

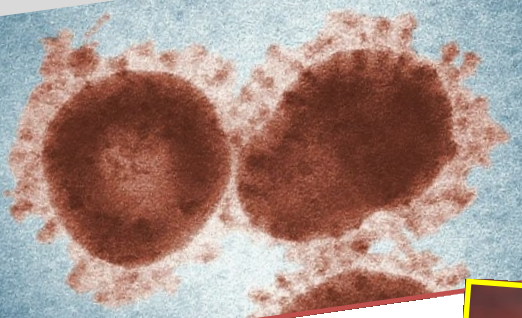
PARISH MAGAZINE - APRIL 2020

Sharing  God's Love
ST JAMES' CHURCH, CHRISTLETON

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

**Free on-line
Edition**

Covid-19



Floods (Worcester)



Locusts in Africa



**Spring,
Hope,
New Life
and the
Risen Christ.**

Alleluia!



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The Magazine subscription is currently £6 per year and runs from April to March. Subscription are now due, but during this Covid-19 crisis magazines will be free via the website and will not be printed and delivered to homes. Subscriptions paid will be carried forward until normality is restored.

Please tell others how to find the magazine. You may print it out yourself if that is helpful.


Thank you for reading our magazine. We hope you enjoy it. Feedback is always welcome so please let the editor know what you think about the magazine. Contributions are welcome and more details about this are available from the editor.

The church website not only carries the current issue but also back copies of this magazine and much more information and news about what is happening at St James' Church in these difficult times.

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

EDITORIAL:

Time for another editorial I think!

During the preparation of this magazine the Covid-19 (Coronavirus) situation has been fast moving making much of the preparation and submitted content to go out-of-date rather quickly. Especially with the Church of England's announcement by the Archbishops on 17th March that all public worship and gatherings were suspended, and the government's advice for over 70s and other vulnerable people to self isolate for at least 12 weeks. The church calendar is now empty.

The easy way out, maybe, was to abandon the magazine as no longer viable. What can we write about & how do we distribute it safely? However, we are losing so much 'normality' at the moment that I felt it important to try to put this together. Deliberately this issue covering Easter is trying to be upbeat wherever it can without pretending that nothing is wrong.

Therefore, some of the articles may appear out-of-date, which they are, but are nevertheless worthy of inclusion.

Various on-line systems exist, or are being setup, to allow people to worship and follow the Easter season without actually gathering together. Of course, the BBC will broadcast services. We have created a pastoral care

network for our parish community, details of which may be found on our website, and see ad on back cover. There are other community help systems being put in place which you will be able to access.

For those 'trapped indoors' (like me) the phone is the best therapy. Just pick up the phone and chat to someone. It is appreciated and can make such a difference.

In the film Robin Hood Prince of Thieves the Sherriff of Nottingham says in a rage: '... and cancel Christmas.' It looks as though this year Easter is cancelled, but of course only the public worship at Easter is cancelled. The 'Good News' message of Easter is still there. Alleluia! Christ is risen. Let us continue to celebrate.

We will review what we do with the Parish Magazine in future months. It will go directly onto our website for a while. To this end we ask

IF YOU USE EMAIL, then could you please email me with your name and address (so we know who you are on our delivery round lists). This would give us the option of directly emailing you regarding the magazine, or a link to the magazine, if this was needed.
(email me on: **brian@inall.co.uk**)

Keep well, and keep chatting. Brian (Editor)

SIGNS OF HOPE



I'm not sure where we will be as a community of nations when you read this.

At the time of writing, the Covid 19 pandemic has recently been declared. Increasingly countries, across the globe, are imposing strict containment strategies with a view

to halting the spread of the virus.

There is, understandably, rising fear and anxiety as to what the future holds. There are also signs of great hope, signs of sacrifice.

The sacrifice of our governments and its leaders as they seek to manage and alleviate the impact of the virus. The sacrifice of our health professionals as they put themselves in harm's way to care for those who are sick. The sacrifice of our scientists, who I know, will be working relentlessly towards understanding the virus and producing a vaccine in the future. The sacrifice of

our neighbours who are spontaneously offering to support those in need. We, I am sure, are thankful for all of the sacrifices being offered by so many at this time.

In a short while, the church will celebrate Easter. One side of its climax is Jesus' death on a cross, about which Rowan Williams reminds us. The cross is a sign of sacrifice which gifts us and God's world peace, re-establishing relationships between God and each other. The cross is a sign of victory, captured as Jesus cries 'It is finished'; the work is completed. A work foretold in John's gospel (12.31-32): "now is the time for judgement on this world; now the prince of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself". Jesus' work of gifting us peace was completed then at that point in time and space, and is also being completed now.

For me, this is also revealed in the signs of sacrifice we are seeing and experiencing around us now at this time of national crisis. These join with Jesus' cry 'It is finished'; the work is completed. They point to what is so often hidden and constrained deep within us, and yet reveal who we truly are. A community of beloved sons

and daughters of God who God is with, and where peace triumphs.

This, I believe, gifts us hope. For as St Paul writes in his letter to the Romans (8.38-39): “For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.” The love of God which Jesus’ death on a cross proves.

With my especial love and prayers,

Stefan

PASTORAL LETTER 20 MARCH 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We are living in unprecedented times.

Countries and their communities are increasingly closing down in order to mitigate against the spread of the Coronavirus (Covid-19).

There is, understandably, widespread fear and anxiety in our communities as we begin to adjust to the changes demanded of us and the impact they will have. At the same time, there is a ground swell of loving responses from our communities, not least, from the key workers who, in many cases, are putting themselves at risk to help others. Thank you.

This, I think, can gift us great hope - for it points us to the truth that love is greater than darkness and death, as I am reminded by one of the Bible verses that keeps recurring to me at the moment: “For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.” And, of course, we will celebrate Easter, albeit in a different way, shortly. The empty tomb of Easter day, another reminder that death has been overcome.

This, of course, does not mean life is going to be easy for us in the short term. We know it won’t be, but we may be encouraged that Jesus understands and can help us amidst our struggles - “because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.” Rather, our “suffering produces

endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us”³. This hope will change our church and I suspect our nation forever.

Therefore, it is with great hope that I write to you now. To let you know about our immediate priorities, of which three have emerged simultaneously.

First, service.

A couple of days prior to the decree 17 March from our Archbishops to cease public worship we established a pastoral care network (PCN) for our parish community, this includes all church members but also anyone who lives in our parish.

It is designed to be light and responsive. People can either phone Marjorie on 07487 642912, email office@stjameschristleton.org.uk, or complete one or both of the web-forms, pastoral care support form and self isolation form, found at <https://tinyurl.com/qo7v6ez> to offer (become a supporter) and/or receive help (a person in need).

What sort of help? Things like receiving regular phone calls and/or emails in the ensuing months, delivering shopping or medication, spiritual resources, and helping with pet care, e.g., walking a dog. Once registered, phase 1 of the PCN will match supporters to those who need help, based on, e.g., their needs and geographic location. The supporter will receive an email and/or phone call with the first name, phone, and or email of the person in need. The supporter will then make contact with them, and the relationship will continue organically.

The PCN may then evolve as required. A graphic explaining the process is on our website.

May I encourage all church members please to use the PCN to ensure we love one another through this crisis, and share our love with those about us. As it stands today, the early afternoon of Friday 20 March we have around 40 people who have already kindly offered support to our community (a large fraction of which are from the wider community – which is a huge blessing, thank you). It is anticipated this might support up to 120 people already.

Second, prayer.

The church remains open, (*not now—Ed.*) during daylight hours, for the community to use for private

prayer. In the time ahead, we will look to create methods (or ways) by which people may be helped to encounter God through the church building. Our life of prayer will continue uninterrupted. This is absolutely essential, and I would suggest necessary for the days ahead.

The pattern of our daily prayer will not change. Daily morning prayer, Monday to Friday, will continue to be said by myself in the church (*not now—Ed*), and given official advice, which I have not even officially received yet, potentially with a few others that I am able to invite – all the while observing best practice health advice.

There will be links to this morning prayer office, midday prayer, evening prayer, and compline (Night Prayer) available on our website in order for you to join with us should you wish. I hope many of you will. The time will be as advised on our website. Further, I have tested using the Jitsi Meet app (available for Apple and Android phones and home computers) for video conferencing, and this gives us the future possibility of praying together in the same virtual space, albeit likely within our respective homes given, e.g., bandwidth requirements and no internet connection in the church.

The Eucharist will also be celebrated every Sunday in the church by myself. Either alone or with potentially one or two others according to the aforesaid advice received. It will be offered for the whole people of God, for the whole parish, and for the wider community. A simple set of Sunday worship resources will also be offered for your home use through our website weekly, in addition to a suite of spiritual resources that will be aggregated in time. Please be patient with us for it will take some time to establish a pattern here, but I am confident we will.

This Sunday 22 March we are encouraged by the national church to place a lighted candle in one of our home windows as a visible symbol of national unity and hope of the light of life, Jesus Christ. A reminder that “what has come into being in him [Jesus] was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.” It would be good for us to do this please, and perhaps, among the other prayers we might make, pray together the prayer the national church has offered at 7pm.

“Keep us, good Lord, under the shadow of your mercy. Sustain and support the anxious, be with those who care for the sick, and lift up all who are brought low; that we may find comfort knowing that nothing can separate us from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.”

Third, instruments of community.

We have put in place a number of tools to enable us to continue to be a community, albeit one that likely will not be able to meet together for a time. Of particular note is the following.

We have established a way of meeting together in small numbers using the Jitsi Meet app/software I mentioned earlier. This will allow, e.g., the parochial church council and its sub groups to meet if required, thereby offer leadership at this time of crisis.

We have established a way of conducting secure one-to-one meetings using the Signal App/Software. This allows both audio, text messaging and video calling. It may be used, and/is available for any private pastoral consultations required that, e.g., are not possible to conduct in peoples homes.

We have set up an e-newsletter software solution that will enable us to keep in differentiated contact, support, and resourcing with members of our community and beyond in the months ahead. You will in the coming week or so be able to subscribe to these different newsletters directly from our website.

We are, as alluded to above, working on producing a set of hardcopy and electronic spiritual resources for the community's use.

We have established protocols for keeping the church and parish hall as clean as possible.

As it stands today, after a week of frantic activity, I am confident that we as a church community have the beginnings of a way forward that will ultimately deepen our bounds of fellowship with one another and the communities we have been sent to serve. Let us listen and be responsive to where the Spirit desires us to go, and let the love of Christ cast out our fears.

As I close, I am reminded of the disciples being locked together in a house, in fear, post the trauma of Jesus' death and the apparent end of life as they knew it. For many of us, an echo of our time now. Then, “Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit...”

May we too receive God's Holy Spirit afresh, and “the

peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard [our] hearts and [our] minds in Christ Jesus.”

If you need to contact me, please use the details below. Meanwhile, be assured of my love and prayers now and always,

Stefan

Rector: Revd Dr Stefan Collier

STEWARDSHIP – what IS this all about?

The management of all our church resources.

For me, this includes caring for, using our time, our gifts and indeed a proportion of our money to support the work of the church.

What IS the work of the church?

Stefan always puts it so much better theologically but in my simplicity it includes preaching, teaching and worshipping. Most of all pastoral care. This last could be interpreted as caring for our flock, our community in the most holistic sense, in particular the spiritual welfare of the people we serve. I seem to remember reading about healing the sick and loving one another?

Having carried out pastoral care of my patient flock for 40 years, I have had a change of role in retirement into that of treasurer! The result is you are regularly exposed to my gramophone record of stewardship requirements, particularly on a financial basis.

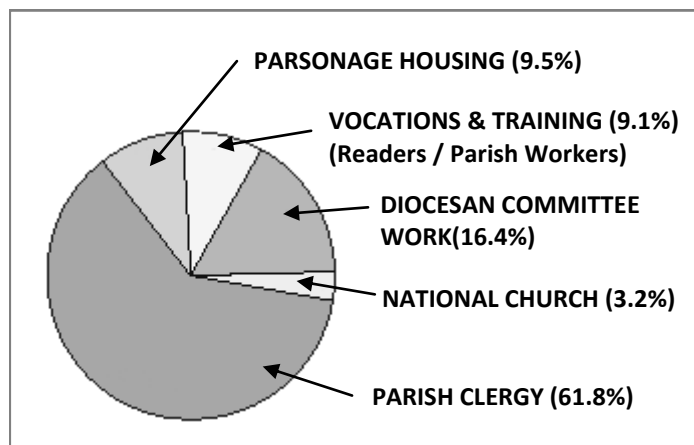
Included elsewhere in this magazine is a copy of the stewardship flier sent already to 5000 homes with the A41 magazine, asking for help in the stewardship of our church, our outreach, our buildings, our churchyard.

Sadly despite every effort in cutting expenses and the work of the last stewardship campaign, our regular income still does not fully support the required expenditure to keep us ticking over. To an extent this is because as a relatively prosperous parish we are asked to pay 1.25 times the standard parish share. From my calculations reviewed in a previous article I recollect that our regular giving and donations only equated to 1 parish share, not 1.25 but that may be a later discussion!

What IS this parish share that we have to pay each month to the Diocese and what is it used for?

I show a pie chart of this year’s expenditure predictions

from the diocese.



Hopefully this demonstrates that by far the greatest proportion is spent on our clergy. This basically means that 1 unit parish share equates to the provision of one full time member of the clergy. Well, I personally think that this is a great gift – who would be without our Stefan?! I do occasionally disagree with him however.....

In my personal experience as an officer in the church, we have benefited from the legal, financial, organisational, pastoral and educational expertise available in the Diocese. I also feel quite favourably about the Diocese as they have “written off” our non payment from a few years ago of over £5000 – that was my New Year gift, a bit late for Christmas.

Well, I have just told you of my own experience but I would also like to say how very much I have valued this church family, their friendship and support over the last 30 years. This includes all the “facilities” previously mentioned.

Could it be that some of you feel the same?

I would therefore ask you to consider how best you might respond to this stewardship initiative?

The options are many, but may include the following:

- 1) An offer of help with our activities – via the rector or churchwardens.
- 2) A possible increase in the regular giving within your ongoing blue envelope scheme
- 3) Starting regular giving via the blue envelope scheme
- 4) Perhaps a one off financial donation?
- 5) You may wish to consider leaving a legacy to the church in your will
- 6) My favourite would be starting or increasing regular giving by standing order direct to our PCC bank account.

Thank you for tolerating my gramophone record – I firmly believe it really matters!

I should be delighted to hear from you to clarify any questions or concerns or to provide further details.

Liz McClure—PCC Treasurer

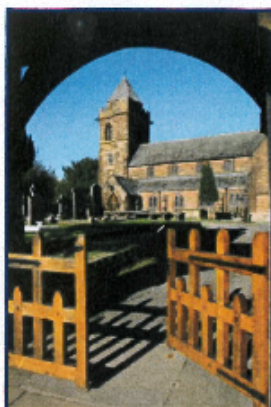
(Note: This was written before Covid-16 struck and everything was stopped.)

With this crisis and closure of the church, finances for St James' Church will get a good deal tougher.

You can give by bank transfer or better still by a bank Standing Order during this period to help keep the church afloat. If you do internet banking you can probably do this yourself on-line. If you are currently giving via weekly or monthly envelopes a Standing Order is a good alternative. The church account is: Christleton PCC, sort code: 09-01-52, account 98319705 and the reference should be your name. Clearly we recognise that you too may have money difficulties during this time, so the decision is yours of course. (Ed.)



1831



2020



2031

St James Parish Church, Parish Hall and Churchyard

The centre of the village community,
the icon of the village, the history of the village

The beginning (Baptism), the middle (Weddings)
and the end of life (Funerals and the churchyard)

YESTERDAY, TODAY, but will it be TOMORROW?

All these facilities for the community are paid for
by voluntary contributions to the Church

Will you help us maintain this special place for the parish?

Our current maintenance and expenses are not met
by our income, despite every effort.

Will you help with a regular payment or a one-off gift?

Contact Liz McClure, Treasurer,
01244 409414
elizabeth.mcclure070@gmail.com
Treasurer, c/o Rectory, Birch Heath Lane, Christleton CH3 7AP

THE RULE OF ST BENEDICT:

The Lenten course at St James' this year was a series of five lectures (*sadly only 2 before cancellation—Ed*) given by Stefan on the Rule of St Benedict. Each lecture lasted about thirty minutes and was followed by discussion and refreshments in the Lady Chapel. The lectures were grouped under the following headings; St Benedict and his Rule. Prayer. Stability. Listening. Change. The lectures moved away from the usual house or church discussion groups we have previously had in Lent.



I suppose it was no surprise then, that Stefan chose the Rule of St Benedict as a Lenten topic as he is a Benedictine Oblate.

The word Oblate is from the Latin Oblatus, someone who has been offered. Many Benedictine communities have a number of secular Oblates. These can be clergy or lay people affiliated in prayer with an individual monastery of their choice, (Stefan is an Oblate of Alton Abbey in Hampshire) who have made a formal private promise to follow the Rule of St Benedict in their private life at home and at work as closely as their individual circumstances permit. They are considered as an extended part of the monastic community.

So, what is this 'Rule' all about? Firstly, a potted History. The exact time and place at which St Benedict wrote his Rule is not known. Somewhere about 530 may be taken as a likely date and Monte Cassino in Italy as the probable place, as the Rule reflects St Benedict's matured monastic and spiritual wisdom.

The entire document is composed of 73 short chapters, less than a hundred pages in total. St Benedict called it 'a little rule for beginners' Written for a collection of serfs, scholars, shepherds and nobility, essentially a motley group of would be monastics!

In the prologue Benedict said he intended to prescribe 'nothing harsh, nothing burdensome' for his followers. His approach to seeking God was both sensible and humane.

The issues addressed in the Rule can be applied to life in the world outside the monastic community. The qualities which make up a valued life- humility, patience, simplicity, solitude, caring for others and living in and being part of a community concern everyone.

Benedict tells his monks and nuns that a balance of prayer, work, study and renewal is their way, that Divine Office is their work (opus dei) and the vows of Stability, Conversion and Obedience are their commitments.

Stability refers to the importance of community and commitment in life. For a monk or nun it refers directly to the monastery where they will live the rest of their life. For us we can make our vow of stability to our families, to our church to our local and global communities and to our fellow pilgrims along the journey of faith. Stability also concerns our current environmental crisis, for when we remain committed to the earth we learn how to be good stewards of that which God has given us.

Conversion of life to a monk or nun reminds them that everything they do is from, for and with God and that God converts us continually. For us conversion is an ongoing process One that helps us walk continually in the presence of God. Benedict tells us we must keep our hearts and minds open to the ways God is moving us. An open heart is one that allows balanced practices of prayer, work, study, hospitality and renewal to illuminate the way God is working within us and within the world.

Obedience comes from the Latin word for listen. The practice of attentive listening is the foundational to the Benedictine Rule of Life. Benedict states that everyone in the community needed to listen to one another. However, it is the Abbot who has to make the decisions in the end, and he must be obeyed. Obedience can entail a healthy sense of humility and of respecting and following the guides, leaders, teachers and fellow travellers who are guiding you on your path towards God.

After Benedict's death, Barbarian hordes would overrun Europe and the survival of Western Civilisation would be called into question. Benedictine monasteries with their message of balance, moderation, stability, hospitality and stewardship were credited with the preservation of Western culture.

Benedict was named patron of Europe.

And finally, Benedictine values are as necessary today as they were in the sixth century. The Rule of Benedict remains a powerful alternative, another way of viewing life.

‘ Let them prefer nothing whatever to Christ And may he bring us all together to everlasting life’.

Rule of St Benedict 72: 11:12.

References:

1. The Rule of St Benedict. Friends of St Benedict.
2. The Benedictine Way of Life. Sr. J M McClure OSB.
3. Rule of St Benedict. New Advent.
4. The Rule of St Benedict. Translation by Abbot Parry OSB.
5. Wikipedia. The Free Encyclopaedia.

Mike Lightfoot.

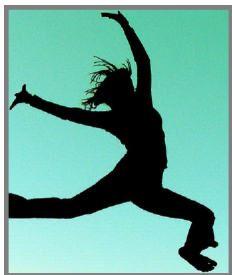
FROM THE REGISTERS:

Even in normal times St James’ Church does not see a lot of Baptisms and Weddings. Just the one baptism in March, but unlikely to be any for a while now. Please pray for Aoife & her family.

Baptism: Aoife Newport on 1st March 2020



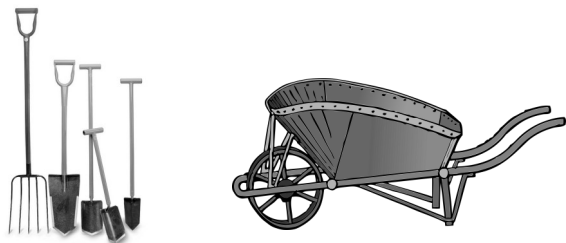
THE CEILIDH 29th Feb 2020



If you came you’ll know that it was a great success. I guess it was the last social event before this shut down, so we must fondly think on it.

Thanks to Hannah and the band and those who produced and served the food. The total surplus funds came to £862 after costs and this was passed to our very grateful treasurer!





Churchyard Maintenance

This regular monthly working party is not currently meeting. However, you are very welcome to come along individually, at any time, to help tidy the churchyard and be joyous in God's amazing creation.

Thank you.

**More details from Mike Lightfoot
Tel: 07787 421357**



CHRISTLETON PARISH HALL

Available for :

Meetings, Parties, Functions, etc.
The Hall has wheelchair access and specially adapted facilities.

Our Parish Hall Bookings Secretary is
Maria Norbury: Tel: 01244 335499.
maria_norbury@btinternet.com

You can also make initial enquiries and bookings via the church website.

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

CHRISTIAN AID

Christian Aid Week starts on

Sunday 10th May.

There will be no House to House collections this year, but there is just as great a need for generous support from us. Keep tuned to the St James' and Christleton websites for further details of how to contribute this year.

Donation can always be made via their website: **www.christianaid.org.uk**
Thank you.

(More info from Chris Platel—tel: 332466.)



Weekly Home Discussion Group

NOT CURRENTLY MEETING.

When it does eventually resume it will be THURSDAYS (not Tuesdays)

More info: Chris Platel (Tel: 332466)
or Elizabeth Inall (Tel: 336500)

St James' Church Calendar

APRIL—MAY 2020:

There are no church services or Parish Hall activities (including Lighthouse and the Ark) for the foreseeable future until the Covid-19 crisis is over. There is no calendar therefore.

THE CHURCH IS CLOSED: The building is locked.

MORNING PRAYER:

Stefan will pray the daily office, and celebrate the Eucharist every Sunday in private, and in accordance with the national church guidelines.

CHURCHYARD WORKING GROUP:

This is no longer an organised event during the crisis. It is assumed that the Community Payback team will not be working. Guidelines suggest that no-one can justify working in the churchyard, even on their own, since we are limited to one short period of exercise (walk, cycle, etc) per day. Talk to Mike Lightfoot for more details. (See ad in this magazine.) It is inevitable that the churchyard will become overgrown and that a massive catch-up will be needed later in the year. In the meantime perhaps an improved haven for wildlife!

All the above is subject to change!

THE REGULAR PATTERN OF SERVICES:

Until the current crisis, the regular pattern of Sunday services was:

9.00am: Holy Communion (with choir)

10.45am: Morning Worship, with communion on 3rd Sunday in month.

Also at 10.45am the Lighthouse group for 5 to 14 year olds. In Parish Hall. Starts and ends in church.

Also various services at 4.00pm.

Holy Communion at 10.45am on Wednesdays.

The Ark at 9am every Friday in term time in the Parish Hall.

HOWEVER—during this Covid-19 crisis all this is suspended. When possible this pattern will be re-introduced - no doubt with overwhelming joy and relief and a fanfare of praise!

CHURCH ANNUAL MEETINGS

The annual meetings, including the main APCM, that was scheduled for Sunday 26th April in the Parish Hall is of course now cancelled. At some stage we'll be told whether it will be rescheduled or completely cancelled.

THE INVALID CAR

My article last month on Bubble cars reminded me of another Vehicle I was involved with. About 1965 I went on an advanced driving course organised by Cheshire police. On completing the course I took the Institute of Advanced Motorists' driving test and became a member. Some time later I was asked if I would join a group of members formed to teach people to drive invalid cars. We would pick up our pupils from their home and take them to Clatterbridge Hospital where the cars were kept. We would then accompany them whilst they drove round the hospital grounds for an hour or so. The photo shows the instructors and two cars. (and me!)

The cars were three wheelers, two at the back and one at the front which was driven by a two-stroke Villiers engine. The car was steered by a tiller which had a twist grip throttle and a hand brake another lever changed the gears. There was no reverse gear but as a two stroke engine will run backwards, to reverse the engine was stopped and started in reverse giving the car three reverse speeds. The regulations allowed only one person in the car, so the instructors had nowhere to sit, we either squatted on the floor or, as I did, sit on a small stool. When the pupils showed that they could control the cars they were allowed to take them home.

Quite frankly the cars were death traps. Because of one person occupancy they were tall and narrow and the one wheel at the front and two at the back made them unstable. I once saw a young woman driving with verve rounding a corner on two wheels, skilful driving but it shouldn't have been possible. Another time I was leaving the car park at work two cars behind an invalid car which drove out in front of an oncoming car. It was hit side-ways on and flew to pieces with bits of blue fibreglass strewn across the road. Fortunately the driver was uninjured.

There was a campaign to have them banned but this created a dilemma. We are talking about fifty years ago, there were no electric buggies or self opening doors, only wheelchairs either pushed or self propelled. The invalid car gave a freedom of movement, people could go to work or visit shops unaided [you could carry a wheelchair in the car]. The office opposite to where I worked was the Accounts, a man used to drive up to the door and go inside on two sticks. He could not have worked without the car. Eventually the cars were withdrawn and replaced by an allowance .

Ben Williams

(In the photo below, Ben is in the centre wearing the light jacket.)



The following prayers come from the CofE website. Please use them:

Prayers about the outbreak

Keep us, good Lord,
under the shadow of your mercy
in this time of uncertainty and distress.
Sustain and support the anxious and fearful,
and lift up all who are brought low;
that we may rejoice in your comfort
knowing that nothing can separate us from
your love
in Christ Jesus our Lord. **Amen.**

Lord Jesus Christ,
you taught us to love our neighbour,
and to care for those in need
as if we were caring for you.
In this time of anxiety, give us strength
to comfort the fearful, to tend the sick,
and to assure the isolated
of our love, and your love,
for your name's sake. **Amen.**

God of compassion,
be close to those who are ill, afraid or in
isolation.
In their loneliness, be their consolation;
in their anxiety, be their hope;
in their darkness, be their light;
through him who suffered alone on the
cross,
but reigns with you in glory,
Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

For those who are ill

Merciful God,
we entrust to your tender care
those who are ill or in pain,

knowing that whenever danger threatens
your everlasting arms are there to hold
them safe.

Comfort and heal them,
and restore them to health and strength;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

For hospital staff and medical researchers

Gracious God,
give skill, sympathy and resilience
to all who are caring for the sick,
and your wisdom to those searching for a
cure.

Strengthen them with your Spirit,
that through their work many will be
restored to health;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

From one who is ill or isolated

O God,
help me to trust you,
help me to know that you are with me,
help me to believe that nothing can
separate me from your love
revealed in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

For the Christian community

We are not people of fear:
we are people of courage.
We are not people who protect our own
safety:
we are people who protect our neighbours'
safety.
We are not people of greed:
we are people of generosity.
We are your people God,
giving and loving,
wherever we are, whatever it costs
For as long as it takes
wherever you call us.

NATURE NOTES:

including Monthly wildlife sightings.

A Christleton Swan appears at Salford Quays!!

I can start with excellent news this month, in that a male cygnet ringed at Christleton Pit in 2012, GREEN CDY6 was seen at Salford Quays Manchester on 19th October 2019. This is the first sighting of one of our cygnets that I've heard of for several years, and I have also been sent a list of other sightings of this swan during its lifetime.

It was ringed at Christleton 23rd August 2012 and seen at;

Hoole Canal 21st January 2015

Salford Quays 12th August 2015

Pomona Docks Manchester 24th January 2016

Crompton Lodges Farnworth 14th April 2016

Budworth Mere Northwich 12th August 2016

Pomona Docks Manchester 11th December 2016

Salford Quays Manchester 19th October 2019.



Other news this month is that a male peregrine falcon appeared in a local garden in early March. I'm sure many of you will have spotted a buzzard which seems to have taken a liking to the area around the "Cheshire Cat", being seen virtually everyday sitting on a telegraph post, or flying across from the area of Rowton Grange towards the canal.

I've also seen three kestrels in the parish in the last week, which is a great improvement on previous years. Several sparrowhawks have also been recorded, as have a pair of tawny owls, so the birds of prey situation is looking up. A water rail and at least two cettis warblers were heard calling at Hockenhull at the beginning of the month, whilst many redwing & fieldfare are still to be seen, feeding on the ground near the Sports Club, or on trees along Hockenhull Lane.

We've been delighted with the regular sighting of a pair of coal tits and parties of 8-12 long tailed tits on our bird feeders, and friends in Haslin Crescent report a superb male black cap in their garden a few days ago. I haven't heard a chiff chaff yet, or seen a passing wheatear or sandmartin, but I'm told that they are in the country and on their way to us.

Incidentally the Dee estuary is a great place to see wintering migrants at present, especially on an incoming high tide, and several recent visits have produced thousands of small waders along the tide line at Red Rocks & West Kirby, including oystercatchers, turnstone, dunlin, knot, sanderling, redshank, curlew, godwits and on one occasion at least a 100 ring plovers.

I was also delighted to see a flock of 600+ Brent geese, with several coming very close to the shore at Red Rocks to feed. I understand that this particular flock come from Iceland, and like the thousands of pink footed geese are coming to this area to winter in even greater numbers. As I haven't seen the geese* for a week or so I suspect that they have now flown back to Iceland and Greenland for the breeding season.

David Cummings

PS:

**Three skeins of the geese flew over yesterday so they haven't all migrated.*

THE HISTORY FILE APRIL 2020

Introduction

In the next few months I intend to highlight the lives of people from the past who have a connection in some way with Christleton Village.

The first is William Lawes who you will find died on the battlefield during the Battle of Rowton Moor in 1645.

It is hoped in the near future that the Church Choir will sing one or two items from his music repertoire, as he is a favoured composer of Music Director Hannah Williams. This is William's story.

William Lawes English Composer & Musician
April 1602- 24 September 1645.



He was Born on April 1602 Salisbury Wiltshire, the son of Thomas Lawes, a vicar choral at Salisbury Cathedral, and brother to Henry Lawes, a very successful composer in his own right. Thomas was apprenticed to John Copario which probably brought Lawes into contact with Charles, then Prince of Wales.

William and Henry received court appointments after Charles I succeeded to the throne. William was appointed "musician in ordinary for lutes and voices" in 1635, but had written music for the court before this. Lawes spent all his adult life in Charles's employ. He composed secular music and songs for court masques, as well as sacred anthems and motets for Charles's private worship.

When the English Civil War began in 1642 William joined the Royalist Army, and was given a post in the Kings Life Guards. During the siege of York he was living in the city and is said to have written a round "See how Cawood's dragon looks" a vivid and defiant response to the Parliamentarians capture of Cawood Castle some ten miles from York. Although his post with the Life Guards was meant to keep him out of danger, he probably was one of the 500 Life Guards who accompanied the King from Chirk Castle on September 23rd 1645 to bring support to the Chester Garrison. They entered the city from the west side through Handbridge and within two days were engaged with the forces of Parliament on Rowton Heath. William is said to have been "casually" shot by a Parliamentarian in the rout of the Royalists on Rowton Heath.

The battle had lasted about eight hours when the Kings troops led by Sir Marmaduke Langdale were caught in a classic pincer movement by the opposing army led by Colonel General Sydenham Poyntz, coming from the Whitchurch direction, with the added support of two reserve regiments led by Lt Colonel Michael Jones and

Col John Booth containing 500 foot soldiers and 350 horse coming from beneath the city walls. This reserve force coming fresh to the scene, poured devastating fire into the Royalist flanks. So much confusion was caused that the Royalist Infantry had great problems holding their line, and were in such a state of array, that about five o' clock they turned and retreated towards Chester. It was probably in this confusion that William Lawes was killed.

Some of the remaining Royalist troops fled towards Holt and Farndon, I guess heading back to Chirk, others towards Flookersbook and the city. Here they met another Parliamentarian detachment led by Capt Childley Coote and the Salop Horse, and with the arrival of Colonel General Poyntz on Hoole Heath with his successful army, a final stand took place. The Royalist troops had been caught in the same trap that they had planned for their enemies that same day. The remnant of the Royalist forces then rushed to get into the city via the Northgate, the only city gate open to them. The King issued orders to Lord John Byron the Governor that the city was to hold out for eight days, and if help hadn't come they were to surrender to save lives and damage to property. He then left the city under cover of darkness across the Old Dee Bridge towards Hawarden and Denbigh. Some reports say that 800men were slain at Rowton, and 1,500 men and 2,000horses taken. "William Lawes the composer and Bernard Stuart the Earl of Litchfield were among those killed". Although the King was in mourning for his kinsman Bernard Stuart he instituted a special mourning for Lawes, apparently honouring him with the title of "Father of Musick". William Lawes body was lost or destroyed and his burial site is unknown. It is almost certain that it lies somewhere on the battlefield site at Rowton.

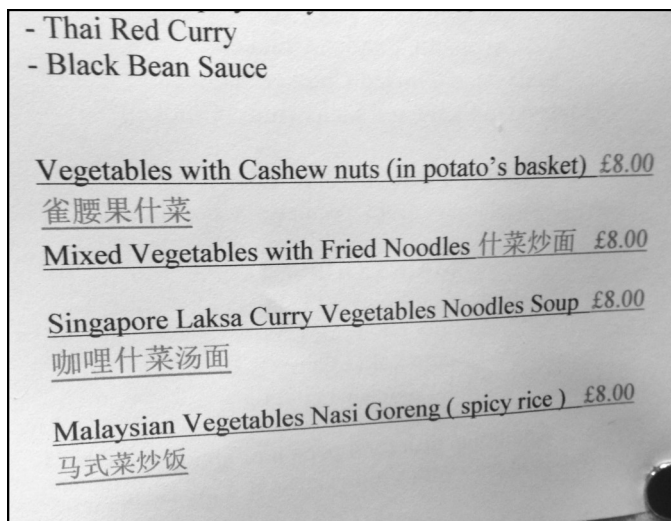
David Cummings



Punctuation (see last month's magazine)



Whose key? perhaps



"in potato's basket"

Both of the above
kindly supplied by
Martin Thompson.

CHRISTLETON 'VIRUS' CANCELLATIONS

Wed 8th April:

Christleton WI. This and all meetings cancelled until further notice.

Sat 25th April:

The Council Open Morning in the Parish Hall at which St James' Church would have participated is cancelled.

Fundraising Supper & Concert by Philip Chidell. Cancelled. No doubt this will be re-arranged.

Sunday 17th May:

Beating of the Bounds for Rogation Sunday. We await to hear formally, but most likely to be cancelled.

Looking further forward, the following are also in doubt:

Sat 20th June: Jig Saw Jazz evening.

Sat 27th June: Christleton Fete.

Sat 11th July: Christleton Show.

More information in due course.

Congratulations

To Judy and Michael McGarva

who celebrate

their Golden Wedding Anniversary

on the 15th April, 2020.

Judy and Michael were married at St. James'
Parish Church, Christleton.

Love and best wishes from all their friends in the
village. (Dorothy Checkley)

THE RULES OF CRICKET EXPLAINED:

To some folk, especially foreigners from those countries that were never pink on the map, the game of cricket is a complete mystery. Here is a well known explanation that may help:

You have two sides, one out in the field and one in. Each player that's in the side that's in goes out, and when they're out they come in and the next person goes in until they're out. When they are all out, the side that's out comes in and the side that's been in goes out and tries to get those coming in, out. Sometimes you get players still in and not out.

When a player goes out to go in, the players who are out try to get him/her out, and when he/she is out they go in and the next player in goes out and goes in. There are two people called umpires who stay out all the time and they decide when the players who are in are out. When both sides have been in and all the players have been out, and both sides have been out twice after all the players have been in, including those who are not out, that is the end of the game.

That's great—it really is a help to get good information expressed simply!

(Ed)



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

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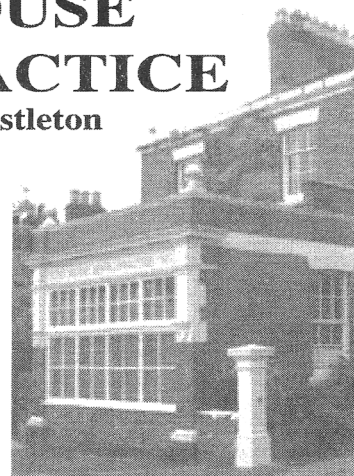
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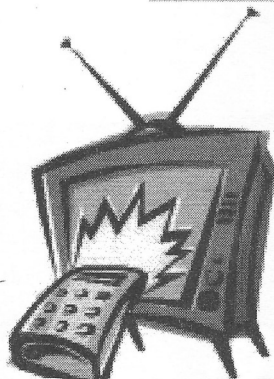
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Responding to Covid-19...
The Parish of St James Pastoral Care
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Email: office@stjameschristleton.org.uk
Register to offer and receive support @
<https://www.stjameschristleton.org.uk/index.php/about-us/covid-19>

During this crisis a new system has been rapidly created and is in place called the Pastoral Care Network.

You can go to the St James' Church website, under 'About Us' and 'Covid 19' to find out more, or key in the link on the poster (left) and submit on-line forms to offer or request help. You can also phone the office and talk to Marj (or leave a message) on: 07487 642912, or email.



St Benedict

See the article on page 8




"Woman Worshipping" (left) depicting hands raised in praise. Especially appropriate for the Risen Christ at Easter. **Alleluia!**

Artist and magazine reader Jo Hartley has sent us this image of a painting of hers. You may remember another painting of hers in last December's magazine in a similar vein.



The Foodbank is still operating and needs your contributions. Please talk to Mike Lightfoot (07787 421357) to find out how.

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