

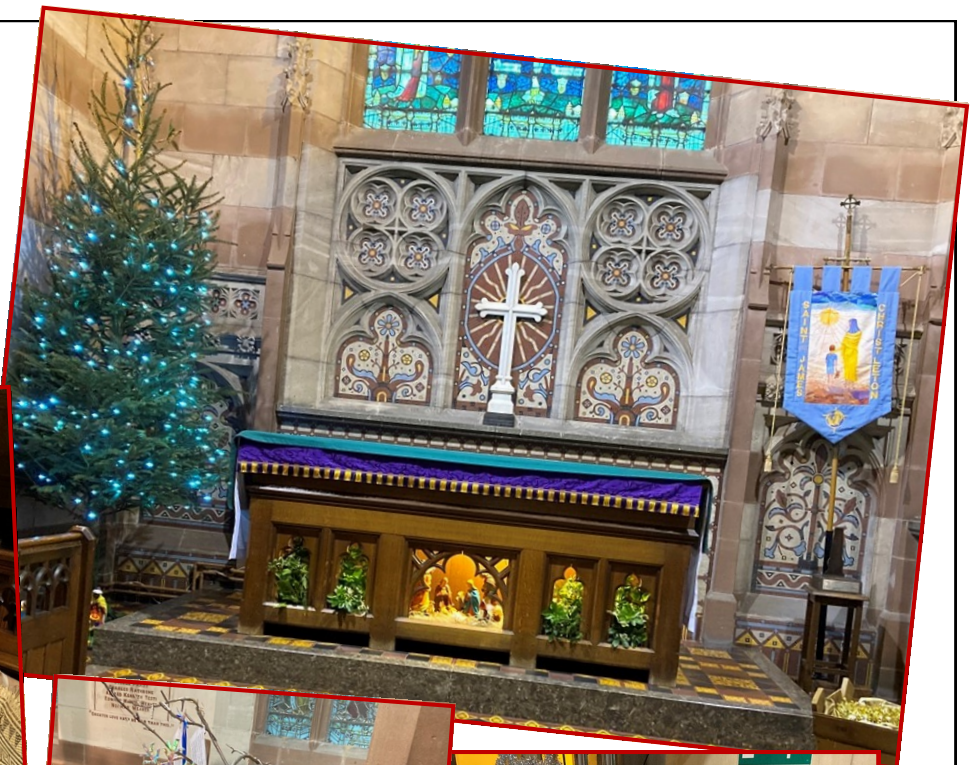
# The St. James' Church PARISH MAGAZINE FEBRUARY 2021



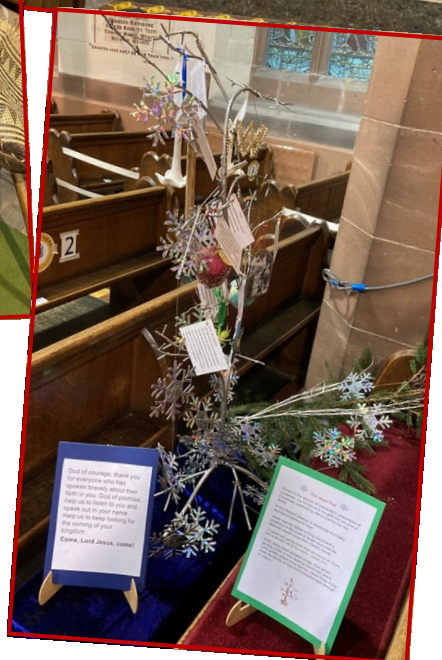
**Serving the communities of: Christleton,  
Cotton Abbots, Cotton Edmunds,  
Littleton and Rowton.**

**Free on-line**

Christmas in church looked  
as near normal as possible  
with the Crib and the  
decorated Christmas Tree.



Several Prayer Stations  
around the church.



**Make an Online Donation**

Support St James' Church with a donation via the website:  
<https://www.stjameschristleton.org.uk>. Thank you.

## 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:

**Rev'd Rob Croft** Tel: 01244 683926 / 07745 624323  
[robcraft@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:robcraft@hotmail.co.uk)  
(Rob's day off is normally Friday)

### OTHER CLERGY IN THE PARISH:

**Rev'd Gill Hibbert** Tel: 01244 336544  
[gillianhibbert80@outlook.com](mailto:gillianhibbert80@outlook.com)

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

### CHURCHWARDENS:

**Tina Lightfoot** Tel: 07557 352592  
[tina.churchwarden@stjameschristleton.org.uk](mailto:tina.churchwarden@stjameschristleton.org.uk)

**Mike Lightfoot** Tel: 07787 421357  
[mike.churchwarden@stjameschristleton.org.uk](mailto:mike.churchwarden@stjameschristleton.org.uk)

### PARISH SAFEGUARDING OFFICER:

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

### ORGANIST/MUSICAL DIRECTOR:

(Vacant)

### PCC SECRETARY:

**Joce Platel** Tel: 01244 332466  
[pccsecretary@stjameschristleton.org.uk](mailto:pccsecretary@stjameschristleton.org.uk)

### PCC TREASURER:

**Liz McClure** Tel: 01244 409414  
[elizabeth.mcclure070@gmail.com](mailto:elizabeth.mcclure070@gmail.com)

### PARISH ADMINISTRATOR:

**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 of this magazine will be for March

Deadline for content: Friday 19th February 2021.

### 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)

During this Covid-19 crisis this magazine will be free via the church website and will not be printed or delivered to homes. Any subscriptions already 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.

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### 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)





## **THE TRUTH IS OUT THERE:**

It's definitely too late to wish you a happy new year – this being the February edition of the magazine. But I had to articulate the urge given that I am writing this in January.



One of the things that has been occupying me of late is a spot of Practical Theology (it was either an article about this or ethical hacking – I am truly shocked at how easy it is to create malware and spoof emails). I sympathise if this makes you want to stop reading. I had the same thoughts when I was training for ministry, and I have the same thoughts now on occasions! But hopefully, you will stick reading for a little longer. After all, this is a short piece.

One of the big themes of Practical Theology is it starts with the practical – the everyday stuff of our living, the people living the everyday stuff. This is considered a critical, if not the critical, site of theology or we might say the activity of God. Historically, this has not always been the case. Prior to around the 1950s, Practical Theology was often understood as applied theology, meaning we took what was normative, let's say the tradition of our teaching for our purposes here, and applied it to practical or pastoral situations.

To ponder this, I am challenged. For it seems to me this prior historical situation is still prevalent in our churches today. The related idea that the truth is the province of the church, and this is to be transmitted out to the wider society and its people, through, e.g., the clergy. How often, I wonder, do the sermons I preach unconsciously or otherwise carry this same ethos; the idea of primarily applying theology to life (not a bad thing in of itself of course), without proper attention to the 'truth that is out there' embodied in the people and their culture, and the necessary theological conversation between them? I wonder whether there is any positive correlation with the decline of the church and the separation of the church and its embedded culture, for both seem to have accelerated post the 1950s. How might this relate to the refusal, not necessarily deliberate, of the church to take seriously the idea that theology is primarily practical?

It seems to me then Practical Theology is telling us something important for the re-imagining of our churches today. An urgent requirement to inhabit, listen, and learn from what God is doing and speaking outside of our churches amidst the stuff of our everyday lives, and the people who inhabit them. This will change how we use our buildings – they will become sites of everyday living

and not simply places where we gather to worship, where and how we spend our resources, among them time, and, thereby critically, allow Jesus to increase and ourselves to decrease – a motif for the Way of the Christian. To ponder this, near the beginning of this year, I am still challenged. But, I am also hopeful, as I pray you are this day, for as Jesus says "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."

With my love and prayers,

*Stefan*

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## **OVERVIEW OF THE ACCOUNTS 2020** **– JUST A PRECIS!**

It is reasonable to say this year has been unprecedented, as everyone else has also remarked!

Having had a very positive start to the year launching the new stewardship campaign, using the A41 for the purpose of leaflet drop and publicity, this fell flat due to the lockdown situation in March.

Overall, the campaign made a net gain of about £1000, being a mixture of donations and a few new standing orders.

March and April were alarming months, as our physical income dropped dramatically. I gave a gloomy forecast!

Parish share - our main expense. The PCC decided we couldn't afford the full parish share so we paid a much reduced figure for 4 months.

Thanks to the fantastic response of our regular congregation, many agreed to move their giving to standing orders, to bank transfers, or to cheques, some increasing standing orders to incorporate their "as and when" extra giving.

By September, we dared to pay a greater share and before the year end paid the balance of an overall 1.05 share – still £12,000 short of our usual allocated share.

### Full Bells Refurbishment.

This was funded by an extremely generous donation of £13,500, and a grant of £3000 from the Diocesan Bellringers Guild. We were also able to claim VAT back from the Listed Places of Worship scheme. Thanks to Nikki Dromgoole for all her work and supervision of this.

The churchyard tree surgery has also been undertaken and the funding for this supported by grants applied for by Bettie Gilliatt.

Our Website on line donation has facilitated £1,160 income, the Contactless terminal £805.

The Parish Hall overall has made a loss of £1000. However, the roof and toilets were repaired and considerable rental reimbursed.

The general fund income (donations, standing orders envelopes and relevant gift aid claims) is £21,000 more than last year.

**It is evident that we owe an immense debt of gratitude to our congregation for their extremely generous support in such a difficult year.**

Our overall surplus on the annual accounts is £181 – not in deficit!!!

It seems a bit close but if we look only at the general fund income, our working cash flow, we actually have £14,500 in reserve to start the year – in retrospect we could have paid our full parish share but the Treasurer would have had lockdown kittens!!

Our reserve has only been achieved by a reduction in the parish share, a temporary permissible action due to the pandemic.

The year has been unprecedented,  
Our services been reinvented  
with much supplication  
Such wondrous donation  
and care  
Have prevented a treas'rer demented!!



Sorry I couldn't manage a TIK-TOK video – maybe next time.....



*Liz McClure*

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## **ZOOM TIPS:**

We've now been using Zoom for many months and gradually more of us are getting better at it, overcoming the challenge of technology and joining in. We invite others to 'grasp the nettle' and learn how to do it. It is really like all things - it's a hard challenge when you don't know what to do, and easy when you do. On



Sunday morning we now get around 40 or more people joining in. Many of us would be pleased to offer help to others as may be needed.

Two tips that may be useful:

Unmuting: If you are using a laptop or desktop computer with a keyboard and you are muted then a quick way to unmute is to hold down the spacebar, speak, and then release it to be muted again. Clearly not much good if you don't have a keyboard!

Lighting: Quite a few people appear on screen very dark. Silhouetted against a lighter background. This is often caused by having your back to a window. Either turn everything around to face the window during daylight hours or put a table lamp on your desk to throw light onto your face. If you face a very bright window you may go a ghastly white (bleached out) so adjust the curtain or blind a bit to get it right.

Next month I may cover backgrounds. You may have seen that some of us use a picture as a background. A green screen helps with this, but is not essential.

*Brian.*

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## **INJECTIONS:**

On December 14<sup>th</sup> my wife Jean went to the Countess to have an injection in her eye. Yes, it is as unpleasant as it sounds. When she was there she was offered and accepted a Covid vaccination.

This reminds me of a time when in the Army we were told we were to be vaccinated. About 20 of us were marched to the medical centre, inside we were lined up facing forward and told bare our arms. Two orderlies came - one with a large piece of cotton wool soaked in alcohol the other with a large graduated glass syringe. He said we were lucky it had a new needle.

They then walked along the line, the first wiping our arms with the cotton wool the other inserting the needle, moving the syringe up one graduation, before moving to the next man and repeating the process. The same needle in each soldier. The syringes were used until they wore out and the needles and they became too blunt.

Today everything comes in a sterile pack, is used only once and is disposed creating waste. Such is the price of progress.

*Ben Williams*

## **CONTEXT IS EVERYTHING:**

Cotchford Farm is in East Sussex. Just half a mile away is Posingford Bridge, a footbridge over a river. In mid November a tree growing alongside it was uprooted in a strong wind and became jammed against the bridge. An interesting piece of local information but hardly the sort of thing that I expect to see in a national newspaper - particularly during these challenging times. However I learn that although the present bridge is not the original, it is famous because it was the inspiration for the game of "Poohsticks" that A. A. Milne described in the children's book "The House at Pooh Corner". Milne lived at Cotchford Farm and the book, with its delightful cast of characters including Eeyore, Tigger, Piglet, Roo, Heffalump and Christopher Robin, was published in 1928.

I confess to being a lifelong fan of "Poohsticks".

Whenever I encounter a bridge over water, I want to drop a stick in on one side and then cross to the other side to watch the stick emerge. Now I know that this is not the game as it is generally understood, because it is meant to be a race between individual sticks dropped in by the competitors. Consequently I was confused by the quotation from the book included in the newspaper article. It read "When he went home for tea, he had won 36 and lost 28. Which meant that he was - that he had - well, you take 28 from 36, and that's what he was. Instead of the other way round". At first I thought that the journalist had got the quotation wrong because apart from the muddled thinking that is typical of Pooh, the quote suggested that Pooh was on his own without his friends to compete against and that is not the game as I understood it. Reference was needed to my paperback copy of the book reprinted in 1969 and priced 2s 6d or 12½p!

The quotation was correct and appears in chapter 6 but it describes Pooh's reasoning before he invented the game as we know it. Pooh had picked up a fir-cone but was not looking where he was going as he arrived at the bridge. He tripped and the cone fell into the water and slowly floated under the bridge. He became fascinated by the fact that he "dropped it on one side and it came out on this side". He wondered if it would do it again. He collected other cones and noted that it still happened. He then dropped in two cones at once but could not tell if the one he wanted to win emerged first because they were both the same size. So he then dropped in "one big one and one little one and the big one came out first, which was what he had said it would do, and the little one came out last, which was what he had said it would do, so he had won twice." Thus the

quotation records Pooh's analysis of the consequence of repeating the exercise many times. It was only after these experiments that he introduced the game of "Poohsticks" to his friends which they played with sticks instead of fir-cones "because they were easier to mark".

Re-reading parts of the story leaves me in a turmoil of questions and challenges particularly following Pooh's experiments with the fir-cones: the desire to know which "cone" will win; the confusion that arises when two "cones" seem equally successful; the fact that the bigger "cone" invariably beats the smaller one but taking comfort from the fact that the smaller one wins sometimes. And so on for this masterpiece of story telling, written for children but as challenging to me as a sermon. What is more is that Pooh's use of statistics is devious, making it difficult to decide if he should have been as pleased with the results of his experiments as he appears to have been.

Finally I feel that my confusion with the newspaper quotation was justified in that while it was correct, the context in which it appeared was wrong. But would I still say that "context is everything"? Perhaps not - because it also served to remind the readers of the innocent pleasure of "Poohsticks" and all that might follow in life from a consideration of how the game was derived.

*Jim Hawkes*

PS. If you want to play "Poohsticks" locally, I suggest the Caldy Valley Nature Reserve or the Roman Bridges when the Gowy is not in full flow.



Posingford Bridge, now universally known as Pooh Bridge, in Ashdown Forest.

## **DAISY'S ADVENTURES: – PART IV**

A very Happy New Year to everyone and I know everyone is saying the same thing but it's got to be better than 2020.

I had a lovely time over the Christmas period and guess what ..... I had a Christmas card addressed to me which came in the post. Do you think this could be the start of a Fan Club? Father Christmas visited and I had some new squeaky toys and I was taken to the pet shop on Christmas Eve for a new outfit when I had a new collar and a lovely warm coat bought for me but unfortunately the coat is too big because my legs are so small I'm slipping out of it and they haven't got a smaller size so I'll have to wait until new stocks arrive.

We had a lovely Christmas Day spent with Rebecca and family in a bubble for six and I was thoroughly spoilt. Quite right too. The next day, Boxing Day – what a funny name for a special day - does it mean we all have to box one another because if so, I'll tell you there are one or two dogs I've seen on our travels that I think look as if they've been in a boxing match, not a pretty sight. Anyway, Rebecca & all the family came to my house and after lunch we went for a long walk with Rebecca and Sophie and it was lovely in the sunshine and meeting lots and lots of other humans with their dogs out walking.

And then there was New Year's Eve. The fireworks bangs started about 5pm and continued until 1.30am and I was a nervous wreck by this time. I spent most of the evening hiding under a chair trembling like a jelly and I was very frightened. It was just like Bonfire night all over again but worse and I finished sleeping on my Mummy's bed again where I felt safe. Why do humans want to go outside in the freezing cold to light a firework that just goes 'bang', doesn't make sense to me but I'm just a dog.

I do wish this very cold weather would go away. The pavements are very slippery and my Mummy was struggling to walk without falling today and I must admit I almost lost my balance on a frozen puddle, now wouldn't that have been a sight to see ..... a sausage sliding on the ice on all 4 paws!!

I continue to be taken for walks every day despite the cold weather and I love it – so many scents to take in and lots of dogs to weigh up. Do I like them ..... yes, so we'll have a tentative sniff at each other but ..... if I don't like them, they get the sharp end of a bark and we move on. Some might say I've got 'small dog syndrome' but I disagree – it's quite simple really I'm very fussy

about who I mix with.

Now an awful lot of people seem to know me because every time we are walking along the Caldry Valley Road lots of cars are going pap pap and sometimes the drivers or passengers are waving at me, or could it be that they are waving at my Mummy? No, it's me that they recognise because I'm so cute which I can see from their smiling faces as they pass by.

I shall have a very long rest now that we are home to recoup my strength, ready for the much shorter walk I have after I've had my tea which I've been having earlier than usual so that we're not walking in the dark, but the nights are starting to draw out a little bit now so we can see where we're walking.

See you next time I hope .....

*Daisy*

*(Published by kind permission of Janet Milton)*

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### **COFFEE & CHAT** **MORNING VIA ZOOM:**



*Coffee & Chat*

The Zoom Coffee Mornings continue on a Tuesday starting at 10.30 am each week.

On 24 November there were approx 14 people there and the chat varied between Christine nipping out of screen shot to rescue the biscuits she'd been baking and lots of reminiscing about the times of when Rev Guest Williams was Rector at Christleton and people we all knew from those days. Dorothy and Janet Brown had some wonderful tales to tell.

The following week there were about 11 people there and Liz had persuaded/cajoled Alex and Ida into becoming joint Hosts. I think this maybe has something to do with when the golf courses are allowed to open then Liz will be off playing golf, but it does mean that all three – Liz, Alex and Ida have the power to kick anyone out of the room if they so choose, so best behaviour everyone!!!!

The following week there were only about 7 but never the less we all had a very interesting morning chatting a lot of the time about Old Chester from about the 1950's through to the present day. It's amazing what you remember when in a group of days gone by.

On 22<sup>nd</sup> December we had a star visitor – Sue Eccles (and John) joined us for the first time and it was lovely



to see Sue, with just a tiny weeny bit of help from John, joining in the chat. Linda joined us from Cornwall so it was nice to see her too.

The last Zoom Coffee Morning of 2020 we had 10 people dropping in and the chat varied from fur coats, pigeon droppings and we heard all about the thermostat failure on Liz's boiler. By some very clever computer jiggory Brian transformed Elizabeth into a variety of people with large rabbit ears. (*Called filters - all very silly! Ed.*)

The first gathering of 2021 when Happy New Year greetings were passed on to everyone, there were about 11 dropping in when a lot of chat was about the latest lockdown and how soon we might get the vaccine. It was good to see Jean and Ben Williams joining us who had already received their first dose.

There was more reminiscing the following week between about 12 of us and this time it was about The Archers programme on the radio, Liz accidentally throwing Alex out of the room, Boy Scouts in Christleton and tunnels in Christleton going back to the time of the Battle of Rowton Moor. All quite fascinating.

So if anyone would like to join the weekly Zoom Coffee Morning on a Tuesday morning at 10.30 am just go to the St James' Church web site, and scroll down to the Coffee and Chat and click there and you will be taken to a Zoom link for the Coffee Morning. Very easy. Or follow instructions below.

To Join Zoom Meeting – use the link below  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86744829526?pwd=V0lhR2xMWdRYnZreVNYVDN5NGozdz09>

Meeting ID: 867 4482 9526  
Passcode: 768596

So do join us on a Tuesday morning for a relaxed hour or so just chatting about anything and everything – we'll look forward to seeing you.

*Janet Milton*

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## **BRIAN THE OLDER:**

Brian Macklin, one of our church members, has been named 'Older Volunteer of the Year' for his vital service in Cheshire West and Chester.

Over the last seven years Brian has volunteered and supported Snow Angels. His dedicated work was recognised as part of Volunteer Awards Month.



Cheshire Live carried the news a week or so before Christmas. The picture above shows the award itself.

Snow Angels supports older people to continue living independently and to keep well, running many schemes across Cheshire and working with a range of local organisations. After Brian's wife Margaret died he volunteered and has helped many people by becoming friends and visiting them over the years in their homes, taking them out shopping, or having coffee or lunch with them, helping with gardening and housework, and more. Now in the pandemic he continues contact via the phone - but he has no plans to stop.

If you want to know more about volunteering then please just ask Brian - he'll be pleased to explain.

Of course those of us who know Brian will be aware of how positive he is, his high energy levels for someone well in their 80s, and how he sees this work as a benefit to himself as well as the people he supports. You may know he helped June Driver a great deal, including lifts to and from Luncheon Club. (See the 'From the Registers' page.) A bit of inspiration to the rest of us!

Each December is 'Volunteer Awards Month' which is run jointly by Cheshire West Voluntary Action (CWVA) and Cheshire West and Chester Council to mark the great work volunteers do in their communities.

So a big 'WELL DONE BRIAN' and thank you on behalf of all those you help.

*Brian the Younger! (Ed!)*

# St James' Church Calendar

## FEBRUARY 2021:

**The St James' Church building and the Parish Hall are closed during the current lockdown.**

During this period the church continues operating online for worship, business meetings (eg: PCC and committees) and for social meetings. Services offering Holy Communion are not available.

**SUNDAYS:** 10.00 am: Morning Worship. An online act of worship for everyone.  
This is normally followed by a few minutes of chat and fellowship.

Sunday 7th Feb: 2nd before Lent.  
14th Feb: Next before Lent. (St. Valentine's Day)  
21st Feb: 1st of Lent. The **start of Lent**.  
28th Feb: 2nd of Lent.  
7th Mar: 3rd of Lent.  
14th Mar: 4th of Lent and **Mothering Sunday**.  
21st Mar: 5th of Lent and **start of Passiontide**.  
28th Mar: **Palm Sunday** and the **start of Holy Week**.

When the church decides to re-open for public worship then the 10am service will move back into church as Holy Communion, and an 11.30am online service will take place as it did previously. Plans for Easter will be made known nearer the time.

Wednesday 17th Feb: **Ash Wednesday:** - 7.30pm: Online service.

**Monday - Friday:** 9.00am: Morning Prayer - Online using Zoom. 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.  
8.00pm: Online Night Prayers or Compline using Zoom. A short time of prayer to end the day. More details from Tina Lightfoot.

**Wednesdays:** 8.00pm: Beer, Wine & Banter. An online social Zoom meeting accompanied with a drink of your choice. More details from Mike Lightfoot.

For online services and online meetings a Zoom invitation will be needed. They can be found on the St James' Website. For Sunday Worship click on the red Sunday Worship button on the home page - this will take you to a Sunday Worship Resource page which includes an Order of Service, the Zoom invitation and hymns. For other online events go to the What's On calendar and you'll find the invitation in the event description. You may find it in other places as well. If you need help then please ask.

**All dates, times and arrangements subject to change**

## **CHRISTLETON PARISH HALL - CLOSED**

After re-opening on 14 September, the Parish Hall has had to close again and remains closed during this lockdown. The intention is to review this again when restrictions allow.

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* (See also the church website.)





## **EDITORIAL:**

Thanks for the continuing good feedback about this magazine. I'm heartened that it is fulfilling a need. Thank you to all who contribute articles.

Membership of St James' Church is defined by the Electoral Roll. This is much smaller than it used to be, and the recompilation of a totally new Roll every 6 years tends to remove many. (You can apply to be added any time.) Generally, communication from the church is with the people on the Electoral Roll, and in these times mostly with those with an email address.

Clearly there are many who don't have a regular contact with the church unless they read this magazine or decide to look at the Church's website.

Funding seems to run in tandem with membership, and therefore even before the pandemic income was down. However, see Liz's upbeat Treasurer's article page 3.

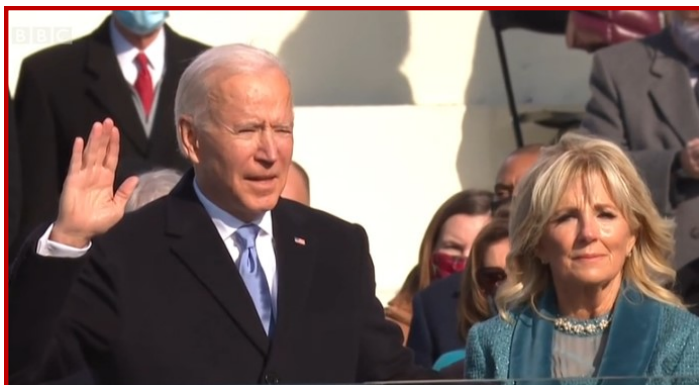
St James' Church has a mission to reach out to more people, share the Good News, and to expand the use of the church and its facilities so that it isn't confined to the membership but more open for the community. Such plans take time and money, but a better Audio / Visual system in church to replace the temporary arrangement is probably the first part of this and will allow (when allowed) a greater variety of events and services to be held in the building.

It's sad that this magazine is only available online via the Church website (possibly also via the Christleton Village website soon) as it excludes those who don't go online and excludes the paper copy on the coffee table which you can repeatedly pick up and refer to and share with your visitors. (Do you remember visitors?)

The other shortcoming is that we don't know how many people, or who, now read the magazine. We've got no way of tracking this at present. Previously we printed about 400 copies with 300 delivered on subscription and the rest available for sale in church. Income from subscriptions, sales and advertising was more than the printing costs (if we didn't use much colour) so this provided a source of income for the church.

The future of the magazine is very uncertain. For now I will continue with it as at present - so please keep contributing and please expand its outreach.

Thank you, get the jab and stay safe.  
*Brian (Editor)*



**Phew! That was the easy bit - now on to the tricky stuff: Covid-19; Climate Change; Social and Political Division; Poverty; Racism; Extremism ..... May God bless America!**



### **OH DEAR! WHAT CAN THE MATTER BE?**

.. Our poor Rector locked in the vest-ery!

Indeed, the two naughty culprits above, egged on by Chris & Joce Platel, kept the Rector out of the way whilst they told the Christmas Story. Eventually the Rector freed himself and made an appearance at the end of the 4pm Christmas Eve service. Curiously they did exactly the same at 6pm!

These services replaced the Crib Service because of the Covid situation and the need to restrict numbers (a booking system was employed) and to stop children and parents running around and interacting.

Brilliant despite the restrictions.

## TINA LIGHTFOOT:

As some of you will know Tina has spent January on a placement with Christ Church in Chester. This is part of her gaining experience on her pathway towards ministry in the church. At some point no doubt Tina will explain to us how it is all going.

The Vicar of Christ Church, Rev'd Graham Shaw, interviewed Tina and a recording of that was streamed during one of their online Sunday services in the middle of January.

Tina is one of our churchwardens so during that time Bettie Gilliatt kindly stood in for Tina to cover some of her duties.

(Ed.)

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## WORLD DAY OF PRAYER - 2021 SERVICE:

The World Day of Prayer for this year had been organised for 5th March at Christ Church - but in the current situation the church is closed and Covid restrictions must be observed. Therefore the World Day of Prayer secretary for Chester (Ann McGrath) advises us that the service has been re-arranged as follows:



**Thursday 10th June 2021: 10.00am: Rehearsal.**

**Friday 11th June 2021: 10.30am: The Service.**

At Christ Church, Gloucester Road, Newtown.

Ann invites us to pray for the World Day of Prayer, and the women of Vanuatu, at 10.30am on 5th March.

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## THE BIRTH OF CHRISTLETON 4:



CHRISTLETON

4

All Seasons



The Christleton (village) website is now over 20 years old during which time it has grown more than I ever envisaged.

Although it hopefully appears as one big website it is in

fact a number of sections locked together. There is the main section where you arrive when you type in [christleton.org.uk](http://christleton.org.uk). There is a second section for the War Voices and then Christleton 3 which covers the years from 2016 to 2020. There is no shortage of space on the server but problems do arise for me when a section gets to a certain size. Whenever a new page is added this changes the structure of the site so a large number of files have to be uploaded again. This often takes a lot of time as new pages are added each month and sometimes there are uploading problems. So it is time for a new section.

January 2021 saw the birth of a new part of the website called Christleton 4. If you want to go there directly the URL is: [christleton.org.uk/christleton4](http://christleton.org.uk/christleton4)

Thankfully David Cummings wishes to continue with illustrated articles for The History File and Wildlife Watch. But starting this year he has a new feature - **Christleton in the Past**. Each month David will contribute photographic files from the Village Archives about a particular aspect of Village Life. In the January edition he features "Horses" with photographic contributions mainly from Ernest Hall, Reg Morgan and David himself. Ernest Hall's contribution of images of the Littleton Point to Point Races and Romany Families in the Village are particularly fine, and illustrate life in the 1960's and 70's. He was one of the first people in the village to use Kodachrome colour slide film, and as they were rarely viewed they are still in immaculate condition.

If you have any ideas or possible contributions for the website you can email me at [richard@christleton.org.uk](mailto:richard@christleton.org.uk)

*Richard Nicholson*

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## CHURCHES TOGETHER IN CHRISTLETON:

During January we had the usual Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. Obviously it was all online this time instead of visiting each others churches .

It's a week when the churches in Christleton and Waverton come together - Evangelicals, Methodists, Roman Catholics and Anglicans. Five lunchtime Zoom services led by the different denominations.

Given the short notice of the arrangements it was good to have over 30 people Zooming together each time. - praising God in a united expression of our faith.





A sincere thank you to everyone who made it possible to hold the Village Christmas Carol Trail.

Thank you so much for displaying the words and depicting the carols in eye-catching ways to 'get the message out there'.

Special thanks to the pupils of the Primary School, not only for their display of lovely pictures, but also for actually singing their chosen carol themselves ... audible via the QR code.

Last but not least particular thanks to Victoria Pritchard who instigated the event and who undertook most of the organisation.

We hope those who followed the trail enjoyed it.

(Dave Roberts - Churches Together in Christleton)

Here on this page we show a selection of those posters and displays seen around the village. If you showed a poster and it's not here then apologies, but I didn't get around to photographing them all and there are too many for this page anyway. (Ed.)





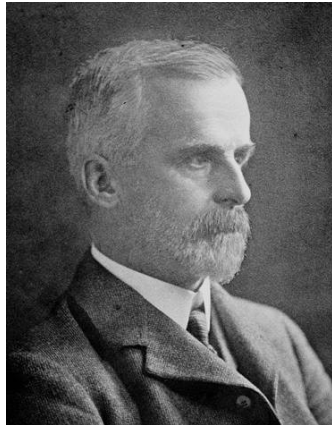
## **LENT: (21st Feb - 28th March)**

St James' Church with Churches Together in Christleton (CTC) are looking to make plans for something for Lent. No details yet but watch out for more information.

### **ARTHUR HENRY HEYWOOD**

Christleton Lodge,  
Christleton (now the  
Cheshire Cat Inn)

It was the arrival of the Heywood family in 1903 that ensured that Christleton Lodge became a family home. Arthur Henry Heywood was an accountant with the family firm of Heywood & sons, Wool & Cloth Merchants of Church Street Manchester. Arthur Henry was also on the board of many charities and Hospital Trusts in the Manchester area. He also did valuable work in Chester for the House of Mercy, St Bridget's Home and the John Sellers' Trust in Christleton.



He was remembered by the late Cliff Boddy, a longstanding chorister & servant of St James' Church, as an elegant grey haired gentleman with great charm, and a very beautiful young wife. He would always wear a frock coat and top hat when seen in the village or church. He was extremely kind to the choir boys and bell ringers, and at Christmas time would give each of them an orange and a sixpence. He and his wife took a great deal of trouble to be involved in village life, in helping out where they could. There are numerous reports of them giving presents to the children of both Boys & Girls schools and providing parties at Christmas time. On another occasion Mr Heywood gave the children of both schools a treat with tea and crackers, and entertained them with films about the LNER Railway and Edinburgh Zoo.

The Heywoods also entertained a great deal at the Lodge, and many church committees met there, including the Parochial Church Council. The most memorable occasion was the Wedding of his eldest son Geoffrey to a beautiful French lady, Mademoiselle

Magdeline Herpin. Two large marquees were erected on the lawns and the village invited to the party that followed. The younger choir boys were invited to drink a glass of punch with their sandwiches and cakes.

Geoffrey Heywood later Captained the Village Cricket Team, and Charles, the younger son who married Miss Dobie, became a minister of the church, and was regularly invited by Rev A. A. Guest Williams to preach at St James' on the occasions of St James' Day & Harvest Festivals. In 1939 aged 80, Mr Heywood gave a delightful party for the Bell ringers, members of the Boys Bible Class and Girls Friendly Society. The comment in the Parish Magazine was, "How many at the age of 80 would be so actively hospitable".

There was great sadness when Mrs Heywood died in 1933, as "she was such a gentle and fine lady". Mr Heywood had even more tributes paid to him when he died in 1943, as his service was conducted by the Bishop of Chester, "to recognise Mr Heywood's wonderful service to the church generally and the local community".

*David Cummings 2020*

*Much of the story taken from the memories of Cliff Boddy, Chorister, Scribe, Sacristan and Verger who served the congregation at St James for 79 years.*

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### **NATURE NOTES:**

We start the New Year 2021 with the pandemic in full swing, schools closed, and people having to exercise around the parish. Yet during 'Lockdown 3' our wildlife is even more important to us, and it's not disappointing you, judging by the number of excellent reports I get.

For scarcity value, the sighting of lesser spotted woodpeckers in Cotton Edmunds is probably the extreme highlight, but views of both barn and tawny owls, water rail, common snipe, cettis warblers, goldcrests, oystercatchers, 500 lapwing, a little egret, 2 whooper swans and hundreds of pink footed geese at Hockenhull are close behind.

The playing fields at the High School and Christleton

Sports Club have daily counts of hundreds of fieldfare and red wing, whilst song and mistle thrushes, blackbirds, and nuthatch can be seen in and around the village and churchyard.



Lesser Spotted  
Woodpecker

Groups of up to 20 goldfinches have been feeding in village gardens and we have had coal, blue, great, and long tailed tits on bird feeders in the garden. Rare sightings of tree sparrows with their distinctive brown heads have also been seen, having been absent from the parish for many years. There have been a small flock along the canal at Rowton, and at Hockenhull Platts.



Snipe

One bird which has caused great surprise for many watchers has been an immature cormorant which took residence in several places on trees along the canal. These large fish eating birds are more

common in coastal areas, but often come inland especially in winter. It is said that they eat up to a kilogram (2 pounds) or so of fish a day, and there is almost always one or two at The Pit but there can be as many as 20 on the lake down at Hockenhull, with several sitting on posts with their wings hanging out to dry.

The churchyard is a good place to see and hear nuthatches. These starling sized birds can be extremely noisy and often sit at the top of yew trees or the tall trees on the Village Green, calling to each other. They are birds that spend a lot of time crawling both up and down trunks of trees looking for insects. They are equipped with an extra backward facing claw that enables them to do this. The similar sized, mouse like tree creeper on the other hand, only crawls up a trunk. Other birds to look out for in the churchyard at this time of year are robins and wrens, long tailed, blue and great tits, chaffinches, dunnock, goldcrests, fieldfare and redwing, song and mistle thrushes, blackbirds, starlings, jays, jackdaw and crows. You might also be lucky to spot or hear great spotted woodpeckers high up in the trees, whilst in the past green woodpeckers have made the occasional appearance foraging on the lawn in front of the church.

I'm delighted to report that the first spring flowers we've seen in 2021 are clumps of daffodils and snowdrops, both appearing in early January along Rowton Lane.

*David Cummings*

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### **"THE ABBOTS WELL"**

#### **The link between Christleton and the Monks of St Werburgh.**

Just before Christmas Beryl & I went into the Cathedral to see the delightful display of Charity Christmas Trees, and came across this superb Gingerbread model of Chester Cathedral. It was designed and baked by Nikoletta, the housekeeping manager at the Mercure "Abbotts Well" Hotel in the village. It was magnificent and had been donated to the exhibition by the Mercure, which Christleton residents know historically as the Abbots Well.

I thought it might be appropriate to explain the link between Christleton and the Cathedral (Abbey) for





Gingerbread Cathedral

newer members of the community.

In 1289 Simon de Albo Monasterio, the 13<sup>th</sup> Abbot of the Monastery wrote;

"Among the donations by the family of Burnell in 1282, was the grant of a fountain at Christleton, which was doubtless of high importance. A cistern twenty feet square was made at Christleton, and another formed within the cloisters, and a communication with pipes established. Which a patent from Edward I, enabled the monks to carry through all intervening lands, permitting even the city wall to be taken down for the purpose. Upon inquiry, I find that in a field on the right hand of the high road leading to Christleton, and a very short distance from that village, there is now an enclosed

stone wall; and that it has always gone by the name of "The Abbot's Well".

In 1831 Hemmingway, a chronicler of the county, wrote about orange and brown clay pipes being found whilst workmen were digging the foundations for a house in Boughton." They were something more than half a yard in length, round in form, varying in thickness, one end being thinner than the other, and having a bore of an inch and a half in diameter. They were found from three to four feet from the surface of the ground, and lay in a position east to west. It was concluded by the owner of the house that these were part of the historic pipeline from "The Abbots Well" in Christleton and serving the abbot & monks of St Werburgh's monastery in Chester"

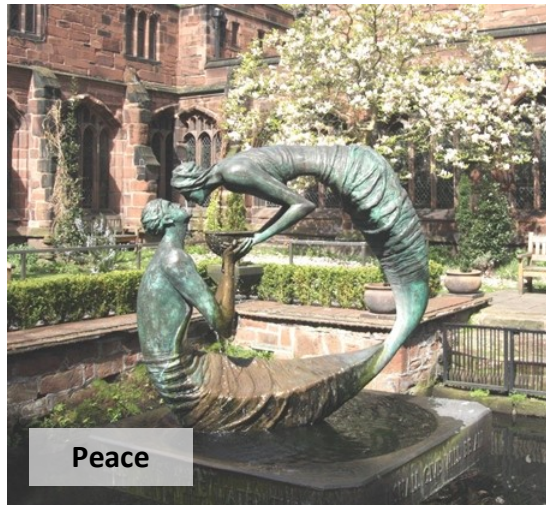
Today the well lies in a field about 200m south of the hotel building. The whole area appears to look like an overgrown marl pit, with reeds occupying most of the water's surface, but there are still signs of a shallow ditch running east to west towards the allotments and Boughton. The Hotel building itself was once the site of a grand house called "Christleton Bank" and lived in by Mr & Mrs Ambrose Dixon, and later during WWI by Lieutenant Colonel & Mrs Edward Townsend Logan, Cheshire Regt., and later Commanding Officer 15<sup>th</sup> Durham Light Infantry who died at Loos. The well had been converted to a fish pond in 1840 and was noted for its pure water. It was said at that time, that traces were found of wooden and lead pipes, but some earthenware pipes were also seen, the sort described earlier. Canon RVH Burne writing in 1959 asks "how did the monks know that there was sufficient fall between Christleton & the Monastery to enable the water to flow into the cloisters?"

I always like, however, to think of the link between Christleton & The Abbey when ever we walk into the peaceful cloister garden at the Cathedral and look at the pool of water in the centre, with its superb sculptured statue of Peace by local sculptor Stephen Broadbent. Co-incidentally one of the many memorial windows looking into the cloister garden is in memory of Lt. Col. Townsend Logan who once lived at The Abbots Well.

*David Cummings 2021*







## **CHURCHYARD RECORDS:**

### **Working in the Churchyard at St James.**

Work on recording the inscriptions on the graves at St James Churchyard was instigated by the Christleton Local History Group in 1997, when the late Roy Clough one of our members, began the painstaking task of creating a modern data base.

There was an original list in the form of a book created in 1910 by Bennett, which I discovered had been deposited in the County Archives by Rector A A Guest Williams in 1974. This original document couldn't be borrowed or released so the Christleton Local History Group (CLHG) paid for photocopies of the original list to be made for us to work from.

Roy, worked almost single hand idly for three years with limited back up support from Eric Kenyon and myself, mapping and hand recording the inscriptions on every grave and monument. Roy passed his handwritten records to a Cheshire Research Group for transcribing, and although a paper record was eventually given back to him, we were unable to obtain the computer disc file.

Over the past twenty years I have taken on the task of digitising all Roy's records, and updating them as new burials have taken place. This has been a monumental task with almost 2,000 graves to record. I prioritised the newer sections first, especially Sections 4, 5 & 6 with graves dating from the 1900's, with Section 3, graves from 1690 to 1900 being left to the last.

During the recent lockdown Malcolm Pratt one of my friends from the village has done something we initially

thought wasn't possible, using his computing skills to scan the individual details of 664 graves from paper into a readable digital system, so that every grave is now recorded electronically for our Parish Records. Just looking at the sheer number of graves in the churchyard will indicate to anyone, how difficult it is to locate each grave, unless you have family knowledge.

The Rector with his computing knowledge has looked at the way we have recorded all the information and has come up with a plan to create a future way of locating each grave without needing to use a map. This will probably use a g.p.s system, but that is for the future.

I am really pleased that the work started by Roy in 1997 has now been finished, and the CLHG's Millennium Gift to the Church completed, albeit 20 years late.

*David Cummings*

## **COMMONWEALTH WAR COMMISSION GRAVES AT ST JAMES':**

Towards the end of last year the Commonwealth War Graves Commission finally marked our churchyard with their green Commonwealth War Graves Site sign.

I had applied for this in 2016 on behalf of the Rector & the PCC, as we have been an official CWGC site with 8 memorials erected by the Commission since the 1920's. The graves are for men from both WWI & WWII, six in the traditional CWGC grave style, and two which are quite unconventional.

During recent volunteering work in the churchyard I have taken the opportunity to clean the stones, using

methods used by volunteers of the National Trust working on a similar project. This has worked well, especially for the stones which were covered in green algae, and an hour's work on each have seen them restored.

You can view these memorials in the churchyard, where I have also identified the men from the Parish who died in war, and are recorded on family graves although they are buried overseas, in countries like Gallipoli, Iraq, Germany, Belgium or France. Each is marked with a small wooden cross with an information panel.

*David Cummings*

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## **MY WORD, YOU DO LOOK ILL !**

### **Being a patient in the Countess of Chester during the pandemic.**

It now seems likely that the sudden painful attack that put me in hospital as an emergency had been building up for some time, confused by ageing and other lesser problems and the arms-length conversations with doctors due to the virus. That changed completely over that Sunday night, Monday morning period that found me processed as an emergency via the GP surgery and hospital Surgical Assessment Unit (SAU) to a bed in a ward by 11.00 pm on that same Monday. More than enough for one 30 hour period!

Fortunately I have not been in hospital for many years but it was immediately obvious that things were far from normal. Having been dropped off in the grounds, the car parks were eerily empty and the first challenge was to get into the building because most of the entrances were shut. Reception facilities were closed, corridors were largely empty and cold, reminding me of city streets during the war as the final stragglers scurried for shelter at the sound of the air raid warning. There were six or so patients waiting when I arrived in SAU. Over the next hours, I, along with the others, were led away for various examinations and tests, until the last hour when I found myself alone. By now the lighting had reduced and the cold of the corridors was intruding into the room. Fortunately the Friends of the Hospital had provided a portable radio which was playing and I relieved the boredom by doing a little dance around the room. Normally I would be concerned in case CCTV was operating but by that time, such inhibitions had vanished.

I was told that I should stay and was taken to a six bed area off a large ward but separated from it by a door. In the night-time light, I could barely discern the three patients opposite but the morning ward routine confirmed my suspicion that two of them were women as I heard them being addressed by their names. I recall that there was a great fuss some years ago about mixed sex hospital wards. ( I now know it was 2010). From a purely selfish male viewpoint, I was so grateful that space had been found for me in my hour of extreme need. This was the only place where I could get help and I just hoped that my presence did not cause any of my fellow patients, male or female, any additional distress as a result of my presence. For these were not normal times and I am grateful that the normal protocol was relaxed. Because I did not have to be in bed, I was able to create my own world by drawing the curtains around my space. And by angling the light, was able to spend most of the first night sitting at a table writing.

The examinations and tests that I was subjected to before leaving SAU were designed to determine what was wrong with me and to decide which area of expertise in the hospital was appropriate for my condition. There were also the safety checks. A test for Covid-19 was expected but not MRSA. I had heard of MRSA and knew it was contagious. The test procedures for it revealed that it can be found in the nose and in another surprising location!

The hospital is very busy place populated by an amazing number of staff each, as I was to learn, with their own special range of skills and responsibilities. Moreover there is a baffling number of different uniforms chosen, I assume, primarily for practical reasons but also to indicate the role of the wearer. Some were very chic, others less so. And that applied to the female staff. I assume that the male staff also had a variety of uniforms but I did not notice! I did just wonder if dividing the staff by uniform as well as function ever got in the way of the necessary commitment of the whole team.

The one thing that distinguishes being an in-patient with any other medical examination I have had in my lifetime is the presence of a cannula in the arm. It provides access to the inner workings of the body, allowing life-supporting sodium lactate solution to flow in without eating or drinking. It was the last thing to be removed before I left hospital and was responsible for the stabilisation of my condition, enabling me to go home, releasing my bed for another patient and further minimising the possible exposure to the virus.

Measurement of what is happening within the body accompanies everything. Numerous samples of blood and urine were taken for laboratory analysis, reminding me of the famous blood donor comedy sketch. Remarkably irrespective of how much blood was taken more still seemed to be available. Blood sugar level was determined at the bedside and hence I was able to see the level fall to that of someone fasting during my stay. There were also moments of high drama when I was taken out of the ward and introduced to the CT and MRI scanners. These big machines look like something from science fiction. The MRI experience was memorable because it began with a carton of pineapple juice to drink necessary for the better investigation of my condition. Once inside the machine, the operator's voice over the headphones interrupted the music, telling me to inhale and hold my breath for a period that fortunately I was able to do.

Everything in hospital bleeps, reminding me of the of the night-time calls of the cicadas and bull frogs in an American wood. However the bleep can become a scream if the feed into the cannula is disrupted for any reason. Hospital beds are comfortable but they are motorised for raising and lowering etc. The consequence is that they cannot have a headboard and if, like me, you are in the habit of pushing the pillows up against it to make them as thick as possible, the result is that the pillows disappear altogether. Standard top covering consists of a sheet and a cover. For someone who normally sleeps under ten feet of duvet (!) I was very cold during that first night. I sense that the need to ventilate the ward as much as possible to minimise any possible accumulation of the virus played a part in this. I quickly learnt to put clothes on, rather than taking them off, before going to bed. A blanket was also provided.

Anyone who enjoys dressing up would be comfortable with this hospital experience. I was fitted with rather fetching tight fitting white spats to prevent DVT, together with a bangle for each wrist. One bangle recorded who I was and when I was born while the other, known as a Centrak, could be used to find me if I went AWOL. The case of the Centrak recorded that it had been developed in the USA but manufactured in China. Another detail that helped me to pass the time concerned the bottled water. It proudly recorded that it had come from Harrogate, the source of spring water since 1571. I was hoping that this was not true since the water from the original Harrogate spring is unpalatable.

The use and choice of language always interests me. To

many of the staff I was "sir" while to others I was "darling". Obviously the former address was completely acceptable in these woke times but the latter gave me a flash of humanity. Similarly we struggle with how to express "going to the lavatory". Here I learned that it was often referred to as "going for a wee" and I was comforted.

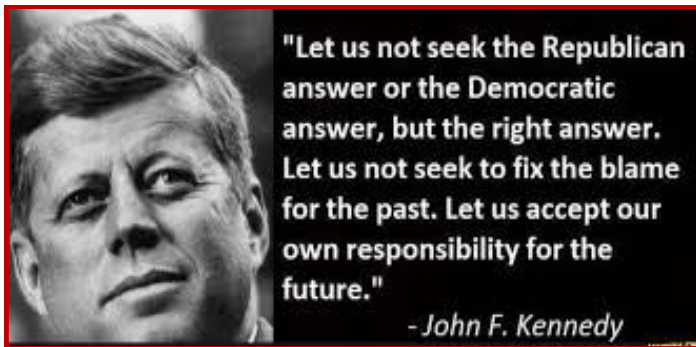
I was moved to a second ward, this time on the first floor and placed in a single room with a window that I could look out of. I regretted that. The view from that window excluded one of the attractive gardens that have been developed between the wings of the buildings but is limited to the upper storey and roof. I thought it ugly and hoped that I would be spared to enjoy again the many beautiful vistas that the world has to offer. I was also now in my own room which I had previously thought of as highly desirable, but I was lonely and missed the presence of the other patients, despite the fact that they were all too ill to share anything other than their presence. However one man regularly called out for God to help him and so I was able to offer a small prayer on his behalf. I am now at home, and via the local TV news, have some idea of the life and death battles being fought against Covid-19 in the rest of the hospital. In my non-virus wards I was shielded from what was going on elsewhere, although the staff had told me that some 60% of the hospital beds were taken by virus patients. I was only aware of all the washing, sterilising and protective equipment changes that the staff made every time they entered or left the ward.

I have been stabilised but not cured and hence might have to return at any time. Hopefully that can be delayed until the pressures on the hospital are reduced as the virus is brought under control. Whatever happens I will remain grateful for all the expertise and resources that were focussed on me, covering everything from my GP team, the out-of-hours doctors, the ambulance service ( that finally I did not need) and of course the hospital itself. Everywhere I was carried by commitment, skills, resources and kindness. Thus returning to hospital if that proves necessary holds no fear.

Incidentally I enjoyed the hospital food when the NBM (nil by mouth) sign was removed from my bed.

*Jim Hawkes*





*(Well known quote from JFK - but perhaps a suitable moment to bring it out again. Ed.)*

***The best things in life ....  
.... are not things!***



*(Thanks to Martin Thompson)*

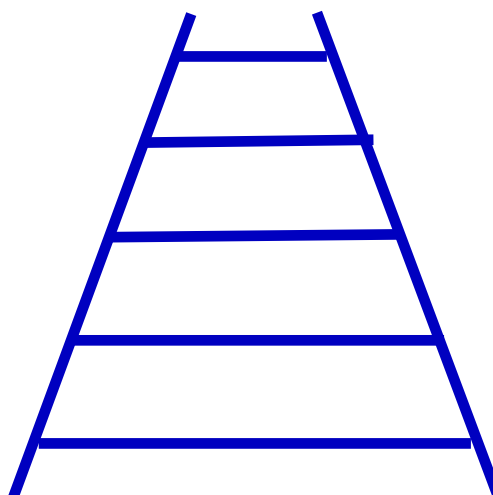
### **PUZZLE SECTION:** (Answers next month)

**A**  
**BB**  
**RRR**  
**AAAA**  
**CCCCC**  
**AAAAAA**  
**DDDDDDD**  
**AAAAAAAA**  
**BBBBBBBBB**  
**RRRRRRRRR**  
**AAAAAAAAAAAA**

Beginning with the letter A at the top of the triangle and reading down, always passing from a letter to an adjoining letter, how many ways is it possible to read: ABRACADABRA ?

The top rung of the ladder measures 10 units in length, the bottom one sixty units, and the rungs are equally spaced. Without measuring, how long is the middle rung?

*(Not drawn to scale.)*



## **FUND RAISING** **PROCEEDS:**

Did you read Christine Abram's item in the last magazine offering hats for sale and suggesting a donation in a pot for each drink you have and each mince pie or chocolate you eat in December?



Hopefully you have a good stack of money now which needs to go to Christine so she can pass it to St James' Church.

***Please pass cash or cheques to Christine.***

Contact Christine as follows:

Address: Melrose, Roadside, Whitchurch Road,  
Christleton, CH3 6AE  
Phone: 01244 335562

## **Churchyard Maintenance**

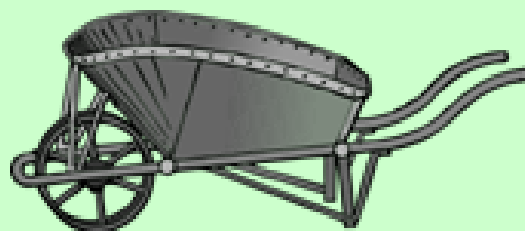
During this lockdown it is not possible to arrange any Churchyard Working Parties.

Sadly the grass and weeds will grow and this will be hard work later in the year when we can resume gardening together. We look forward to your continuing help when we are allowed.

In the meantime the wildlife will enjoy it!

You can still walk through and enjoy the churchyard as part of your exercise.

More details from Mike Lightfoot  
Tel: 07787 421357



The Foodbank is still operating and needs your contributions more than ever. The church is closed now during this lockdown so you cannot leave Foodbank items at the back of the church.



You can use the collection points available in all these big supermarkets: **Sainsbury's, Waitrose, Asda, Morrisons, Tesco**, and also the **Royal Mail Sorting Office** on Station Road has a box.

But perhaps the best thing at the moment is to donate money to them instead. Go online and donate to them directly: **<https://westcheshire.foodbank.org.uk>** .

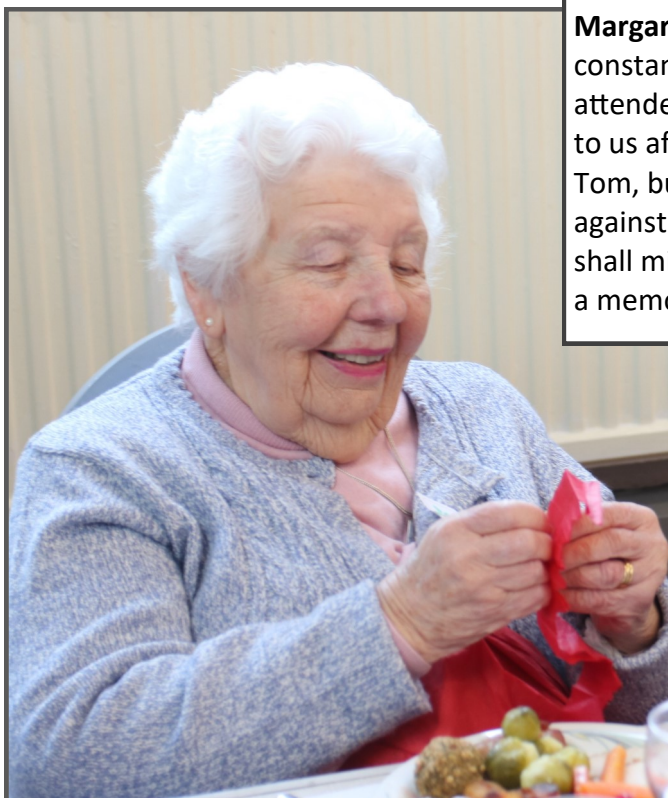
Thank you for your help. (Chris Alderton)

## FROM THE REGISTERS:

### FUNERALS:

Margaret June Driver, died 15/12/2020, aged 94  
Funeral at Crematorium 7/1/2021

Ronald Ian Dunbavand, died 23/12/2020, aged 84  
Funeral at Crematorium 19/1/2021



June at Luncheon Club (Photo David Cummings)

**Margaret June Driver** - we know her as June. She was a constant friendly face at St James. Always smiling. A regular attender on Sunday mornings, and often serving refreshments to us afterwards. Came to Luncheon Club. A long marriage to Tom, but widowed now for a number of years. She struggled against health issues but was always a positive person. We shall miss her. May she rest in peace. It is hoped there will be a memorial service at some time when it is possible.

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Address: Village Rd, Christleton, CH3 7AS

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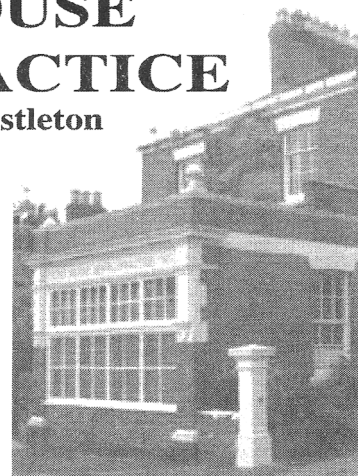
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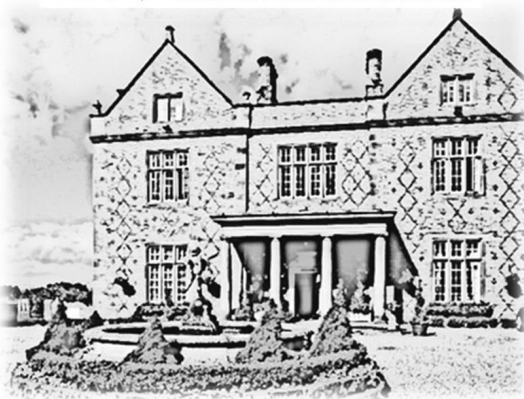
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