

The St. James' Church

PARISH MAGAZINE

May 2021



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

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WHEN DID THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND BEGIN?

This is the first of a series of short articles about the Church England. They are in effect the mini talks (though this first one is cut in half) I am currently sharing at our parochial church council meetings,

and are entirely based on Martin Davie's book entitled 'A Guide to The Church of England'. This first article considers the question – when did the Church of England begin?

If you answered in around 1533 as Henry VIII acquired the annulment of his marriage to Catherine of Aragon, you would not be alone, and, in one sense, you would be right. But there is a more nuanced answer to this question - as there often is to any question! For there has been a thing called the English church for centuries earlier. The early church writers, Tertullian and Origen, make reference to a British church in the 3rd century AD, and apparently the first person we hear about from the English church is St Alban.

"Alban was a soldier in the Roman city of Verulamium (now St Albans in Hertfordshire) who gave shelter to a Christian priest fleeing from persecution, hiding him in his house for several days. Greatly influenced by his devotion to prayer, Alban received instruction from the priest and was converted. When the priest's hiding-place was discovered, Alban dressed himself in the priest's cloak and was arrested in his place. Tortured by the Roman authorities, Alban refused to renounce his faith. He was beheaded on this day (22 June), probably in the year 250, and so became the first British martyr. His shrine stands today as a place of pilgrimage in the Cathedral and Abbey Church of St Alban."

(<http://www.excitingholiness.org/first-edition/>)

So, there has been an English church long before Henry VIII. Arguably, receiving something of its initial identity from the Synod (meeting) of Whitby in 664 AD. An identity which condenses from three strands, and grew under the authority of the Catholic church and its Pope until the Reformation. First, the Romano-British church of around St Alban's time, which was later disrupted by invasions by the pagan Angles, Saxons, and Jutes in the fifth century. Second, the Roman tradition and (Catholic) church received from St Augustine's mission to England in 597AD. Third, the Celtic tradition associated with the likes of Saints Aidan and Cuthbert. Aidan was one of St Columba's monks from the monastery at Iona, and was sent as a missionary to Northumbria at the request of King Oswald, the local King. He was consecrated Bishop of Lindisfarne in 635, and combined a monastic lifestyle with missionary journeys to the mainland. Cuthbert also found his way to Lindisfarne from, probably, the Scottish lowlands. He became its Bishop in 685, and lived a life of a traveller and preacher.

I love how this initial formation and identity was rooted in a devotion to prayer, and a confluence of Romano-British, Roman, and Celtic traditions. I find it interesting how emerging churches or fresh (new) expressions of church are embracing, e.g., Roman spiritual practices and a deeper engagement with creation, an abiding aspect of the Celtic tradition. How the old, if you like, is shaping the new, and carries with it diversity. I wonder if this is an important principle not just for the church, but also for us if we want to create diverse, authentic, and just communities.

With my love and prayers,

Stefan

St Aidan (Lindisfarne):



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RECTOR:

Rev'd Dr Stefan Collier Tel: 01244 335663
rector.christleton@gmail.com
(The Rector's day off is normally Saturday)

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Rev'd Rob Croft Tel: 01244 683926 / 07745 624323
robcraft@hotmail.co.uk
(Rob's day off is normally Friday)

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gillianhibbert80@outlook.com

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tina.churchwarden@stjameschristleton.org.uk

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mike.churchwarden@stjameschristleton.org.uk

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The next issue of this magazine will be for June

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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

ST JAMES ON TWITTER:



@StJChristleton

CHRISTLETON VILLAGE WEBSITE:

www.christleton.org.uk



THE FRIENDS:

John Norbury Tel: 07971 556714
john_norbury@btinternet.com

Website:

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

CHRISTIAN AID:

Christian Aid week is almost upon us once again. When those in 'water poverty', 'food poverty', 'health poverty' and with little or no power to help themselves are raised up for us to see clearly and unequivocally where the needs lie and what the causes are and how we can help.



This year CA has shifted the focus back to the 'climate crisis' and particularly its effects in Kenya. People who were fighting the dire effects of the 'crisis' last year are still in the same position now. The poor of Kenya are caught in a cycle climate chaos. From severe drought to flooding, extreme weather robs them of what they need to survive: a reliable source of water. Flooding and drought cause crop failure leading to very limited food supplies and parents' inability to feed or educate their children and so begin to change the balance of power in their lives.

The coronavirus has only made things much worse. OUR GIFTS, OUR PRAYERS AND ACTIONS COULD HELP COMMUNITIES WITHSTAND CLIMATE CHAOS: FROM BUILDING BETTER WATER STORAGE SYSTEMS, TO SOWING DROUGHT- TOLERANT CROPS, TO DEMANDING CLIMATE JUSTICE AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL.

For Christians there is a very powerful message in Jesus' parable of the sheep and goats. Our Lord has aligned himself with the powerless and the needy and whatever you do or don't do to them, you do or don't do to Him. This Christian Aid week, give generously, pray earnestly and frequently for our brothers and sisters throughout the world who need our help, consider what actions are possible for us to take, individually or together, to make justice and equality for all a reality.

The Christian Aid website is full of ideas for individual and joint action. Locally we are going to deliver CA envelopes to as many houses as we can in the village so that as many people as possible can give this year. People are needed to deliver these 'giving envelopes'.

If you can help in any way please contact the Christian Aid local organiser.

Chris Platel - Christian Aid Organiser
Tel: 01244332466
Email: chrisandjoce@hotmail.co.uk

WHITBY HOSPITAL

In the late 1800s Ellesmere Port was a port on the banks of the river Mersey and a small community grew up around it. Whitby was a Hamlet some 3 miles away. Then in 1900 'The Wolverhampton Corrugated Iron Co', requiring to expand, bought land on the banks of the canal. They built a factory, a dock and acquired a fleet of river barges to take their iron into Liverpool Docks. They also built rows of terraced houses and a school for the workers they brought from Wolverhampton, thus creating the nucleus of modern Ellesmere Port. At that time a number of big houses were built in Whitby.

At the outbreak of W.W.1. the Red Cross acquired Heathfield House in Whitby and turned it into a military Hospital, staffing it with Red Cross nurses. It was closed at the end of the war. In 1920 it was bought by Ellesmere Port & Whitby Urban District Council, and they were able to do this having received a large contribution from the owners of The Corrugated Iron Co.

It became Whitby Cottage Hospital, and it served the surrounding area which by this time was expanding. I was born there in 1930. It was absorbed into the N.H.S. and now operates as an annex to The Countess Of Chester Hospital.

Ben Williams
(Jean was recently a patient at the hospital. - Ed.)

WI-FI IN CHURCH:



WI-FI is coming to St James! As you may know already BT have erected a telegraph pole at the bottom of the church car park access road, have installed the phone cable, and connected us up.

Stefan is currently setting up a router with Wi-Fi so very soon we'll be able to go online in church! New possibilities! Exciting!
(Ed.)

The I:Tea +Coffee Club.....

**Do you crave
connection
in our digital
age?**

**Do you find technology frustrating?
Let the I:Tea+Coffee Club help you....**



**A free, short introduction to
using an iPad whilst
creating space for
conversation. Starts 3 June
@ 2pm for 4 weeks @ St
James, Christleton.**



With grateful thanks to
support from Cheshire West
and Chester Council

Parish of Christleton, St James Church Tel: 07487642912 Email:
office@stjameschristleton.org.uk Web: <https://www.stjameschristleton.org.uk>

All invited. You can get more details from the Parish Administrator (07487 642912), or the Rector.

CHURCH ANNUAL MEETINGS:

Sunday 16th May

at 12.30pm

***** NOTE CHANGE OF TIME *****

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. An **Annual Report pack** will be available in advance from church. Do collect one.

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

NEWS:

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 is being 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? The wood in the ground is rotten, so they can't be used at present. The Parish Council are sorting it and are sorry if this is causing you 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.

QUESTION 1:

A tramp, unable to afford cigarettes, collects butt ends. But he was once a man of substance, and therefore refuses to smoke the ends. Instead, he shreds them until he has enough tobacco to make a real cigarette. When he has collected seven ends he has enough tobacco to make one whole cigarette.



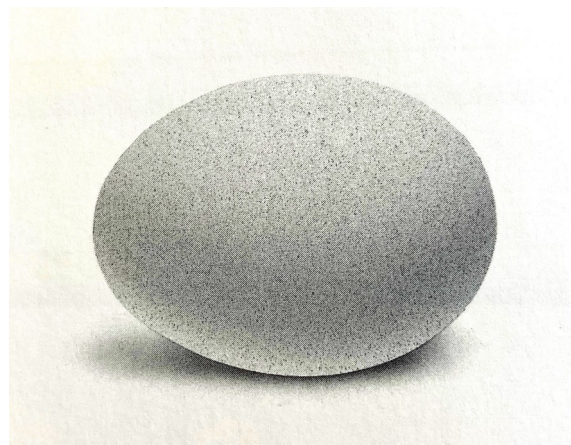
One lucky day he finds four cigarette ends in the gutter, and then an additional eight in the ashtray of a parked car, three in an old paint tin, and five in the lobby of a hotel. He has just enough money for a drink and manages to collect fifteen more cigarette ends in a pub. He discovers four in the social security office, six more on his way home and four in the pocket on an old coat when he gets there. How many whole cigarettes was he able to smoke that day?

(PS: Smoking is bad for your health!)

QUESTION 2:

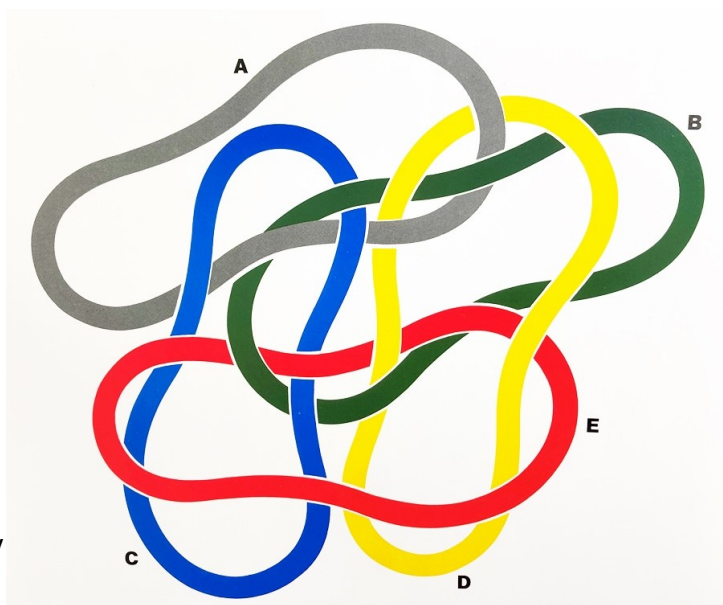
On the first day the beanstalk increased its height by half. On the second day it increased its height by a third, on the third day by a quarter, and so on.

How long did it take to achieve its maximum height of one hundred times its original height?



QUESTION 3:

With a seven-minute hourglass and an eleven minute hourglass, what is the quickest way to time the boiling of an egg for fifteen minutes?



QUESTION 4:

Which of these five coloured loops of string must be cut so that the other loops fall apart?

ANSWERS:

In the next edition, but if you can't wait just talk to me! (Ed.)

Maria Norbury has provided this table of Parish Hall activities and contact details of organisers. It is great that restrictions are now allowing the use of the hall again. Please support these activities.

CHRISTLETON PARISH HALL REGULAR ACTIVITIES

(proposed start dates in red are subject to changes in government guidance)

MONDAY	Community Lunch Yoga Monday Painters	8am – 3pm 7 – 8pm until Sept 6 – 7pm from 06/09 7 – 9pm	Monthly 3 rd Monday <u>tbc</u> Weekly – from 17/05 Weekly – term time from 06/09
TUESDAY	Baby Massage Class Aspirations Dance	9.30 – 10.30am 6 – 9pm	Weekly – from 22/06 Weekly – from 18/05
WEDNESDAY	Clinical Pilates Clinical Pilates WI RSPB meeting History Group	9.30 – 10.30am 10.30 – 11.30am 6.30 – 9.30pm 6.45 – 9.45pm 6.30 – 9.30pm	Weekly – term time from 19/05 Weekly – term time from 19/05 Monthly 2 nd Wed – from 08/09 Monthly 3 rd Wed – not May to Aug – from 15/09 Last Wed of Jan Feb Mar Sept Oct Nov – from 29/09
THURSDAY	Fitness Fusion Pilates The Christleton Painters Aspirations Dance	9.15 – 10.15am 10.30am – 3pm 6 – 9pm	Weekly – not before July Weekly – not May to Aug – from 02/09 Weekly – not before Sept
FRIDAY	The Ark Toddler Group Aspirations Dance	9.30 – 11.30am 6 – 9pm	Weekly – term time from 16/04 Weekly – not before Sept
SATURDAY	Saturday Painters	10am – 1pm	Alternate Saturdays – not before Sept
SUNDAY	Refreshments after church services Messy Church	 4pm – 6pm	Weekly – <u>tbc</u> Mthly 3 rd Sunday <u>tbc</u>

CONTACTS DETAILS FOR REGULAR ACTIVITIES

Community lunch	Liz McClure	01244 409414	elizabeth.mcclure070@gmail.com
Yoga	Jonny Hunter	07546 183000	jonny.l.hunter@gmail.com
Monday Painters	Kathleen Bulmer	07957 802145	bulmerkathleen1@gmail.com
Baby Massage Class	Stephanie Tully	07969 318547	babyclubcheshire@outlook.com
Aspirations Dance	Richard Colley	07885 233182	info@aspirationsdance.com
Clinical Pilates	Claire Phillipson	07709 400643	clairephillipson@icloud.com
WI	Anne Large	01244 336108	annelarge34@gmail.com
RSPB	Liz McClure	01244 409414	elizabeth.mcclure070@gmail.com
History Group	David Cummings	01244 332410	cummings.d@uwclub.net
Fitness Fusion	Laura Jones	07867 692806	fitnessfusion1@outlook.com
The Christleton Painters	Graham Kay	0151 342 3697	gkay@grahamkay.co.uk
The Ark Toddler Group	Tina Lightfoot	07557 352592	tina.lightfoot@googlemail.com
Saturday Painters	Kevin Sparrow	01244 316168 07905 914328	sparrow.kevin@sky.com
Messy Church	Lesley Morgan	01244 335088	lesleym02@hotmail.com
Booking Secretary	Maria Norbury	01244 335499	maria_norbury@btinternet.com

The Ark

Play and Praise

Toddler Group



Ark has re-started

It meets weekly in the Parish Hall

Fridays 9.30 am to 11.30 am

For further details etc. contact
tina.churchwarden@stjameschristleton.org.uk

St James' Church Calendar - MAY/JUNE 2021:

THE ST JAMES' CHURCH BUILDING IS OPEN FOR WORSHIP.

Open for private prayer 9.30am to 5pm every day.

Open for 9.00am Morning Prayer. All welcome.

Open for 8.00am & 10.30am Sunday Worship.



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

FROM SUNDAY 2nd MAY the Sunday pattern will be:

8:00am: Holy Communion (said) in church.
A quiet meditative service.

10:30am: Holy Communion in church.
Our main family service.

NO ONLINE SERVICE on Sunday morning.

Sun 2nd May: 5th of Easter
8:00am & 10:30am in church.

Sun 9th May: 6th of Easter. (Rogation Sunday)
8:00am & 10:30am in church.

Thur 13th May: **Ascension.**
7.30 pm: Holy Communion in church

Sun 16th May: 7th of Easter
8:00am & 10:30am in church.
12:30am Annual Church Meetings online.

Sun 23rd May: **Pentecost**
8:00am & 10:30am in church.

Sun 30th May: **Trinity Sunday**
8:00am & 10:30am in church.

Thu 3rd June: I-Tea + Coffee - Help with using iPad.
2pm in church. Session 1 of 4 (see page 4)

Sun 6th June: 1st after Trinity
8:00am & 10:30am in church.

Thu 10th June: I-Tea + Coffee - Help with using iPad.
2pm in church. Session 2 of 4 (see page 4)

Sun 13th June: 2nd after Trinity
8:00am & 10:30am in church.

Thu 17th June: I-Tea + Coffee - Help with using iPad.
2pm in church. Session 3 of 4 (see page 4)

Sun 20th June: 3rd after Trinity (Father's Day)
8:00am & 10:30am in church.

Thu 24th June: I-Tea + Coffee - Help with using iPad.
2pm in church. Session 4 of 4 (see page 4)

Sun 27th June: 4th after Trinity
8:00am & 10:30am in church.

Sun 4th July: 5th after Trinity
8:00am & 10:30am in church.

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. Zoom link via church website.

Wednesdays: The Wednesday morning service has not yet been restarted. Further details will be given when known.

Fridays: 9:30am: The Ark - Play and Praise Toddler Group. 9:30 - 11:30am Parish Hall

PARISH MAGAZINE - ANNUAL REPORT - MARCH 2021

The St James' Church Parish Magazine has been going for generations. In fact we believe it started in the 1870s under the then Rector, Revd Lionel Garnett. Many old copies are kept in the County Archives & Local Record Office, and David Cummings and others have hundreds of past copies, and before too long David plans to get them together and catalogue them. Whether they can be digitised is another matter. Future historians will have a great time!

After a bit of an interruption, in February 2018 when this parish went into a vacancy, the magazine was re-launched for March that year in A4 format. I became involved in its production as part of a small team. Linda Rowe was editor, but I took over from her 'temporarily' at the beginning of 2019 as editor and compiler. You know the rest.

The Parish Magazine (mostly in black & white) was printed and delivered to those who subscribed £6 per year. Our circulation was about 300 copies per month plus more sold from the back of the church at 50p a copy. Together with revenue from advertisers the income exceeded costs so a small surplus went into church funds. Only back copies were electronically available for free from the church website.

Then Covid-19 came along and changed everything. The March 2020 edition was the last that was printed and sold. The Parish Magazine still continued every month, but from April 2020 it was only available online - and it was free - and it was in full colour as we had no printing costs.

Quite recently the latest Parish Magazine was also made available on the Christleton village website, and the archive of past magazines there was brought up-to-date.

Undoubtedly some readers who cannot access the internet are now excluded by this, but we have new readers perhaps - although we are unable to determine our current 'circulation'.

The future of the Parish Magazine is uncertain. After a good deal of thought I have decided to stop as editor/compiler at the end of this year, completing a 3 year stint, and between now and then one or more people need to come forward to run the magazine. Otherwise there will be another interruption.

Of course, it is not clear that we should return to a printed magazine although I know that a lot of people would want that. Maybe it should be available electronically as now, or a hybrid mix, or delivered in some other way. Will people pay for a printed copy? What part does Social Media play? Maybe it should not be monthly, but perhaps a different interval? Should it be replaced with a simpler newsletter? What do people want? These questions need to be answered in the context of an overall 'comms' plan for St James' Church and in the context of available resources and priorities.

I really appreciate the loyal army of excellent contributors and the input from new folk. Please, keep writing articles. Keep reading - and can you help us going forward?

*Thank you,
Brian Inall
28 March 2021*

MAGAZINE ARCHIVES:

David Cummings has been checking up on magazine archives, and has provided me with a 2 page listing of his findings. In summary we have the following:

County Archives:

Most copies, some as bound volumes, from 1875 through to 1930 but with some gaps, notably after March 1911 and until January 1922.

David himself has complete volumes for 1940 through to 1949 inclusive, then 1966, and then sets or partial sets from 1970 through to today.

I have complete sets for Sept 2013 through to today, and I know that other people have kept copies from past years.

If you have any old Parish Magazines for St James tucked away then let David and/or myself know what you've got - it may be the only copy in existence.

Many thanks

Brian Inall



The Friends was launched at the beginning of April and is an organisation that wishes to recruit members and their donations to help preserve the St James' Church building and churchyard for the village and for future generations.

Whilst the church members do their best to keep the building and grounds in good order, they really do need some help.

Please consider becoming a Friend.

Contact: John Norbury

Tel: 07971 556714

Email: john_norbury@btinternet.com

Website:

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



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

Some regular activities are expected to return to the Parish Hall in May and others will follow in later months as shown in the table on page 7.

In addition, the hall will be open as the local polling station for the election of a new Police and Crime Commissioner on Thursday 6 May.

As the Covid 19 restrictions are expected to be lifted from 21 June, we can consider taking other bookings for the hall from this date.

We hope to bring back refreshments after Sunday church services some time during July, but the Community Lunch (Luncheon Club) and Messy Church are not expected to return before September.

All of this is, of course, subject to ongoing government guidance. A further update will appear in the June 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.)

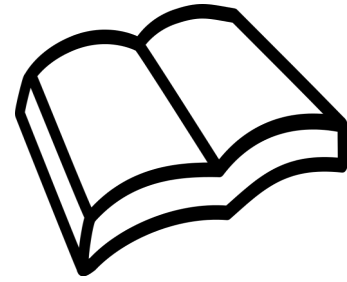
FROM THE REGISTERS:

FUNERALS/BURIALS:

CYNTHIA SIDDALL Died: 3/2/2021 aged 96
Burial of ashes at St James' Church 31/3/2021

BRENDA GIBBS Died: 21/4/2021 aged 90
Funeral at Crematorium 4/5/2021

GRACE ROBERTS Died: 14/4/2021 aged 77
Funeral at St James 5/5/2021



CHRISTLETON PARISH COUNCIL:

Must apologise that the Parish Council (PC) has been rather tardy in the news department over the last few months, but has nevertheless been very busy with two major items taking up their time –

1: The Village Design Project, which you will all have had the opportunity the view via the brochure posted through your doors recently for parish residents. We really hope you took the opportunity to make your comments known, good or bad, either online or completing the questionnaire and handing it into the Village Stores or posting it to the Clerk. Feedback from as many peoples as possible is very important to make sure we have a high percentage of views to give a true representation before deciding on the next steps.

2: The other major project is the development of the University of Law site. We are expecting a planning application to be lodged with CWAC Planning in the very near future by Bridgemere Development who plan to build 26 – 3/4/5-bedroom homes and convert Christleton Hall building into 14 – 2/3-bedroom luxury apartments and 10 affordable homes being built offsite. There is a proposal to erect a two-storey office building in part of the walled garden for the Steve Morgan Foundation Headquarters. The PC is closely monitoring these plans and will be consulting with the village once a formal planning application is lodged with CWAC Planning Authority.

There have been some problems at the Little Heath Play Area which means the swings are out of action: Some of the wooden supports, particularly below ground level, are rotten and we have been advised that it is necessary to replace them.

40 small saplings have been planted around the perimeter of King George's first field kindly donated by

Chester Soroptimists who are celebrating their centenary this year.

A Community Working Group is being set up to help combat that litter problem, particularly in Pearl Lane and volunteers are being sought to join the campaign – if anyone is interested, please contact **Mike Stuart** by email (mikestuart1@btopenworld.com) or on his mobile 07767 275265 who would be very grateful for the support.

The Annual Parish Council Open Morning has once again been put on hold this year due to the COVID restrictions, and we will look again at the situation later in the year to consider holding one in the Autumn.

*Sue Thwaite - Clerk to the Council
May 2021*

CONGRATULATIONS BRIAN & ELIZABETH

Congratulations to Brian & Elizabeth Inall who celebrate their Golden Wedding Anniversary on the 1st May. We wish them good health and happiness, and hope that they enjoy many more happy years together.



With sincere good wishes from all their friends in the Parish.
(David Cummings)

CONGRATULATIONS ALSO TO:

Liz McClure and Lorraine Lewis on the recent births of beautiful granddaughters. (Ed.)

BABY MASSAGE CLASSES

STARTING TUESDAY 22nd JUNE



Starting on Tuesday 22nd June at 9:30am, Baby Club Cheshire will be bringing Baby Massage to Christleton Parish Hall.

Baby Massage is a wonderful first baby class, suitable for babies from 5 weeks old to around 6 months (or pre crawling), and a gentle way for babies to transition from the womb into the world through the sense of touch. Soothing and rhythmic strokes are given to each area of the body, following a sequence that has been developed over many years and includes elements of Indian Massage, Swedish Massage and Reflexology.

Parents will learn techniques to sooth and calm their babies as well as the vital strokes that have been widely reported to relieve babies of ailments such as colic, wind and constipation, and promote peaceful sleep.

A perfect way to bond with baby and communicate in a language deeper than words to help them feel loved, connected and secure.

If you are expecting a new arrival in the next few months or have a young baby please get in touch to secure your spot. This class is suitable for premature babies, twins and can be adapted for older children so please do get in touch to discuss the individual requirements of your child. Mums, Dads, Grandparents and Caregivers, everyone is welcome at our Baby Club.

Hear more about Baby Club Cheshire from Stephanie here:

"I decided to start Baby Club Cheshire because going into Lockdown when my youngest baby was 6 months old made me really appreciate all the lovely memories I made at baby classes with my eldest, and how much I missed the chance to take her to these things, meet other parents and have a chat. I was lucky however to

squeeze in a Baby Massage class when she was tiny and I have to say, it was my absolute favourite class with both my girls. The perfect chance to bond and have time together learning the beautiful practice that I still use to this day as part of their bedtime routines.

I decided I wanted to bring this wonderful class to all the local parents and caregivers and give them the chance to make their own lovely memories, meet other parents, have a laugh and feel supported.

I am fully qualified by To Baby and Beyond, and my course is accredited by the Royal College of Midwives."

The 5 week Course is £60 including massage oil, massage strokes guide and a certificate of completion for your keepsakes. To book please email babyclubcheshire@outlook.com, send a message on their website <https://www.babyclubcheshire.co.uk> or send a direct message on Facebook or Instagram @babyclubcheshire.

£5 discount to all readers of St James' Church Parish Magazine, quoting 'StJames5' when booking.

*Best wishes,
Stephanie*



NATURE NOTES:

The fine weather of April has been an excellent time to spot some of the best of our migrant arrivals, with early very records of most species of warblers. Chiff chaff were the first, followed by willow warblers, blackcaps, reed, sedge and grasshopper warblers, and whitethroats. These could be seen and heard at Hockenhull, The Meadows in Chester, Burton Meres, and Chester Zoo Nature Reserve.

The over wintering cettis warblers have been at all the above places except the village. Their harsh explosive calling card is unmistakable, but usually from within the canopy or clump bushes. I was extremely lucky to see one earlier this week sitting on the top of the otter holt

copse at Hockenhull, whilst watching a pair of oystercatchers harrying and chasing away two buzzards who were taking a keen interest in their nest site. I've seen lapwings do the same thing, flying at the buzzards in anger, again trying to get them away from their nest site.

The Hockenhull Platts reserve and the village has seen lots of sightings of buzzards, kestrels and sparrowhawks, all three coming close to homes and gardens, whilst a single male peregrine falcon has been sighted three times this last month. Both sand and house martins appeared in mid March and the first swallows were recorded at the beginning of April. Several wheatear were seen on passage, and up to six common snipe were found on most visits feeding on the wet meadow, with a maximum count of fourteen in March.

One of the best sightings in the churchyard has been displaying goldcrests, giving me the distinct impression that they are nesting in the yew trees. There are also nuthatches calling each time I visit, which seem to be nesting somewhere in the area of the Village Green, churchyard and grounds of the Old Hall.

Mammal sightings this month have included water vole, several foxes, up to four brown hare, an otter and a mink.



Butterfly species emerging have included small tortoiseshell, peacock, red admiral, comma, common blue, brimstone and speckled wood. The peacock has been the most prolific, with their unmistakable dark underwing patterns. In recent days, now that marsh marigold and the lady smock, or cuckoo flower, are emerging, lots of orange tip butterflies have taken to the wing, and this was especially true at Burton Meres which I haven't visited for over a year due to the pandemic. I was very impressed by the newly laid & restored board walks there, and the new Inner Marsh Farm hide looks spectacular from a distance. When we visited earlier this

week we were delighted to see an estimated 30+ pair of Avocets. These amazing black and white waders with their distinctive upward curved bill are now common on that reserve.



Avocets on the Dee



Little Egret

The Dee estuary is also becoming a great place to see good numbers of both little and great white egrets, and even the occasional cattle egret. As the days get longer many wild flowers are now beginning to emerge, including marsh marigolds, lady smock, cowslips and pink campion. Last weekend we added to their number by planting 150 yellow rattle plugs on the Legion meadow. These

delightful yellow flowers whose seeds rattle when they are ripe, are recognised as being a plant that suppress grasses, and so able a wider variety of flowering species to flourish. If you walk through the Legion Meadow at any time please keep dogs on the lead, but enjoy the increasing number of meadow flowers that will emerge during the summer months.

David Cummings 2021

THE HISTORY FILE:

Dr George Guest CBE FRCO

Last month in my article about Cliff Boddy I told you about his friend George Guest a young organist at St James who became one of the most famous Choral Conductors in the Country. I have tried to piece together

his career story from various sources.

George was born in Bangor and often assisted his father George, also an organist, as an organ blower. He became a chorister at Bangor and later at Chester Cathedral, where he also received organ lessons from Dr Roland Middleton. He attended the Kings School in Chester. He learned quickly and by 1942 aged 18 achieved the status of Fellow of the Royal College of Organists.



The Parish Magazine records that he was appointed organist at St James' in August 1942. Almost in the next breath in October 1942 we read *"It has been a blow to lose our young organist so soon after his appointment. The PCC have decided to make a temporary appointment of his father Mr E J Guest as organist"*. George had been called up to join the RAF. We learn more about his exploits in the following magazines.

August 1944

"It is good news that our organist George Guest is safe after his watery escape"

December 1944.

"It is a pleasure to have a glimpse of George Guest our organist who is home on leave and will be our organist on Christmas Day".

January 1947.

"We are very glad to have our organist Mr George Guest back once more"

March 1947

"We have an excellent organist and choirmaster, and the choir is making great strides and showing real enthusiasm. Mr Guest has promised to give an organ recital on Sunday 19th March at 10.45 and 6.30pm & the choir will sing an anthem. We had the privilege of hearing Miss Troutbeck sing two contralto solos and the organist played pieces by Bach, Stanford and Ireland. All who came were enthusiastic about this experiment....."

April 1947.

We had another great treat on Sunday March 9th when Mr George Guest gave an organ recital and the choir

sang the anthem, "Lord for thy Tender Mercies sake". Mr Frank Magee from the Chapel Royal sang solos from Messiah and Elijah and we were all helped by this special music. The choir has been diligently practicing for Easter rehearsing the "Hallelujah Chorus" and "Rejoice in the Lord" by Purcell. We feel a personal satisfaction in the success of our young organist in obtaining the offer of two scholarships, one at Oxford and one at Cambridge, and we must congratulate him even if it means that sooner or later we will lose him again.

May 1947

Lastly we had some really inspiring music. Purcell's Anthem "Rejoice in the Lord" and part of the "Messiah". "Behold I show you a Mystery", "The Trumpet shall sound" and the "Hallelujah Chorus". We congratulate the organist and choir for all the good work they have done lately, and the great advance they have made. Last Sunday they gave Bach's anthem "Jesu Joy of Man's Desiring". When this is sung as it was sung, simply and carefully sustained and accompanied the effect is wonderful....."

July 1947.

Our organist Mr George Guest has given us so much help during the time he has been with us, which has been lamentably short. On St Peter's Day he gave a short recital both in the morning and evening and it was a delight to hear him. In addition to this he has really done so much in the training of the boys and choir. As someone present at nearly all practices, I can say that I have never known any choir trainer who has inspired so much enthusiasm or wasted less time. The results have been evident to the congregation, in the rendering of the music and the reverent behaviour of the choir.

Sept 1947

The choir excursion to Barmouth was most satisfactory and admirably arranged by Mr George Guest. We have now had to say farewell to our organist but his place is being taken by Mr RA Sutton ARCO who will also be assistant organist at the Cathedral.

It appears that George Guest had also filled that role whilst at Christleton as the Chester Cathedral Organist encouraged him to apply for the organ scholarship at St John's Cambridge. He studied under Robin Orr, and in his final year as organ scholar was offered the full time post of Organist and Choirmaster at St John's. Within five years he had founded a choir school, and the choir under his expert direction began to challenge the supremacy of the choir of Kings' College

Cambridge with the quality and tone of their singing. The choir began broadcasting in the 1950's and by the time of his retirement in 1991 had recorded sixty LP's or CD's. The choir undertook many overseas tours, through Europe, the Americas, Japan, Hong Kong and Australia. He became a University lecturer and three years later Fellow of St John's. He was also Professor of Harmony at The Royal College of Music, and returned to his Welsh roots by becoming an Honorary Druid and member of the Gorsedd of Bards at the National Eisteddfod.

In 1987 he was appointed CBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours.

He was a frequent visitor to Christleton and St James' Church. He clearly loved the place, and even in the 1970's & 1980's would drop in for evensong when he was visiting the area. He would quietly slip into the nave, and Cliff would turn to the choir and say "sing well tonight, George is in the congregation." He was also a lifelong supporter of Chester Football Club. He passed away in 1991 aged 78years.

David Cummings 2021

Ref. Christleton Parish Magazines 1940-47 (*Words in italics by Rector AA Guest Williams.*)

The Telegraph- George Guest Obituary.

SCAMS:

We are all blighted by junk mail, unsolicited phone calls, Phishing, and the ever increasing attempts to defraud us of our money. Any of us, including those fully aware of the things that scammers get up to, can become a victim. They catch us unawares and can be very convincing.

Just the other day I had a friendly email from our rector Stefan asking me to do a favour for him. It wasn't from him despite showing his name and calling me Brian. It was the start of a potential dialogue that would part me from my money - so of course I forwarded it to Action Fraud and then deleted it.

So, please be very careful.

Anything that isn't quite right, something you were not expecting, then check it out. Don't just reply - it may catch you out.

Take care, *Brian Inall.*

FROM THE PAST:

Whilst thumbing through an old issue of the magazine (March 2013), as one does of course, I came across the following which I thought could do with another airing:

How many words does it take?

Pythagorean Theorem:

24 words

The Lord's Prayer:

66 words

Archimedes' Principle:

67 words

The Ten Commandments:

179 words

Gettysburg Address:

286 words

US Declaration of Independence:

1,300 words

US Constitution with all 27 Amendments:

7,818 words

EU Regulations on the Sale of Cabbages:

26,911 words

(I've not counted the words myself, but I trust the author to have got it roughly right. Ed.)

Torpenhow Hill, England

When the Saxons arrived and asked the Welsh the name of that hill, the Welsh said "pen" which means "hill" in Welsh. So the Saxons used their word for hill, "tor," and called it Torpen (hill hill).

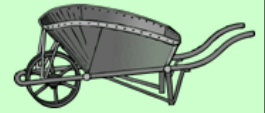
Then the Norse arrived and the same process added the their word for hill "Haugr". So now it was Torpen Haugr (Hill Hill Hill).

Later, the English called it Torpenhow Hill (Hill Hill Hill Hill)

Language is awesome.

Supplied by Martin Thompson

Churchyard Maintenance



During this lockdown it hasn't been easy to arrange any Churchyard Working Parties although, with grateful thanks, the work by the Community Payback Team restarted a few weeks back and the churchyard is all the better for it.

We can now organise working groups again, with some adherence to Covid restrictions.

Dates coming up: **Sat 22nd May and 19th June - starting at 10.30am.**

Bring your own tools, refreshments and lunch if you wish to stay longer.

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.

The church is now open again, so you can leave food there in the box at the back. Try to avoid service times as this can lead to congestion when we should all be distanced from one another. As usual the supermarkets continue to 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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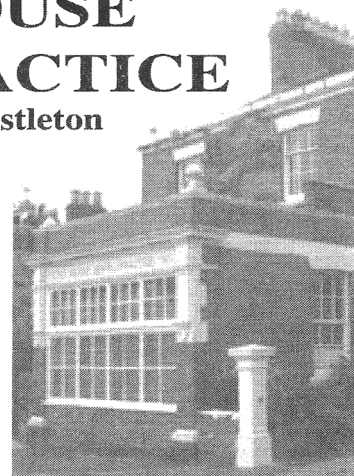
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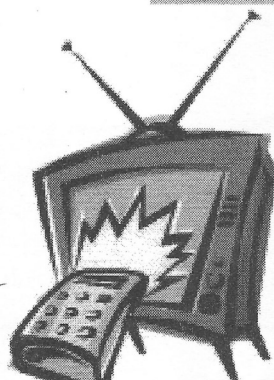
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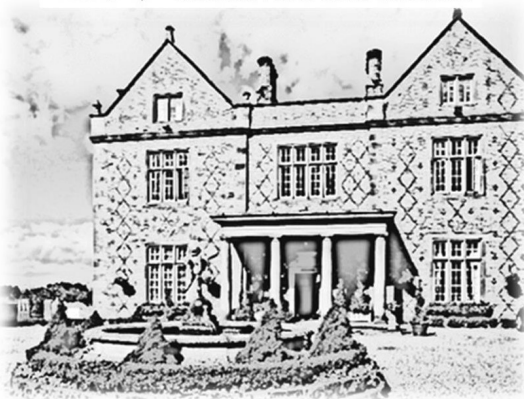
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