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The St. James' Church PARISH MAGAZINE July 2021

Parts of the Churchyard have been left to grow wild, other parts are kept tidy. Pathways have been mown for access. Do take a walk amongst the wild flowers and wildlife, and enjoy it. A helpful Churchyard 'Trail' leaflet is available. See Mike's article on page 21.

Summer
has arrived.

Rob Croft, our assistant curate, was ordained a priest by Bishop Mark (Bishop of Chester) on Sat 19th June in the Cathedral witnessed by a socially distanced congregation. It was also streamed online. The photo below shows applause for all the new priests. More photos inside. (Pages 3 & 4)



PARISH CONTACTS:

RECTOR:

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

ASSISTANT CURATE:

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

OTHER CLERGY IN THE PARISH:

Rev'd Gill Hibbert Tel: 01244 336544
gillianhibbert80@outlook.com

Rev'd Elizabeth Inall Tel: 01244 336500
elizabeth@inall.co.uk

CHURCHWARDENS:

Bettie Gilliatt Tel: 01244 335645
bettie.gilliatt@btinternet.com
Mike Lightfoot Tel: 07787 421357
mike.churchwarden@stjameschristleton.org.uk

PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICER:

Ann White Tel: 07762 774975
annwhite@live.com

ORGANIST/MUSICAL DIRECTOR:

(Vacant)

PCC SECRETARY:

Joce Platel Tel: 01244 332466
pccsecretary@stjameschristleton.org.uk

PCC TREASURER:

Liz McClure Tel: 01244 409414
elizabeth.mcclure070@gmail.com

PARISH ADMINISTRATOR:

Marj Keech Tel: 07487 642912
office@stjameschristleton.org.uk

ELECTORAL ROLL:

Chris Platel Tel: 01244 332466

PARISH HALL BOOKINGS:

Maria Norbury Tel: 01244 335499
maria_norbury@btinternet.com
Also: enquiries & bookings online via website.

WEDDINGS, FUNERALS AND BAPTISMS:

Via website, or the Administrator or the Rector.

VERGER:

John Milton Tel: 01244 325529

BELLRINGING:

Nikki Dromgoole Tel: 07947 372721

MAGAZINE:

EDITOR:

The editor is: **Brian Inall**
Tel: 01244 336500 brian@inall.co.uk

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COMMERCIAL ADVERTISING:

John Eccles
Tel: 01244 336355 jeccles46@sky.com

DISTRIBUTION & SUBSCRIPTIONS

Joce Platel
Tel: 01244 332466 chrisandjoce@hotmail.co.uk

During this Covid-19 crisis and for the present time this magazine will remain free via the St James' Church website and via the Christleton Village website. It will not be generally printed or delivered to homes although a few black & white printed copies may be available for sale (50p) at the back of the church. 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>



GETTING READY TO CEASE AND DESIST!

Meanings of the word Sabbath.

One day in seven set aside as holy to God (Gen 2.2). It is part of the fabric and rhythm of God's created order

for us, which we ignore to our detriment. God knows and provides for our rest and refreshment in order that we may bless others.

Related to this idea is the Sabbatical year spoken of in Leviticus 25.2-4. For six years the Israelites shall work the land, but in the seventh year it is to be rested. From these ideas, we alight on our church's policy to offer its ministers a time, three months, of sabbath every 7 years (in the case of the Diocese of Chester). It is a huge gift, and one I am very grateful the diocese and St James have seen fit to grant me. Thank you. I have been ordained twelve years, and this will be my first sabbatical which will run from September to November 2021 inclusive.

One diocesan website speaks of its purpose as a time of renewal, retreat, and rest. I read renewal is about professional development, and usually involves some element of learning. Retreat is about time for nourishing your relationship with God. Rest is about, well, rest, after the biblical pattern of Sabbath. These are all sensible things I am sure, but I am also conscious of a more basic reason for a Sabbatical. Ministry can be hard and exhausting, and unless there is a pattern of Sabbath then people (and communities I imagine) start to break. I know - I am exhausted, and have been for a number of years now, and now is the right time to cease for a time which belongs to God.

It is perhaps unsurprisingly and disappointing that a major part of my Sabbatical plan to walk the 500 mile Camino Way, running from Saint Jean Pied de Port in France to Santiago de Compostela in Spain, has been disrupted due to the pandemic. But a pilgrimage, albeit of reduced length and time, in the UK will form part of my Sabbatical. The other parts taken up with some time of study for my professional doctorate, web and mobile app development, and rest, not least, with my wife and children. I shall look forward to it, though as I write this already sounds too busy!

Your prayers for this gift of renewal, retreat, and rest in order to bless others in Jesus' name would be very welcome please. At the same time, know that I shall carry you and all the people of this parish on my heart in the months I am away. We are fortunate in this parish, since one of its many strengths is its people. Indeed, at times I

reflect on how well you led and cared for the parish community in the vacancy without a Rector. My arriving with you messed all that up! This is simply to recognise the parish is in the best of hands – yours.

With my love and prayers,
Stefan

REVD ROB CROFT:

On Saturday 19th June Rob, our Assistant Curate, was 'Priested'. That means he was ordained a priest. Rob joined us in July 2020 and was ordained a deacon in October, but now he has achieved this step to being a priest. The ordination, conducted by the Bishop, took place in the Cathedral on Sat 19th June. See photos below.

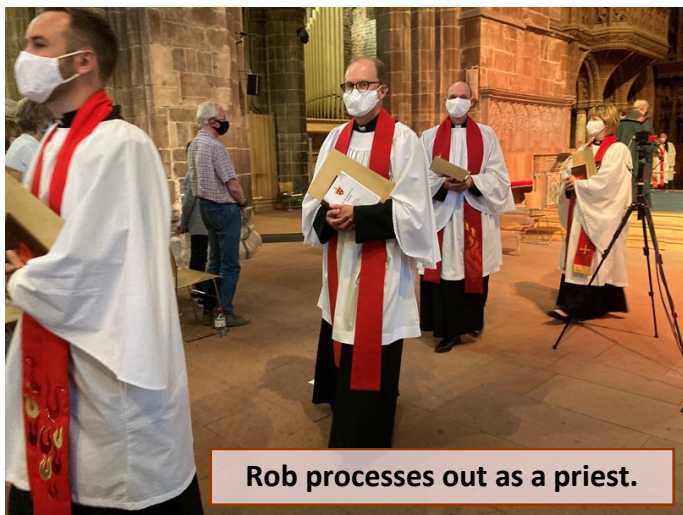
As a result, amongst other things, Rob is now authorised to preside at Communion services and this he did on Sunday 20th June. Congratulations to Rob and we pray for God's blessings on him in his ministry. (Ed.)



The Ordinands gather



Laying on of hands. Rob is ordained.



Rob processes out as a priest.

SEEDS FOR THOUGHT:

It was suggested that my sermon given on Sunday 13th June was worth a second read. So here it is, just as I gave it. The Bible readings which you may wish to re-read are: **Mark 4 v 26-34** and **2 Cor 5 v 6-17**.

Best wishes,
Rob.

"The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how."

This first parable is unique to Mark – it does not appear in any other gospel. There's a wonderful simplicity in the words. That simplicity is characteristic of the parables Jesus tells. But always they carry a surplus of meaning. Like poetry, like storytelling, we cannot say exactly what they mean. Their purpose is to challenge us to look into the hidden aspects of own lives, our beliefs, and our identity.

The parable continues:

"The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come."

The man does not understand how the seed grows but he knows that it does. And he knows that the harvest is good. Perhaps in this parable we are encouraged to trust in God's work of providence and mission, that if we scatter the seed of knowing **Christ** in our lives, then God will bring from that seed the fruits and fullness of the kingdom, in God's good time.

I would encourage you to read the parable again, to mull it over on your own. The question is not what you get from the parable, but what the parable gets from you.

In an important sense, our attempts to explain a parable are often attempts to resist it, to keep it at a distance. But the parable is a gift which offers to teach and liberate us, if we will open ourselves to its challenge.

Each of us is a unique individual. At the same time, at the heart of each of us is a network of relationships, including our relationship with God. Our uniqueness and our network of relationships together make us the person we are. Personhood always includes relationships.



(Photos by David Cummings and Brian Inall)

It will be good to read the parable again and to mull it over on your own. It will be even better to mull it over with others, to mull it over in relationship, to lay a diverse range of truths alongside each other, as you reflect together.

That is how the early Church learnt. In the first twenty years, as far as we know, there were no written texts. In an oral culture, people worked out in conversation the meaning of Jesus' earthly life, and of his crucifixion on the cross and his resurrection.

If I think about learning, I learn most when I help other people learn. I remember at the end of my first year of reader training being asked about what I had learnt from that year. I felt strongly that in a setting where people had met together at Church House to learn, that was the wrong question. For me, the important question was 'What have we learnt'? – how have our relationships developed through our learning together? How have we learnt to better love and serve each other? But those questions were not asked.

I would say that the reality of being the Church is first expressed in our togetherness, in our community. The Book of Revelation articulates this reality by talking about 'the angel' of each of the seven churches. It does not talk about individuals.

I am an individual – I realise that. But the fullness of the person that I am is expressed in community, in the body of this Church, in relationship. And I say that because I am incomplete, because I am finite, because I see only certain angles, because I have lived a life of privilege. I say it because I need you. I need other people, if I am to be fully the person I am.

In our first reading we heard **Paul** saying simple things, but in a work of very considerable complexity – a work of prose, not of parable or poetry or storytelling. He is the great pastor and theologian, working so often at the edge of what can be said, often in difficult relationships, and always at a distance.

We hear these inspired words:

"Whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please the Lord. Knowing the fear of the Lord, we try to persuade others."

We make it our aim to please the Lord – we are wanting to please God. We try to persuade others – we are wanting to share with others what Christ has given to us.

Then we hear this:

"For the love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all."

We are inspired by the love of Christ, who died for all.

Our reading ends:

"If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!"

In Christ we are a new creation, in right relationship with God and in right relationships among those whom God loves.

Paul's words focus on the love of Christ, on sharing with others, on the reality of new creation in Christ, and on right relationship. They are not words about us as individuals. They are about us as people made for and by **relationship** with God in Christ, with those of the new creation in Christ, and with all people.

Parables and prose – they are gifts for us to wrestle with, both to break open and to be ourselves broken open. They are gifts to share, with people of faith, and with people of none.

Amen.

References:

Amy-Jill Levine, Short Stories by Jesus;

Paul Sampley, 2 Corinthians in The New Interpreter's Bible; Rowan Williams, Being Human.

KATHRYN ELSMORE:

I am currently on a 5 week placement at St. James' as part of discerning God's calling to be a Distinctive Deacon. I see the discernment process as a journey, being open to God and finding where He is leading me.

I live in Broughton (North Wales) and I worship at St. Mark's in Saltney. I have a large family and 2 grandchildren, my youngest son is 13 years old and I have a 15 year old daughter, with a rare genetic syndrome. I have found that some of my calling is around support for families and support to those who are carers to disabled children and adults. I feel that I have become voice for the voiceless; being interviewed on the local BBC news and local paper on disability issues. For me, it is not just about my own daughter but raising awareness for all the



other children who do not have parents that can articulate on behalf of their child. I am part of the Disability Forum for the Diocese and I help with training for groups within the Diocese in disability awareness. Distinctive Deacons are based in the community and are called to be "a voice for the voiceless" and also help the priest in church. Further information is on the C of E website (link below, then scroll down to Distinctive Deacon).

<https://www.churchofengland.org/life-events/vocations/no-ordinary-ministry#na>

None of this is exclusive, I see God as leading me to different situations, where he wants me to have conversations with different people. I love prayer and Bible study and encourage others to try this regularly.

I am going into my final year at Chester University studying a degree in Theology and Religious Studies with Counselling Skills. I have really loved studying and I am part of the university chaplaincy group, worshipping with students and staff.

Thank you for having me at St. James'. I have learnt and experienced many new things within only a few weeks and enjoyed being here.

Kathryn

FROM THE CHURCH TIMES: **(other publications are available!)**

When sitting drinking coffee, and perhaps a crafty chocolate bar, I often have a quick browse through the Church Times. It's delivered every Friday. I start with the cartoons, then on to the letters which are often quite passionate about something, and then the clergy appointments and retirements etc in case there's anyone we know, and then eventually on to the articles.

Two to mention from the 14th May Church Times:

First, guidance has been published about the need for all PCCs to re-examine all their memorials, plaques, inscriptions and monuments at their churches for references and associations with racism and slavery. This could involve extensive research and would be hard for the PCC to take on considering everything else on their plate. Then what to do if the findings show that we have something like that? Changes to memorials require complex faculty applications. Fortunately as a Victorian

building we are unlikely to have anything that needs this sort of attention.

Second, in the past year the most popular hymn downloaded for use in churches over the last 12 months is 'Christ be our light' by Bernadette Farrell. We've sung that a few times in St James. Indeed a lovely hymn: "Christ be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness." We all need light. (*Ed.*)

CARE FOR THE BEREAVED:

During this time of restrictions due to Covid-19, I am aware that many people have expressed their distress that funerals have not met their desire to celebrate the life of those they love.

I was asked to lead a vigil for a family the night before the funeral and have reflected on how this allowed a space for them to grieve and receive comfort and compassion.

The Gospel story in Luke ch 7:11-17 is a favourite story for me of Jesus expressing compassion. In many ways this is the loveliest story in the Gospels for it reveals the deep compassion in Jesus. The funeral procession would be lead by professional mourners with their flutes and symbols playing, and with cries of grief.

How good are you at wailing?!!

In many countries people attending funerals are expected to weep and wail and make as much noise as they can, releasing their deep grief and sadness.

The whole village turns out to grieve and help the mother who was a widow, to express the sorrow and fear she feels for her dead son, who was her hope of security as she depended on him to look after her.

Then it happens. Jesus speaks to the dead son, tells him to get up rather like a parent telling a sulky child it's time to wake up and get off to school. Then amazement, fear tingles down the spine, the wailing stops, he is alive, he is getting up! Jesus is smiling and laughing - handing the son to his mother.

Here we are presented with Jesus being moved with deep compassion as he touches the bier. It was not a coffin for they were not used in the east, a long wicker basket was used to carry the body to the grave.

As we think about this miracle, we see evidence of Jesus' power, and can trust in his promise that "he goes to prepare a place for us in his Father's house". We can allow Jesus to touch our loved ones with his compassion.

These days we are more aware of our need for inner peace of mind and time to address our hurt, insecurity and give space to grieve. That was why in the past there was a clear period for mourning, the black clothes and curtains closed sending a sign to others, a time free from social demands. Today we "carry on" with demands placed on us.

Many feel the need for counselling, a listening ear. The lock down made us realise how valuable time is at home, in the garden, local walks and these are precious healthy ways to enhance our lives.

As I work alongside the bereavement support team at the Hospice* I am aware of the long list of people requesting their service, a growing need especially since Covid. This growing need also extends to the community around us.

Gill Hibbert

(The Hospice of the Good Shepherd)*

ST JAMES' CHURCHYARD TRAIL:



We are, as you know blessed with a wonderful churchyard and it is visited by a wide variety of people, some coming to tend the graves of loved ones, others passing through to get to church, some simply out for a walk either with or without a dog and some taking a short-cut.

The churchyard itself is a mixture of carefully tended lawns and gravestones, wilder areas where nature has been allowed freedom to flourish and monuments and items of interest but how often do we take time to simply stand, look and contemplate?

To help facilitate contemplation and guide people through the churchyard we have developed a short and simple pilgrimage trail. We hope that by using this trail you will learn more about the wonderful surroundings and some of its history in addition to being spiritually enriched and uplifted by spending time in God's Acre.

Currently there are paper booklets available at the back of the church. These are free but donations towards the cost of printing would be gratefully received. The booklet will also be available to download on the website. In time we hope to be able to provide digital options in the form of a phone app.

We do hope you enjoy spending time both in and around our beautiful church and will be very happy to receive feedback from you of your experience.

Tina Lightfoot

DAISY'S ADVENTURES – PART VII:

Hello everyone I'm back – did you miss me?

Thank you again to all you lovely humans who were so concerned about me and I'm pleased to say I'm fully recovered now but what you don't know is that following the two tummy upsets I then got an eye infection called conjunctivitis – now that's a long word, almost as long as me!! Ha Ha. So, it was another visit to the vet, a third time in two months, and I really don't like going there although Sally is very nice and makes me better. I had to have drops this time because my eyes are sticky every morning when I wake up and I can't open them easily so they have to be cleaned gently with warm water and cotton wool and then the drops go in. All this went on for several days but it's all gone now thank goodness and hopefully there won't be any more visits to the vet.

I've made two new friends recently. First there was 'Freddy' who is a tiny mongrel of mixed breeds but he was given a new home when he was found roaming the streets and unwanted. When Freddy comes to my house we have races up and down the garden which is great fun and we often meet when we're out and about on our walks with our respective humans which means we can be sociable with one another while they are chatting.

My second new friend is Hamish who you might almost take for my twin because he's a black and tan miniature dachshund just like me and we're almost the same age –

6 years. We met during lockdown and it turns out he lives quite close to me so again, we meet up quite often when we're taken out for walks. I've just heard that Hamish's Mummy has been injured in a road traffic accident so don't expect I'll see Hamish for a while but we posted a get well card for her through his letter box yesterday so hope it won't be too long before she's on the mend.

The warm weather arrived and what happens to me – I have a bath! It doesn't happen very often but out came the shampoo and the big bowl of water and I'm picked up and plonked in the bowl where I was thoroughly washed and rinsed and then ran round the garden shaking off the excess water. Because it was so warm I was soon dry but I don't exactly enjoy the experience of bathing unlike humans who seem to revel in soap suds.

But the very best thing happened on the 6 June because it was my birthday and I'm 6 years old. Now I don't like to boast but I am clearly the most beautiful and well behaved dachshund on the planet and when it comes to birthdays I was thoroughly spoilt. A song called Happy Birthday to you was sung to me first thing in the morning followed by lots of hugs and kisses. Didn't think much of the singing but the hugs and kisses were great. Rebecca called to see me and brought me a new squeaky toy in the shape of a crocodile so that's joined my other toys in the toy box.

Summer has arrived at last together with the sunshine which I love to bask in, particularly on the adults bed with the sun shining through the window onto my tummy and it's just heavenly until I get too hot and move into a cooler place. We've been to the seaside a few times in the car, and I just love riding in the car, and we played on the sand and they tried to get me into the water for a paddle, but I didn't like the looks of the waves coming towards me, so I refused to go in at all. They can't make me do it if I don't want to but I had an ice cream as a treat – a special doggy ice cream made especially for logs like me! Yumeeeeeeee.

See you next time I hope

Daisy - (Published by kind permission of Janet Milton)

VEE-PAK, THE BEANS SPILLED:

Many of the regular readers of this august publication are, no doubt, well aware that Marj and I have a little old vintage aircraft, a Piper, and, for my sins, I am the Chairman of the Vintage Piper Aircraft Club which is a UK-based club dedicated to the preservation and

continued operation of these practical old aerial steeds together with the values of fellowship and fun amongst the like-minded members. The name of the club is a bit of a mouthful so we usually shorten it to "VPAC," pronounced "Vee-Pak" and we members are called "VPACers." As part of our routine we hold around five club gatherings at various aerodromes around the country during the summer months where we do see the club values of Flying, Fellowship and Fun much in evidence and it for this reason that Marj and I, together with our fellow committee members, are away on certain weekends during the summer. We normally hold the events on Saturdays and so we committee members usually fly to the venues on the Fridays and then stay locally for a couple of nights, returning home on the Sundays. In this way we have time to set things up and then dismantle everything again without undue rush and it gives us a short opportunity to see a little of the local area.

Well, just to give you an idea of what goes on, beneath is a report that I recently sent out to the members on the club's e-mail distribution list describing the events at our "Southern Meeting" which was held at the grass aerodrome of Sandown on the Isle of Wight during the first Saturday this June. Read that and you'll know all about what we get up to - well, nearly all because I'm not mentioning Marj's trips to the local shops and her exploration of the beautiful old abbey ruins and the cathedral at Bury St Edmunds - near to the venue of our "Eastern Meet" in May.

Richard Keech

Hello Fellow VPACers,

If you were not present on the day you'll, no doubt, be wondering how things went at the VPAC's "Southern Meet" which was held at Sandown on the Isle of Wight.



Well, I can report that the day was a great success and, in total, 36 VPAC members flew south, of whom 3 were new members and the intrepid Alan Hyatt travelled by road and ferry bringing us up to a grand total of 37. We were blessed with perfect weather, the products from the wood-fired pizza oven were in great demand and, all in all, the enjoyment of flying, friendship and fun was much in evidence. Hats off to the many who flew for good distances to be there and I can certainly say that it

was grand to see you all albeit, for some, the meeting was far too brief such was the busy and active nature of the day. Thank you all for your efforts in being there and making it all happen so well.

Mind you, that's not the end of the story since, given that Sunday's forecast was for OK weather, a fair few of us stayed over in the local hotel on Saturday eve as well as patronising the Merrie Gardens pub. But it was on Sunday morn that problems began since we awoke to very poor weather conditions with a low cloud-base and we soon found that this weather was affecting much of the country. The new forecasts predicted a slow improvement to OK conditions by early afternoon, but then widespread thunderstorm activity was predicted. Yuk! Well, much head-scratching began and we began to contemplate another night at the hotel which, thankfully, did have room for us. The batteries of our mobile phones had to work hard, then some of the over-nighters took walks to Sandown beach and 6 of us rode on the local bus up to Ryde where we walked to the end of its long pier. It was when there that the clouds did clear and we were able to clearly see across the Solent to the mainland. Not only that, the forecasts for the mainland airfields were amended to indicate that the thunderstorm threat had ceased. Wonderful. So, after a little sustenance at the pier cafe, we bussed back to Sandown and loaded our steeds, once again checked the weather reports and then launched northwards. In fact, Marj and I were the last VPACers airborne from Sandown and it was when climbing over the Isle of Wight's northern coast I looked down towards Ryde and its pier where we had been just a couple of hours prior. I couldn't see it because it, and the town, were completely covered in sea mist which was also rapidly marching towards the airfield! Phew - we made it in the nick of time.

To finish the story, all of our flights home were completely snag-less and totally enjoyable. Why, Marj and I even had the time to pick up the pooch from her minder and then make it into town to a favourite pub for dinner. A great weekend and, as I say, thank you all for your support and good company. Now, we're already looking forward to the VPAC "Northern Meet" at Bagby on the 3rd of July. Hope to see you there.

Richard

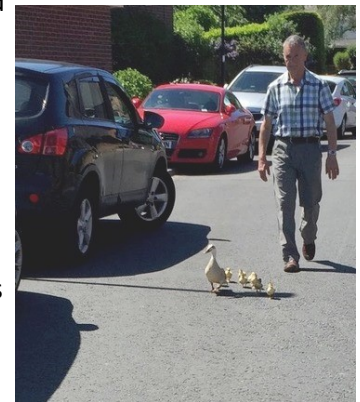


A DUCK ENCOUNTER:

It was on Sunday, the 13th of June, we had just been to the 10:30 service at St James when a lady approached us.



She had seen a duck and her chicks crossing the road and they were in great peril of being run over. Yes, she had come across a "Mrs Duck" and her newly hatched chicks which, by now, were lost in the church's car park. Well, Marj was off like a shot to investigate and, indeed,



there was a female duck, her brood of about 8 chicks and she seemed to be lost. We assumed that she was heading for The Pit, but without the benefit of a map and GPS she had become temporarily uncertain of her position = lost and the danger of being squashed beneath tyres was real! Well, we tried to shepherd her and the waddling brood towards the Pit, but they all rapidly disappeared from view and when we called to each other, "Where are they?" a lady's voice called out from behind the undergrowth, "They're here in my garden." It wasn't long before we were in her garden and trying to herd them once again, but it wasn't easy so Marj then raced off to look for something in which to carry a few chicks. She found a plant holder and was able to place a couple of chicks within, but then she struggled to keep them in it. She placed her jumper over the holder, but the retention of said chicks wasn't easy.

Nevertheless, from precious experience in such matters we know that a mother duck will follow her chicks, so with Marj leading the way carrying the chicks in the holder, we headed off slowly towards The Pit with Mrs Duck and the rest of the brood following. Traffic on the road had to be halted as we led, followed and herded, but it was very difficult for Marj to retain the two ducklings in the plant holder. However, we soon came across two young girls and Marj asked if they would each like to hold a little duckling and help in the rescue. Happily, they readily agreed and it wasn't long until our little slow procession consisted of the two helpful girls leading the way and each gently holding a chick, Mrs Duck following with the rest of her brood following her then Marj and I herding from behind and directing the road traffic.

I'm happy to report that our little entourage made it to The Pit, all the drivers of the cars on the road were more

than happy for their progress to be temporarily halted and that Mrs Duck and her brood contentedly set sail across the surface of The Pit. Marvellous! Thank you to everyone concerned and, despite the workload, Marj even managed to find the time to take a few snaps on her mobile phone...see above & right.

Richard Keech



The famous Laburnum arch in full flower at Bodnant Gardens (National Trust) on 10th June. Stunning! The rest of the extensive gardens were splendid and colourful as well. (Ed.)



TREASURER'S REPORT – ENDINGS AND BEGINNINGS

As I received a complaint about my lack of article in the magazine recently, I thought I had better write something!!

I have had a rather strange few months, endings and new beginnings. A new baby granddaughter arrived, with a fair amount of visiting, followed a few weeks later by the death of my brother James. Quite a few of you will remember a larger than life red haired bearded chap who joined us at church on high days, holidays and occasionally in between while visiting from Edinburgh. I was touched that Beryl Cummings said she always thought of him as Brave Heart! There certainly was more than a passing resemblance.

It is perhaps no wonder I have been relatively bored by the accounts of the PCC while all this is going on. But to work – thinking of endings, have we by any chance come nearly to the end of Covid times and the effect on our finances? Sadly this is not the case just as yet. The Covid figures as I

write are escalating in Chester and of course lockdown restrictions have been extended.

I do believe we are gradually pulling back our income but reliance on the Parish Hall, not to say fundraising is significant and due to the restrictions this has of course not recovered.

I am so very delighted there is less cash flowing around that needs to be counted by hand. If this reduction were fully replaced by standing orders, by website donations, by contactless donations it would be really wonderful, even by paper money, but it is not quite the case at present.

However, our books are balanced and there is no serious anxiety at present – this is because as previously notified, we are only paying a parish share of 1.05 in place of our allocated 1.25. This reduces our expenditure by approx £100 per calendar month so this is why I am a bit laid back at present – it may not last!

So what about new beginnings? The Parish Hall bookings are beginning to pick up and Maria is full of energy and enthusiasm! The new merchant bank for the contactless

terminal is functioning - you will find payments on your statement go to charities trust. Website donations are continuing.

What of The Friends?? A wonderful new beginning! Our launch response was perhaps a trifle modest but we do hope many people in the community will engage with this as time goes on. Leaflets are in production as I speak, the new logo depicting the church building being held – and indeed supported – by the hands of the village and the surrounding community. It could not be more apt symbolism as we will be using Friends money for the lychgate, for the noticeboards, perhaps for the paths in the churchyard, let alone new benches. Feel free to contact John Norbury or myself about The Friends, or look on the Friends of St James <https://www.friendsofstjameschristleton.org.uk>

Thank you as ever for your support of the finances of

the church – my favourite giving is by standing order, but envelopes, gift aid envelopes, donations and of course giving in time and talent are all much appreciated. There are standing order forms at the back of church.

Liz McClure



Beginnings - baby Ailie in new granny knitted cardigan



Endings - a happy alpine day with Ron and James

THE FUTURE OF THIS MAGAZINE:

PARISH MAGAZINE

As you will have read in the May edition of this magazine, I've been involved with it since early 2018 and editing and compiling the magazine since the beginning of 2019.

It's really great fun and a way of getting to know and to interact with all sorts of people. However, I need to take a rest from the task so I took the decision to stop at the end of this year.

Therefore a new editor and a new compiler are needed. Either one person or two people, or more! The editor gathers in the material and sorts it, the compiler puts it on the page and creates the finished document for publication. I will continue to be available in support if needed. The current style of magazine is how I do it - but someone else can do it a different way. A fresh approach.

So, could you help? We'd be pleased to hear from you as soon as possible so we can plan ahead. Sadly if no-one comes forward then the magazine as you know it will have to stop.

Please contact me for details.

Brian Inall - Tel: 01244 336500 - brian@inall.co.uk

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?



CHRISTLETON PARISH HALL - REGULAR ACTIVITIES (from July)

Information provided by Maria Norbury - proposed start dates in red are subject to changes in government guidance.

MONDAY	Community Lunch Yoga	8am – 3pm 7 – 8pm until Sept 6 – 7pm from 06/09	Monthly 3 rd Monday tbc Weekly – from 07/06
	Monday Painters	7 – 9pm	Weekly – term time from 06/09
TUESDAY	Baby Massage Class	9.30 – 10.30am	Weekly – from 22/06
	Maths GCSE for Adults	1-3pm	Weekly – term time from 07/09
	English GCSE for Adults	1-3pm	Weekly – term time from 07/09
	Maths GCSE small group coaching Yr 10/11	3:30-4:30pm	Weekly – term time from 07/09
	English GCSE small group coaching Yr 10/11	4:30-5:30pm	Weekly – term time from 07/09
	English GCSE small group coaching Yr 10/11	3:30-4:30pm	Weekly – term time from 07/09
	Aspirations Dance	4:30-5:30pm 6 – 9pm	Weekly – term time from 07/09 Weekly – from 18/05
WEDNESDAY	Clinical Pilates	9.30 – 10.30am	Weekly – term time from 19/05
	Clinical Pilates	10.30 – 11.30am	Weekly – term time from 19/05
	Maths GCSE for Adults	12-2pm	Weekly – term time from 08/09
	English GCSE for Adults	12-2pm	Weekly – term time from 08/09
	Maths GCSE small group coaching Yr 10/11	2:30-3:30pm	Weekly – term time from 08/09
	English GCSE small group coaching Yr 10/11	3:30-4:30pm	Weekly – term time from 08/09
	English GCSE small group coaching Yr 10/11	2:30-3:30pm	Weekly – term time from 08/09
	WI	3:30-4:30pm	Weekly – term time from 08/09
	RSPB meeting	6.30 – 9.30pm 6.45 – 9.45pm	Monthly 2 nd Wed – from 08/09 Monthly 3 rd Wed – not May to Aug – from 15/09
	History Group	6.30 – 9.30pm	Last Wed of Jan Feb Mar Sept Oct Nov – from 29/09
THURSDAY	Fitness Fusion Pilates	9.15 – 10.15am	Weekly – tbc
	The Christleton Painters	10.30am – 3pm	Weekly – not May to Aug – from 02/09
	Aspirations Dance	6 – 9pm	Weekly – not before Sept
FRIDAY	The Ark Toddler Group	9.15 – 11am	Weekly – term time from 16/04
	Aspirations Dance	6 – 9pm	Weekly – not before Sept
SATURDAY	Saturday Painters	10am – 1pm	Alternate Saturdays – from 11/09
SUNDAY	Refreshments after church services		Weekly – tbc
	Messy Church	4pm – 6pm	Monthly 3 rd Sunday tbc

CONTACTS DETAILS FOR REGULAR ACTIVITIES

Community lunch	Liz McClure	01244 409414	elizabeth.mcclure070@gmail.com
Yoga	Jonny Hunter	07546 183000	jonnyhunteryoga@gmail.com
Monday Painters	Kathleen Bulmer	07957 802145	bulmerkathleen1@gmail.com
Baby Massage Class	Stephanie Tully	07969 318547	babyclubcheshire@outlook.com
Maths GCSE	Lisa Gornall	07929 771844	lisa.gornall@gmail.com
English GCSE	Lisa Miller	07764 318416	lisaannemiller@hotmail.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	lesley02@hotmail.com

LISA

Seeing double!

Lisa and Lisa have been tutoring local GCSE students for years now. Lisa covers Maths and the other Lisa covers English (or is it the other way around ?) They often share the same students and both have a great track record in helping them to get high grades.

Since lockdown their services have been in great demand: to both help cover gaps in knowledge and raise confidence levels.

In the new school year – starting in September, they are teaming up to deliver GCSE Maths (Edexcel) and English Language (AQA) exam coaching to small groups at **Christleton Parish Hall** on a Tuesday (starting at 3.30pm) and a Wednesday (starting at 2.30pm).

“We are going to focus on exam technique,” said Lisa Miller (English) “We will be making sure the students know exactly what’s required of each question, and will provide plenty of opportunity for them to practise. The small groups of 6 will make it a social but focused end to the school day.” Both the English and Maths classes will run simultaneously (in two separate rooms) and they will

run twice on one night. A student could just attend one class and go home - or attend both - one after the other.

“We are going to offer an exciting additional service too” said Lisa Gornall (Maths) “We know that lots of parents have struggled to home-school their children at GCSE level and may want a bit of instruction in how best to do this. There are also those who may like to try gaining a GCSE in Maths or English from scratch - so we are hoping to run afternoon classes on the same days – Tues (1pm) and Wed (12pm) - for adults who fancy brushing up their core skills.”

All classes are £15 per hour.

If anyone would like to chat to either of the Lisas about their classes you can call the numbers below:

Lisa Miller (English) 07764 318416

Lisa Gornall (Maths) 07929 771844

The Ark

Play and Praise

Toddler Group



We meet every Friday morning (term time)

Where: St James' Parish Hall

Time: 9.15 am to 11.00 am

***For further details etc. contact
tina.lightfoot@googlemail.com***

CHURCHYARD RULES AND REGULATIONS **2007 -REVISED 2017**

A consecrated burial ground of a Church of the Church of England is subject to legal control, of which adherence to various Churchyard regulations is a key part. To this end, may we respectfully clarify a number of regulations regarding the treatment of grave spaces and their maintenance at St James'.



If you have any queries relating to these regulations please contact the Church Wardens.

1. Fresh flowers and good quality silk flowers may be placed on graves. Spring and autumn bulbs may be planted in the soil adjacent to the headstone, but not trees, shrubs or other plants. Plastic flowers are not permitted.

2. The Parochial Church Council has the responsibility for maintaining the Churchyard. Grass cutting and

weeding is done on a regular basis by a community payback team and volunteers. It is much easier to mow the Churchyard if flowers and containers are placed below the headstone and the rest of the grave allowed to grass over.

3. Please remove wreaths and cut flowers when they have withered - we will remove any withered flowers which have not been removed. Wreaths will be removed by the end of January.

4. No fencing, kerbs, edging or other artificial closure of any kind is allowed.

5. Glass, ceramic and plastic containers are not permitted.

6. Please note this is a Christian Churchyard and that the graves are to be treated as memorials and not shrines: **no pictures, photographs, sentimental or personal items are to be placed on graves.**

Full details of the Diocese of Chester Churchyard regulations can be found at www.chester.anglican.org

Supplied by Mike Lightfoot, Churchwarden, on behalf of the PCC.

St James' Church Calendar - JULY/AUGUST 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.



Please note that Covid-19 precautions remain in place in church - hand cleaning, masks, social distancing, etc., until we are advised otherwise.

THE SUNDAY PATTERN IS:

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

Sun 11th July: 6th after Trinity
8:00am & 10:30am Worship in church.

Sat 17th July: 10.30am. Churchyard Working

Sun 18th July: 7th after Trinity
8:00am & 10:30am Worship in church.

Sun 25th July: 8th after Trinity - St James
8:00am & 10:30am Worship in church.

Sun 1st August: 9th after Trinity
8:00am & 10:30am Worship in church.

Sun 8th August: 10th after Trinity
8:00am & 10:30am Worship in church.

Sat 14th August: 10.30am. Churchyard Working

Sun 15th August: 11th after Trinity - BVM
8:00am & 10:30am Worship in church.

Sun 22nd August: 12th after Trinity
8:00am & 10:30am Worship in church.

Sun 29th August: 13th after Trinity
8:00am & 10:30am Worship in church.

NOTE 1: All arrangements subject to change.

NOTE 2: The Rector begins his 3 month sabbatical from the beginning of September 2021. He returns on Sunday 28th November. Details regarding how this period is covered by others will appear in the August/Sept magazine.

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: There is no Wednesday morning service at present.
Further details will be given when known.

Fridays: 9:15am: The Ark - Play and Praise Toddler Group. 9:15 - 11:00am Parish Hall



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 each month in the Parish Hall at 7.15pm. 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).

Contacts:

Elizabeth Inall

Telephone 01244 336500

Chris Orgill

Telephone 01244 335163

WE WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

CHRISTLETON PARISH HALL



The lights are back on in the Parish Hall!

The Ark toddler group has been running on Friday mornings since April, while May saw the return of yoga on Monday evenings, Aspirations ballroom dancing on Tuesday evenings and Clinical Pilates on Wednesday mornings. Baby Massage started in June on Tuesday mornings and we hope other regular activities will be back by September, including refreshments after Sunday church services and Messy Church.

All the details are shown in the table on page 12.

At the time of writing, the lifting of Covid 19 restrictions is delayed until 19 July and all of this is, of course, subject to ongoing government guidance. A further update will appear in the August/September 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.)

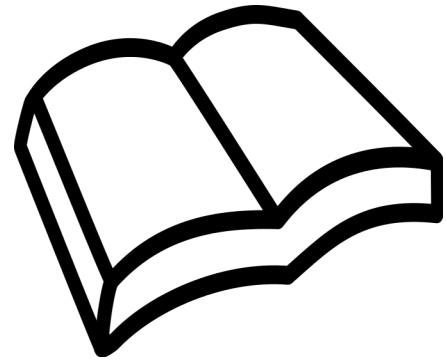
FROM THE REGISTERS:

FUNERALS/BURIALS:

Michael Jones Died: 22/5/2021 aged 81
Burial of Ashes: 17/6/2021 at St James' Church.

WEDDINGS:

Charlie Griffin & Jordon Bolley - 2pm Sat 3/7/2021
St James' Church
Ivor Henry and Mary Howard - 2pm Sat 7/8/2021
St James' Church



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

PEOPLE WE REMEMBER.

THE GIRLS FROM LADAKH:

Throughout the 1980s parishioners at St James' and the village community were raising money for a fascinating school project in Leh, Ladakh in the western Himalayas. Gertrude Wright from the village had established a small school (St James') at Shey outside the capital of Leh catering for local children and refugee children from Tibet.

Leh an ancient town in the Kashmir region of India is located at 11,550 ft (3,520 m) in one of the most remote areas of the Indus Valley surrounded by the towering peaks of the Ladakh range, itself an extension of the Karakorum Range. The climate is extreme, being cold and dry with very little rainfall, (3inches or 80mm a year) and the growth of vegetables, barley, maize and other crops is done alongside the banks of the Indus.

Gertrude's school at Shey was built out of mud brick walls, and was fairly primitive in our eyes. The children were taught in English and followed an English syllabus. They had a distinct style of dress as can be seen in the pictures. The children who we grew to know were regularly asked to collect water from the Indus in jerry cans, or grind corn and maize into flour at the village Mill before attending school in the mornings. Dried yak dung was used for fuel although there was a small amount of firewood available from shrubs growing in the mountains.



The five girls with Gertrude

The visit of the five girls to the village was a great event, not only for them, but also for us. The children, Bimla, Bilques, Ruth, Ruth Mary and Anju were exceptional. They were naturally very shy, but had delightful personalities and fitted in well with the children at both schools. Gertrude Wright quotes, *"They were extremely happy with the wonderful welcome they had at the school thanks to Mr Cummings, his staff and students, and made great progress in their English. They also loved the village itself"* They took part in all aspects of

school and village life, attending church, school concerts and other activities, and were eager to show off their dancing skills with several Ladakhi dances dressed in their traditional costumes. They were present at the start of the Christleton 6 mile race, and swam in the High School Pool, causing some anxieties as they had never worn swimming costumes before, and had not swum except in the cold waters of the River Indus. What was amazing was their ability to go long distances under water, as living at 11,550ft they had amazing lung capacity.



At the Primary School

The girls came from Christian, Hindu, Muslim and Buddhist backgrounds, and it was a wonderful example of how people from different faiths could live together. They certainly taught us a lot. The girls were very clever, and exceptionally good at mathematics, and on their return two of the girls went to University and became Doctors, the first lady doctors in their community. We took them up to the Lake District for a weekend break, and looking up at the Lakeland peaks around Hellvelyn, asked "When are we getting to the mountains?" It must have seemed home from home as the Lakes and waterfalls were frozen and thick with ice.



St James' School in Shey

Gertrude was a wonderful host. The children called her "Amaly" and the links were strengthened when the girls

returned home, with regular communication between youngsters from the Primary school, and people from the village community led by Margaret Croston started collecting sweaters, T shirts, & other clothing, books, pencils & materials etc. for the school at Shey. The Cummings family also did a sponsored walk of the Pembrokeshire Coastal Path and raised enough money to build three new classrooms, and some glazing. Later in 2000 as part of our Millennium Festival we donated £500 to a literacy project that one of the girls was working on in a village near Leh. St James' School at Shey now seems to have been absorbed into the International Lamdon School Project which aims to preserve the Ladakhi and Tibetan Culture, but our links with the community still exist through students and friends. There is an excellent short video on U Tube called **Lamdon School Ladakh** which I recommend to you.

David Cummings

NATURE NOTES:

Last month I asked the question, "Where have all the swifts, swallows and house martins gone?" I can now tell you that small parties of swifts arrived back in the village at Waverton and Vicars Cross about a month late. A group of five or so have now been seen regularly over Woodfields, and ten or more on Brown Heath Road near the Waverton shops, with similar numbers over Vicars Cross. So we have at least three breeding colonies. There are a few more house martins and swallows about, but nothing like the usual numbers which is very disappointing. I've been excited however to find several dragonfly species at Hockenhull, including male & female broad bodied chasers and also a 4 spotted

tortoiseshell, speckled wood, small skipper and red admiral.



The best sightings of birds include two spotted flycatchers displaying near the pond, whilst several pairs of chiff chaff and blackcap seem to have done well with lots of fledglings flying about. Cettis and sedge warblers are also very vocal and are probably breeding again in the Poplar plantation. Goldfinches are very prominent everywhere, and at least one pair of greater spotted woodpeckers has produced young, with two youngsters flying past me earlier in the week. The warm sunny weather has also seen barn owls hunting at dusk.

We are also delighted with the progress of the wildflowers in the Legion Meadow, and as I write at least 50 common spotted orchids are in flower, with lots of bird's foot trefoil, purple vetch, wild geranium, pink campion, ragged robin and yellow rattle to be seen. Yellow and blue are the predominant colours of the meadow this month, although all the flowers could do with a drink of water, as we have now had over twenty days since it last rained. There are still too many tall grasses there, but the number of flowering plants is increasing every year, due to longevity of the new site and our management regime. It is said that a wildflower meadow takes about 15 years to really establish itself, and the Legion Meadow was first planted in 2008. The main issue has been that the soil on the meadow is too good, as wildflowers thrive on poorer soils, but there is great progress to be seen this year.



chaser. One of these delightful and delicate dragonflies was also seen in The Park in Christleton and I photographed one sitting on Beryl's knee at Dunham Massey whilst we sat watching four male 4 spotted chasers displaying over a small mill pond. We were able to have a really good look at its compound eye. A Southern hawker dragonfly, male and female banded damselflies, together with common blue and blue tailed damselflies, are now flying in good numbers near the Gowy. Butterfly species seen include, peacock, small

Sadly the same can't be said about the varieties of orchids that once grew on the wet meadow at Hockenhull. Despite cutting back the meadow in autumn, and grazing with sheep, the taller grasses, reeds and other vegetation including flowering marsh valerian and meadow sweet has just taken over, so the smaller orchid varieties don't get any sun and a chance to flourish. 40 years ago I could take children and

villagers onto this superb traditional Gowy wet meadow wearing Wellingtons, and see hundreds of early purple, northern /southern marsh and common spotted orchids in one central area of the marsh. Nowadays I can't even get into this meadow in summer, as the reeds and grasses are over head high! There is no doubt that something dramatic is happening to our climate, and I have seen incredible changes happen during my 49 years of observation and involvement with the reserve.

David Cummings



**Northern
Marsh
Orchid**



**Common
Spotted
Orchid**

The Beatitudes and social media

At the beginning of the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5), Jesus commends eight beautiful qualities. But what do the Beatitudes mean for social media and life online?

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven - I will remember that my identity comes from being made and loved by God, not from my online profile.

Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted - This world is full of grief and suffering. I will tread softly and post with gentleness and compassion.

Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth - I will not boast or brag online, nor will I pull others down.

Blessed are those who hunger & thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled - There are many wrongs to be righted. I will not be afraid to name them and look for justice in the world.

Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy - I will not judge others but be generous online. I will be conscious of my own failings.

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God - I will be truthful & honest, and not pretend to be what I am not.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God - I will seek to reconcile those of different views with imagination and good humour.

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven - I will not add to the store of hate in the world, but I will try to be courageous in standing up for what is right and true.

(Revd Dr Steven Croft, Bishop of Oxford)

**Seen on 9th June at the
junction of the A51 and
A41 at Vicars Cross -
tuppence ha'penny!**



CHILD PSYCHOLOGY:

A letter written by child psychologist Dr Gretchen Schmelzer from a teenager's viewpoint voicing what they are unable to say to their parent.

Dear Parent:

This is the letter that I wish I could write.

This fight we are in right now. I need it. I need this fight. I can't tell you this because I don't have the language for it and it wouldn't make sense anyway. But I need this fight. Badly. I need to hate you right now and I need you to survive it. I need you to survive my hating you and you hating me. I need this fight even though I hate it too. It doesn't matter what this fight is even about: curfew, homework, laundry, my messy room, going out, staying in, leaving, not leaving, boyfriend, girlfriend, no friends, bad friends. It doesn't matter. I need to fight you on it and I need you to fight me back.

I desperately need you to hold the other end of the rope. To hang on tightly while I thrash on the other end—while I find the handholds and footholds in this new world I feel like I am in. I used to know who I was, who you were, who we were. But right now I don't. Right now I am looking for my edges and I can sometimes only find them when I am pulling on you. When I push everything I used to know to its edge. Then I feel like I exist and for a minute I can breathe. I know you long for the sweeter kid that I was. I know this because I long for that kid too, and some of that longing is what is so painful for me right now.

I need this fight and I need to see that no matter how bad or big my feelings are—they won't destroy you or me. I need you to love me even at my worst, even when it looks like I don't love you. I need you to love yourself and me for the both of us right now. I know it sucks to be disliked and labelled the bad guy. I feel the same way on the inside, but I need you to tolerate it and get other grownups to help you. Because I can't right now. If you want to get all of your grown up friends together and have a 'surviving-your-teenager-support-group-rage-fest' that's fine with me. Or talk about me behind my back—I don't care. Just don't give up on me. Don't give up on this fight. I need it.

This is the fight that will teach me that my shadow is not bigger than my light. This is the fight that will teach me that bad feelings don't mean the end of a relationship. This is the fight that will teach me how to listen to myself, even when it might disappoint others. And this particular fight will end. Like any storm, it will blow over. And I will forget and you will forget. And then it will come back. And I will need you to hang on to the rope again. I will need this over and over for years.

I know there is nothing inherently satisfying in this job for you. I know I will likely never thank you for it or even

acknowledge your side of it. In fact I will probably criticize you for all this hard work. It will seem like nothing you do will be enough. And yet, I am relying entirely on your ability to stay in this fight. No matter how much I argue. No matter how much I sulk. No matter how silent I get.

Please hang on to the other end of the rope. And know that you are doing the most important job that anyone could possibly be doing for me right now.

Love, Your Teenager

© 2015 Gretchen L Schmelzer

Supplied by Martin Thompson

THE CHURCHYARD IN EARLY SUMMER.

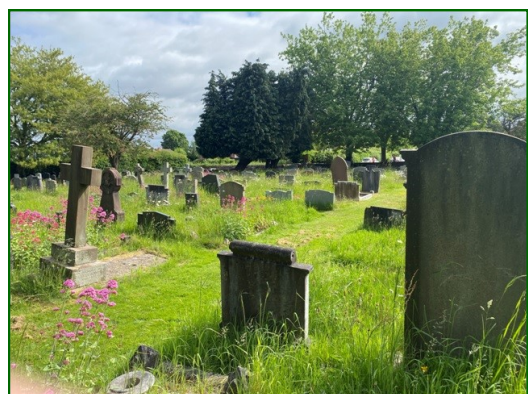
The community payback team continue to keep our wonderful churchyard in excellent order. Last weekend (Sat 19th) we had a great day. Lots of activity alongside a parish working party. Weeding, mowing and strimming were undertaken. Unfortunately we still cannot provide lunch, although chocolate brownies and cake were brought along! Thanks Bettie and Marj.



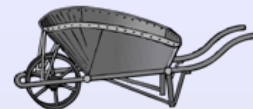
The 'wild' area of the churchyard is looking really good, lots of wild flowers, insects and birds (I spotted a pied wagtail the other day.) Visitors to the churchyard have commented on the diversity we have created. The plan will be to cut back the vegetation in autumn to allow it to regenerate in the spring.

However, enjoy a stroll through the area, there are paths to allow safe access, pick up a leaflet in church which has a prayer walk, take your time, and reflect on 'God's acre'.

Mike Lightfoot



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.

Next are: **17th July** and **14th August** - 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

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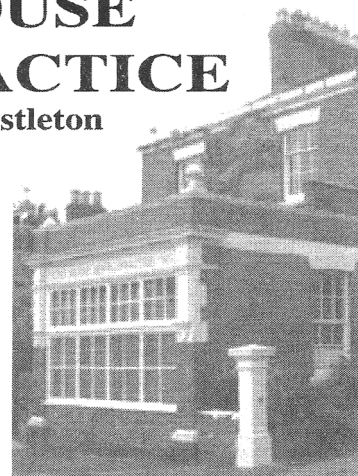
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