

THE CHRISTLETON

Parish Magazine.

2021.

NOVEMBER.

PARISH CONTACTS:

RECTOR:

Rev'd Dr Stefan Collier

The Rector is on sabbatical and cannot be contacted until 1st December 2021. Please contact Rob below.

ASSISTANT CURATE:

Rev'd Rob Croft Tel: 01244 683926 / 07745 624323
robcraft@hotmail.co.uk

(Rob's day off is now usually Saturday each week)

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

The next & last issue of this magazine for the time being will be for December 2021.

Deadline for content: **Friday 19th November 2021.**

COMMERCIAL ADVERTISING:

John Eccles

Tel: 01244 336355 jeccles46@sky.com

DISTRIBUTION & SUBSCRIPTIONS

Joce Platel

Tel: 01244 332466 chrisandjoce@hotmail.co.uk

This magazine is free via the St James' Church website and via the Christleton Village website. In general it will not be 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.

The editor always welcomes feedback and contributions - thank you.

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>



St James' Church

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

NOVEMBER 2021



**Free online from the church
website and in full colour.**

**Printed Black & White copies
available from the Church at: 50p
to cover printing costs.**



Photo: David Cummings



REMEMBRANCE:

November is when we remember those who have died in the service of this nation. On Sunday 14th a few minutes before 11am we shall once again gather around the memorial (subject to Covid guidance) to remember them and lay wreaths of poppies, before continuing in to the church for the remaining part of the service. We hope you will join us.



LOOKING BACK:

Have you noticed the cover? It is also a form of remembrance in that this was the design back in 1875 when this monthly magazine was launched. I've tried to replicate the old fonts, but they are not exact. Readers were charged 2 shillings a year (10p) but because costs were 'considerable' they were encouraged to give a trifle more or to take extra copies. (Ed.)

Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness! Close bosom-friend of the maturing sun;



So begins the Ode to Autumn by Keats, one of my favourite poems when I was studying A Level English Literature back in the dark ages. Autumn has been a bit slow this year, the colours are now changing but at least the trees are laden with berries. If

folk lore is right the berry laden holly bushes mean we are in for a severe winter – or it could just mean that the conditions this summer were particularly good for growing berries.

Autumn, particularly November is also the season of remembrance. Technically All Saints' Day is on the 1st when we celebrate Saints' past and present. Don't forget St Paul calls anyone who is a Christian a saint, not just the famous men and women who have done amazing things.

All Souls Day follows on the 2nd when we remember and give thanks for all those we have loved and who have died. This year we are celebrating All Saints' on the 31st October in the morning and All Souls' in the evening of the same day.

The rhyme exhorts us to 'Remember, Remember the 5th of November' but the reason for burning guys on bonfires is now seen as somewhat dubious. Still, we enjoy the fireworks.

Then of course we have the 11th and Remembrance Sunday which follows, when we wear poppies and lay wreaths in gratitude for our hard won freedom. I wear a poppy not only to remember my grandfather who died in 1918 but also as an expression of gratitude that I am free to choose to wear it.

All of these events allow us to perform communal 'Acts of Remembrance' which are important in the life of any community.

There are ways however of performing similar acts as individuals and privately. There is a very real need for many to do so. Some people just come

into church (St James' church is open every day) to sit and remember and maybe light a candle. Some visit the grave yards and memorial gardens. Have you ever heard of 'Prayer shawls' I wonder? This entails knitting a shawl and with each row knitted saying a prayer for someone or remembering a loved one who has died. It is a form of meditation in a way. The resulting shawl doesn't acquire any special properties but is literally a product of prayer and love. A simple act of remembrance.

Any article could be used in the same way of course. For gardeners, working in the garden is a place to think and remember. How about thinking of someone for every bulb that is planted? And when they appear in the spring remember also God's redeeming work in his Son, the resurrection and the promise of eternal life.

A significant act of remembrance is carried out in churches of every denomination week by week, Sunday by Sunday and that is in the Communion Service. We remember that on the night before he died, Jesus took bread and wine, blessed them and gave them to his disciples and said 'do this in remembrance of me'. In taking part in this service we remember and affirm not only that Jesus died but that he rose again and is alive today.

Elizabeth Inall

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 these difficult and uncertain times due to the impact of the Covid pandemic. More and more people are finding 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. I am delighted to share that the contribution from St James following the Harvest Festival was an amazing 125 kilograms of food.

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.

In part, food is distributed in pre-packed boxes sufficient to provide meals for 3 days either from one of the centres or directly to peoples' homes. As restrictions have been eased, however, there is more opportunity for an increase in engagement with people on a face-to-face basis in several centres. Monetary donations are very useful as they can be used to buy what is needed and at a discounted rate for bulk purchase.

Each month you will find an updated list on the collection box at the back of church of the items that are in short supply as well as those not

currently required. Often these tend to stay much the same but of course any contributions are more than welcome,

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

THE END OF CDN:

'CDN' is the Chester Diocesan News. It is of course a newssheet published by the Diocese and can be obtained online or as a printed leaflet.

In past years it was included as extra pages within our A5 size Parish Magazine, but there was a cost involved and it was dropped. After that we very occasionally had a few copies of CDN in church.



The diocesan Director of Communications, Jim Butterworth, says: "The CDN has been a well-loved publication for decades but in recent years it has seen a decline in readership. Sadly, the pandemic forced us to switch to a digital-only publication (*as indeed the Parish Magazine had to do*) and we're not confident that we could switch back and attract the kind of circulation numbers that would make it a good long term solution."

So, the Diocese is now discontinuing CDN altogether after the December edition. So if you want to know what is going on in the diocese then you need to use other electronic means to find out.

Not so easy! (*Ed.*)

OUT OF THE LISTENING SESSIONS:

At the second of our listening skills sessions a couple of weeks ago we did an exercise on 'first impressions' and the judgement we so easily make about people. We looked at pictures of people and were asked what our immediate impression of them was. How would we describe them? – happy, sad, thoughtful, alarming, friendly or unfriendly etc? What name would we give them? and what occupation would we expect them to have? (according to one member of the group almost everyone of the images we looked at looked like a teacher!)

And that set me thinking about just what judgements we make about people every day. What assumptions do we make about social and living standards just by looking at the way someone is dressed or by hearing an accent? What assumptions do we make about someone's experience or expertise when we only have half the story, know only part of their history? It's so easily done. When I was a Physiotherapist I remember treating a frail old gentleman who couldn't walk without help and who didn't always make a lot of sense. But when I delved a little deeper I discovered he had been an athlete in the 1928 Olympics! And there was another frail elderly member of my congregation in one of the churches I have worked in who walked with a frame and spoke with difficulty; she had been a national Ballroom dance champion with her late husband.

But such judgments are not confined to the elderly, far from it. One example that I experienced is that because when I moved to a rural parish I had come from a town ministry I wouldn't know anything about rural churches. But step back from that last town post to the one before and I had had responsibility for three tiny rural churches, the smallest of the villages had a population of 100 and the largest of 590. Take a step further back in time and I lived in a village when I was growing up. Moving to rural ministry to me was coming home!

Sometimes it has to be admitted that our preconceived ideas colour our judgement even before we meet people or risk entering into something new. And then of course we use those

preconceptions to justify our views. I've lost count of the number of times people have told me that they don't go to church because it is boring and uses old fashioned language, when they have never actually been inside a church or not in the last fifty years or so!

Everybody we meet has a history, has a story to tell. Everybody we meet is unique in God's eyes so let's take time to get to know people, *really* get to know people before we make any sort of judgement about them. And that means taking time to listen.

Our thanks to Mall Hattersley from the Diocesan Counselling service who led our sessions. The participants not only enjoyed the sessions but hopefully feel better equipped to listen to others.

Elizabeth Inall



Elizabeth Inall with Mal Hattersley who ran the listening sessions in church for us.

MAD, BAD, SAD, GLAD

Well, what was that all about in our listening session? It was homework from session 1. Being a clever-clogs I created a long list for each - over 100 words that meant the same or was related to 'bad', 74 for 'sad' and so on. As the group started reading their lists a lot of obvious ones were not on mine. Oh well! The English language is very rich in words and with so many synonyms having subtle shades of meaning and varying degrees. It shows that we need to understand people who say things in different ways. (Ed.)



HARVEST ON THE ALLOTMENT:

Mike & Tina Lightfoot kindly opened up their allotment to allow the 'traditional' Harvest Thanksgiving Service. Music was provided by Huw and Richard so we could sing harvest hymns. A good crowd of us thanked God for the harvest and for our food. Afterwards we drank hot soup and ate cakes which were homemade and quite delicious.

IN LINE FOR A BOOST:

Recognise this? Vicars Cross shops near the URC church. This queue went all the way to the far corner beyond the pharmacy. What was the attraction? Covid booster jabs!

The news said there was a slower than expected take up of boosters, but nothing slow here - they were jabbing like there was no tomorrow - in/out, in/out..... and they had a moment to give a smile, a sticker and say thank you.

Reassuring. (Ed.)



MUSEUM OF THE MOON:

A 7 metre diameter moon by Luke Jerram in Wells Cathedral as an art installation. It's there until 3rd November before going to Bath Abbey.



BAH!
You're going the wrong way!

Photos supplied by Martin Thompson



Luncheon Club

Tentatively we restarted Luncheon Club on 18th October. We called it a 'Trial Event'. A tricky task of contacting those who came before the pandemic, and inviting them back, to gauge numbers so we could maintain proper Covid precautions and plan the catering and serving.

Well, it was pushing at an open door. About 45 people attended altogether and it was a wonderful experience. An uplift in well-being as friendships were renewed. The simple lunch of homemade soups (two varieties), roll & butter and followed by cakes and tea or coffee was well enjoyed.

Of course Covid infections are on the rise again as we approach colder weather, so we are currently debating the way forward. Even though we ask people to be cautious there are those who cannot resist acting normally - and that's the risk that we are trying to manage. Ventilation, masks, hand sanitising, etc., are still required.

Unless we or the government decide otherwise, we shall continue with simple lunches each month. Next on Monday 15th November and something with a Christmas flavour on 20th December. So watch out for details. (*Brian Inall*)



*Sadly, three of our pre-pandemic regulars are no longer with us and they are in our thoughts: **June Driver; Joan Eaken; Dr Raman Rao (shown right). Rest in Peace.***



Luncheon Club Advised Protocol

Our team met to review our Trial Event (see above) and to discuss future lunches. We want to reassure those attending, hence the following "rules" are to be followed for all our safety. This is of course still subject to change if government guidance alters.

Ventilation is vital. Windows and doors **WILL** be open although we hope to help avoid draughts. Please ensure you wear something warm as colder days approach. The heating will also be on.

All those coming should wear a mask on entry, and also when moving about. Once seated, and of course for eating, this may be removed. Therefore mixing is relatively limited to one table of 8.

Helpers will wear masks when serving and moving about.

Helpers have also agreed to ensure to have done a recent negative lateral flow test before attending. This should further reduce the risk – feel free to do likewise.

All should sanitise hands on entry and also when appropriate as each table will be sharing, eg: water jug, etc.

If people are offered a lift, it will be expected that all in the car wear a mask and be aware of the need for ventilation.

Although you do attend at your own risk, we are trying to make this provision as safe as we can as we believe it is important for all our general well-being. **We hope to see you there!** (*Liz McClure*)

The Ark Play and Praise Toddler Group

**We meet every Friday morning
(term time)**

**Where: St James' Parish Hall
Time: 9:15 to 11:00 am**

**No need to book a place,
just come along
Refreshments (for grown-ups)
provided**

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

Lighthouse Club

**Sundays 10.15 – 11.30 am in the Parish Hall
Lighthouse Club is for children aged 5-10**

Senior Lighthouse

Sundays 5pm – 5.45pm Online

**Senior Lighthouse is for anyone year 7
and above who wants to discover more
about Jesus and being a Christian**

**For more information please contact
Tina Lightfoot on
tina.lightfoot@googlemail.com**

St James' Church is pleased to invite you to an:

EVENING WITH PHILIP

Featuring the talented violinist:

PHILIP CHIDELL

ON

Friday 12th Nov '21

7 for 7.30pm - in St James' Church

£10 each including a welcome drink. Raffle.

(Fundraising for the Parish Hall.)

Tickets: Christine Abrams (tel: 01244 335562)

Sharing God's Love

ST JAMES' CHURCH, CHRISTLETON



Creative Christmas Wreath Making



SAT 27th NOVEMBER 2021
10am to 2.30pm in Christleton Parish Hall

Sharon Nolan from NADFAS will be demonstrating, teaching and helping us make a Christmas wreath and a table decoration. A light lunch will be included. Tickets £20 each include the materials needed, refreshments and lunch. Covid precautions will be observed and you may wish to bring a mask. Spaces are limited, so please book early.

Tickets from Christine Abrams (Tel: 01244 335562)

[Fund raising for the Parish Hall]



CONTACTS DETAILS FOR REGULAR PARISH HALL ACTIVITIES

Luncheon Club	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 Club Yoga/Massage	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 Ballroom 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
Mark's Cookery School/Lunch	Mark Evans	07462 248227	markjjevans@hotmail.com
Fitness Class	Anne-Marie Ball	07715 571481	amefit247@gmail.com
Saturday Painters	Kevin Sparrow	07905 914328	sparrow.kevin@sky.com
Lighthouse Sunday Club	Tina Lightfoot	07557 352592	tina.lightfoot@googlemail.com

CHRISTLETON PARISH HALL - REGULAR ACTIVITIES

Information provided by Maria Norbury - all details are subject to change. Note that times are the times for the hall booking and may not exactly match the event timings.

MON	Luncheon Club Yoga Monday Painters	8am – 3pm 6 – 7pm 7 – 9pm	Monthly 3 rd Monday Weekly Weekly – term time
TUE	Baby Club Cheshire Yoga Baby Club Cheshire Massage Maths GCSE small group coaching Yr 10/11 English GCSE small group coaching Yr 10/11 Aspirations Ballroom Dance	9:30 – 10:30am 10:30 – 11:30am 3:30 – 4:30pm 4:30 – 5:30pm 3:30 – 4:30pm 4:30 – 5:30pm 6 – 9pm	Weekly Weekly Weekly – term time Weekly – term time Weekly – term time Weekly – term time Weekly
WED	Clinical Pilates Clinical Pilates Maths GCSE small group coaching Yr 10/11 English GCSE small group coaching Yr 10/11 WI RSPB meeting History Group	9:30 – 10:30am 10:30 – 11:30am 2:30 – 3:30pm 3:30 – 4:30pm 2:30 – 3:30pm 3:30 – 4:30pm 6:30 – 9:30pm 6:45 – 9:45pm 6:45 – 9:45pm	Weekly – term time Weekly – term time Weekly – term time Weekly – term time Weekly – term time Weekly – term time Monthly 2 nd Wed Monthly 3 rd Wed – not May to Aug – from Jan 22 Last Wed Jan Feb Mar Sept Oct Nov
THUR	Fitness Fusion Pilates The Christleton Painters Aspirations Ballroom Dance	9:15 – 10:15am 10:30am – 3pm 7 – 9pm	Weekly Weekly – not May to Aug Weekly
FRI	The Ark Toddler Group Mark's Cookery School/Lunch	9:15 – 11:30am 11:30am-2:30pm	Weekly – term time Weekly
SAT	Fitness Class Saturday Painters	9:15 – 10:15 10:30am – 1pm	Weekly Alternate Saturdays
SUN	Lighthouse Sunday Club Refreshments after 10:30am church service	10:15 – 11:30am 11:30am	Weekly Weekly

St James' Church Calendar NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2021:

THE ST JAMES' CHURCH BUILDING IS OPEN.



The Church is open daily and available for private prayer and a place of peace. Covid restrictions are relaxed but we shall still be taking some Covid precautions in church - eg: hand sanitising, masks, etc. We are also keeping the North Aisle pews marked up to retain social distancing for those wanting that. The remaining areas are fully open, but we suggest that you only sit closely with those in your household. We are always reviewing the situation but wish to remain cautious.

For Communion we are only receiving in one kind. That means a wafer only and not the wine. The good news is that we're singing again with words on the screens, and for some services we have Shirley playing the piano. We are being asked to sing with masks on, which isn't good, but is necessary at the moment. We now share the Peace, at distance!

THE SUNDAY PATTERN IS:

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

10:15am: Lighthouse Club in the Parish Hall.

10:30am: Holy Communion in church.
Our main family service.
Refreshments after in Parish Hall.

Sat **6th November:** 10.30am.
Churchyard Working Group.

Sun **7th November:** 3rd before Advent.
8:00am & 10:30am Worship in church.

Fri **12th November:** Concert in church with
Philip Chidell. See ad on page: 9.

Sun **14th November:** Remembrance Sunday.
8:00am Worship in church.
10:50am Starts at the Memorial, then moves
into church just after 11am.

Mon **15th November:** 12.30pm: Luncheon Club

Sun **21st November:** 1st before Advent.
Christ the King.
8:00am & 10:30am Worship in church.
We welcome Barbara King, leading at 10:30.

Sun **28th November:** Advent Sunday.
8:00am & 10:30am Worship in church.
4:00pm: Christingle Service in church (tbc).

Sun **5th December:** 2nd Sunday of Advent.
8:00am & 10:30am Worship in church.
(Could be a toy service, tbc.)

Mon **6th December:** 10.30am: WI Carol Service.
Refreshments after in church. Open to all.

Sun **12th December:** 3rd Sunday of Advent.
8:00am & 10:30am Worship in church.

Sun **19th December:** 2nd Sunday of Advent.
8:00am & 10:30am Worship in church.
6.30pm: Service of Lessons & Carols

Mon **20th December:** 12.30pm: Luncheon Club.
Simple Christmas lunch. (tbc)

Fri **24th December: Christmas Eve.**
4pm: Crib service for the very young.
7pm: Carols Around the Tree.
11.30pm: (Midnight) Communion.

Sat **25th December: Christmas Day.**
8:00am & 10:30am Worship in church.

Sun **26th December:** St Stephen, Christmas 1.
8:00am & 10:30am Worship in church.

Sun **2nd January 2022:** Christmas 2.
8:00am & 10:30am Worship in church.

Sun **9th January 2022:** Epiphany.
8:00am & 10:30am Worship in church.

- 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 via Zoom. More details from Liz McClure.
- Fridays:** 9:15am - 11:00: The 'Ark' Play and Praise Toddler Group in Parish Hall. Term time only. Further details from Tina Lightfoot.
- Sundays:** 10.15am - 11.30: Lighthouse Club for primary age children in Parish Hall.
5:00pm - 5:45: Senior Lighthouse online.

NOTE: As usual all arrangements are subject to change.

Whilst Stefan is away on his sabbatical, until the beginning of December, please contact our Assistant Curate, Rev'd Rob Croft, or the churchwardens, or our Parish Administrator. (See 'Contacts' on page 2)

THE FUTURE OF THE PARISH MAGAZINE

In March this year I first announced to the church's PCC, and later to the Annual Meetings, that I would be giving up running the Parish Magazine. I would give up at the end of this year after the December edition is published. That is what will happen. I need time to do other things. Despite some approaches and discussions with various people there will be no-one to take over the magazine at the beginning of 2022. Therefore, sadly, it will stop for a while until other plans are made. *Brian Inall.*

Special services and events coming up:

Fri 12th Nov - Concert in church. Philip is a great violinist and entertainer. Tickets from Christine Abrams. See ad page 9.

Sat 27th November - 10am in the Parish Hall our Wreath making demo and workshop with lunch. Tickets from Christine Abrams. See ad page 10.

Sun 28th November (4pm) - our Christingle service for The Children's Society. However there is some discussion as to whether we can do it safely within Covid rules, so look out for more details.

Sun 5th Dec - Possible toy service at 10.30, but like the Christingle service above we are checking how to do it within the rules. Otherwise it will be our regular service. Please check for details. However this is the first Sunday back for our Rector Stefan after his sabbatical. Give him a big welcome.

Sun 19th December - 6.30pm: our traditional service of (possibly 9) lessons and carols.

Mon 20th December - Luncheon Club will be putting on a Christmas flavoured simple lunch, or perhaps an afternoon tea. Something festive at any rate. Check for details nearer the time.



A Christingle

THE FRIENDS:



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

MEETINGS IN THE PARISH HALL

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.

Wed 10th November - 7.15pm

AGM followed by Danielle de la Wonk on travels and street performance in Chile.

Monday 6th December - 10.30am

**WI Carol service in St James' Church
Followed by refreshments in church.**

Contacts:

Elizabeth Inall

Telephone 01244 336500

Chris Orgill

Telephone 01244 335163

WE WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

CHRISTLETON PARISH HALL



It's been business as usual at the hall since September. Almost all regular activities have returned along with some new ones. Since Covid restrictions have been lifted, it's now up to users to decide how Covid-cautious they want to be.

All the details are shown in the tables on pages 10 and 11. In addition, there has been a considerable increase in enquiries for occasional bookings, particularly parties for children and other celebrations, so don't delay getting your enquiry in if you're thinking of using the hall.

If you wish to make an enquiry, you can view the live Parish Hall Calendar and complete a Parish Hall Contact Form at www.stjameschristleton.org.uk – look under the Parish Hall drop down menu – or 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:

GARY STUART Died: 17th September 2021 aged 87 yrs
Northrop Crematorium & Memorial Service at St James: 4th Oct 2021

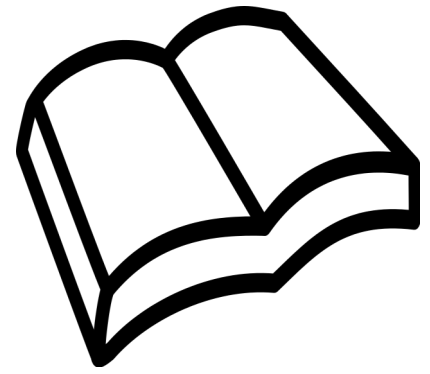
GEOFFREY TILSON Died: 25th August 2021 aged 88 yrs
Burial of ashes at St James: 10th October 2021

NORMA BURGESS Died: 18th December 2020 aged 89 yrs
Burial of ashes at St James: 26th October 2021

BAPTISMS:

ALEXANDER CLARKE at St James on 21st November 2021

ERIN BYRNE at St James on 12th December 2021



WEST CHESHIRE FOODBANK:

URGENT - More donations required now.

Please donate non-perishable food and leave at the back of the church into the Foodbank box. A list of items particularly needed (and items not needed) is available, or look it up on the foodbank website:

<https://westcheshire.foodbank.org.uk>

Thank you.

(See Chris Alderton's article on page: 4)



David's 80th Generosity

In fact, there are very many more than 80 generosityes of David Cummings as we must all be aware.

However, on this particular one, "The Friends of St James" have been the recipient. For David's wonderful birthday celebration, 9th Oct, not only did a large number of the community gather for a lovely evening, well wined, dined and entertained but the gifts for his birthday were to be directed to The Friends of St James' Church.

David, please accept very, very many thanks from the Trustees of The Friends.

(Liz McClure)



Christleton Local History Group **Winter Season 2021**

Please note our new e-mail address:

davidberyl80@uwclub.net
(please don't use the old address)



A Big Thank You

David & Beryl thank all our friends in the village very sincerely for all the good wishes we received to celebrate David's 80th Birthday and the Award of the BEM. We are delighted to say that we have been able to donate a sum of almost £1400 to "The Friends of St James' Church"

Christleton Local History Group
Wednesday 24th November 7.30pm
All Welcome

Rise and Renaissance of Liverpool by Ken Pye The Story of a World Class City.

Ken Pye is Managing Director Discover Liverpool and its City Region. He is a writer and broadcaster and is well known for promoting the city through his own research, creating films, books and DVD's. He has a passion for the city, with expert knowledge and insight. He is an excellent speaker and we are delighted to welcome him to Christleton.

Advertisement:

David & Beryl Cummings
present

A Charity Talk in memory of Ronald Birks.
Saturday 20th November 2021
Christleton Parish Hall at 7.00pm
"Christleton Celebrates".

(A photographic journey looking back at many of the events celebrated in the Village on National & Local occasions.)

Light refreshments

Tickets Free from David - 01244 332410

or from the back of Church

Donations welcome for Prostate Cancer Research
David Cummings (Chairman)

HARVEST FESTIVALS

This month I feature some images of Harvest Festivals taken in the village. The earliest written records come from the Parish Magazine of 1875, when every harvest was celebrated by the whole village, especially the farming community. It was a time when the whole community helped to gather in the crops. Children were expected to do their bit and half terms were created for this to happen. October was time for children to help gather fruit and vegetables, and there are lots of stories of children falling asleep at their desks they were so tired. The first picture we have of Harvest at St James was taken by Reg Morgan in 1907, and the



church building was decorated to celebrate the feast. This was still the time of Canon Lionel Garnett who had done so much to promote gardening in the village, creating the Village Show, Rose & Flower Festivals and Garden trails. He offered prizes to try to promote his ideals, and there is no doubt that the act of Worship for Harvest was deeply felt by the community. Everyone came, and the church would be full to the "rafters" There were displays of wheat, corn, barley, fruit & vegetables etc, but I don't think Christleton went in for creating and displaying lots of corn dolly's as in other Cheshire villages.

The Harvest loaf was always the centre of the village display, and several examples are shown, usually made and donated by Janet Brown, and the example of the Primary School Harvest loaf is shown with the two Joanne's holding the loaf. One



was the miller's granddaughter, and the other the baker's daughter. Notice the harvest mouse appearing at the bottom of the loaf.

to be able to grow some of our own food, and not rely on expensive imports from all over the world.

David Cummings

Tradition is everything in Church Communities, and although the way of celebrating has changed it still has a powerful meaning in our Village. In the 1970's onwards the food gathered in and donated was distributed to older members in the community in the form of harvest parcels, or bunches of flowers. The Primary School children during my time as Headteacher donated tins and packets, fruit and vegetables, flowers and posies and the whole school walked to church to celebrate harvest. They sang lots of harvest songs and read their poems, and this was always followed by the Church Festival on the following Sunday. All the produce was divided up on the Monday morning and teams of parishioners visited almost every home possible to distribute the bounty to the older members of the community.

PS: A full version of this article with illustrations is to be found on www.christleton.org/christleton4 October; Christleton in the Past

JAYS AND THE SEASON OF FRUITS & FUNGI:

Although the weather has been somewhat overcast of late, there are lots of wildlife activities taking place in the countryside. Jays have been prominent everywhere, seemingly collecting acorns to store for the winter months. These shy colourful birds are almost unmistakable with their distinctive colouring, and are even more remarkable when seen from above, with bright blue patches on their

Nowadays the emphasis at Harvest is on bringing tins, packets, and other non perishable goods to distribute to the Food Banks or Save the Family. The church is still beautifully decorated and Harvest celebrated as it has been in this community for at least 150years, and most likely more. There is also a service of thanksgiving at the Allotment at Boughton Heath thanks to Mike & Tina Lightfoot where young people from the Crew Youth Group have led the service. These pictures illustrate the joy felt by people in the community on such occasions. I guess that Canon Garnett's original ideals really have much to offer us all for the future,



wings, with a white rump. They are quite shy, but are seen in good numbers in the autumn around the village especially where there are lots of oak trees. They breed in deciduous and coniferous woodland and occasionally visit bird tables when food is scarce. Their flight is also recognisable as

they seem to glide through areas with little undulation, with rare need to flap their wings. They have a raucous cry or call, sounding like a 'krah, krah'. Look out for kingfishers on the canal. Several have been seen on the canal recently, and these colourful fast flying birds are often missed because they are so small. Look out for them on branches of trees anywhere along the canal between Waverton and Christleton lock, almost always on the side opposite the towpath. Swallows seem to have finally left on their long migration journey about the first week in October.

Several families from the village have told me about the colourful fly agaric mushrooms appearing in their gardens. This is the best time of year to see them, and the most prominent place in the village



favourite being "chicken in the woods". This sulphurous yellow bracket fungi is usually found high up on trees, and seems to grow bigger as the season progresses. The one shown was photographed on oaks at Hockenhull Platts.



Finally my picture of the month has to be the kestrel I photographed whilst enjoying a walk to Hilbre Island. Many people will know that I've not been too well of late, and I've not been able to take my camera with me due to the weight. On this occasion I did and came across this hovering kestrel as we were leaving "Big Eye". It was hovering into the wind and had no inkling that I was standing underneath watching. As a result I was able to take three or four good pictures before it glided to another spot where it has sensed some prey.

David Cummings 2021



where they appear is behind the Library Van lay-by in Quarry lane. These colourful toadstools are the ones illustrated in children's books, but they are poisonous and shouldn't be picked or eaten. There are lots of other varieties of fungi to be seen, and field mushrooms often appear in the fields towards Littleton and even in the churchyard. One of my favourites is the sooty inkcap, and these too are very common around the village, and on fields in Boughton.

There are small puff balls appearing near hedgerows, but the biggest I've seen is illustrated by young ladies from the Primary School back in the 1970's. The one illustrated was found in Woodfields. There are lots of bracket fungi to be seen almost anywhere in the Parish, often on dying or decaying oaks and silver birch. My particular

HALLOWE'EN

As Hallowe'en comes round again there are those who look forward to Hallowe'en parties and having a bit of fun and those who are less enthusiastic especially in the light of the 'tradition' recently imported from across the Atlantic of 'trick or treat',

witches in pointed black hats, ghosts and pumpkins. In the past there has been a tradition in Scotland, Ireland and the North of England of children going round to neighbours houses to perform a song, dance or poem and receive a gift of fruit or nuts. Incidentally did you know that in America it is the householder who decides whether the young caller is given a trick or a treat? –is it a sweet wrapped up or maybe a stone or piece of wood?

So what is Hallowe'en all about? It has its origins in Celtic times when the festival of 'Samhain' was the time to celebrate the end of the summer and possibly the harvest and of course the beginning of winter. The main celebration included lighting bonfires and dancing and it is thought there may have been ceremonies to chase away the wicked spirits.

Samhain was traditionally on the 31st October/1st November and was celebrated well into the medieval period. When Christianity came to this country many of the pagan Celtic festivals were 'Christianised' and used to celebrate the Christian calendar. Hence November 1st is now All Saints' Day and the 2nd is All Souls day.

Another name for All Saints' is All Hallows and the day before All Hallows – October 31st is All Hallows eve – or Hallowe'en. It is interesting how many of the ancient rituals of Samhain are still around today. Did you know that at the heart of the Celtic Otherworld grows an apple tree whose fruit has magical properties? Old sagas tell of heroes crossing the western sea to find this wondrous country. At Samhain, with the apple harvest in, games such as apple-bobbing were played to reflect the journey across water to obtain the magic apple. Traditions such as lighting bonfires and apple bobbing have now transferred to November 5th as well.

Where it gets confusing and uncomfortable for many is the mixing up of these ancient traditions with the more recent resurgence of interest in witchcraft and the occult. There is nothing whatever either harmless or fun in messing around with the occult. There is no such thing as harmless fun in playing with Ouija boards, Tarot cards or séances. They are dangerous and there are countless accounts of people who dabbled with them as a bit of fun being seriously

damaged mentally by it. Make no mistake it is dangerous to court evil.

Hallowe'en is a bit of a hot potato for many Christians. Many are not happy to hold a celebration at this time of year and many do not like their children to be involved with Hallowe'en events. Some churches hold 'light parties' to celebrate the fact that it is the eve of All Saints' much as Christmas is celebrated on Christmas Eve. Focussing on ghosts, demons, the devil and wizards is usually uncomfortable for Christians because they represent a reality – the real world of the occult, and sometimes its active presence in our communities. However one of the 20th century's most prominent Christian writers and theologians, C.S. Lewis, included witches in his Narnia Chronicles which have since become popular children's classics and are seen as a powerful allegory of Christian truth.

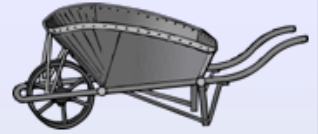
It is for everyone to decide for themselves what they consider is right to celebrate and to allow their children to take part in. Dressing up and having a bit of fun is one thing, but as I've already said courting evil is something else and we have to be very clear where the dividing line is.

Elizabeth Inall



(Any likeness to anyone living or dead is purely co-incidental !)

Churchyard Maintenance



During this pandemic it wasn't easy to arrange Churchyard Working Parties although, with grateful thanks, the work by the Community Payback Team and by volunteers has restarted and the churchyard is all the better for it. It now has an intended mix of tidy and wild areas.

We are now organising working groups again. Please come along.
Next dates are: **6th November** and **4th December** - starting at 10.30am.

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

GORDON BROWN

PLUMBING & CENTRAL HEATING (Christleton) LTD

Gas Safe Registered
Boiler replacements / repairs
Central Heating Installations
Plumbing Alterations and
repairs

Sandiway, Plough Lane
Christleton, CH3 7BA
01244 335785

devaprint ltd

ESTABLISHED 1984

- WEDDING STATIONERY • NEWSLETTERS
 - BROCHURES • MENUS • POSTERS • INVITATIONS
 - FUNERAL STATIONERY • NCR BOOKS, SETS & PADS
 - BUSINESS STATIONERY and much, much more...
- CARD PAYMENTS ACCEPTED FREE LOCAL DELIVERY

Tel 01244 314 849 Mob 07546 276 575 Email enquiries@devaprintchester.co.uk

www.devaprintchester.co.uk

Sutton House, Guilden Sutton, Chester CH3 7EY

SPACE TO ADVERTISE YOUR BUSINESS

Contact our advertising
manager: John Eccles
(see contacts page)

Drakes Haircutters

of Christleton

Ladies & Gents Salon

Mon: Closed
Tues: 9.15 - 5.00
Wed: 9.15 - 5.00
Thurs: 9.15 - 8.00
Fri: 9.15 - 6.00
Sat: 9.00 - 3.30
Sun: 11.00 - 3.00

Discount for new clients—bring this ad.

Holly House, Village Road,
Christleton, CH3 7AS

Tel: (01244) 332660 www.drakeshaircutters.co.uk



Artichoke

Café Bar Bistro



*"relaxed and friendly
service combined with quality food
and drinks"*

Great coffee, fabulous food,
Brilliant beers and wonderful wines

www.artichokechester.co.uk

The Steam Mill, Chester

Ring O' Bells

Christleton

The Ring O' Bells is a welcoming Cheshire pub combining high class food with the finest wines and beers. Venue is available for christenings, weddings and funerals.

Regular events & offers...

Coffee AM - Monday to Saturday from 9am, pop in and enjoy our fabulous coffee or loose leaf tea and some delicious sweet treats or something more substantial from our brunch menu.

2 for 1 Burgers Every Monday enjoy 2 for 1 Burgers. Buy one of our mouth-watering burgers and get another one free of charge!

2 for 1 Pizzas Every Wednesday enjoy 2 for 1 Pizza. Buy one of our fabulous homemade hand stretched stone baked pizzas & get another one free of charge!

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

Tel: 01244 335422 Email: info@ringobellschester.co.uk

Address: Village Rd, Christleton, CH3 7AS

ROCK HOUSE DENTAL PRACTICE

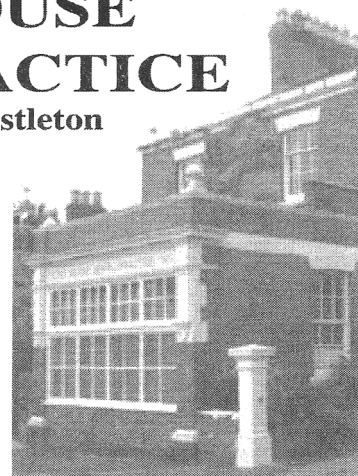
Village Road, Christleton

Damian Murphy

B.D.S. D.G.D.P. (UK)

and Associates with hygienists

- ☐ All treatments available adapted for the disabled
- ☐ Special interest in cosmetic and preventative dentistry
- ☐ Implant dentistry



www.rockhousedentalpractice.co.uk

01244 332162

digital

AIRON SERVICES

01244 346722

- Repairs to TVs, DVDs, digiboxes, videos
- Set-ups and re-tuning
- Satellite and aerials
- All work guaranteed
- 30 years experience

Mark Lloyd
Laurel Grove, Hoole, Chester
Tel: 01244 346722



Call
me for
free
advice

HOME-HEAT Solutions

Gas & Oil Heating Services

Gas & Oil Boiler Replacement Specialist.
Heating Design, Installation & Repair.
Boiler Service & Breakdown.
Gas Safety Inspections.

WORCESTER
Accredited Installer

BOSCH

01244 349044



www.homeheatsolutions.co.uk

We are delighted to welcome to Willington Hall Hotel our new **Head Chef, Gareth John** to manage our kitchen, oversee our menus and work with our talented team to create wonderful, tasty dishes for our customers to enjoy.

Why not come and sample our Lazy Sunday Lunch and our lovely Cheshire Afternoon Tea?

Tel: 01829 752321

or

Email: info@willingtonhall.co.uk

Willington Hall, Willington Lane, Tarporley, CW6 0NB

 **WILLINGTON HALL**



David Joinson Quality Meats



- ◇ Award Winning Butcher
- ◇ Prize winning sausage maker
- ◇ Supplier to the catering trade

**125 Christleton Road
Boughton
Chester CH3 5UQ
Tel: 01244 325614**

**15a Market Hall
Chester CH1 2HH
Tel: 01244 323716
mobile: 07783318670**

DavidJoinsonQualityMeats@outlook.com

More than just a care home...
...your home

We believe comfort is the key to creating a home-from-home atmosphere and we pride ourselves on the quality and variety of our facilities and services. From our comfortable facilities to our individualised person-centred approach to care and well-being, we are passionate about making those staying with us feel at home.

Birch Heath Lodge offers luxurious, five star accommodation in the beautiful surroundings of Christleton. Providing nursing, residential and respite care.

For more information and to book your virtual care home viewing please telephone 01244 434321

Residential Care | Nursing Care | Respite Care

Birch Heath Lodge Care Home
Birch Heath Lane, Christleton, Chester CH3 7AP
Tel: 01244 434321 | birchheath@mmcg.co.uk



Birch Heath Lodge
Maria Mallaband
www.mmcg.co.uk

Mitchell Group

It's our people who make the difference



**Mitchell Group, Stanney Mill Lane,
Cheshire Oaks, Chester CH2 4RG
Tel: 0151 346 5555 www.mitchellgroup.co.uk**



Sundays – At home with the family

**Jennie's Catering
OF CHRISTLETON**

Every Occasion Catered For:

*Canapes
Buffets
Finger Buffets
Afternoon Teas
Dinner Menus
Freezer Orders*

Waiter Service as Required

**For Help and Friendly Advice
Contact:**

**Jenny Adam: 01244 330090
jenniescateringofchester.com**