

PARISH MAGAZINE JUNE 2019 50p.

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

LONELINESS:



I imagine we have all felt lonely from time to time. Thankfully, for many of us though, this sense of loneliness passes. But it seems loneliness is becoming an increasingly significant social problem.

We will have no doubt read newspaper reports on its detrimental impact on the elderly. Age UK reports that 1.9 million older people often feel ignored or invisible, and suggest loneliness can be as harmful for our health as smoking 15 cigarettes a day. But we may be less aware of comparable reports on its impact on our young people. In 2010 the Mental Health foundation found loneliness to be a greater concern among young people than the elderly.

My impression is that Christleton and its surrounding villages have over many centuries played an important role in combating loneliness through affording a multitude of different opportunities for sharing life together. Indeed, perhaps this fact has been one of the attractions for settling in our communities. I am very thankful for this, as I am sure you are too. But whether this remains the same today is perhaps an open question given, not least, the rapidity of changes in mobility and daily living we have and are experiencing.

Our Christian faith has an interesting perspective on this issue of loneliness. St. Augustine said "Our hearts are restless, until they can find rest in you". This might be to suggest that a significant dimension to our loneliness, restlessness, is caused by our estrangement or distance from God. Our searching for fulfilment through the pursuit of wealth, careers, entertainment, keeping busy doing good, and various forms of drugs by way of example may, to lesser and greater degrees, actually be attempts, by us, to overcome our sense of loneliness.

If this is the case then I can't help think that our church communities have an especial gift to offer our communities which can radically transform them for the better. For churches can help us embrace our solitude, that is a rest - not of this world, as one finds their rest in God.

Embracing our solitude is about embracing our aloneness – loneliness - as a positive gift, and converting it into solitude. One of my favourite authors, Henri Nouwen, writes in his book "Beloved: Henri Nouwen in conversation".

"You trust – now that's the great jump – you trust as you embrace your aloneness, as you embrace your pain, you trust that it will get you in touch with the One who can really fulfil the deepest needs of your heart (- give you the love and satisfaction that you really want). Why? Because your heart is created by the One who alone can satisfy. The problem with God is that he's given us a heart that no human being can satisfy – only God can satisfy...Solitude is a discipline in which you deal with your loneliness in such a way that it doesn't destroy you or others, but instead becomes a place to discover the truth of who you are...Solitude is listening to the voice who calls you beloved. It is being alone with the one who says, "You are my beloved, I want to be with you. Don't go running around, don't

start to prove to everyone that you're beloved. You are already beloved."

It is my hope and prayer that together we can work to combat the threat loneliness poses to our communities today. We will, I'm sure, find many ways of doing this in the years ahead. At the same time, I pray we may all hear the small, still voice who calls us beloved and helps us to embrace our aloneness as a positive gift.

With my love and prayers,

Stefan, Rector

25 YEARS A PRIEST:



It's quite hard to imagine now the angst and furore caused by the idea that a woman could be ordained a priest. When I was ordained a deacon in the Church of England in 1992

that, as far as I knew, was as far as I would get. But just over a month after my ordination General Synod took a vote and the way was open for women to be ordained priests. I was outside Church House on that day and whilst we celebrated I was keenly aware of the sheer anger on the faces of some of the delegates as they left the building. There was still much work to do.

I was ordained priest in a very exciting service in St Albans Abbey alongside 61 other women ordained at the same time. A week later on May 1st 1994 I presided at Communion for the first time. The church was packed. Many were there to support me but also there were those there who simply rejoiced in having a woman to preside. Equally there were many who had supported me as a deacon but felt priesthood was a step too far and stayed away.

My journey to being a priest and in the twenty five years since that momentous day has been interesting to say the least. There have been significant challenges and many painful times but there have also been times of amazing, deep and powerful joy. The privilege of being a priest cannot be adequately put into words. At a quiet day before my ordination we were told that we will never stop learning how to be a priest and that is so true.

Twenty five years on we now have women bishops and about a third of Anglican clergy in this country are women. There is now thankfully nothing unusual in seeing a woman in a dog collar and in hearing that the local Vicar is a woman. There are still some who cannot accept the ministry of women and that still hurts; I suspect it always will.

But I thank God that he called me to be ordained, I thank him for the twenty five years of being a priest. I pray that, in the power of the Holy Spirit, I will be able to continue in ministry for a little while longer.

So I give thanks for all those people who have supported me over the years. And a very big thank you to everyone who expressed good wishes with cards and gifts on the 25th anniversary of my ordination in April.

Elizabeth Inall

THY KINGDOM COME:



What started out as an invitation from the Archbishops in 2016 to the Church of England has grown into an international and ecumenical call to prayer.



Thy Kingdom Come is a global prayer movement which invites Christians around the world to pray between Ascension Day and Pentecost for more people to come to know Jesus Christ. Our theme this year is 'JOY'.

Taking part need not be complicated. You can pray at church as part of a group, with family and individually. For more information visit www.chester.anglican.org.

Prayer Walk: We have organised a prayer walk around Christleton, commencing from St James at 2pm on Saturday 8th June, concluding at about 3pm at St James with tea and scones.

Prayer: A time of prayer will take place in St James daily at a time to be announced in the weekly notice sheet.

Prayer Station: We have created our own prayer station in St James - bright and beautiful, quiet and reflective. We have material suitable for younger people.

Other events are taking place in Chester.

Gill Hibbert.

RICE PAPER STACK:

Take a large piece of thin rice paper. The paper is 1000th of an inch thick - ie: 1000 sheets to the inch. (Normal A4 paper is about 250 sheets to the inch.)

Cut the rice paper in half and put the two pieces neatly together, one on top of the other. Then cut those in half and put the four pieces together in a pile. Again, cut them in half and put the eight pieces in a pile, and so on. If you cut and put together a total of fifty times how high will the final stack of paper be? A foot? A yard? Ten yards? You may of course wish to try it, if you can obtain rice paper, but calculating it may be the best way of tackling the question. Otherwise, just take a rough guess and risk the outcome! Ask others for their guesses.



Answer on back page.

(Editor)

WEEKLY DISCUSSION GROUP:

The Weekly Home Discussion Group is going well with between 6 and 12 people coming along each week when they can. Room for more. If you are nervous about discussing the Bible, then don't be as we are all on a learning curve and we are all feeling our way. We all have our individual 'takes' on a topic, and that's OK.

We have discussed the possibility of having a holiday over the summer and July & August have been suggested as 'time off'. If you look at the July calendar in this magazine we've included the group meeting for the first two weeks of July to correspond in some way to school terms. We shall then stop and resume the group meetings in September.

Confirmation of this in due course.

Brian Inall

A SLIMMER'S PSALM:

Strict is my diet, I must not want.

It maketh me to lie down at night, hungry.

It leadeth me to pass the refrigerator, it tireth my will power,

It leadeth me in the paths of starvation for my figure's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the aisles of pastas,

I will buy no chocolate eclairs, for they are fattening.

The cakes and pies they tempt me.

Before me is a table set with green beans and lettuce,

It filleth my stomach with liquids,

My day's quota runneth over.

Surely, calories and weight charts will follow me all the days of my life,

And I will dwell in the fear of the scales forever.



(various church magazine sources!)

CONGRATULATIONS:

To June Brocklesby on her 90th birthday on 17th June. We hope you have a lovely day.





Christleton Heritage Walking Trails: June 14th- June 27

David Cummings will lead these walks each lasting about 2 hrs (except R. Gowy-Walk Mill 4 hrs.)

Enjoy gentle exercise and find out about your local history. All walks/trails start from the Village Green except for the one at Walk Mill. No charge but donations to Village Charities welcome. For full details see Church and Village Notice Boards.

Booking essential. Please contact David: Tel: 332410 cummings.d@uwclub.net

Friday 14th June Sunday 16th June Tuesday 18th June Wednesday 19th June Thursday 20th June Friday 21st June Saturday 22nd June Sunday 23rd June 10.00 am 2.00 pm 6.00 pm 6.00 pm 10.00 am 10.00 am 2.00 pm

The WWI Heroes Trail. The Canons Tale The Littleton Trail The Boatmans Tale. The Cavaliers Tale The Wildlife Trail River & Meadow Walk along Gowy The Wildlife Trail.



(not essential). For further information please contact:

Mike Lightfoot - Tel: 07787 421357

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Meetings, Parties, Functions, etc. The Hall has wheelchair access and specially adapted facilities.

For bookings please contact the Booking Secretary

Janet Milton

Tel: 325529 (before 8.00pm) email: christletonhall@gmail.com



Messy Church

on **Sunday 16th June 2019** 4pm in Christleton Parish Hall Craft, Worship & Food

Luncheon Club

The next lunch is at 12noon (for 12.30) in the Parish Hall on Monday 17th June 2019

No charge but donations welcome.

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

Future dates: 15th July; 19th August

Please note that: Coffee, Cake and Chat First Thursday each Month at Christleton Methodist Church is no longer happening. An alternative arrangement will be announced soon.



CHRISTLETON WI

Meets on the 2nd Wednesday each month. 7.15pm in the Parish Hall

New members welcome. Details from Elizabeth Inall (Tel: 336500)

Next meeting: Wed 12th June 'Birthday Party'

ANNUAL FLOWER SERVICE

This year it will be on Sunday 14th July at 10.45 am

As usual it will be held outside if weather permits. The Rose Queen and her Retinue will attend and help with distribution of flowers.

> A picnic will follow afterwards (to be confirmed)





Music in the Bishop's Garden

(by kind permission of the Bishop of Chester)

Date: Tuesday 4 June 2019 Time: 6.30pm Where: Bishop's House, Abbey Square, Chester Tickets: £2 per person

Stalls, raffle, refreshments and entertainment. For tickets or more information contact: 01244 544159

For: The Children's Society

St James' Church Calendar June & July 2019

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

.

JUNE:

<u>Sunday 2nd</u> : (7th of Easter)	8.00am: 10.45am: 3.00pm: 6.30pm:	Holy Communion (BCP). Breakfast in the Parish Hall. Holy Communion. Refreshments. Sidesperson's Tea Party at East Garth. Evening Prayer.
Tuesday 4th: Wed 5th: Saturday 8th:	7.30pm: 10.45am: 2.00pm:	Home Discussion Group - at Grange House, Village Road. United Holy Communion (Churches Together). Refreshments. Prayer Walk (Thy Kingdom Come) starting and ending at St James with tea and scones afterwards. More details from Gill Hibbert.

NEW SUNDAY SERVICE PATTERN BEGINS:

<u>Sunday 9th</u> : (Pentecost)	9.00am: 10.45am: 4.00pm:	Holy Communion. Refreshments. Morning Worship. Evening Prayer (BCP) - The conclusion of 'Thy Kingdom Come'.
Tuesday 11th: Wed 12th: Saturday 15th:	7.30pm: 10.45am: 10.30am:	Home Discussion Group - at Grange House, Village Road. Holy Communion (BCP). Refreshments. Churchyard Working Party.
<u>Sunday 16th</u> : (Trinity Sunday,	9.00am:) 10.45am: 4.00pm:	Holy Communion. Refreshments and Produce Sale. Morning Worship with Communion. Messy Church & Worship in the Parish Hall (no service in church).
Monday 17th: Tuesday 18th: Wed 19th: Saturday 22nd:	7.30pm: 10.45am:	Luncheon Club in the Parish Hall. Home Discussion Group - at Grange House, Village Road. Holy Communion (BCP). Refreshments Jig Saw Jazz evening in Parish Hall (see ad for details).
<u>Sunday 23rd</u> : (Trinity 1)	9.00am: 10.45am: 4.00pm:	Holy Communion. Refreshments. Morning Worship. Contemplative Communion Service.
Tuesday 25th: Wed 26th: Saturday 29th:	7.30pm: 10.45am: 1.00pm:	Home Discussion Group - at Grange House, Village Road. Holy Communion (BCP). Refreshments. Christleton Fête at the Primary School. The Church will be there.
<u>Sunday 30th</u> : (Trinity 2)	9.00am: 10.45am: 4.00pm:	Holy Communion. Refreshments. Morning Worship. Taizé Service.

JULY:

Wed 3rd:	10.45am:	United Holy Communion (Churches Together). Refreshments.
<u>Sunday 7th</u> : (Trinity 3)	8.15am: 9.00am: 10.45am: 4.00pm:	Breakfast in the Parish Hall. Holy Communion. Refreshments after in Parish Hall. Morning Worship. Evening Service (especially for young people).
Tuesday 9th: Wed 10th: Saturday 13th:	7.30pm: 10.45am: 10.30am: 2.00pm:	Home Discussion Group - venue TBC. Holy Communion (BCP). Refreshments. Churchyard Working Party. Christleton Village Show in the Parish Hall.
<u>Sunday 14th</u> : (Trinity 4)	9.00am: 10.45am: 4.00pm:	Holy Communion. Refreshments after in Parish Hall. Annual Flower Service. Outside if possible, followed by picnic. Evening Prayer (BCP).
Monday 15th: Tuesday 16th: Wed 17th: Saturday 20th:	12.30pm: 7.30pm: 10.45am: 12 noon:	Luncheon Club in the Parish Hall. Home Discussion Group - venue TBC. Holy Communion (BCP). Refreshments. Fundraising Barbeque at Bettie's house. More details to follow.
<u>Sunday 21st</u> : (Trinity 5)	9.00am: 10.45am: 4.00pm:	Holy Communion. Refreshments and Produce Sale. Morning Worship with Communion. Messy Church & Worship in the Parish Hall (no service in church)
Wed 24th:	10.45am: 7.30pm:	Holy Communion (BCP). Refreshments. PCC Meeting.
<u>Sunday 28th</u> : (Trinity 6)	9.00am: 10.45am: 4.00pm:	Holy Communion. Refreshments after in Parish Hall. Morning Worship. Contemplative Communion Service.
Wed 31st:	10.45am:	Holy Communion (BCP). Refreshments.

From 2nd June to end of September there will be Summer Teas at the Methodist Church every Sunday at 2.30pm - see ad in this magazine.

All Calendar entries subject to correction or change. Check also the "What's On" calendar on the church website as this may show more up-to-date information.

Advance Notice: It is expected that the August issue of this magazine will be a double issue covering August and September, with a cover price of £1 instead of 50p. We shall try to include colour and make it rather more than 16 pages, but that all depends upon the content submitted to the editor for that edition. We'll say more in the July issue.

In the meantime, therefore, have a think and send something in which you feel is appropriate for our Parish Magazine. The July magazine deadline is 18th June. All contributions considered although of course we cannot guarantee publication. Thank you. *(Editor)*

TREASURER REPORT:



This is just a brief overview of the last 4 months. I have not continued with the previous table but will document the major items of significance.

It is wonderful to discover the

development of a stewardship awareness within the congregation as we move forward into the next tax year.

Perhaps in view of our ongoing needs and the increase in the parish share, several of the regular donors have increased their weekly or monthly giving to help accommodate our extra expense.

On review of the regular giving, not including the HMRC refund, our income is £5,500 higher than this time last year, mainly accounted for by the increase in number of standing orders. I am still receiving new standing orders so feel free to ask me for details if you feel this is a method which would suit. Likewise, the envelope scheme continues to be a very steady income stream and more are available.

The embryonic stewardship group has encouraged me to make an assessment of the historical spend relating to the different mission groups within the church development – this is not an easy task, but is our first step towards working out some guidelines towards budgets.

If anyone really loves to play with bar charts, pie diagrams and such like do please get in touch as I could really do with a bit of assistance on this front.

The ongoing hamster wheel of the treasurer's tasks allows little time to play with these figures. Meanwhile I shall share my first efforts of extraction of graphical data from Finance Co-ordinator with the PCC as I continue to practise.

New technology???? Isn't it wonderful!

The contactless terminal has suffered from a very serious bout of hiccups and I hope to be able to update you on this via the notice sheet as time goes by. It is presently being investigated at a high level and I can only apologise it has not performed as we had all hoped and expected.

I trust I shall soon be able to give you full reassurance about this. It is interesting that the Diocese is encouraging parishes to use one, so I have shared my experience with them.

Despite my optimism regarding our regular giving, I must admit that our overall figures in the last 4 months show a deficit of £3,654.

To explain this, there have been 2 major expenditures – the parish hall blinds (approx £3,000) and the VDUs to support the new worship developments (approx £2,500).

The first of course was from fundraising income and the second is being financed from some restricted funding which we have otherwise been unable to access, but it obviously does affect the overall picture.

As a charity, we are not meant to make a profit but it is good to be able to pay our bills comfortably, not to mention the parish share.

Very many thanks to those who continue week in and week out to support the work of the church and especially from my point of view, the financing of this work.

Liz McClure

<u>Christleton Men in the Boer War &</u> <u>A surprise Family Story:</u>

I've always been aware of a small but elegant memorial in the north aisle of St James' to men from the village who died in the Boer war, but have done nothing about it. A few months ago a good friend of the History Group, researcher Nigel Meyrick, suggested we investigate their stories. The task was relatively easy as there were press cuttings from the Chester Newspapers of the day giving us the sad news that all three Christleton men, Joseph Hinde 5th Dragoon Guards, George Bradshaw 21st Imperial Yeomanry, and Percy Thomas Harding 7th Dragoon Guards all died of enteric fever (typhoid) whilst serving in South Africa. Joseph at Ladysmith, George near the Orange River, and Percy at Kroonstad.

Typhoid fever, also known as enteric fever, bilious fever or Yellow Jack is an illness caused by salmonella bacteria, transmitted by the ingestion of food or water contaminated by faeces from an infected person. The figures revealed following this terrible campaign are astonishing to us today. From the British Force of 556,653 men who served in the Anglo-Boer War 57,684 contracted typhoid, 8,225 of these died. Meanwhile 7,582 men were killed in action!

Whilst carrying out the research Nigel came across another newspaper cutting in the Chester Courant of two Christleton men who survived the war, George and William Postons. This was a fantastic lead for me, as I have already a number of stories and photographs in our files of the Postons Family. Many older residents will remember Frank, Captain of the Bellringers, of his father James (Jim) who lived until he was 105, and Margaret Davies, Frank's sister, who looked after James at The Old Surgery in Village Road.

Let me first of all reveal the story of George (b.1872) and William (b. 1874). They were the first two sons in a family of 15 children born to Walter & Frances. Walter was a Gardener & Farm labourer, who later became Butler at Christleton Hall. Frances, after caring for her children, became Housekeeper at Christleton Hall. Their last address is given as The Surgery Christleton, but they lived at Littleton when first married.

It was their older sister Anne Jane Brierley of Hoole Lane who told their story having received interesting letters from the front. It seems that both George & William were Troopers in the 16th Lancers and were serving with General French's force which relieved Kimberley. One of them writes "I don't think these Boers can shoot a little bit. I think it's mostly chance shots. You should have seen them run the day we charged them. Some of them waved white handkerchiefs and went on their knees for mercy."



Again by coincidence I have an early family portrait of the family, and the two older boys George & William are on the back row. James is on the left of his mother and Anne Jane & Emily are the older girls with Vera probably the girl in white in front of their parents as the date of the photograph is around 1892. James (Jim) Postons was a legend in the village, living to the grand old age of 105yrs. He had been a gardener at the Old Hall and can be seen on the left of the main picture of the servants. He attended Christleton Girls & Infant and Boys Schools and left at 13yrs to work on a farm. He became gardener at Christleton Hall, now The University of Law, and in 1912 won the Chester Paxton Society award for the best apples in the village. He was a verger at St James till he reached 90, and kept gardening at home until his late 90's.



An announcement on television news was the highlight of his 105th birthday celebrations, and visitors are said to have arrived in their dozens to wish him well. He also received a congratulatory telegram from the Queen, with bouquets of flowers from Canada and Australia.

I remember visiting him sitting in his rocking chair by the side of the fireplace at The Old Surgery, and his mind was very alert, and a great story teller. One story he told was about an incident from 100years ago of him being afraid of the butcher (probably Joe Mosford). He said "I was just a toddler and the butcher was late arriving to kill the family pig. My mother had prepared a scalding bath for skinning the pig and when the butcher arrived I heard him say 'Is he ready'..... I was frightened because I thought he was referring to me" He was in great health until he was 103 when his hearing started to fail. Mentally he was very alert right till his death. Margaret who looked after her father said he never smoked in the home, but occasionally he would have a Woodbine in the garden. He said "It kept the greenfly down".

David Cummings

Nature Notes:

The swifts are back! Christleton is one of the few places in the Chester area where there is still a colony of swifts. These elegant supremely fast fliers arrive back from their winter home in Africa almost on the same date every year 7th May. This year I saw one over The Pit on the 3rd, with ten over the lake at Hockenhull on the 4th May. When these amazing birds have mysteriously arrived in the village, I've always felt that summer must be just around the corner. They are such fast fliers that they will be difficult to pick up in flight, but the screams they call as they fly will make them more visible. The best place to hear them is around the middle of the village, the Primary School field, and The Ring O Bells, especially in the evenings.



The cuckoo which once was the signal of spring has been missing from the Parish for probably ten years now, but there is welcome news of a pair seen and heard on Bickerton Hill, and another near Beeston Castle. I'm also pleased to report that tiny willow warblers have arrived back for the third year running after years of absence. They can easily be confused with the chiff chaff, except when they call. Willow warblers have a very fluted sweet descending trill unlike the name sounding chiff chaff. Both sing from the tops of trees or hedgerows. Another welcome returning bird is the whitethroat. They can be identified by their dark heads and white throats, and from the scratchy calls as they fly into the air and then descend back to the top of the hedge from which they flew. Sedge warblers with their harsh grating notes mixed with melodic phases, have also arrived in good numbers, with at least 10 singing males in the reed beds at Hockenhull. They have distinctive white eye stripes with creamy white under- parts.

There are still lots of birds nest building, just as others try to disturb them. We watched horrified recently as a noisy aggressive nuthatch tried to raid the nest of a tiny blue tit busily trying to line its next with moss and webs. Sadly the nuthatch won. Tiny Siskins, a smaller version of the greenfinch family have become more and more common these days and can often been seen on birdfeeders with goldfinches. Greylag geese seem to be a permanent feature of the Pit these days, whilst surprising visitors to Hockenhull are six common shelducks, and three oystercatchers. The oystercatchers are actually breeding. I'm also pleased to report that I've found two new swan nest sites, the first at the secret lake at Walk Mill, and the other at Stoneyford Gardens near Delamere Forest. The pen seems to be very happily incubating eggs at both sites, so I hope to give you good news of the birth of some healthy cygnets next month. The cob pictured at Stoneyford is a really elegant mature bird and is guarding the nest site well.

I can also report that the only wild cowslip site that I am aware of in the parish, has once again delighted with a good display of flowers. There are however tens of thousands of them flowering alongside the A55 on both sides of the road between Northop and Conway, and even more on the Great Orme at Llandudno. Another interesting site is the small wildflower patch alongside the Cheshire Cat and the A41, where hundreds of flowering red campion flowers are currently on view.

David Cummings



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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, baptisms: pa.saintjames@gmail.com

For Parish Hall bookings: christletonhall@gmail.com

<u>CHURCHWARDENS</u>: Bettie Gilliatt Tel: 01244 335645

Tina Lightfoot Tel: 07557 352592

for either warden: thechurchwardens@gmail.com

<u>VERGER</u>: John Milton Tel: 01244 325529

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ST JAMES ON TWITTER:

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MAGAZINE:

<u>EDITOR</u>: The editor is: **Brian Inall** Tel: 01244 336500 *brian@inall.co.uk*

We are building our Communications and Magazine team. If you think you can help in any way please contact Brian Inall.

Deadline for submissions for the July magazine will be: Tuesday 18th June.

COMMERCIAL ADVERTISING: John Eccles Tel: 01244 336355 jeccles46@sky.com

The Magazine subscription is currently £6 per year (renewal is in April) with copies delivered to your home, or pick up from church. Please check with us whether your home is on one of our delivery routes. If you don't subscribe you are invited to buy individual copies each month from the back of St James' Church. If all the spare copies have gone then please ask - we will be pleased to help.

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.

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

Rice Paper Stack - answer: Over 17 million miles. No joke!!

