



**HAPPY
NEW
YEAR !**

PARISH OF ST JAMES

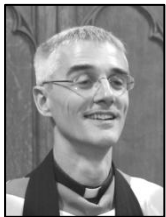
*Serving the communities of:
Christleton, Cotton Abbots,
Cotton Edmunds, Littleton and Rowton.*

FEBRUARY 2019

50p.

From the Rector:

ADVENTURES IN STABILITY:



Is it too late to wish you a Happy New Year? Most likely!

So let me put it a different way. I'm excited. Excited about the new adventures we will be sharing together this new year. I hope you are too. We know these adventures won't all be joy, laughs, and careless abandon. They will involve challenge, tears, and desolation too. But we can be in it together, rejoice together, suffer together, and be strengthened by the promise that God is with us.

A promise we were reminded of recently when we celebrated the Baptism of Christ (you can tell when I am writing this article). We heard about Jesus' baptism (Luke 3.21-22). How the heavens opened, the Holy Spirit descended upon Jesus, and a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, the beloved, with you I am well pleased". A reminder that God invites us, longs for us, to be members of his family, sons and daughters, whom God loves and delights in.

It made me recall a talk I heard by Sir John Jones, a prominent educationalist. Sir John spoke of the number of times a child received positive affirmation in both, say, a middle

class and deprived family context. The difference was staggering. If I recall correctly, which I am not sure I do, it was about a factor of 5. And the results, without prejudice or judgement of the families, were dramatic in the development and growth of the children in question.

I suspect this is the very same in all the different communities we experience and participate in day by day. Loving affirmation provides a context, a security for growth in the same way the gift of God's invitation to be part of his family, in baptism – affirming our value, worth, and purpose, provides a context for our growth as a Christian community.

Growth in stability.

This is going to be important for us, stability, in the coming months.

We are, I hope, excited about the possibility of, among other things, exploring how we may develop our church building to be a resource for the community within which it is placed during this year. To explore, how it may be used throughout the week as a place of encounter, meeting, learning, entertainment, and much else besides. All within the context of it being a beautiful sacred place which is set aside, Holy. A place which serves as a gateway to heaven, a place of blessed worship. We invite you to be part of that conversation, visit and speak with us (we will do the same), and or give us some feedback via our website in the coming months.

These, and other, changes could easily introduce instabilities into the community. Problems between people and groups could easily emerge, and divisions be opened up (though clearly I hope not). The voice from heaven spoken to us, "You are my Son, my daughter, the beloved, with you I am well pleased", reminds us we are invited to live in stability as one family. We can respond to change with stability, recognising this is hard, for as another voice from heaven says elsewhere, "When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the

rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned" (Isaiah 43.2). We can pass, and walk through change well because God is with us. We can stay put, stable, when problems arise between people and group, and any divisions open up because God is with us.

Perhaps this is why I am so excited near the start of this new year. God is with us.

With my love and prayers,

Stefan

MODERN DAY SLAVERY:

Slavery: it's happening here, now, today.

- Did you know that Modern Day Slavery is the fastest growing organised crime in the world today?
- Do you know what 'Modern Day Slavery' actually means in practice?
- Do you know the extent to which it is taking place within the UK today?
- Would you know how to spot the signs of potential victims of slavery?
- Would you know what to do about it if you suspect you have come across a victim of slavery?

Soroptimist International Chester are giving a talk which will give the answers to these questions to Christleton WI on Wednesday 13th February at 7.15pm in the Parish Hall.

This is such an important issue for our society today that it has been decided to make this an OPEN MEETING and anyone who is interested (male or female) is invited to come along and listen. There is no charge for this meeting.

Soroptimist International is a global women's service organisation that supports women and girls locally, nationally and internationally.

Elizabeth Inall
(WI Secretary - Tel: 336500)



TREASURER'S UPDATE:

What a very happy time I have had over the Christmas season counting money!

It is wonderful to report that the Christmas collections are 27% up on last year, and the gift aid envelopes perhaps up 41%. Some people have time off over Christmas and New Year but this does not apply to the treasurer.

I am delighted to tell you that the entire collection from Carols Round the Tree is destined to be given to charity, a decision we felt unable to make last year.

Perhaps even more heartening is the final accounts for 2018 which, for the first time since I have taken over this work, are in the black. This is an improvement from last year of almost 14K, and does NOT include the legacy we have in addition been fortunate to have.

I am very much indebted to this wonderful congregation who have risen to the stewardship initiative challenge, and who have in addition provided most generous donations, whether "restricted" or otherwise to enable this situation.

So, you ask, shall we now relax and rest on our laurels? Maybe this is not such a good idea, as the present position is a little precarious – in fact we are due to spend a large sum on the parish hall, also a large sum on the bells, and we hope to modify the parish hall to incorporate a parish office – the cash flow at end of year has this time been in our favour so I must not reassure you too much!

What now of the future, the new year ahead? We are doing our best to move with the times and not only has Stefan produced our new website, but (again through the generosity of our congregation) donations have also been made towards a contactless terminal for the church. I hope this will be beneficial in particular for visitors to the church, for funerals and weddings and for festival services but I hope also you will at least try it out for fun! It will be set up to be an equivalent service to a cash collection and should be with us in March.

The parish share has risen by 2.5% for 2019, this being our 125% of the standard 1 full time clergy person, this level due to the socio-economic banding of the parish. The figure is £78,542.

To put this in perspective, an ideal situation would be if regular giving supported this. My calculations on the annual accounts suggest we raise £63,763. 100% parish share interestingly comes to £62,833.

In view of the retail price index going up and the demographics of our population, can I really realistically suggest we increase our giving even more by 25%????

You will understand why we have relied so heavily on the income from our fantastic fundraising team and that from the parish hall rental to try to keep ourselves afloat. Please note I have not included any other expenses in these figures.

I am happy to discuss any of these figures but am about to flee the country (on a temporary basis) after my rather intensive counting.

Many, many thanks for your loyal support and generosity.

Liz McClure

PRODUCE SALE:



Every 3rd Sunday in the month, at coffee after the 10.45am service, have you seen the sale of produce?

Proceeds from the sale go directly to the St James' Parish Hall Refurbishment Fund which has benefitted by several hundred pounds over the last year from this. What is great is that the produce is donated to us by some enthusiastic folk who regularly make the jams, pickles and more.

You can help by buying the produce, or by making & donating some produce. We would be most grateful either way.

For more information talk to Christine Abrams (Tel: 335562).

THE SHAPE OF A CHRISTIAN LED TRANSFORMATION OF SOCIETY..??

If we reflect on helping the most disadvantaged in society- whilst hopefully not creating disincentive across the wider community, we might ask a broader question such as

'what would a Christian led Transformation in our society really require and look like...'

The issues are big, very complex and embedded in the various layers and structures of our societies worldwide – made more challenging in some ways by increasingly pluralistic and transient lifestyles and the hidden impact of technology which along with its benefits makes the world smaller and has massive impact on how and where resources are deployed. A big, big issue is of course the level of debt carried by poor or underdeveloped countries and the impact of finance interest on it that percolates down to individual living standards in key areas like health, security and nutrition (as well as basic matters such as hygiene and hunger!!)

So, what might be a starter for ten? I thought a good place to consider would be to understand and take on board the priorities set a year or so ago the Arch Bishop of Canterbury. There are three key areas and you can explore these on his and the Church of England websites:

-the Renewal of Prayer, thereby encouraging all Christians to deepen their relationship with Jesus Christ, enriching not just their lives but the lives of those around them, and supporting both existing and new religious communities as active demonstration and witness of how people can bind together (including reaching out to others whether in any Faith or not) to reach new depths of love and obedience in their lives of faith

-Reconciliation, recognizing the challenge both in our lives locally, and for the worldwide churches if we are actually going to speak to and get through in an easier way to understand what we say in and across our

society. This not least as our society is increasingly divided, and in some cases totally polarised, in many different ways; so we could explore ways of strengthening and leveraging our overall capacity to transform and engage ever more widely

-through Evangelism and Witness – showing others through our words, actions, attitudes and interactions how God has offered everyone of us a new start and how we can show others they are loved by God, and through witness what we do with what we have seen; the love of God in Jesus Christ and the second commandment to love our neighbour (not just next door and within our own Parish, important though that is, but throughout the world!!)

If these priorities become a natural part of our lives, and reflect our deeds, words and thoughts, it seems to me there is scope for huge change and improvement in our world to transform it and change the world forever. Sometimes these things just creep up on us because society as a whole is influenced by government, business, family and friends around them, almost like a tidal wave of change- a good example is that 40 or so years ago drink driving was more prevalent in the UK but there was gradual change of awareness and culture such that our outlooks as a whole were transformed towards responsible driving, now being the mantra for the vast majority of the population. The message is that change can and does occur if we have the will.

The Christmas sermon of the Arch Bishop a couple of years ago included the line:

“That is the impact of the baby in the manger (Jesus), the impact of the one who reaches out to us and brings not a day long truce but permanent peace with God, not escapism but to a call to be those who change the world in which we live”

So as we march into 2019 and beyond, let us all think about how we can glue together, look after each other and build together on the myriad of thousands good things which are

already being done quietly or publicly, week in week out. Also, how as Christians together with others in different Faiths, those unsure or sitting on the fence or currently in no Faith, we can leverage our capacity to help Transform the ills of the world and spread joy wherever we can.

Mark Evans

MESSY CHURCH



Messy Church Celebration was the theme this month

which was particularly appropriate since it was the birthday of one of our regular children. The other reason for our topic of Joy and Celebration was linked to the first miracle Jesus performed at the wedding at Cana when He turned water into wine.

We were reminded of how we have moved over the last couple of months from Advent through Christmas into Epiphany with the baptism of Jesus and then on to this memorable occasion.

Our activities of designing wedding hats with colourful ribbons, braiding, tassels and pom-poms; decorating fairy cakes and silver goblets; modelling clay pots like mini water jars and constructing paper models of jars which replaced blue water with red wine all came in useful for a re-enactment of the wedding after Jan had told us the story.

Will and Huw with their musical talent led us in singing about Jesus turning water into wine and sorrow into dancing. Then, of course, we sat down to our wedding feast courtesy of Bettie and the kitchen helpers at a table adorned with silver goblets fit for a toast. The crowning glory of the delicious feast was a 'celebration' cake.

Next Messy Church: Sunday 17th February.

Joce Platel

TIME TO TALK DAY - 7th February:

This national initiative aims to bring people together and start talking about mental health.

Mental health problems affect one in four of us, yet people are still afraid to talk about it. Time to Talk Day encourages everyone to talk about mental health. Having conversations about mental health helps break down stereotypes, improve relationships, aid recovery and take the stigma out of something that affects us all.

There are lots of different ways to have a conversation about mental health. And you don't have to be an expert to talk. At St James we will be holding an open drop-in session in the Parish Hall from 10am to 2pm. Tea, coffee, cakes and sandwiches will be on offer. Please come along and encourage friends and family to drop in too.

For further information about 'Time to Talk Day' visit: www.time-to-change.org.uk

Tina Lightfoot

CREW - BUCKET LISTS

The Crew's first meeting of 2019 was kindly hosted by Caroline. It was lovely to all meet together in a comfortable and cosy environment and the meeting was certainly enhanced by some lovely homemade cakes.

We talked about alternative bucket lists. Many 'bucket lists' consist of things we want to do to give us a quick thrill and a buzz such as a skydive, a bungee jump or shooting the rapids. There are so many exciting and thrilling experiences to be had but how do such experiences change us or improve the lives of those we meet or care for? Crew members thought about the coming year and what they may like to achieve, how they might make the most of opportunities that come along and how to cope with challenges and fears and how they may get to know more about our Christian faith and how the group might get more involved in our worshipping community.

Some things on the list were personal and private but others were shared amongst the group.

We plan to review the lists at the beginning of Advent at the end of the year and may well be surprised by what we've achieved and how we have helped to improve things for others..... watch this space.

Tina Lightfoot

OLD BAGGAGE

It was a fine summer morning on the outskirts of Whitstable in Kent. I wanted a newspaper. The hotel staff said that I could get one from a supermarket that was just a short distance up the road. In fact there were two large supermarkets in what was obviously a developing out-of-town shopping complex. The car parks were packed and dozens of folk were moving about with trolleys piled high with purchases, especially from the one belonging to a well known discount chain.

Nothing special in any of that you may be thinking, but it was a Sunday and that made it different for me. I don't go to supermarkets on Sundays and, indeed, try to avoid any shopping on Sundays. But why? Well "it's complicated" as modern dramatists like to say. It starts with history. I grew up when Sunday was different from the other days of the week and the label "sabbath" did not sound as archaic as it does today. Shops did not open on Sundays. As a teenager, I had a morning paper round. The newsagent opened on Sunday morning just to load us paper boys up (no paper girls as I recall) and closed immediately after. Later the shop was able to open for the sale of newspapers and cigarettes - a priority that today would be bizarre.

As the years have passed, so the laws concerned with Sunday trading have continued to be relaxed. 1985 was probably the watershed because it was the time of the "Keep Sunday Special" campaign which was promoted by trade unions concerned that

shop employees were being obliged to work on Sundays against their wishes and supported by many Christian and humanitarian organisations along the lines of providing particular time for rest, leisure and the worship of God. The conditions for shop workers were resolved, as so often, by a combination of pay and time off in lieu. The other issues just seemed to fade away and folk were left to use Sunday in any way that they wanted.

So where am I today with all this? Well I am still influenced by the interpretation of the commandment "Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy" that I learnt as a child but I am now more influenced by my understanding Christ's words "The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath. So the Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath". Hence I rejoice at today's legislation- free Sunday which means that I am free to worship (and avoid shopping!) because I want to. I can share this experience with like-minded folk and our standing in society is not affected by it.

On a recent Sunday, I saw a brightly lit shop full of customers and attendant staff. It was one of the new challenger banks. I was thrilled to see it - a powerful reminder of how far I had travelled since childhood.

Jim Hawkes

ST JAMES' LUNCHEON CLUB

The Luncheon Club takes place once a month in the parish hall. It has been running in its current form since 2014. We provide a two

course hot meal with tea and coffee afterwards. The Christmas lunch is a bit more special, when a turkey lunch is served with all the trimmings, Christmas pudding, mince pies, petit fours, mulled wine and a present for everyone who attends. There is a team of cooks, servers and kitchen staff, all volunteers, who give their time willingly.

The club is open to anybody who wishes to turn up. It is a free lunch but we do welcome donations to offset our costs. We try to source a lot of produce we use in our lunches locally, our meat and poultry come from a butcher in Boughton and our vegetables from a local greengrocer.

To bore you with statistics, in 2018 our average number of diners was 45, food expenses £1544, non food expenses £176, donations received £2624 and £925 was given to the PCC towards the renovation of the parish hall. We frequently buy additional kitchen equipment as the need arises.

The lunch is a good example of outreach in the parish, people arrive early to chat, volunteers help others with coats, wheelchairs etc. The Rector if he is available, says Grace and frequently helps with the serving of food and the clearing up.

We now enter our sixth year of providing lunches, if you feel you could help in anyway, cooking, laying tables, washing up, meeting and greeting guests, providing transport, please contact Janet 07983 425431, Liz 07764 260580 or Chris 07947 729570.

Mike Lightfoot

The Christmas Luncheon Club
(Photo: David Cummings)



CHURCHES TOGETHER

This year we are to visit five Chapels in our local area, over five weeks in Lent, beginning on Tuesday March 12. There are 4 on Tuesdays and the last, April 11, is on a Thursday, please note!

We will meet there for 2.30pm each time for about an hour, and we hope many will join us. Full details and venues will be given nearer the time, to include Chapels of the Hospice, the Countess of Chester hospital, The University of Chester, St Peter's at the Cross, and the Catholic High School. The aim here is to find more about, and to support the work of, our ecumenical chaplains.

Do come and join us, and if you have problems in getting there please let us know - transport will be provided!

Jan Bowden

HOME DISCUSSION GROUP:

Since the beginning of October 2018 several members of St James' church have come together on a regular basis to talk about our faith.

Though we all knew each other, sitting down together in someone's home to talk about a matter as deep and as personal as faith was quite a different thing from a passing contact through church or even working together on a particular task.

The aim of the group was to think about and discuss our faith in today's world, to encourage each other in being joyful in our faith and to develop a greater understanding and openness about the story that Christians proclaim and the issues and problems within Christianity.

We aimed to base our discussions on scripture and on personal experience and our own ideas and thoughts. We wanted something freer than a lecture or a study course, something more relaxed, more like a sharing of things than anything else.

In the period since we started we have talked about our own experience of being Christians in the world; the place of the Laity in the Church; of justice, mercy, anger, forgiveness, love, peace and joy in our lives and that of the wider church. There is also a clear element of considering practical ways in which we might develop the outreach in the parish. Currently we are thinking about the Holy Spirit and the meaning of his place in our faith – enough to confound anyone, of the Church or not!

In order to achieve our aims there needs to be a large element of trust. This takes time and can't be hurried, I think. Hopefully, stronger friendships will also grow between us. Currently there are 10 people involved. There is no expectation that everyone will be able to make every meeting, which is normally on a weekly basis, but there is a commitment for all to try and make every meeting they can. We most definitely want more people to join the group, the idea being that our one group will develop into several in the parish, possibly meeting at different times so allowing as many people as can to take part. At present we meet on a Tuesday at 7.30pm for an hour and a half approximately.

I think that the feeling among those that come to the group is positive and energy and thought is put into each meeting by all to a greater or lesser extent. There is no compulsion to speak, though I think everyone has something to say when they are ready. COME AND JOIN US!

For further details or a chat about the group contact Chris Platel on 332466 or Brian and Elizabeth Inall on 336500.

Chris Platel

Happy Birthday Gertrude:

Congratulations and very best wishes to Gertrude Wright from all her friends in the Parish on her 95th Birthday on 26th February.

St James' Church Calendar

February & March 2019

Every **Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday** and **Friday**: 9am: Morning Prayer

FEBRUARY:

<u>Sunday 3rd:</u> (<i>Candlemas</i>)	8am: 10.45am: 6.30pm:	Holy Communion (BCP) followed by Breakfast in the Hall Holy Communion. Refreshments. Evening Prayer
Monday 4th:	1.45pm:	Mothers' Union in the Parish Hall
Tuesday 5th:	7.30pm:	Home Discussion Group - at Sandheys, Plough Lane
Wed 6th:	10.45am:	United Holy Communion (Churches Together) . Refreshments.
Thursday 7th:	10am - 2pm:	"Time to Talk Day" - about mental health. Parish Hall. See article.
Saturday 9th:	10.30am:	Churchyard Working Group
<u>Sunday 10th:</u> (<i>4th bf Lent</i>)	8am: 10.45am: 6.30pm:	Holy Communion Morning Worship. Refreshments. Holy Communion
Tuesday 12th:	7.30pm:	Home Discussion Group - at Grange House, Village Road
Wed 13th:	10.45am:	Holy Communion (BCP) . Refreshments.
<u>Sunday 17th:</u> (<i>3rd bf Lent</i>)	8am: 10.45am: 4pm: 6pm: 6.30pm:	Holy Communion Holy Communion. Refreshments and Produce Sale. Messy Church in Parish Hall Crew Youth Group in Parish Hall Evening Prayer (BCP)
Monday 18th:	12.30pm:	Luncheon Club in the Parish Hall
Tuesday 19th:	7.30pm:	Home Discussion Group - at Grange House, Village Road
Wed 20th:	10.45am: 7.30pm:	Holy Communion (BCP) . Refreshments. PCC Meeting
Friday 22nd:	10am:	Checking & Spring Cleaning the Parish Hall Kitchen.
<u>Sunday 24th:</u> (<i>2nd bf Lent</i>)	8am: 10.45am: 6.30pm:	Holy Communion Morning Prayer (trad) . Refreshments. Holy Communion
Tuesday 26th:	7.30pm:	Home Discussion Group - at Sandheys, Plough Lane
Wed 27th:	10.45am:	Holy Communion (BCP) . Refreshments.



MARCH:

Sunday 3rd: (next bf Lent)	8am: 10.45am: 6.30pm:	Holy Communion (BCP) followed by Breakfast in the Hall Holy Communion. Refreshments. Evening Prayer
Monday 4th:	1.45pm:	Mothers' Union in the Parish Hall
Tuesday 5th: (Shrove Tues)	(am) 7.30pm:	Big Pancake Party morning at Bettie's. More details to be advertised. Home Discussion Group - at Grange House, Village Road
Wed 6th: (Ash Wed)	10.45am: 7.30pm:	United Holy Communion with Imposition of Ashes. Refreshments. Holy Communion with Imposition of Ashes
Saturday 9th:	10.30am:	Churchyard Working Group
Sunday 10th: (1st of Lent)	8am: 10.45am: 6.30pm:	Holy Communion Morning Worship. Refreshments. Holy Communion
Tuesday 12th:	2pm: 7.30pm:	Churches Together Lent Visit - 1st of 5 (see p7) Home Discussion Group - at Grange House, Village Road
Wed 13th:	10.45am:	Holy Communion (BCP) . Refreshments.
Sunday 17th: (2nd of Lent)	8am: 10.45am: 4pm: 6pm: 6.30pm:	Holy Communion Holy Communion. Refreshments and Produce Sale. Messy Church in Parish Hall Crew Youth Group in Parish Hall Evening Prayer (BCP)
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Wed 20th:	10.45am:	Holy Communion (BCP) . Refreshments.
Sunday 24th: (3rd of Lent)	8am: 10.45am: 6.30pm:	Holy Communion Morning Prayer (trad) . Refreshments. Holy Communion
Tuesday 26th:	2pm: 7.30pm:	Churches Together Lent Visit - 3rd of 5 (see p7) Home Discussion Group - at Sandheys, Plough Lane
Wed 27th:	10.45am:	Holy Communion (BCP) . Refreshments.
Sunday 31st: (4th of Lent)	<u>Mothers' Day</u> . Also, note that <u>clocks go forward 1 hour to Summer Time</u> . 8am: 10.45am: 6.30pm:	Holy Communion Holy Communion. Refreshments. 5th Sunday evening Service

LOOKING FURTHER AHEAD:

Tue 2nd April:	2pm:	Churches Together Lent Visit - 4th of 5 (See p7)
Thu 4th April:	12 - 1.30pm:	Churches Together in Christleton Lent Lunch - for Christian Aid
Thu 11th April:	2pm:	Churches Together Lent Visit - last of 5 (See p7)
Sun 14th April:		Palm Sunday and the start of Holy Week

Note: BCP means the service uses the Book of Common Prayer and older traditional language.



**Churchyard Maintenance
Saturday 9th February
and
Saturday 9th March**

Once a month at 10.30am we hold a working party to help maintain our church yard. If you would like to join us just come along in old clothes with gloves and basic gardening tools (not essential). For further information please contact:

Mike Lightfoot - Tel: 07787 421357

Luncheon Club

The next lunch with a Scottish Theme is at 12noon (for 12.30) in the Parish Hall on Monday 18th February 2019

A tasty hot meal. All welcome, but please book a place if you haven't already by calling: Liz: 409414; Janet: 325529; or Christine: 335562



Messy Church

on

**Sunday 17th February 2019
4pm in Christleton Parish Hall**

**The Crew
St James' Youth Group**

The next meeting in the Parish Hall
Sunday 17th February
at 6 pm

Saturday 23rd February at 7.00pm - Christleton Parish Hall David & Beryl Cummings present **The Wildlife & Scenery of the Kruger, Garden Route and Cape Point National Parks in South Africa.** A Talk in aid of the Jennie Marsh Trust. (Building a school in Uganda)
Tickets £7 including refreshments. Available from David 332410 or from the back of church.

Wednesday 27th February at 7.30pm - Christleton Parish Hall
Christleton Local History Group - Guest Speaker Katherine Seddon.
Women's Suffrage & Music. The story of Hope Squire and Frank Merrick. Admission £3. All welcome.

Saturday 30th March at 7.00pm - Christleton Parish Hall David & Beryl Cummings present **A Journey through South Africa, from Pretoria and Port Elizabeth, to Knysna, Cape Town and the Cape of Good Hope. A Talk for the 2019 Christian Aid Appeal.**
Tickets £7 including refreshments. Available from David 332410 or from the back of church.

THE NEW PARISH MEMORIAL TO THE FALLEN OF THE GREAT WAR 1914-18:

On Christmas Eve 2018 Alf Croston unveiled the new Parish memorial to the fallen from World War 1 on the Village Green. David Cummings acted as compere on behalf of the Parish Council, and gave the background for this new commemorative memorial funded by the Parish Council & other contributors from the Parish. Alf Croston unveiled the beautifully crafted wreath of metal poppies each carrying the initials of the 51 men who died in the Great War who were connected with the Parish. The original war memorial on the Church Green has only 39 names, and it is a mystery why the other names were missed off. Many of these men are even buried in Commonwealth Graves in the churchyard, whilst others are included on the church memorial but not on the war memorial. The Rector, Revd. Dr Stefan Collier also took part in the ceremony with prayers and a dedication.

We hope that the recent research done by members of the Christleton Local History Group for the Christleton Great War Stories Project will finally right this apparent wrong. Congratulations to the Parish Council for funding this memorial and placing it on the Village Green, where the original memorial cross was initially intended to be sited.

Exciting developments have taken place following the Remembrance Day Service in the village on 11th November 2018. The Local History group have been contacted by family members of three of the men involved in the Great War and as a result, new information has come to light about the men and the village. A portrait of 2nd Lt Walter Handley RWF in Army Uniform was received from his family in Derbyshire. Walter had been a young man from Christleton who travelled to America as a Missionary, and became a Minister in the Church of America. When war was declared he came back to serve his country, and was killed in France in 1918.

Other exciting images have emerged of 2nd Lt Edward Radcliffe Porritt, Kings Liverpool Regt. who died on the Somme in 1916, and his family. Thanks



to members of the family now living in Surrey, we know much more about him and the family story. In addition to photographs of Radcliffe in his army service, we are also able to identify Radcliffe, his mother Ada, father Edward, brother Jack and sister Mary, from village photographs from our Cullimore collection. It was due to Radcliffe's death that

the new Village Institute was built. Mary was distraught at his death, and insisted that she be taken to France to serve with the YMCA, helping family members from the Kings Liverpool Regt. who were visiting their wounded loved ones. Before the war Radcliffe had been working with his father Edward in the family Cotton Business in Liverpool, but he was also an adventurer and climbed the Matterhorn as a teenager, an amazing feat in those days of limited climbing equipment. The Porritt Family lived at The Grange in Village Road, and Jack & family at High Walls in Birch Heath Lane. Edward Porritt had been in the Cotton trade for 40 years and was made President of the Liverpool Cotton Association in 1922.

We were also delighted to welcome Edward & Louis Ebden grandson and great grandson of Lt Michael du Cray pilot of the aeroplane in which 2nd Lt Norman Wildig from Little Heath Lane was killed. They travelled to the village from Ledbury in Herefordshire to attend the Remembrance Day Service.

David Cummings



More details and photos on the Christleton website. With thanks to Jon Edmonds, Ben Paton and Edward Ebden for their contributions to this story and Gerry Lockley for his photography.

NATURE NOTES FEBRUARY 2019:

By the time you read this newsletter, the annual RSPG Big Garden Bird Watch will have taken place. Please let me know of any unusual sightings in your garden if you took part in the survey. We've been very pleased to see a greenfinch feeding in our garden recently, as these birds have rapidly declined in numbers and are quite rare sightings these



days. Similarly the numbers of starlings once a familiar sight at this time of year in the village, have dropped dramatically, so we have been pleased to see about ten individuals most days feeding on our bird feeders. I haven't seen any sign of a large number of starlings in the area at all this year (known as a murmuration), which is perhaps a sign of their decline. Just occasionally villagers will tell me about seeing unusual sightings, blackbirds with white wings, or even on one occasion a completely white robin. There was also a case not so long ago of a crow with white flashes on its body in Bridge Drive. You might be interested to know that there is currently a jackdaw with a single white flash on one wing foraging in the churchyard and on the Village Green.

Over the Christmas holiday I was delighted to hear robins singing once again at the top of their voices, joined in early January by the songs of both male blackbirds and song thrushes. My friend John and I were on any early morning walk down the lanes at Hockenhull last weekend and heard as many as five singing male song thrushes competing for territory, both on the reserve, and along the footpath towards Tarvin. It is really exciting to listen to the variety of songs they make, usually sung from the tops of trees, in direct competition to their neighbours. Greater spotted woodpeckers have also started to drum loudly to claim their territories, and these colourful red, white and black headed birds can now be seen and heard around the parish. Several black caps have also been spotted, but the wintering thrushes, both fieldfare and redwing, seem to have moved on after stripping most of the berries in the area. Several sightings of yellowhammers have been reported recently, along the hedgerows in Cotton Lane and at Walk Mill. These bright yellow songbirds were once common in the parish, with as many as a hundred being seen in some winters, so I really hope they are now here to stay. They used to be regarded as Cheshire's county bird, with their delightful song described as "a little bit of bread and no cheese"

Rare wildlife visitors to the new lake at Hockenhull in the last few weeks, has been a party of Goosanders. These are very distinctive sword billed fish eating ducks, have almost certainly come to the U K from Scandinavia. The males are quite distinctive with large areas of white and pink plumage on their bodies with greenish black bushy heads, and sword like bill. These attractive ducks also have the unusual habit of nesting in holes in trees, with the young ducklings forced to jump to the ground risking injury, when leaving the nest. A

small group were seen feeding down below the weir on the River Dee over New Year, and were probably the same family seen at Hockenhull. The diminutive Goldeneye is also a regular winter visitor, smaller in stature than the Gooseander with a shorter black bill and a distinctive round white patch in front of a bright yellow eye. The female is browner all over but with an orangy/brown head. These delightful dabbling ducks spend a great deal of time diving for food in lakes and rivers. They are regularly seen on the River Dee in Chester, at the Burton Meres Reserve and on the marine lake at West Kirby.

David Cummings

CHRISTLETON HIGH SCHOOL:

The New Year greeted our Sixth Form students' return to school with two weeks of mocks! At this point, I need to say that I was very proud of the way in which students approached these important exams, not only giving them an insight into what lies ahead but more importantly, the results of which will provide an indication of progress so far and what is required of them over the next few months. Year 11 students completed their mock GCSE exams before Christmas and our analysis of the results will help to steer them towards reaching their potential in the summer exams. I would like to take this opportunity to wish them all every success in the coming months.

In October, we welcomed around one hundred former students and staff for a celebration to mark the school's 60th Anniversary. It was indeed a delight to see so many old friends and supporters of the school. Eleven former students who joined the school in 1958 joined us and following our recently launched Alumni group, we are always pleased to hear from anyone with historical links to the school. We plan to hold a number of events throughout the year to mark this special occasion.

In November, we hosted a joint memorial event with the Christleton Local History Group, to commemorate the centenary of the end of the Great War 1914-1918. The event involved our Combined Cadet Force (CCF), of which we are extremely proud and included drama pieces and readings supported by the school.

Also in November, our Upper School students performed four productions of 'Rent' which was played to students, parents and the community

and also to our local senior citizens, who enjoyed the entertainment with afternoon tea.

Work to improve the school's fire alarm system as a result of a successful capital funding bid is underway as I write this. The work takes place each night from 16:00 until 01:00 so as not to impact on teaching and learning. During the summer, the school also extended its dining room and that of an MFL teaching room to increase seating capacity.

The CHSA (Christleton High School Association) made up of a small team of loyal Parents/Guardians, works hard throughout the year, providing much needed refreshments at school events, whilst raising funds to support school in many ways.

If you feel you could give one or two evenings per year to help the team, then please contact Melissa Dilworth chairofchsa@christletonhigh.co.uk who would be delighted to hear from you. Friendly meetings are held each half term to discuss ways of supporting the school and we are always looking for new ideas.

We continue with our bid to make the crossing of the A41 dual carriageway safer for students with assistance from Mr Matheson MP and the Cheshire West and Chester Highways Office. The findings of a recent student survey have been sent to the Highways Office.

As we look forward to the Spring with its abundance of floral colour and warmer weather, may I wish you a very healthy and happy 2019.

A D Stenhouse
Headteacher, Christleton High School

CHRISTLETON PARISH COUNCIL:

From the Clerk of the Council:

It has been a while since our last article and over the last few months there has been two major issues concerning the Council.

Traffic issues being one of them and following the results of various surveys and initiatives having taken place in the village over many months, this culminated in the compiling of a

very comprehensive traffic report, which can be viewed on the Parish Council website: www.christleton-pc.gov.uk

Following all the data being received and the report completed it is the decision of the Parish Council to hold **two** village meetings on **Wednesday, 6th February 2019** in Christleton High School. The first meeting will be at **4.30pm** in the afternoon and the second will be at **7.30pm** thereby allowing as many of the residents as possible the opportunity to hear in greater detail the various options available to deal with the many issues faced by the village. There will be an opportunity to ask questions and to provide feedback. This feedback will help the Parish Council to determine the next steps to be taken.

The other major issue is the re-submission of planning application for Christleton Hall (The Law College) for 42 dwellings which will put an excessive strain on transport and infrastructure in the village, with both schools at full capacity. The Parish Council has submitted a comprehensive objection to his development and we are expecting it to go to CWAC full Planning Committee on 24th January 2019. The Parish Council will be sending a representative to reinforce their objections to this development.

We have received notification of a planning appeal being launched by the developers of Beechmoor Nurseries to provide 111 care apartments and bungalows. The planning application was refused in November 2017.

The Parish Council commissioned a permanent Poppy Wreath to commemorate the 51 service personnel from the parish who perished in WW1. The wreath has been installed on the Village Green. The unveiling was performed on Christmas Eve by Mr Alf Croston, dedication by Rector Stefan Collier and a few words given by Mr David Cummings. We would like to thank all three for their participation at this event.

Sue Thwaite

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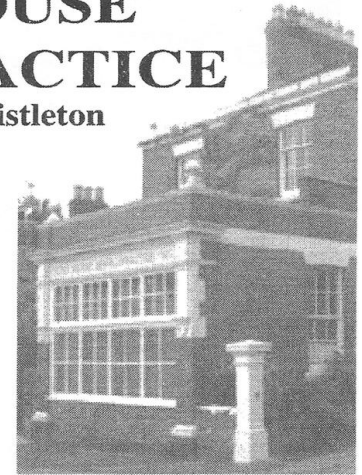
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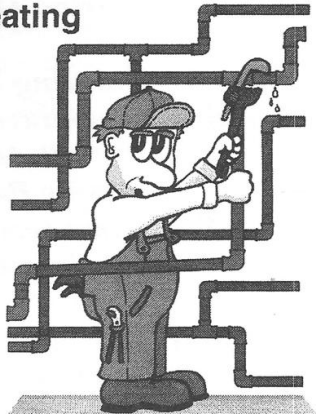
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Janet Milton

Tel: 325529 (before 8.00pm)

email: christletonhall@gmail.com

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PARISH CONTACTS:

RECTOR:

Rev'd Dr Stefan Collier

Tel: 01244 335663

rector.christleton@gmail.com

(Day off is normally Thursday)

OTHER CLERGY IN THE PARISH:

Rev'd Gill Hibbert

Tel: 01244 336544

gillianhibbert582@btinternet.com

Rev'd Elizabeth Inall

Tel: 01244 336500

elizabeth@inall.co.uk

PARISH ADMINISTRATOR, PCC SECRETARY & HALL BOOKINGS:

Janet Milton

Tel: 01244 325529

For the PCC, the weekly notices and initial enquiries for weddings, funerals and baptisms:

pa.saintjames@gmail.com

For Parish Hall bookings:

christletonhall@gmail.com

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Bettie Gilliatt

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Tina Lightfoot

Tel: 07557 352592

for either warden:

thechurchwardens@gmail.com

VERGER:

John Milton

Tel: 01244 325529

ST JAMES' CHURCH WEBSITE:

www.stjameschristleton.org.uk

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The Magazine subscription is currently £6 per year (renewal is in April) with a copy delivered each month to your home. Please check with Linda (see details above) whether your home is on one of our delivery routes. Otherwise, you are invited to buy individual copies (50p) each month from the back of St James' Church. If all the spare copies have gone please speak to Linda or to one of the Churchwardens who will be pleased to help.

Thank you for reading our magazine. We hope you enjoy it. Feedback is always welcome.

Do also look at our website for more information including a 'live' calendar.



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