

# PARISH MAGAZINE

AUGUST / SEPTEMBER 2020 - DOUBLE ISSUE

Free on-line  
Edition



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

## IN THIS DOUBLE 'SUMMER INTO AUTUMN' ISSUE:

**DOGS and GOD:** The Rector writes below about his dog and how she speaks of God.

Personal reflections from Gill. Page: 4

Ian and Claire Gray. Page: 6

If you like a quiz, go to page: 9

More financial news from Liz. Page: 10

David Cummings History article focusses on Dorothy Colley McNair, and his Nature piece describes local wildlife seen recently. Page: 13



## DOGS AND GOD:

A few months ago we got a dog.

Jessie the Labrador.

It's taken us many years to take the plunge. My wife and I both remarked, with amusement or bemusement, on how the decision to get a dog has been far more



For those of you who have had or have dogs, or indeed – I'm sure – other pets, what I am about to say

involved than when we decided to try for a baby.

Alas, the deed is done. And we have a dog.

will likely come as no surprise, though perhaps where I end up might be unexpected.

I'm struck by Jessie's unconditional love. It doesn't matter if you have left the room for 5 minutes or for an hour. Jesse's joy upon seeing you again, revealed in the extreme

*(Continued on page 3)*

To support St James' Church, go to the website: <https://www.stjameschristleton.org.uk>

Make an Online Donation

and click on the (blue)  
'Make an Online Donation' button.

## PARISH CONTACTS:

### RECTOR:

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

### ASSISTANT CURATE:

**Rob Croft** Tel: 01244 683926 / 07745 624323  
[robcroft@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:robcroft@hotmail.co.uk)

### OTHER CLERGY IN THE PARISH:

**Rev'd Gill Hibbert** Tel: 01244 336544  
[gillianhibbert80@outlook.com](mailto:gillianhibbert80@outlook.com)  
(Note: another new email address for Gill.)

**Rev'd Elizabeth Inall** Tel: 01244 336500  
[elizabeth@inall.co.uk](mailto:elizabeth@inall.co.uk)

### CHURCHWARDENS:

**Bettie Gilliatt** Tel: 01244 335645  
**Tina Lightfoot** Tel: 07557 352592  
for either warden:  
[churchwardens@stjameschristleton.org.uk](mailto:churchwardens@stjameschristleton.org.uk)

### PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICER:

**Ann White** Tel: 07762 774975  
[annwhite@live.com](mailto:annwhite@live.com)

### ORGANIST/MUSICAL DIRECTOR:

(Vacant)

### PCC SECRETARY:

**Janet Milton** Tel: 01244 325529  
[pccsecretary@stjameschristleton.org.uk](mailto:pccsecretary@stjameschristleton.org.uk)

### PARISH ADMINISTRATOR: (incl. Weekly Notices)

**Marj Keech** Tel: 07487 642912  
[office@stjameschristleton.org.uk](mailto:office@stjameschristleton.org.uk)

### PARISH HALL BOOKINGS:

**Maria Norbury** Tel: 01244 335499  
[maria\\_norbury@btinternet.com](mailto:maria_norbury@btinternet.com)  
Also: enquiries & bookings online via website.

### WEDDINGS, FUNERALS AND BAPTISMS:

Via website, or the Administrator or the Rector.

### VERGER:

**John Milton** Tel: 01244 325529

### BELLRINGING:

**Nikki Dromgoole** Tel: 07947 372721

## MAGAZINE:

### EDITOR:

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

**The next issue is October. Deadline for that issue will be: Friday 18th Sept 2020.**

### COMMERCIAL ADVERTISING:

**John Eccles**  
Tel: 01244 336355 [jeccles46@sky.com](mailto:jeccles46@sky.com)

### DISTRIBUTION & SUBSCRIPTIONS

**Joce Platel**  
Tel: 01244 332466 [chrisandjoce@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:chrisandjoce@hotmail.co.uk)

The Magazine subscription is normally £6 per year and running from April to March, but during this Covid-19 crisis magazines will be free via the church website and will not be printed or delivered to homes. Any subscriptions paid will be carried forward until normality is restored.

Please tell others how to find the on-line magazine. Do 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 strange and uncertain times.

---

### ST JAMES' CHURCH WEBSITE:

**<https://www.stjameschristleton.org.uk>**  
Website maintained by Jonathan Gilliatt  
[jonathan.gilliatt@btinternet.com](mailto:jonathan.gilliatt@btinternet.com)

### ST JAMES ON TWITTER:

 **@StJChristleton**

### CHRISTLETON VILLAGE WEBSITE:

**[www.christleton.org.uk](http://www.christleton.org.uk)**

helicopter motion of her tail, is constant.

I'm struck by how Jessie, when off the lead, goes ahead of you only to return constantly, and draw you forward with her – her pack. You are hers, and she is yours.

I'm struck by the responsibility Jessie demands of us – her dependence, on us. To feed, water, and keep her safe from, e.g., consuming the tacking pin.

I'm struck too by how Jessie speaks to me of God.



[Jessie]

How her love, mimics that of God's love for us. It's relentless. It's without strings or conditions. How staggering is it to contemplate the joy God has when we turn to face him after 5 minutes, an hour, or a decade.

How her companionship on each daily adventure mimics that of God's companionship on each daily adventure. We are God's, and God is ours.

How her need for us mimics God's need for us. How staggering this is to fathom. The God of the

Universe needs me, you – us. God has, in a sense, limited himself in gifting us his unconditional love, and chosen us to be instruments of peace. Or in the words of one great Anglican theologian and spiritual writer, W. H. Vanstone, "God waits upon the response of his creation".

A few months ago we got a dog.

We expected it would be demanding, while enriching. It was and is.

We were not expecting Jessie the dog would reveal to us something of God. The intensity of his love for us. God's desire to daily adventure with us. His desire to bring peace through us.

Jessie reminds me 'a dog is for life, not just for Christmas'. Jessie also reminds me 'God is for life, not just for Christmas'.

With love and prayers this summer,

Stefan

---

### **MUSICAL DIRECTOR:**

It is with great sadness that we learned recently that Hannah



Williams is leaving us as Musical Director. We said a formal 'Goodbye' at the 10am service on 19th July. She's going on to higher studies in Medical Sciences so we are extremely pleased for her and wish her every success in her new studies.

During this pandemic we have not been able to sing, whether with or without a choir, and as Hannah has been furloughed we've not heard her on the organ or keyboard either.

With her resignation she comes off the furlough scheme so it is possible that she will volunteer to play for us from time to time if she's around. That will be good!

Hannah has worked wonders at getting our music at St James going again, great organ playing and redeveloping the choir and the music group. Who can forget the Barn Dance at the end of February which was so much fun



***Sunday 19th July - saying 'Thank You' to Hannah in church.***



and our last social event before the lockdown? So, thank you Hannah.

So, once again, we will have to go looking for folk with musical abilities. We pray that God will provide.

Who out there can play the organ?



(Editor)

### A PERSONAL REFLECTION:

Since the end of March my daily life like many of you suddenly changed I returned home from the Hospice where I



work as Chaplain, hardly allowed to clear my desk and was forced into isolation.

OK I was on call for them and took a few funerals, and they requested Thought for the day addressed to staff'.

As I look back I realise how special this long period has been, firstly I needed to slow down and adjust the priorities in my life. and

like all of us tidy my files, read books that I purchased long ago but best of all time to sit before the Lord and walk with him, with no time pressure a deeper communication. I have found the Daily Radio really meaningful. And preparing the thoughts for the day the Hospice requested the heart of my week for the Lord has used this as a channel to my work mates as they respond to the message by email.

Yes I feel different and older. I was ordained in the Cathedral at Chester in July 2009 and soon will return to my Chaplaincy at the Hospice, but there are many changes ahead. The door of the church has closed on me before over the years yet the Lord finds a way round which takes me on a new route but walking the way he provides

Have you ever wondered what Adam and Eve talked to God about when they walked with him in the cool of the evening before there was any need for intercession or spiritual warfare? I presume that they merely said thank you and wow a lot. One day we will be with the Lord for ever. But what will we talk to him about? Will we have learned to enjoy his presence, hallowing his name without asking for anything in return?

I remember before my ordination the famous prayer words of the Westminster shorter catechism To glorify God and to enjoy him for ever. Words to hold onto as our journey continues.

*Gill Hibbert*

### BELL MAINTENANCE 2020

The Bells at St James have been silent since March 23<sup>rd</sup> when the Covid- 19 lockdown began. The only activity in the tower, during this time was a weekly visit by the Tower Captain, to wind the church clock and check for birds in the belfry! On the 4<sup>th</sup> July, when Church services resumed, three of the eight bells were rung by ringers from the same family who are in, what we now call, a social bubble. This was repeated the following week, but our wonderful bells are now silent for a little while longer.

It was 1927 when the last major work was carried out on the bells and the bell frame, with some bells being recast from the originals, dating circa 1750's and the wooden frame being replaced by a cast iron one. Fast forward 93yrs and another major overhaul is taking place. Taylors Bell Foundry are carrying out the overhaul. Two of their Bell Hangers started dismantling work, on 13<sup>th</sup> July. Each morning I have been taking a photographic record for future generations, (hopefully generations of keen and skilled ringers!)

I have had an association with the Christleton Bells now (on and off) for forty years, having started ringing when a school friend invited my cousin to learn and then my cousin recruited me. In the early 1980's there were many more younger ringers than there are today, something that the Ringing Guild are trying to remedy. In that 40years, I have never seen the bells without their wheel, unseated from the frame

and resting on big lumps of wood, while the bearing housings are dismantled. All bell wheels, clappers and sliders have been taken back to Taylors in Loughborough for refurbishment, whilst the frame is being meticulously prepared for painting, so that it lasts for another 100 yrs.

All this fantastic work was made possible by a very generous benefactor, to whom all of us are incredibly grateful. Maintaining the bells now will prevent them falling into dis-repair and will ensure that they can continue to call people to worship for many more years.

If you are interested in discovering more about St. James's bells, please get in contact and when it is safe to do so, we can arrange tower visits.

*Nikki Dromgoole (Tower Captain)*



**The bells removed from their frame and supported on timbers**



**The Ringing Chamber before work began.**

## **CHRISTMAS IS COMING!**

As the Covid-19 Government & Church guidelines are gradually relaxed our thoughts are to regain a little bit more normality. The popularity of the Annual Wreath Making day in December and the recent practice of linking it with a Christmas Produce & Craft Sale has raised significant funds for the church, and a lot of people have had fun along the way. The church is rather



low on funds at present and every extra bit is gratefully received.

The St James' Church Fund Raising Group wishes to run the Christmas Wreath Making workshop and Produce & Craft Sale again in December this year – but in a safe way of course.

We shall gratefully receive donated Christmas ingredients at any time, but especially during September and October. (Please give to Elizabeth Inall, Christine Abrams or Joce Platel.) Volunteers will then be 'found' to make up Christmas cakes, Christmas Puddings, Mincemeat, Seasonal Preserves, etc.

The Wreath Making workshop is proposed for **Sat 5th December**, and after the workshop the produce sale in the afternoon. We may also have



Crafts for sale and Refreshments if we can do it safely.

Nobody knows what the Covid-19 situation will be later in the year, but we hope that we can do something along these lines.

So, think about ingredients (flour, dried fruit, suet, brandy, sugar, marzipan, icing etc.) and please put 5th Dec in your diary.

More info from:

Elizabeth (Tel: 336500);  
Christine (Tel: 335562);  
or Joce (Tel: 332466).

Thank you,

*The St James' Church Fund Raising Group*



### **IN LOVING MEMORY OF IAN GRAY, Bible Translator with Wycliffe Bible Translators for 50+ years, who passed away in his sleep at home on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> July 2020**

Many of you will remember Ian and his long association with us at St James' Church. Through Gwen Knight our Overseas Mission Link, we shared in many happy occasions with Ian and his wife Claire, learning about his work in Ghana.

**Gwen writes:** I feel very sad that the world has lost such a talented man. Ian's patient, detailed and inspired work on Bible translation for the many languages in Ghana, was tireless. He always had some interesting point to share that gave unique insight to the biblical text from his carefully prepared dictionary and from his working knowledge of the Ghanaian culture. Year after year, Ian and Claire visited us in Chester and also spoke in St James' Church, Christleton, spreading the good news and inspiring others. Ian is well remembered by so many. He never gave up, even when, as I understand, he took to his bed in the last couple of weeks. He was apparently quite happy as he could still do work on his computer. He will be sadly missed, not only by Claire and the family, but also by a very large Church and mission family.



Here is a photo of Ian and Claire as we remember them. Kind folk at St James contributed among many other things to the purchase of this wonderful red generator to enable the local folk to hear the Bible in their own language. You may remember that Claire took it across on her lap in the aeroplane and then on a local small boat! *Lesley Morgan*

## CHRISTLETON PARISH HALL

Currently closed, but as we go to print a review is taking place and it is hoped that the Parish Hall will be open again early in September. If you wish to book the hall or have any enquiries then please contact Maria Norbury (below):



Maria Norbury: Tel: 01244 335499.

*maria\_norbury@btinternet.com* (See also the church website.)



Overgrown or a wildlife haven?

## Churchyard Maintenance

If you wish to help keep the churchyard tidy then please talk to Mike Lightfoot who knows how this is being done safely at present.

Of course, take a walk via the churchyard as part of your exercise. Be joyous in God's amazing creation.

More details from Mike Lightfoot  
Tel: 07787 421357

## EDITING THIS MAGAZINE:

I took over editing this magazine from Linda Rowe back in February 2019. It has remained with me ever since and I'm happy to be doing it - but it is important that others share in this task.

This would give me a break from time to time and would inject a different style and viewpoint into the magazine and may save it from getting stale and 'same-ish'. Of course it's online at the moment and curiously that's actually easier from an editor's

point of view. The job is simply to produce a document using your favourite software and save it as a PDF file. This then goes up on the web, or as and when we return to printed copies then the PDF file goes to the printers.

The job is also to gather the content from our reliable contributors, proof read it, and ensure there's a balance of topics, serious and light hearted, and with a balance of church & community material.

Give me a call. Thanks, *Brian Inall* (Tel: 336500)



## CHINESE WHISPERS:

In the 1960's we had a Mini Van and one Sunday afternoon, taking pushchairs, drove to Burton Point and went for a walk along the road that skirts the marsh. The area that it is said, that round about 1800 was the scene of a tragedy. A girl went on the marsh to round up cattle and in the dusk couldn't find her way back. She was caught by the incoming tide and drowned.

Fishermen found her in the river. The incident inspired Charles Kingsley, Canon of Chester Cathedral to write the poem 'The Sands Of Dee'

*'O Mary, go and call the cattle home,  
And call the cattle home,  
And call the cattle home  
Across the sands of Dee;  
The western wind was wild and dank with foam,  
And all alone went she.*

My Father told me she lived at Denhall Farm which for those who don't know the area is near the shoreline below Ness Gardens.

When we got back to the van I couldn't start it. Another motorist in a Reliant three wheeler offered to take me to a phone box. I phoned Jean's Sister Mary, we were due to go there for Tea, and asked if her husband Charlie would come for us. We were at **Burton Point** I said. Will he know where it is? She replied I'm sure he will.

I walked the mile back to the van. After 90 minutes I gave up and walked to a café in Burton, about 2 miles, where our next-door neighbours were helping out, and asked for help. The husband borrowed his fathers-in-law's car, they owned the café, and took us all to Whitby where Jean's sister lived.

Charlie eventually came in and said "Where have you been I have been looking all over for you" I said "Didn't Mary tell you" he said "She said you had broken down with **burnt out points.**" !!

*Ben Williams*

---

## TARTE TATIN:

On one of our trips to France and travelling south we came to the village of Lamotte-Beuvron. We decided

to stop. We found bed & breakfast in a big house and after booking in went out to look for a meal. The three restaurants were advertising original Tarte Tatins. We had unknowingly arrived at the home of the famous Tart.

The story goes that in the 1880s two sisters Stéphanie and Caroline Tatin owned a hotel by the railway station [the railway no longer exists] and served meals. One day Stéphanie who did the cooking put some sliced apples on the stove to cook and then fell asleep. She awoke to the smell of burning and not wanting to waste the apples put a sheet of pastry on top and put them in the oven. She served the resulting tart upside down. It proved so popular she kept making it.

We ate in one of the restaurants, having of course a Tarte Tatin, and left with a printed recipe.

I have made the tart many times using various recipes some more complicated than others but have now found the simplest yet. I was watching Rick Stein interviewing Michel Roux in the kitchen of his restaurant at Bray and in the background Roux's son was preparing a Tarte Tatin. This is the method he used :-

In a shallow round metal dish he poured a quantity of sugar. He then cored and quartered some eating apples and arranged them in a fan shape around the dish. Lumps of butter were placed on top and then covered with pastry. The dish was put in a preheated oven.

It is certainly a short cut that works. I have made it several times since. I use an American cast iron skillet I bought about 30 years ago, the handle comes in handy when you have to turn the tart over.

*Ben Williams*

---

Since writing the above Ben has supplied an additional Tarte Tatin tip from Mary Berry as follows:

When making a tarte Tatin if you use juicy apples a lot of liquid is produced. When turning the tart over this spills out. Apart from the mess it makes it can also make the pastry soggy. Mary Berry suggests pouring the liquid into a pan before the tart is turned over and reducing it to a caramel to be poured over the cooling tart. Enjoy!

*Ben Williams*



## **TARTIFLETTE:**

On one of our French trips we visited a shop promoting Reblochon cheese, it was unknown to us so we bought 3 rounds, there were also postcards giving a recipe for Tartiflette. This cheese is washed-rind and smear ripened cheese made in the Alpine region of Savoy from raw cow's milk. I cannot remember where we were when we bought it.

Tartiflette is a modern recipe developed in the 1980's to promote the sale of the cheese, this is how I make it.

*Take 2 or 3 potatoes and thinly slice them [I use a mandolin] and put them in a pan of salted water and partly cook them. They should be firm enough to handle without breaking.*

*In a non-stick frying pan put a quantity of smoked bacon lardons and fry until soft. Remove from pan leaving the fat behind and set aside.*

*Add a little oil to the pan and fry some thinly sliced onions until soft. Remove the oil, you can do this by pushing the onions to one side, tilting the pan and soaking the oil up with kitchen towel. Return the lardons to the pan and mix, set aside to cool.*

*Take a shallow ovenproof dish and put in an overlapping layer of potatoes the some onion/lardon mix. Continue until the dish is filled adding slices of cheese between some of the layers. When the dish is filled cover the top with slices of cheese.*

*Bake in a preheated oven at 180c until the cheese has melted and the potatoes cook about 30 minutes.*

I gave 2 of the rounds to my Daughters and made the dish twice with the other. Then much later we found it on sale in Sainsburys and it became a favourite dish especially at family buffets. If you cannot get Reblochon try using Camembert or if you prefer something mild; Brie. *Ben Williams*

## **BLESSING & POEM FOR THESE DAYS:**

*(from the Diocesan Coronavirus Briefing No:20)*

### **Northumbria (or Celtic) Blessing**

May the peace of the Lord Christ go with you,  
wherever He may send you.

May He guide you through the wilderness,  
protect you through the storm.

May He bring you home rejoicing  
at the wonders He has shown you.

May He bring you home rejoicing  
once again into our doors.

*(This is a lovely blessing which we have sung in church a few times.)*

## **Nearly there! (by: Revd Alex Brown)**

Slowly but surely, and carefully, we're getting there,  
though I know that for some it's taking too long  
while over the road at the Pub  
they're worried the punters might break into song;  
and for us with no singing or choir it won't be the same,  
but once through the door you'll be glad you came,  
after carefully cleansing your hands and following the  
directions and signs  
you're back in the place where you've spent so much  
time,  
which for so many people means so very much  
and where for almost a thousand years  
prayer has been offered in good times and bad,  
in happiness and sorrow, in laughter and tears;  
and yes, it will be different  
but God remains constant and will banish our fears.

## **WHO'S WHO IN THE BIBLE:**

A bit like cryptic crossword clues. The answers are all people in the Bible. Answers on Page 16.

1. A bit of magic acting (7)
2. He's in denial (6)
3. End not with a bang, but a whimper (5)
4. The truth is in here somewhere (4)
5. Exercise is cut short (6)
6. Time for bed, he said (7)
7. A dull cut (7)
8. A small investment account (5)
9. Someone to bring encouragement (6)
10. A small number - surprise (4)
11. A most straightforward prophet (4)
12. Not good - almost the opposite (4)
13. He insists - get rid of the creature (4)
14. Elvis by another name (5)
15. Stops pop group singing - criminal (8)
16. To get back at her, I moan (5)
17. She's there somewhere (6)
18. He's very keen - at least initially (5)
19. She's the same any way you look at her (6)
20. Take the animals back, but get the bird (7)

## **ANSWER TO PUZZLE IN JULY MAGAZINE:**

### **HOW MANY ANIMALS GOING TO THE RIVER?**

One. Only the Rabbit. It is not conclusive that any others were actually going to the river at that time.

## TREASURER'S SEMI LOCKDOWN ACTIVITIES

Well, things are beginning to change a little are they not!

The fact that the church is now open has meant that I have received some envelope income and some donations via the Perspex church box which of course all helps with the bottom line.

This is of course most welcome and can be processed into the account.

The advice from the diocese, however, is that the preferable options do not involve cash in the present Covid ridden times, as it needs to be quarantined for 72 hours before being dealt with and of course requires banking via the post office – or indeed by other more obscure options! Cheques of course are still excellent currency.

We are therefore encouraged from the top, as it were, to make use of the online donation facility on our website which allows gift aid to be claimed, or the contactless donation terminal in church.

The online facility recently set up has attracted £330, and the contactless £40 since we came back to church. Both of these are administered on our behalf, so there is a small fee for each transaction. Bank transfer, whether direct or by standing order, does of course not have any fee reducing the donation, so of all this is my very most favourite!!!

We did discuss these points at our recent zoom stewardship meeting and it was felt that we should in general try to encourage embracing the pandemic accelerated move towards electronic money transfer in the future, while of course realising this will not suit everyone.

I must admit to feeling quite sad we had such reduced income initially we reduced our parish share to a 0.5 level, so I am now delighted to tell you that our income is now such that the PCC felt able to increase this to 0.75 from the end of this month. This is very reassuring and I personally hope we can increase it further as time goes on. I am only glad I am not the treasurer for Westminster Abbey! Nor for that matter Nantes Cathedral.

I think I was corrected on my interpretation last month and the truth is that over 90% of a 1.0 parish share goes



to support our clergy so we have a way to go yet to fully achieve this.

This change in amount paid is due to the incredible loyalty and support of our parishioners. The envelope income is practically maintained and the standing order income is increased, providing a degree of security. Our expenses of course have been minimal with the church closed and will increase slightly from now on.

As we are not quite at the end of this month, it is not helpful to give detailed breakdown figures but after our first 6 months due to various anomalies we had an unexpected surplus of £12K in the general fund, and only £3,575 of that was in the first 3 months, £8,611 in the second 3 months (of course with a considerably reduced parish share).

Apart from playing with figures you may wonder what else I have been doing?

Fortunately for my mood I am now back to a limited extent on the golf course and the St James' Golf Society is beginning to function once again, with the addition of Huw Morgan who beat Stewart Phillips and myself hollow!! Just wait for the return match.....

Then in my spare time I have manicured my enormous beech hedge which was overflowing the pavement such that Olga could hardly get here to share the online worship – this is our latest treat, with shortbread biscuits with our coffee. When I couldn't sleep I went to Hockenhull Platts in the dark where there is minimal light pollution and after a long time searching managed to identify the new comet, Neowise, about 10 degrees away from the lower right star of the frying pan of the Plough in the 4 o'clock position. Not a hope without binoculars or a telescope and of course a very clear night sky was required. I wonder what the portent of this comet is for our times?!!

Back to our wonderful parishioners – thank you so very much for your steady and dependable support. Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you would like to know anything more about the on line or electronic systems.

*Liz McClure*



## A HOLE LOT BETTER!

First we had this:



Then these appeared:



We were invaded by big aliens.



But now it's all smooth.  
No holes to be seen.

### Linda Rowe:

On Monday 20th July Linda left Christleton and moved to St Ives, in Cornwall. She returns to her family home and near where Tim is buried. Linda was an energetic member of St James, a past editor of this magazine, served on the PCC, and is a good friend of many. We shall miss her but continue to keep in touch.

We send our love and God's blessings to Linda as she makes her new life in that lovely part of the world.



# St James' Church Calendar

## AUGUST to OCTOBER 2020:

Gradually things are beginning to happen again at St James' Church. Whilst the church now has limited opening, the Parish Hall remains closed at present but due consideration is taking place to open the Parish Hall in early September. As things are very fluid, please check the church website or ask the Rector, a Churchwarden or the Parish Administrator if you are unsure.

**The church is open: Sundays 9am to 2pm and Wednesdays 2pm to 5pm.**

**Monday - Friday:** 9.00am: Morning Prayer - online using Zoom \*.  
A short time of devotion to start the day.  
At some stage this will transfer back to the church.

**Wednesdays:** 2.00pm - 5pm: Church open for Private Prayer.  
Prayer stations with text from Psalm 23 are there to aid your private prayers and meditation.

**Sundays:** 10.00am: Holy Communion service in church. Please wear a face covering.  
11.30am: Morning Worship online using Zoom \*.  
Church remains open for Private Prayer until 2pm.



The church is also now open for **Weddings, Baptisms and Funerals**.

Distancing, maximum numbers and hygiene rules apply. You should wear a face covering and the clergy may wear visors. Whenever you enter the church you will be asked to sanitise your hands and maintain social distancing and you will not be able to use any church books or orders of service. If the building is full when you arrive and it's unsafe to have more people, then sadly you may not be able to enter.

**Sat 5th December.** The Annual Christmas Wreath making workshop and produce and craft sale  
Subject to Covid-19 conditions at the time. See article page 5.

### **CHURCHYARD WORKING GROUP:**

Maintenance work is now taking place again, and if you wish to join other volunteers then please speak to Mike Lightfoot who can explain how it can be done safely. See ad on page 7.

### **PCC MEETINGS (on-line at present):**

Regular PCC meetings: 16/9/2020; 18/11/2020; 20/1/2021; 17/3/2021.

**\* JOINING ZOOM MEETINGS / WORSHIP:** (We are no longer using Jitsi Meet for online meetings as we have decided that Zoom gives an improved performance.)

For Sunday the Zoom invite & joining details are on the St James' website (click/tap on Sunday Worship) which along with the Order of Service, hymns and the homily are put there shortly before.

For the midweek Morning Prayer the Zoom invite & joining details are within the Calendar on the St James' website. If you are having difficulty please ask the Rector, Churchwarden or administrator.

## HISTORY FILE:

### People We Remember - Dorothy Colley McNair



**Dorothy Colley McNair** was a Christleton resident and a very remarkable person, not only caring for a young family, and supporting her husband Tim a respected tailor when they moved to Chester, but being inspirational in her leadership of all things creative in the area. Her

influence was immense, and can be seen in her work, or in what she inspired. Her major work was to design and organise the making of the 1992 embroideries for the 900<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Chester Cathedral. This work took five years and involved an administrative team, sewing leaders, teachers and artists in various parishes who helped with local designs for the 630 kneelers. Over 1,000 stitchers, men, women and children attended the dedication service in Chester Cathedral. She also designed and led a team of 20 skilled needle women to make the altar frontal and vestments for the Cathedral.

The unique Edwin Carr memorial frontal for St James' Christleton, based on a view of the Holy Land from space, was designed and machine stitched in 1997, with the help of a group of members from church. Dorothy was also delighted to have been commissioned by **Voirrey Embroidery** to produce three memorial samplers to commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of the Atlantic, D Day and V E Day in 1994.

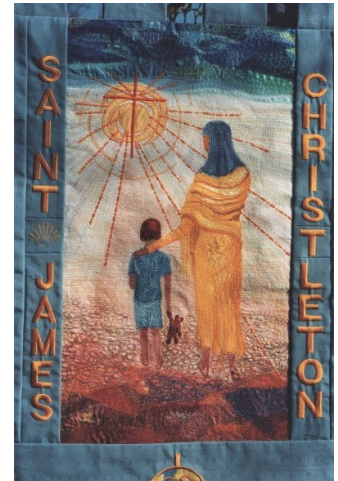
Her designs to commemorate the Millennium included;

A panel for the United Nations in Chester Cathedral, Embroideries and kneelers for the Hospice of the Good Shepherd, two panels and wedding kneelers for Burton Church, ten kneelers for the Clatterbridge Hospital Chapel, a Cushion for the Embroiders Guild 2000 project, and a new banner for the Mothers Union at St James' Church



United Nations panel

St James' banner



Altar Cloth - Sea of Galilee

Christleton. She also produced an embroidered panel – Theme “Air” for the new Breast care Unit at the Countess of Chester Hospital in June 2003. This work incorporated the ideas and work of a group. The enlarged design was completed as a collage to tell the story of the embroidery. She also produced a set of Preaching Scarves for the Falls Church in Washington USA.

This list is not exhaustive and shows what a

dynamic person she really was, despite being ill herself over a long period of time. She also had the joy of meeting, falling in love and marrying Professor Philip McNair in 2005/6 and they were able to share two wonderful years together both in Christleton at later at Much Haddam in Hertfordshire. She inspired so many in her life and her wonderfully created designs will delight, and be seen by people in the area for centuries to come.

Dorothy died at Much Haddam on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2008 aged 79yrs.

*David Cummings 2020*



**Tapestry in St James' Church**

## **WILDLIFE WATCH**

### **The Flying Emperor**

The main highlights for me this month has been seeing Emperor dragonflies, rare silver studded blue butterflies and seeing and listening to yellowhammers. Christleton Pit has also been an excellent viewing site, with appearances of a male Emperor, male 4 spotted chaser, and male black tailed skimmer dragonflies, the latter two being new species at The Pit. They were joined by both blue tailed and common blue damselflies. Another great moment came on 4<sup>th</sup> July when I witnessed an early morning feeding frenzy by 100+ house martins over the meadows and lake at Hockenhull. There were so many of these sleek black and white fliers coming from all directions, I frequently had to duck down to avoid being hit, as they came across

the meadows and from along the river, at lightening speeds, feeding as they flew. Then they seemed to gather in a great circle in the sky above my head, communicating with each other in some way before repeating their feeding frenzy, and once again swooped on unsuspecting insects over the lush meadows. This lasted for about 45 minutes in all, before they flew off, some towards the lake and others towards their roost in the barns at Cotton Farm. There were probably 50+ swifts feeding over the lake, their dark black scimitar shapes, making recognisable flight patterns in the big grey skies. Sadly I have seen no swifts in Christleton at all this year, and only a handful near the shops at Waverton, both regular sites to see these superb flying machines. Many people have commented on the lack of swallows in the village and surrounding area this year, and although I have seen a reasonable number they are well down for the reasons that I explained last month.

Let me get back to my sightings of the Emperor dragonfly. I have tried for years to photograph these rare insects, the largest UK dragonfly. These beautiful, elegant blue creatures seem to buzz, dart and dance in front of you, not giving a moments opportunity to capture a sharp image with a camera. Watching a male flying into a strong headwind at Prees Heath a week or so ago, gave me the best opportunity yet, and the results can be seen in my images above. We had called in at Prees Heath, an area of restored heath land between the A41 and A49, really to see a butterfly speciality, the rare silver studded blue which we were delighted to see, and it was during our search for these tiny blue insects, that we came across a small pond where the Emperor was in flight mode. Imaging our excitement when two days later near the Japanese Garden at Tatton Park, we not only watched another male Emperor, but he attracted my attention to a female laying eggs on some pond weed just 20m away. He kept dipping and diving around her, so gave me the opportunity to see exactly where she was and then take some pictures. Another rare sighting at Prees was the appearance of singing male yellowhammers with their distinctive song a repetitive "little bit of bread and no cheese". Cheshire and locally in Christleton was once a stronghold for these delightful bright



yellow birds, with as many as 100 roosting in the reed beds at Hockenhull in winter months. In fact it was named by enthusiasts at one stage as Cheshire's County bird, but numbers have dwindled rapidly since those heady days in the 1970's. There have been a few local sightings this year, at Birch Heath Common, along Hockenhull Lane and Walk Mill, but you really have to be lucky to spot them.

Finally this month I'm delighted to report that the cluster of common spotted orchids on the Legion Meadow has spread further this year, and we hope that they will continue to do so in the future. Although they are not obvious in the tallest meadow grasses they have a distinctive purple and pink colour, and I'll highlight them and other flowering plants in my next report.

*David Cummings.*

Swift



Emperor in flight



Emperor egg laying

The Foodbank is still operating and needs your contributions more than ever, but even though the church is now open for part of the time we prefer it if you didn't leave items in church unless you have no other option.

So please try to use the collection points available in all these big supermarkets:

**Sainsbury's, Waitrose, Asda, Morrisons, Tesco**

Also the **Royal Mail Sorting Office** on Station Road has a box. Or people can take items directly to the Foodbank ...the address and directions are on their website:

**<https://westcheshire.foodbank.org.uk>** . And finally people can make a money donation to the foodbank - regular or one-off - and again details are on their website. They will be happy with anything non-perishable but long life fruit juice is urgent and always welcome, also tinned meats, instant mashed potatoes, instant noodles, tinned custard & puddings, treats/sweets. They do NOT need pasta, beans, tomatoes. Thank you for your help. (*Chris Alderton*)



## FROM THE REGISTERS:

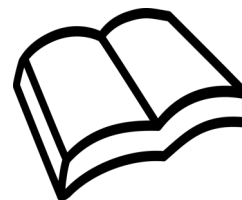
### Funerals:

**Mrs Evelyn Wilson**, died 13/10/2019, aged 85.  
Burial of ashes at St James: 22/7/2020

**Mr Stanley Carline**, died 24/5/2020, aged 88.  
Burial of ashes at St James: 15/7/2020

**Mrs Joyce Lockley**, died 8/7/2020, aged 83.  
Funeral & burial at St James: 21/7/2020

**Mrs Annie Young**, died 14/7/2020, aged 102.  
Funeral & burial at St James: 6/8/2020



**Mrs Nancy Owen**, died 4/7/2020, aged 86  
Funeral at St James: 30/7/2020

**Mr John Evans**, died 25/2/2020, aged 104  
Burial of Ashes at St James: 26/8/2020

Note: The current rules specify a limit to the number attending funerals, and all social distancing and hygiene requirements will apply. As rules are slowly being relaxed this may change.

**ANSWERS TO CRYPTIC QUIZ (Page 10):** 1: Abraham; 2: Daniel; 3: Peter; 4: Ruth; 5: Pilate; 6: Zebedee; 7: Matthew; 8: Isaac; 9: Philip; 10: Noah; 11: Amos; 12: Levi; 13: Adam; 14: Aaron; 15: Barabbas; 16: Naomi; 17: Esther; 18: David; 19: Hannah; 20: Stephen.

## CONGRATULATIONS:

To **David & Jean Cresswell** as they celebrate their **Golden Wedding Anniversary** on the 15<sup>th</sup> August 2020.

If you have birthdays and anniversaries at this time we send you congratulations and hope that you're able to celebrate despite the restrictions! Please send details to the editor if you wish them to appear here.

**devaprint ltd**

ESTABLISHED 1984

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

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

**www.devaprintchester.co.uk**

Sutton House, Guilden Sutton, Chester CH3 7EY

## HOME-HEAT Solutions

### Gas & Oil Heating Services

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



01244 349044

www.homeheatsolutions.co.uk

## Drakes Haircutters

of Christleton

### *Ladies & Gents Salon*

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

*Discount for new clients—bring this ad.*

**Holly House, Village Road,  
Christleton, CH3 7AS**

**Tel: (01244) 332660 [www.drakeshaircutters.co.uk](http://www.drakeshaircutters.co.uk)**



# Artichoke

## Café Bar Bistro



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

Great coffee, fabulous food,  
Brilliant beers and wonderful wines

[www.artichokechester.co.uk](http://www.artichokechester.co.uk)

The Steam Mill, Chester

## Ring O' Bells Christleton

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

### Regular events & offers...

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

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

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

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

Tel: 01244 335422 Email: [info@ringobellschester.co.uk](mailto:info@ringobellschester.co.uk)  
Address: Village Rd, Christleton, CH3 7AS

## ROCK HOUSE DENTAL PRACTICE

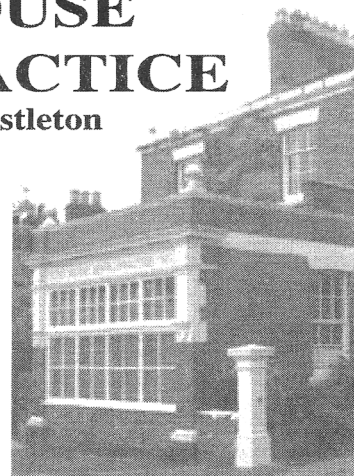
Village Road, Christleton

### Damian Murphy

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

and Associates with hygienists

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



[www.rockhousedentalpractice.co.uk](http://www.rockhousedentalpractice.co.uk)

**01244 332162**

digital ☒

## AIRON SERVICES

01244 346722

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

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



Call  
me for  
free  
advice

## SPACE TO ADVERTISE YOUR BUSINESS

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



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

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

Tel: 01829 752321

or

Email: [info@willingtonhall.co.uk](mailto:info@willingtonhall.co.uk)

**Willington Hall, Willington Lane, Tarporley, CW6 0NB**

 **WILLINGTON HALL**



## David Joinson Quality Meats



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

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

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

[DavidJoinsonQualityMeats@outlook.com](mailto:DavidJoinsonQualityMeats@outlook.com)

## GORDON BROWN PLUMBING & CENTRAL HEATING (Christleton) LTD

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

Sandiway, Plough Lane  
Christleton, CH3 7BA  
01244 335785

## SPACE TO ADVERTISE YOUR BUSINESS

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

## Mitchell Group

it's our people who make the difference



Mitchell Group, Stanney Mill Lane,  
Cheshire Oaks, Chester CH2 4RG  
Tel: 0151 346 5555 [www.mitchellgroup.co.uk](http://www.mitchellgroup.co.uk)



Sundays - At home with the family

## Jennie's Catering OF CHRISTLETON

*Every Occasion Catered For:*

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

*Waiter Service as Required*

**For Help and Friendly Advice  
Contact**

*Jenny Adam 01244 330090*