

The St. James' Church  
**PARISH MAGAZINE**  
August/September 2021

Double Issue  
Free on-line and in **colour**

Printed Black & White  
copies from Church:

**50p**



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



Repair work on the Lych gate has been planned for quite some time, and now at last work has begun. See Bettie's article about it inside.



The ARK Play & Praise toddler group arranged a time of play with a parachute, balls, bubble making, and a picnic by the playground in the sunshine. Other folk came along in support. ARK has now stopped for the summer and will restart on 3rd September.

*Lovely Summer Weather!!*



## PARISH CONTACTS:

### RECTOR:

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## MAGAZINE:

### EDITOR:

The editor is: **Brian Inall**  
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This is a double issue, so the next issue of this magazine will be for October 2021.

Deadline for content: **Friday 17th September 2021.**

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For the present time this magazine will remain 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. Feedback and contributions always welcome - please contact the editor.

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### 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](http://www.christleton.org.uk)

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## BUILDINGS FOR MISSION

I was fascinated and thankful to stumble across Baruch the other day.

Baruch was the prophet Jeremiah's scribe or secretary, some 2600 years ago. He was forced into hiding, alongside Jeremiah, because of the prophecies he spoke against the Judean King Jehoiakim on Jeremiah's behalf, among them - how they were keeping up their religious observances but refusing to obey God.

His speaking up for God was causing him strive and discomfort, and as is understandable, he was a bit despondent. He longed, perhaps, for greatness of old, when he was a royal scribe, moving within and enjoying the corridors of power. A greatness that was eluding him as he served God through scribing for Jeremiah.

I imagine we can empathise with Baruch in different ways - who hasn't had the feeling 'the grass is always greener on the other side'. This though is not an option for us as the community of St James, for we are committed to stability, worshipping and serving the common good in this place, among and with the people of this place. It is this commitment to stability and service, I think (though I am open to the possibility of my delusion), that is leading us to offer our wonderful church building - all that we have - to you, its people. For in an important sense it is yours.

In a short while, and while I am away on my three month sabbatical, you will, I pray, see plans to extend the church, and replace the pews in the nave with the highest quality wooden chairs. Why? It's really simple. Because it returns this sacred space to be the heart of inclusive, everyday living with its glorious diversity of activities and relationships, as indeed it would have been in Medieval times. It is folly for your building, this sacred space, to sit empty for greater than 90% of the week.

I am under no illusions, this will be a long, hard, expensive, and difficult journey for us to take. But may I invite you to journey with us along the Way, seeking God's kingdom first in this place. In

embodying the truth the everyday is sacred, and we can rejoice in practising, noticing, and listening to the presence of God in the relationships which will flourish in a building that is truly open, alive, and accessible to all.

I look forward to seeing you again in a few months, assuming I am not ravaged by a wild animal while sleeping along some pilgrim route.

With my love and prayers,

*Stefan*

## THE CONTACTLESS TERMINAL:

For some time the church's contactless terminal has given the options of giving £5, £10 or £20. However the signs around it were out of date and still showing £15, but this is now being corrected. The small laminated cards in the pews are not yet updated, but will be eventually when I get 'a round tuit'.

Do please encourage people to use the contactless terminal for donations, or to use the donation facility on the St James' website, or best of all to setup a monthly bank standing order to the church, with Gift Aid of course. Do ask if you need help (*Ed*).



## WI-FI IN CHURCH:

This is now available to those who need to go online in church. Just ask the Churchwardens or the Rector for details.



## CHURCH TIMES & THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND:

Reading the Church Times, as I do, for 2nd, 9th and 16th July there is a lot of comment about the Archbishop of York's Vision & Strategy proposal to create 10,000 new worshipping communities (churches) by 2030 - these will be lay led in the main to revitalise the parish system and get around the current shortage of clergy. In that time they plan to double the number of children and young active disciples in the CofE.

There was also talk about planting 10,000 predominantly lay led CofE churches in the next decade envisaged by the Myriad project (from the Gregory Centre for Church Multiplication) led by the Bishop of Islington. Clearly focussed on increasing the number of children and young people in the church. The CofE is losing 5% of children and young people's attendance year on year.

Of course it was assumed that these were two descriptions of the same 10,000 new churches - but no! It was confirmed in the 16th July edition that these are independent projects that had come up with similar figures and therefore they are talking about 20,000 new churches in total.

These ideas/projects are set against the General Synod's plans to reduce paid clergy posts, and to rely more on lay leaders and unpaid clergy instead. A bit of a challenge, but it is early days yet. I'm sure the two projects, if they actually get going, will come together and overlap in some way.

Another hot topic:

In the 23rd July edition of the CT the issue of safeguarding in the CofE has again come to the fore. (Has it ever gone away?) Precipitated by the sad suicide of Fr Alan Griffin last year and a coroner's report into his death that has just been issued. The coroner has served notice both on Justin Welby & the Catholic Church requiring a response about preventing future deaths.

Fr Griffin was a gay priest in the Cof E who moved over to Rome, but was being investigated over allegations by the Diocese of London for child abuse which turned out to be unfounded and false. He was innocent, but the Clergy Discipline Measure (CDM) is heavily criticised for the way it operates. Other accused clergy have felt suicidal as their whole life crumbles and they are

suspended in isolation and kept totally in the dark for extended periods about the accusations.

A friend of ours in Hertfordshire many years ago suffered unfounded accusations which destroyed his priestly career, kept him in lengthy isolation, drove him to drink, broke up his marriage, and forced him from the vicarage he was in.

The General Synod is planning to review/replace the CDM, but unfortunately this won't be a quick process. They are urged to implement: *Disclosure* of the accusation to the accused; *Support* for the person accused; and *Speed* of dealing with the process.

*Brian Inall.*

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## DAISY'S ADVENTURES – PART VIII

Hello everyone

Well, here we are again with another month gone by and my most recent adventures to report on. I don't know where the time goes which I hear the humans saying all the time but I do agree with them, time flies when you're having fun.



I was very excited recently because it was Rebecca's birthday and we all went out for Sunday lunch at a local hotel. All, you might ask, yes, including me because the hotel were very happy to welcome small, well behaved dogs & that's a perfect description of me. As you know, I simply adore Rebecca and sat quietly under the table by her throughout the meal & nobody knew I was there. There were some very inviting aromas coming from the table and a little hand suddenly appeared holding a portion of something tempting to eat which was most welcome. It was done in such a way that nobody had any idea what she was doing because if my Mummy had realised she would have been very cross. The problem is that I've been put on a diet! Now come on girls we all know that diets are torture when you have a healthy appetite but I blame Sally the vet because when I last visited her with the eye problem she weighed me and I'd put on about 3lbs which she said was too much because I'm only a small dog and must not be overweight partly due to my long back. So, my two meals per day are now reduced by 25gms each and no treats are allowed! No treats – is life worth living but the

reality is that I have lost some weight and starting to get my waistline back, so I suppose it's worth it., but no treats ..... really!!!

Before the horrible wet weather we've been having recently it was very warm and sunny and we went to the beach several times mainly to get some fresh sea air in our lungs. I always know when we're going out because I recognise the signs of the travel bag coming out of the cupboard, the kettle being boiled to make a flask of coffee and my portable travel container which holds a drink in a bottle which is attached to a trough so that I can have a drink when we get there and that's when I get really excited. Graham picks us up in his big truck and I have to be lifted into it because it's so high off the ground that my little legs don't allow me to jump in but I'm then strapped into a harness on the back seat and I'm able to rest my legs on the window ledge and see where we're going. When we pull up along-side another vehicle at traffic lights the people see me watching them and they go "Awww look at that gorgeous little dog" which of course I am, looking back at them. It's great at

the beach, lots of new scents to sniff out and every other person walking along has a dog, some of whom I like and others I don't. I'm really quite fussy about who I associate with but I suppose that's because I'm such a special dachshund it's only to be expected.

We've been doing a bit of socialising since lockdown restrictions were eased and we've visited Jean who always gives me a biscuit treat while she's waiting for the kettle to boil. I'm happy once I've had the biscuit and the humans chat away for ages while I'm sat on my Mummy's knee quite content but I get fed up if their chat goes on for too long so then I start wriggling about, jump down onto the floor and give her the signal, like a growl followed by another and another until she gets the message that it's time to go. We've also been to visit June who has squirrels in her garden. I chased one and very nearly caught it but it escaped into the bushes which is just as well, because I don't know what I would have done with it if I had caught it. The humans were eating buttered scones and strawberries which looked rather yummy but they didn't offer any to me because ...

**CONGRATULATIONS:**

To Mary & Ivor (both members of our congregation) who will marry each other in St James' Church on Sat 7th August. God's blessings to you both.

**CONGRATULATIONS:**

To Charlie Griffin who married Jordon Bolley on 3rd July at St James' Church. The sun came out to bless the moment. Charlie is a member of our PCC. We pray that God will bless their life together.

**CONGRATULATIONS:**

Liberty arrived in style to marry Matthew on 26th June at St James' Church. May God bless their marriage.



**CONGRATULATIONS:**

The investiture ceremony for David Cummings' BEM was held at Tatton Park on 28th July. We hope to say more in the next magazine.

yes you guessed it, the dreaded diet!

I've had a very busy day today in the scorching sun at the seaside and I've lost count of how many dogs I met during the walk along the beach so I'm going to curl up in my bed and have a long sleep. After all my little legs are worn out and I need to recuperate ready for whatever adventure happens tomorrow. See you next time I hope .....

*Daisy - (Published by kind permission of Janet Milton)*

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## **AV UPDATE:**

AV stands for Audio-Visual, and it refers to the systems needed to play sounds and video content to an audience. In this case we are talking about the congregation in church. As you may well know the big TV screens in church were put in temporarily about 2 years ago well before we heavily relied upon them because of Covid-19. It was a temporary arrangement as we wanted to determine our needs before plunging into the tricky task of applying to make it permanent. We are now sure.

We submitted a faculty application to the diocese asking for permission to go ahead, and a public notice was displayed about that. Great news - we have been granted the faculty and we are now putting the work in place.

A drop down central screen and a projector at the back will replace the main TV screen and the rest will be tidied up and improved. The ugliness of the temporary arrangement will disappear. Instead of operating the computer right at the front we will have a desk at the back from which to do that. We are also having a couple of cameras so we can stream services and other events from the church over the internet. Exciting times ahead.

Incidentally, we now have a trained team of regular laptop 'clickers' for our Sunday services: Martin, Sheena, David, Jonathan and myself. Mike & Tina are in reserve if needed. We will need camera operators when we start streaming services.

As you'll read in the Rector's article on page 3, even more exciting is that progress is being made on the larger project of extending the church to provide toilets and a kitchen facility and to having a more flexible space within the church. Plans will be made available to all before long. (Ed)

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## **SUNDAY SCHOOL AS IT WAS...**

Sunday morning in the late 1970's - the Parish Hall is full of lively youngsters. Mr Harold Whetnall is in control, ably assisted by Renee Stalker, with Mrs Leigh looking after the little ones in the small room. We listen to stories and prayers and sing lustily to Mrs Dorothy Thomas' vigorous piano playing.

Soon there will be the Annual Prize Giving when each child who has attended Sunday School the requisite number of times is presented with a small book. (And there were many books for Renee to have to choose)

But then.. the highlight of the year! - the Sunday School outing, which if I remember rightly was always on a Monday, and all the children who went to the Primary School were given the day off to go. The double-decker bus -sometimes two buses - drew up outside Mr Partington's shop by the village green, and we all (for parents could join in if they wished - so I did several times) piled on board to enjoy the ride and await the first view of the sea on the North Wales coast from our high vantage-point.

To Frith beach we went, or to Eirias Park in Colwyn Bay; and the minute we arrived, Rev Charles Mack stood by the driver of the bus and handed out to each and every one an ice cream from what must have been an enormous cool-box. Our elder daughter just remembers the creme-soda fizzy pops! So began a day of fun.

No mobile phones then, nor did we even think of taking a camera - how I wish we had! After devouring our packed lunches, and enjoying games or just exploring everything around, we all returned to the village in the late afternoon, weary and worn and probably pretty dirty, but with tales to tell the awaiting parents.

Those were the days!

*Jan Bowden*

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## **THE LYCHGATE:**

The observant may have noticed that the lychgate entrance to the Church has recently been closed. This is to allow essential repairs to be made to the north (Church side) roof which has been damaged by weather over a number of years.



Rainwater in particular has rotted part of the oak boarding on that side of the roof where there does not appear to have ever been any guttering – unlike the south roof.

Repairing a listed building such as this (Grade II) is not a straightforward job – there are a number of stages to go through. The Chester Diocese must be involved at every stage of the process and work cannot begin until its permission is granted (this is called a “Faculty”). The receipt of the paper with the seal of the Chancellor is a welcome sight! The local authority is also involved as it is for all listed buildings.

The lychgate was built around 1885 by William Butterfield (in memory of Harriet Garnet) when the nave of the Church was rebuilt. William Butterfield is renowned for designing nearly 100 churches as well as other major buildings such as Keble College, Oxford, the chapel at Balliol College, Oxford, Rugby School and Winchester College although he was accused of vandalism for demolishing some earlier buildings there!

The lychgate is built of ashlar red sandstone and timber framing with Welsh slate roof and red tile ridge \*. The gabled stone side walls are coped and finialled. They have slight buttresses and are pierced by two trefoil-headed openings. The roof is supported by three arch-braced timber trusses opening from stone corbels while the gates themselves are simple wood with iron strap hinges.

The roof tiles have to be removed and re-hung on the damaged north side, defective mortar and stone replaced and new oak boarding installed. Guttering and downpipes, to match the south side, will be added to ensure that rainwater is properly deflected.

This is a project which has been in the planning for some time and hopefully will be completed very soon so that the entrance is back in use once again.

We gratefully acknowledge the support of Historic Cheshire Churches Preservation Trust, Allchurches Trust, Chester West and Chester Council and The Friends of St. James’ Church Building.



*Bettie Gilliatt - Churchwarden*

\* *The painting by Amy Garnett shown on page 19 shows the lych gate (and perhaps also the church) with what seems to be a lead roof, and not Welsh Slate. David Cummings and others remember that, so the lych gate roof slates and ridge tiles are not original but a later 20th century addition, probably in response to increasing lead thefts. (Ed)*






It was something that was at the back of my mind, but that day in mid June I was not expecting it. It was sunny and dry and had been for several days. "Why don't we sort out the shed?" Oh dear - a non-trivial task - but it was necessary. The capacious shed (we don't have a garage) was tricky to get into as there was so much 'stuff' pushed into it. We pulled out most of the contents onto the lawn & started to sort it into categories: Junk; Memorabilia; Useful. It was at that point it started to rain! Why just then? Anyhow to cut a long, tricky and damp story short we more or less completed the task and it was very worthwhile and therapeutic.

Amongst the finds were lots of old newspapers recording interesting events. The London Evening News of Tues Oct 22, 1968 covered Apollo Seven's successful Atlantic splashdown - it also had this children's picture puzzle (hope you can read it). Answers 23rd Oct '68 - have you got a copy? (Ed)

# Baby Yoga Club in Christleton

Begins Tuesday 7th September



## Tuesdays- 9:30am Christleton Parish Hall

6 class pass £40.00



Suitable for babies aged between 8 weeks and 2 years.

A holistic class to support your baby's overall development and wellbeing

A mixture of stretches, sitting and standing poses for you and baby, songs, sensory play, breathing exercises and a guided relaxation.

To book, visit: [happity.co.uk/baby-club-cheshire](http://happity.co.uk/baby-club-cheshire)

for more info email [babyclubcheshire@outlook.com](mailto:babyclubcheshire@outlook.com)

class we combine gentle stretches, postures, singing and sensory play into a fun interactive session for both mum and baby.

For Mums – we will draw on traditional Yoga principles and focus on the breath throughout, mums will practice a variety of seated and standing postures and finish with a guided relaxation.

These classes are suitable for babies aged between 8 weeks and 2 years. For pregnant mums, we advise you wait until after your 12 week scan before joining unless you already practice yoga, and for C-Section mums, we ask that you wait until 12 weeks after your delivery, to ensure you have enough time to recover.

The classes work out at just £6.67 per class, as you will buy a 6 class pass for £40 with no pressure to do the classes consecutively, but simply drop in at whichever classes are convenient for you. You don't need to bring a thing, everything you need to enjoy the class will be provided.

Baby Club Cheshire prides itself on being an inclusive class provider, as well as mums, dads and other caregivers are also very welcome. Twins are also very welcome and we wouldn't charge any extra for multiples, you pay your £40 for both babies and can bring another care giver along for free should you choose to.

Advance booking is necessary, please email [babyclubcheshire@outlook.com](mailto:babyclubcheshire@outlook.com) with any queries and book online at [happity.co.uk/babyclubcheshire](http://happity.co.uk/babyclubcheshire) , I can't wait to meet you all very soon, and welcome to our baby club!

*Steph*

Hi my name is Steph from Baby Club Cheshire, and I am so excited to launch my brand new Baby Yoga classes in the Parish Hall on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> September at 09:30am.

Baby Yoga is a holistic approach to support your baby's overall development and wellbeing – in the 45 minute



# Luncheon Club

Do you remember Luncheon Club? Every third Monday in the Parish Hall? Arrivals from 12 noon for a start at 12.30pm. Up to 8 people around a table and 6 or 7 tables in the hall. After Grace hot tasty food came out to you on a plate and dishes of vegetables. Then a dessert and tea & coffee. Sometimes even some chocolate. Fresh flowers on the well laid out colour coordinated tables. We had some themed lunches. Especially Christmas festivities and a meal with all the trimmings, and of course the January Scottish Burns lunch when the haggis is piped in and addressed with a long sharp knife.

Now that restrictions are being lifted we are beginning to think about Luncheon Club again - but we are all very cautious and we need to get all our ducks in a row (we also cater for vegetarians) and be sure of how we will operate safely, both in the kitchen during preparation and for serving the meal itself, before we decide on a re-start date. With some luck (no promises) the October edition of this magazine will have some news for you. Christmas is coming and the goose is getting fat! Maybe even the piper is tuning up and sharpening his knife!

Bye for now! *Brian.*

## THE FUTURE OF THIS MAGAZINE:

# PARISH MAGAZINE

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

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

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

So, could you help? We'd be pleased to hear from you as soon as possible so we can plan ahead.

Please contact me for details.

*Brian Inall - Tel: 01244 336500 - [brian@inall.co.uk](mailto:brian@inall.co.uk)*

## IF MUSIC BE THE FOOD OF LOVE, PLAY ON:

If only!



Hannah, our previous musician, left us last year to take up her studies. Therefore, we have to play recorded hymns and songs at our services. Under Covid restrictions we can't sing out loud in church anyway, but that is going to change very soon.

So then, what are we going to do? Sing to recorded music or sing unaccompanied?

If there are people in our community who are able to play the organ or piano on a Sunday morning then Stefan, our Rector, would love to have a conversation with you.

Talk to him on: (01244) 335663. Thank you.

## **CAN YOU HELP PLEASE?**



## CHRISTLETON PARISH HALL - REGULAR ACTIVITIES (from August)

Information provided by Maria Norbury - proposed start dates in red are subject to changes in government guidance. Note that times are the times for the hall booking and may not exactly match the event timings.

MONDAY	Luncheon Club	8am – 3pm	Monthly 3 <sup>rd</sup> Monday <b>start date tbc</b>
	Yoga	7 – 8pm	Weekly – <b>from 07/06 to 30/08</b>
		6 – 7pm	Weekly – <b>from 06/09</b>
	Monday Painters	7 – 9pm	Weekly – term time <b>from 06/09</b>
TUESDAY	Baby Massage Class	9:30 – 10:30am	Weekly – <b>from 22/06 to 31/08</b>
		10:30 – 11:30am	Weekly – <b>from 07/09</b>
	Baby Yoga Class	9:30 – 10:30am	Weekly – <b>from 07/09</b>
	Maths GCSE for Adults	1 – 3pm	Weekly – term time <b>from 07/09</b>
	English GCSE for Adults	1 – 3pm	Weekly – term time <b>from 07/09</b>
	Maths GCSE small group coaching Yr 10/11	3:30 – 4:30pm	Weekly – term time <b>from 07/09</b>
		4:30 – 5:30pm	Weekly – term time <b>from 07/09</b>
	English GCSE small group coaching Yr 10/11	3:30 – 4:30pm	Weekly – term time <b>from 07/09</b>
	4:30 – 5:30pm	Weekly – term time <b>from 07/09</b>	
	Aspirations Dance		
WEDNESDAY	Clinical Pilates	9:30 – 10:30am	Weekly – term time <b>from 08/09</b>
	Clinical Pilates	10:30 – 11:30am	Weekly – term time <b>from 08/09</b>
	Maths GCSE for Adults	12 – 2pm	Weekly – term time <b>from 08/09</b>
	English GCSE for Adults	12 – 2pm	Weekly – term time <b>from 08/09</b>
	Maths GCSE small group coaching Yr 9/10/11	2:30 – 3:30pm	Weekly – term time <b>from 08/09</b>
		3:30 – 4:30pm	Weekly – term time <b>from 08/09</b>
		4:30 – 5:30pm	Weekly – term time <b>from 08/09</b>
	English GCSE small group coaching Yr 10/11	2:30 – 3:30pm	Weekly – term time <b>from 08/09</b>
		3:30 – 4:30pm	Weekly – term time <b>from 08/09</b>
	WI	6:30 – 9:30pm	Monthly 2 <sup>nd</sup> Wed – <b>from 08/09</b>
	RSPB meeting	6:45 – 9:45pm	Monthly 3 <sup>rd</sup> Wed – not May to Aug – <b>from 20/10</b>
	History Group	6:45 – 9:45pm	Last Wed of Jan Feb Mar Sept Oct Nov – <b>from 29/09</b>
THURSDAY	Fitness Fusion Pilates	9:15 – 10:15am	Weekly – <b>from 09/09</b>
	The Christleton Painters	10:30am – 3pm	Weekly – not May to Aug – <b>from 09/09</b>
	Aspirations Dance	6 – 9pm	Weekly – <b>not before Sept</b>
FRIDAY	The Ark Toddler Group	9:15 – 11am	Weekly – term time <b>from 03/09</b>
	Aspirations Dance	6 – 9pm	Weekly – <b>not before Sept</b>
SATURDAY	Saturday Painters	10:30am – 1pm	Alternate Saturdays – <b>from 11/09</b>
SUNDAY	Refreshments after 10:30am church service	11:30am	Weekly – <b>from 25/07</b>
	Messy Church	4pm – 6pm	Mthly 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday <b>start date tbc</b>

## CONTACTS DETAILS FOR REGULAR 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 Massage/Yoga	Stephanie Tully	07969 318547	babyclubcheshire@outlook.com
Maths GCSE	Lisa Gornall	07929 771844	lisa.gornall@gmail.com
English GCSE	Lisa Miller	07764 318416	lisaannemiller@hotmail.com
Aspirations Dance	Richard Colley	07885 233182	info@aspirationsdance.com
Clinical Pilates	Claire Phillipson	07709 400643	clairephillipson@icloud.com
WI	Anne Large	01244 336108	annelarge34@gmail.com
RSPB	Liz McClure	01244 409414	elizabeth.mcclure070@gmail.com
History Group	David Cummings	01244 332410	cummings.d@uwclub.net
Fitness Fusion	Laura Jones	07867 692806	fitnessfusion1@outlook.com
The Christleton Painters	Graham Kay	0151 342 3697	gkay@grahamkay.co.uk
The Ark Toddler Group	Tina Lightfoot	07557 352592	tina.lightfoot@googlemail.com
Saturday Painters	Kevin Sparrow	07905 914328	sparrow.kevin@sky.com
Messy Church	Lesley Morgan	01244 335088	lesleym02@hotmail.com



The Christleton WI have been meeting online using Zoom during the Covid pandemic. That has gone well although it was a bit of a steep learning curve for all. Not all members could easily join in.

Such a relief therefore that, as a final meeting before the August break, nearly 30 members could gather together for a social afternoon - actually face to face at last! A lot of 'catching up' was done.

The weather was extremely hot so it took place sheltering in the shade of trees and an umbrella in Elizabeth's garden on Wednesday 21st July. Tea, coffee and cold drinks were accompanied by a wide and delicious array of sandwiches, cakes and scones with cream & jam. Despite gallant efforts to consume it all a goodly amount was left over and shared out at the end.

The WI will next meet in the **Parish Hall** on Wed 8th September at 7.15pm.

**TALK BY GINA KIRKHAM (Retired from Merseyside Police):  
"HANDCUFFS, TRUNCHEON AND A POLYESTER THONG." (The title of her first book.)**

# The Ark Play and Praise Toddler Group



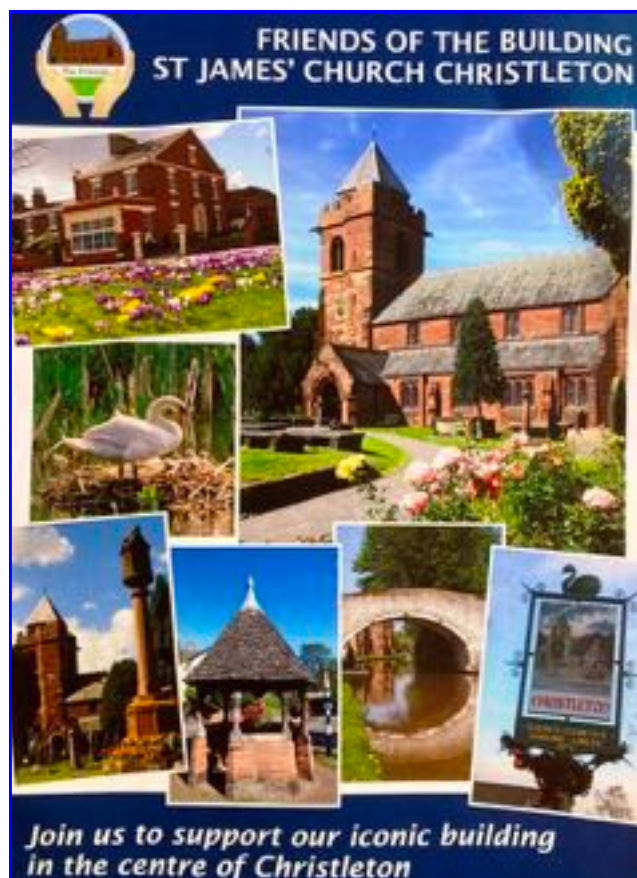
**We normally meet every Friday morning in St James' Parish Hall from 9:15 to 11:00 am, but we are now taking a rest during August and will be back on 3rd September.**



**For further details contact:  
[tina.lightfoot@googlemail.com](mailto:tina.lightfoot@googlemail.com)**



**A new leaflet for The Friends is available from church. Do take a look.**



## **REFRESHMENTS AFTER CHURCH:**

**Whoopee!!** We can now gather together after church in the Parish Hall to have refreshments. Clearly some Covid precautions will be taken but isn't it great that we can socialise and have fellowship?

I believe real fresh-brewed ground coffee will be available. It just gets better! (Ed)

## **COVID RETRICTIONS IN CHURCH:**

Legally we can now return to pre-Covid ways in church. However the general recommendations are that we remain cautious. Watch out for announcements over the coming days and weeks as we review the situation and gradually return to 'normal'.



# St James' Church Calendar - AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2021:

## THE ST JAMES' CHURCH BUILDING IS OPEN.



The Church is open every day. When it's not in use please use it for private prayer and a place of peace. The government has relaxed Covid restrictions but we urge you to remain careful, not just for your own sake, but also for those around you. We shall still be taking Covid precautions in church - eg: hand sanitising, distancing, masks, etc., but we shall be reviewing the situation and trying to carefully return to normal.

### THE SUNDAY PATTERN IS:

<b>8:00am:</b> Holy Communion (said) in church. A quiet meditative service.	Sun 5th September: 14th after Trinity 8:00am & 10:30am Worship in church.
<b>10:30am:</b> Holy Communion in church. Our main family service. Refreshments after in Parish Hall.	Sat 11th September: 10.30am. Churchyard Working Group.
<hr/>	
Sun 1st August: 9th after Trinity 8:00am & 10:30am Worship in church.	Sun 12th September: 15th after Trinity 8:00am & 10:30am Worship in church.
Sun 8th August: 10th after Trinity 8:00am & 10:30am Worship in church.	Sun 19th September: 16th after Trinity 8:00am & 10:30am Worship in church.
Sat 14th August: 10.30am. Churchyard Working Group.	Sun 26th September: 17th after Trinity 8:00am & 10:30am Worship in church.
Sun 15th August: 11th after Trinity - BVM 8:00am & 10:30am Worship in church.	
Sun 22nd August: 12th after Trinity 8:00am & 10:30am Worship in church.	
Sun 29th August: 13th after Trinity 8:00am & 10:30am Worship in church.	

***NOTE 1: All arrangements subject to change.***

***NOTE 2: The Rector begins his 3 month sabbatical from the beginning of September 2021. He returns on 1st December. During this time please contact our assistant curate, Rev'd Rob Croft. (Contacts: page 2)***

**Monday - Friday:** 9:00am: Morning Prayer - in church. Everyone is welcome to this short time of devotion to start the day.

**Tuesdays:** 10:30am: Online Coffee Morning. Join this Zoom meeting, and chat and drink coffee or whatever. More details from Liz McClure.  
Zoom link via the St James' Church website.

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

**Fridays:** 9:15am: The Ark - Play and Praise Toddler Group. 9:15 - 11:00am Parish Hall  
NOT MEETING DURING AUGUST. RESTARTS 3rd SEPTEMBER.

## 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](mailto:john_norbury@btinternet.com)

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



## CHRISTLETON

**MEETING AGAIN IN THE PARISH HALL**  
**WEDNESDAY 8th SEPTEMBER**

**POLICE TALK BY GINA KIRKHAM: "HANDCUFFS, TRUNCHEON AND A POLYESTER THONG."**

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.

**Contacts:**  
Elizabeth Inall Telephone 01244 336500  
Chris Orgill Telephone 01244 335163

**WE WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

## CHRISTLETON PARISH HALL



The hall reopened in April and has ticked over since then with a few regular activities operating under Covid 19 restrictions.

Following the lifting of restrictions, refreshments after the 10:30am Sunday church service made a come back on 25 July and we expect remaining regular activities to return to the hall in September. September may be a little too soon for Luncheon Club and Messy Church so look out for further information about those start dates.

All the details are shown in the tables on pages 10 & 11. This is all, of course, subject to ongoing government guidance. A further update will appear in the October magazine and, meanwhile, if you wish to enquire about using the hall please contact Maria Norbury (below) for details:

Maria Norbury: Tel: 01244 335499.  
[maria\\_norbury@btinternet.com](mailto:maria_norbury@btinternet.com) (See also the church website.)

## FROM THE REGISTERS:

### FUNERALS/BURIALS:

**Nellie Sharp.** Died: 18/5/2021 (88).  
Burial of ashes: 30/6/2021 at St James.

**Brian Lewis.** Died : 21/8/2020 (70)  
Burial of ashes: 11/7/2021 at St James.

**Dennis Edwards:** Died: 17/5/2021 (89)  
Burial of ashes: 28/7/2021 at St James

**Nigel Bromage:** Died 1/7/2019 (86)  
Burial of ashes: 27/9/2021 at St James

**Pat Holding.** Died: 28/6/2021 (86)  
Funeral at Chester Crematorium: 19/7/2021

**Ann Melia.** Died: 9/5/2020 (86)  
Burial of ashes: 20/8/2021 at St James.

### WEDDINGS:

21/8/2021: **Andrew & Jayne**

### BAPTISMS:

25/7/2021: **Mia**  
15/8/2021: **Eryn**  
22/8/2021: **Ezra**  
29/8/2021: **Luca**



## 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.



Sadly, the need for Foodbanks has steadily increased year by year. This is especially so during this year due to the impact of the Covid pandemic, as more and more people find themselves in desperate financial crisis, through absolutely no fault of their own. There has been an increase in the number of local distribution sessions from 15 to 17 covering urban and rural Chester, Ellesmere Port and Neston.

To share a couple of statistics from our local Foodbank which will no doubt break your heart - in the year 2019-2020 there was an increase in need by 20% for adults and 40% for children and in January of this year that increase now stands at 41% for adults and a horrific 64% for children.

Fortunately there has also been a heart warming generosity from the public resulting in an increase in both food and monetary contributions. The amount of food last year donated from St James' was almost a ton of food and there has been an increase in regular cash donations.

Please donate non-perishable food 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>

Food is now distributed in pre-packed boxes sufficient to provide meals for 3 days either from one of the centres or directly to peoples' homes. Thus monetary donations (via the website above) are very useful as they can be used to buy what is needed and at a discounted rate for bulk purchase.

So I want to say a big thank you for your ongoing generosity on behalf of those who are so much less fortunate and less privileged than ourselves, in these very difficult times of hardship for so many of our fellow human beings.

*Chris Alderton*

## Christleton Local History Group Winter Season 2021

With restrictions now easing, Christleton Local History are planning their winter programme for the **Parish Hall at 7.30pm** on the last **Wednesday** of the month. We have a stimulating programme of talks on a wide range of subjects, followed by tea/coffee & biscuits. There is no joining fee but we ask for a contribution of £3 per lecture. Everyone is welcome. The first three dates in 2021 are:

### **Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> September**

**A short AGM followed by Alf Croston's Story.** Alf is interviewed by David Cummings.

Alf is one of the great characters of Christleton, is still working as an engineer at 96yrs, and has a wealth of knowledge about a wide variety of interesting topics.

### **Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> October**

**The Blitz A fully illustrated talk by Alan Robinson.**

Alan, one of our most popular local speakers, is one of the UK's leading experts on battles and battlefields. He brings his own perspective to one of the most historic events.

### **Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> November**

**The Rise & Renaissance of Liverpool. Ken Pye.**

Ken Pye is Managing Director of Discover Liverpool, has a wealth of knowledge about Liverpool & Wirral, has researched and written many stories about the region. These are published as books, films and DVDs, and he gives fascinating talks about his subjects.

*David Cummings (Chairman)*

## MAYPOLE DANCING IN CHRISTLETON

Although it's now some years since we had a performance of Maypole Dancing in the Village, it had been a very strong tradition for almost 100years. The series of Maypole dances that we used were adapted from those first performed in the village in the 1900's.

They were based on traditional maypole dances recorded in Cecil Sharp's English Folk Dances manual from 1890. In 1972 I became Headteacher at The Primary School and took over the teaching of these traditional dances, and adapted and re arranged them, and the music available, to suit our needs. One of the first things I did was to drop the double plait dance

which if danced enthusiastically by the children could cause the pole to swing violently from side to side and topple over during a performance. This was particularly so as we had to rehearse the dances on the hard surface of the playground. Also as the music available was from a very worn 78 wax disc I had a local folk dance group led by David Hayns make a special recording of the tunes used in the Christleton tradition. One of these tracks was later used by the BBC for a Maypole dance during an "It's a Knock Out" television programme from Windsor.



Many of the tunes used were traditional nursery rhymes, and the children and audience would always shout "pop" when the phrase "Pop goes the weasel" was played from the tune of that name. The dances themselves had descriptive titles including, single plait, double plait, barbers pole, spiders web and gypsies tent.

Among the photographs shown is one from the Village Fete of 1907 which shows that in those early days the dances were performed by the girls and infants (including boys) from the old School in Quarry Lane. In the 1930's the teams were made up of all girls, but from the late 60's and early 70's there were always mixed teams of sixteen from the Junior School in Pepper Street. (Now the Parish Hall) The Christleton Maypole was made out of a strong piece of octagonal oak 16ft tall on a wooden base was designed to carry 16 ribbons (eight pairs of dancers) and the dances were timed to allow the revolution of the ribbons in time with the bar sequences of the music.

There were 4 ribbons of each colour, red, blue, green and yellow and they had to be made of braid at least 15ft long. The children were paired off in numbers 1 to 8 with the lead couple always no1. They always set off from a predetermined place, and this set off the pattern of places around the maypole. The red and blue ribbons were always 1, 3, 5 & 7, and the green and yellow 2, 4, 6, & 8. We always tried to keep continuity by having the



same couple dancing together each time where possible, and to be either an even or odd number, as the patterns were different from each direction.

These combinations would ensure that delightful patterns appeared when each dance was performed. Concentration was essential, and the 20 minute duration needed great fitness. The patterns that emerged were delightful, unless someone lost concentration, then chaos could ensue! I used to plan three weeks of regular ½ hr a day practice to ensure a successful team. The children would have a distinctive dress code, which varied from time to time, but coloured scarves in the colours of their ribbons would remain the same. As we nearly always performed on solid surfaces the maypole had to be strong and secure, and often reserves would sit at the base of the pole in the middle to add strength. The pole was heavy and difficult to transport, but with support from parents and friends and City Council help, the children regularly gave performances in Chester. These included on the Meadows for The Battle of Rowton Moor re-enactment, on the Racecourse for the Lord Mayor's Parade, on the Town Hall Square for the City Council Publicity Team often with the Deva Folk Ensemble. Teams also performed alongside the Chester Mystery Plays on the Cathedral Green, and at the Old Hall in Tatton Park for Knutsford May Day Celebrations. This was highlighted by meeting "The Green Man" a figure from folklore as illustrated. Teams also performed regularly with dancers from Sweden, Poland and Czechoslovakia, as well as at each Village Fete on the Primary School Field, High School Field and at Faulkners Lodge.



A display at the Primary School

Displays for celebratory occasions on the Village Green were very special and often drew large crowds outside Jim Partington's Butchers Shop. These displays were wonderful publicity for the Primary School in Christleton, and we were one of the very few school's in Cheshire, to maintain this perhaps "unique" English tradition. Sadly when I retired after thirty years of

teaching the Maypole, no one was able to take on the responsibility, and other curriculum needs took precedence. Maypole Dancing is perhaps "out of fashion" these days, but it certainly kept the youngsters very fit, as it was a non stop aerobic activity for twenty minutes at a time. I hope the accompanying photographs give a good representation of the success of the traditional Maypole displays in the village.

David Cummings - 2021.



On the village green

## NATURE NOTES JULY/AUGUST 2021

### **Where have all the butterflies gone?**

I've been asking that question myself all summer long. After a very bright start to the year in spring and early summer, these magical insects suddenly seemed to disappear from our gardens. This always happens to some extent as these early arrivals then lay eggs and it's weeks later before their young emerge. I've despaired at seeing large bushes of buddleia (the butterfly bush) with lots of colourful blooms but no butterflies. These bushes are at their best now all over the country, but sadly just a few butterflies, usually small tortoiseshell. So where are all the butterflies? We could probably say the same for other flying insects too. Although our garden remains full of nectar filled flowers, as I write on 19<sup>th</sup> July, sightings this weekend have included just a female brimstone, 2 small tortoiseshell, a red admiral, several large & small white and a holly blue.

This weekend as part of my contribution to the Big Butterfly Count I was determined to look at known special sites where I might photograph butterflies, and we were not disappointed. We've found butterflies, hundreds of them, but we had to take long walks in the warm, even very hot sun. However walks on the Meadows along the River Dee in Chester, and on the

special heathland Nature Reserve at Prees near Whitchurch, have produced the butterflies we were searching for.

One 800m stretch of the Meadows in Chester produced 50+ meadow brown, 25+ small skipper, 10 large skipper, 2 red admiral, 2 common blue, 10 small tortoiseshell, 3 speckled wood, 4 comma, 2 small copper, and lots of large & small whites.

At Prees we recorded 25+ silver studded blue, 4 holly blue, 50+ meadow brown, 10+ small heath, 20 small skipper, 10 large skipper, 1 red admiral, 3 small tortoiseshell, 2 mating ringlets, 5 comma, 2 small copper, both large and small white, and lots of six spotted Burnet moths. We also saw 3 Emperor, 1 blue spotted skimmer, 1 southern hawk and 1 brown hawk dragonflies, together with hundreds of common blue and blue tailed damselflies at a very secluded and productive pond at the A41 end of the reserve.

The stars of the site are the tiny silver studied blues which fly in the second half of June and early July. The old airfield site has been specially prepared for them. The adult butterflies live for just a few days, spending time mating and taking nectar from flowers close to the ground. They lay eggs singly on heather, birds foot trefoil, or gorse, and when they emerge in spring during April and May their tiny caterpillars feed on the plant's new growth. The caterpillars then produce a sugary secretion which attracts black ants, and this protects the caterpillars from predation by spiders and wasps. The caterpillars then pupate underground in the ants nest for six weeks before they emerge as a butterfly, usually early in the morning. Even when they emerge on short flowery stems they are protected by the black ants until their wings are dry and they are ready to fly.

The Prees reserve, an SSSI a site of special scientific interest, is managed by Butterfly Conservation and is just under half of Prees Heath Common (148 acres) on part of the old RAF airfield. The former Control Tower is now an information centre and stands in a colourful restored heath and acidic grassland. The dominant flowers at present are Bell and ling heather, St John's wort, common ragwort, evening primrose, rosebay willow herb, and lots of varieties of thistles. We were on the reserve in the heat of the day (car thermometer read 34C) , so there were only few birds present. We saw some starlings, goldfinches and linnets, but we listened to the beautiful song of the yellowhammer sitting on top of a bush near the pond, and the exciting call of a reed warbler, whilst a lone buzzard circled above our heads.

*David Cummings*





Silver Studded Blue



Speckled Wood

**THE VERY FIRST PARISH MAGAZINE:**

THE MAGAZINE.

Some explanation will doubtless be looked for on the appearance of this our first number. *The Christleton Parish Magazine* will be published every month in its present form, and will be sent to anyone who subscribes 2s. a-year.

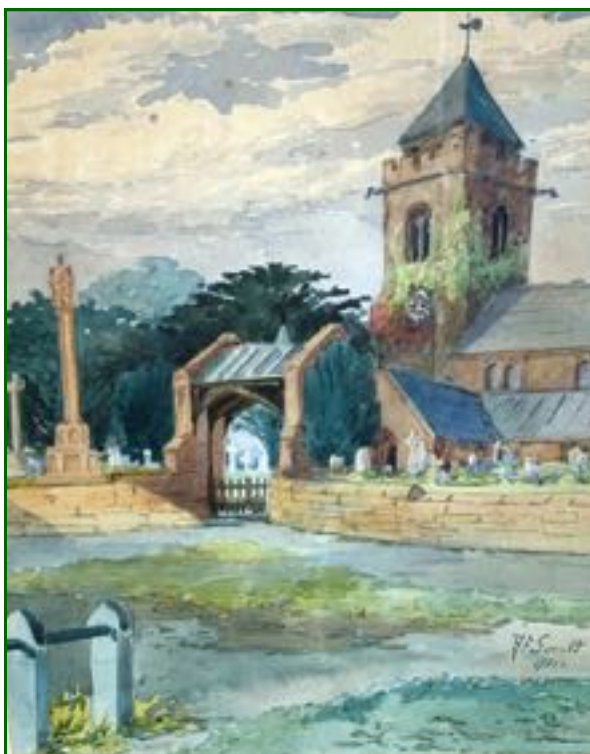
The Editor appeals strongly for support. The expense of the Magazine will be considerable, and it is not likely that in a Parish like ours sufficient copies will be sold to make the Magazine self-supporting. He therefore asks those who can afford it, to subscribe a trifle more than 2s. for the first year, at least, or to take extra copies. He specially asks those who intend to subscribe to do so *at once*. In such a case as this, he who gives quickly gives *twice*.

Subscriptions may be paid either in advance or by monthly instalments on receipt of the Magazine: but the former course will be found the best if it can be managed. The Editor will do his best to make the local matter for which he is responsible, both interesting and instructive. He will be glad to receive any information, correspondence, advertisements of local interest, and invites the general sympathy and co-operation of his fellow parishioners.

He has a strong hope that the Magazine will prove useful as well as interesting: a bond of union, and a means of communication between all the householders in the Parish to take the



**ABOVE:** The cover and part of the editorial for the first Christleton Parish Magazine for January 1875. Two shillings a year subscription sounds quite expensive for 1875!



**LEFT:** I received from Peter Boddy, whose Uncle Cliff Boddy was a mainstay of the church from the 1920s until he died in 2002, a print of a watercolour painting which his father Cliff's brother Stan had been given. It is a watercolour that appeared on the cover of Parish Magazines in the 1920's, and was painted by Mrs Amy Garnett, the late Rector's wife, who was responsible for the bound collection of Parish Magazines 1911-1921 that we have at the Record Office. It was given/acquired by Cliff Boddy who was the late Rector AA Guest Williams' warden. (David Cummings)

*Thanks to David Cummings for these.*

# Churchyard Maintenance



During this lockdown 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 can now organise working groups again:  
Next are: **14th August** and **11th September** - starting at 10.30am.

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

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