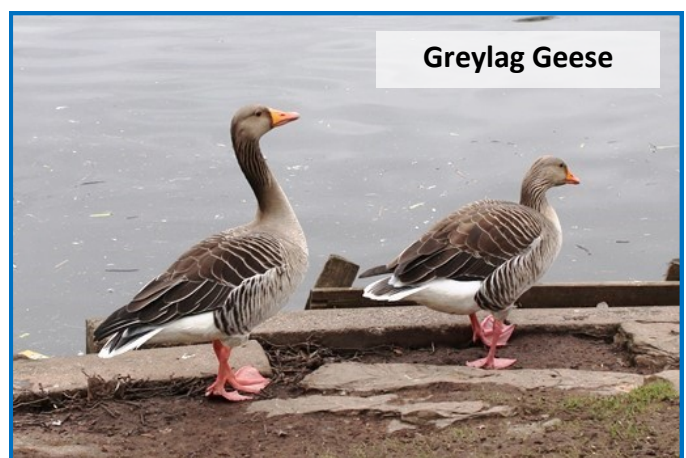
Group intend to rebuild the swan platform in the near future.

Several sightings of black headed, lesser black back and herring gulls, have occurred at the Pit in the last few weeks, an indication that farmers are ploughing their fields, and flocks of 500+ gulls have been seen following the plough around the village in recent days.

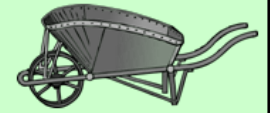
Another good indication of Spring was the sight of two clumps of frogspawn at the edge of the water in recent days. The first chiff chaff was heard in the Legion meadow today 18th March, with the first heard along the canal at Rowton on the 9th. There are at least 5 male chiff chaff calling at Hockenhull together with 4 cettis warblers. Five little egrets, 4 Mandarin ducks and a dabchick were seen on the Gowy near the middle bridge, and three different sightings of curlew, on the ground and flying over, were observed in early March.

That is another welcome development, and it looks like several pair of lapwing and oystercatchers are now building nests on the flood meadows.

David Cummings



Churchyard Maintenance



During this lockdown it is not easy to arrange any Churchyard Working Parties although with grateful pleasure the work by the Community Payback Team has already restarted and the churchyard is all the better for it.

We look forward to your continuing help when we are allowed. In the meantime the wildlife will enjoy it! You can still walk through and enjoy the churchyard as part of your exercise.

More details and an update on the situation from Mike Lightfoot - Tel: 07787 421357

WEST CHESHIRE FOODBANK:

West Cheshire Foodbank is a project founded by local churches and community groups, working together to combat hunger in our local area. It is part of a nationwide network of over 2,000 food banks in the UK, of which 1,200 are run by the Trussell Trust and over 900 are independent.



St James' Church became involved in the scheme through the initiative of Mike Lightfoot in 2013 and has continued ever since.

Sadly, the need for Foodbanks has steadily increased year by year. This is especially so during this year due to the impact of the Covid pandemic, as more and more people find themselves in desperate financial crisis, through absolutely no fault of their own. There has been an increase in the number of local distribution sessions from 15 to 17 covering urban and rural Chester, Ellesmere Port and Neston.

To share a couple of statistics from our local Foodbank which will no doubt break your heart - in the year 2019-2020 there was an increase in need by 20% for adults and 40% for children and in January of this year that increase now stands at 41% for adults and a horrific 64% for children.

Fortunately there has also been a heart warming generosity from the public resulting in an increase in both food and monetary contributions. The amount of food last year donated from St James' was almost a ton of food and there has been an increase in regular cash donations.

As the church has been closed during lockdown, it hasn't been possible to leave food contributions but **the church is now open again, so you can leave food there on Wednesdays and Sundays** when it is open for private prayer. As usual the supermarkets offer contribution collection points.

Food is now distributed in pre-packed boxes sufficient to provide meals for 3 days either from one of the centres or directly to peoples' homes. Thus monetary donations are very useful as can be used to buy what is needed and at a discounted rate for bulk purchase.

So I want to say a big thank you for your ongoing generosity on behalf of those who are so much less fortunate and privileged than ourselves, in these very difficult times of hardship for so many of our fellow human beings.

Chris Alderton

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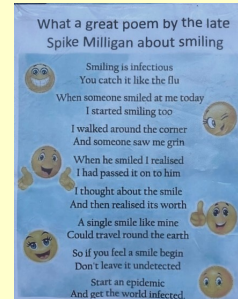
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Seen pinned up outside of
the Parish Hall:

... it reads:

"What a great
poem by
the late
Spike Milligan
about smiling."



Smiling is infectious
You catch it like the 'flu

When someone smiled at me today
I started smiling too

I walked around the corner
And someone saw me grin

When he smiled I realised
I had passed it on to him

I thought about the smile
And then realised its worth

A single smile like mine
Could travel round the Earth

So if you feel a smile begin
Don't leave it undetected

Start an epidemic
And get the world infected.

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Saturday Breakfast Club Every Saturday from 9am serving our Breakfast/Brunch menu alongside tea, coffee & cakes.

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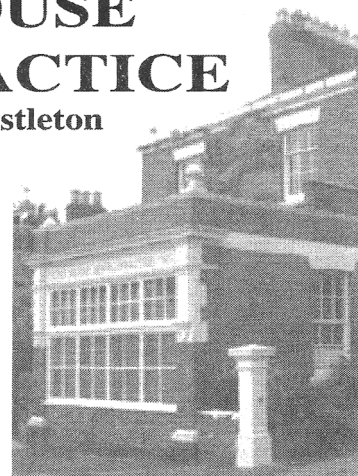
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