



# PARISH OF ST JAMES

*servicing the communities of Christleton,  
Cotton Abbots, Cotton Edmunds, Littleton  
and Rowton*

**August 2018**

**50p**

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## Churchwardens' Update



*Tina Lightfoot*

I predict the summer of 2018 will live long in the memory.

The England football team did better than expected in the world cup! Who'd have thought it? The country dared to dream that we could get to the final and plans were hastily rearranged in order to watch the match. All to no avail! In case you've been living on another planet, we were beaten in the semi-final.

Then there has been the weather. It has simply been amazing (that's if you like long hot summers). At times it has been too hot and for the first time any of us could remember we made the decision to hold our annual flower service INSIDE church because of the heat. Many of us would love this hot dry spell to continue, especially if you've only just broken up from school, but we do need

rain of course. Please spare a thought and hold in your prayers all those whose livelihoods depend on good harvests as the cold wet spring followed by a hot dry spell has made this a difficult time for many.

Back at home we have been busy continuing with parish life. Our weekly services continue along with baptisms, wedding and funerals. The sick are visited and prayed for and all our other parish activities continue. All this is possible because we are blessed with a fantastic team and our thanks go to all those who continue to work tirelessly to ensure that when our new rector arrives our parish life will be healthy and thriving. During the vacancy we are grateful to Elizabeth and Gill for taking the majority of our services, but we have also had the opportunity to experience and enjoy worship led by other priests within our deanery. Our grateful thanks go to all those who have ensured that the worshipping life of our faithful community has continued.

As previously mentioned, our annual flower service was held within church due to the heat. The Rose Queen, Jessica and her retinue joined us for the service. Jessica, one of our Crew Youth Group members did a reading and Daniel another member of Crew did the second reading. With a Crew member as Rose Queen and several of her retinue members of Messy Church, it had a lovely family feel to the service and it was great to see so many of our Messy Church families there. The theme of the service was 'boats'. Elizabeth put our biblical knowledge of boats to the test. On the whole, we acquitted ourselves quite well. As part of the service we processed around the churchyard placing flowers on graves. This year, David Cummings had placed wooden crosses at the graves of those who had fallen in the Great War as we particularly want to commemorate them in this centenary year. Following the service, we enjoyed a shared picnic (held in the parish hall).

We appointed our new rector at the start of this glorious summer of course and he is due to start his ministry with us on September 13<sup>th</sup>. We will be having a special service on that day at 7:30 pm and everyone in the parish is invited to welcome Stefan and his family. We would love to see you there.

## **Parish Magazine**

**August 2018**

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**Thank you.**