

The St. James' Church

PARISH MAGAZINE

June 2021



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

Free on-line

DISMAL!

After that long dry spell in March/April we longed for a drop of rain to save our garden plants! Prayers were answered in abundance! Hopefully by the time you read this the rain and hail will have abated and we shall really feel the effect that summer is upon us.



HOPE!

Now with tentative and cautious Covid relaxations and better weather, please enjoy the outdoor life, get that barbeque dusted down, strengthen relationships with those who we've only seen at arm's length or via Zoom, and re-engage more fully with the church and the community - but of course do it safely within the rules. Hug with caution!



BREAKING NEWS: The diocesan suffragan bishop posts have been filled.

The Venerable Julie Conalty (left), currently Archdeacon of Tonbridge, will be the next Bishop of Birkenhead, and the Revd Canon Sam Corley (right), currently Rector of Leeds Minster, will be the next Bishop of Stockport. Bishop Mark joined the Diocese last year so we have a fresh new team at the top. Please hold them all in your prayers.



PARISH CONTACTS:

RECTOR:

Rev'd Dr Stefan Collier Tel: 01244 335663
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
(Rob's day off is normally Friday)

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gillianhibbert80@outlook.com

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The next issue of this magazine will be for July

Deadline for content: Monday 21st June 2021.

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During this Covid-19 crisis this magazine will remain free via the church and Christleton websites and will not be printed or delivered to homes. A few black & white printed copies may be available for sale (50p) at the back of the church. Please encourage others to read the magazine online. Feedback and contributions always welcome - please contact the editor.

ST JAMES' CHURCH WEBSITE:

<https://www.stjameschristleton.org.uk>

Website maintained by Jonathan Gilliatt
jonathan.gilliatt@btinternet.com

ST JAMES ON TWITTER:



@StJChristleton

CHRISTLETON VILLAGE WEBSITE:

www.christleton.org.uk



THE FRIENDS:

John Norbury Tel: 07971 556714
john_norbury@btinternet.com

Website:

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



ORGANISATION OF THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND:

The second of a series of short articles about the Church England, based on Martin Davie's book entitled 'A Guide to The Church of England'.

At the macro level, the church comprises of two provinces - York and Canterbury, of which the Archbishops of York, Stephen Cottrell, and Canterbury, Justin Welby have authority and oversight. The latter takes precedence with the Archbishop of Canterbury the senior archbishop and so called Primate of All England and Metropolitan – that is bishop with authority over a group of dioceses.

These two provinces, York and Canterbury, are comprised of 42 dioceses. Each is served by a diocesan bishop, and they often have between 1 and 2 suffragan or assistant bishops serving alongside them. Historically, there is an order of precedence in the seniority of Bishops, and London, Durham, and Winchester, along with the archbishops of York and Canterbury, serve as part of the Lords Spiritual in the House of Lords by right. The other bishops take the remaining 21 places available in the Lords Spiritual, I think by length of service. Our bishop is The Right Reverend Mark Tanner, and we await the appointment of his two suffragan bishops of Birkenhead and Stockport.

The dioceses are broken down into archdeaconries, deaneries, and then parishes. An archdeaconry is a collection of deaneries. A deanery is a collection of parishes. So, we are the parish of Christleton in the Deanery of Chester, and part of the Archdeaconry of Chester. Our other archdeaconry is Macclesfield. The archdeacons, today – senior priests, have oversight of each archdeaconry, and in particular the pastoral care of the clergy, oversight of the parish church buildings and their contents, and the appointment of clergy. Our archdeacon is the Venerable Dr Michael Gilbertson. The Archdeacon of Macclesfield is the Venerable Ian Bishop.

Each deanery is a collection of parishes, and a

member of the clergy from that collection will be appointed by the Bishop to serve as rural or area dean. They oversee deanery chapter which comprises, often, the clergy of the parishes of the deanery who meet regularly to collaborate on the mission of the church in their area. Our rural dean is the Reverend Hennie Johnson of St Mark's church in Saltney.

The parish is the base unit of organisation in the Church of England. There are approximately 13000 parishes in the Church of England, and they form the English church's response to providing for the pastoral care of all inhabitants in England. Invariably, the priest, who shares the pastoral care, the so called Cure of Souls, of the parish with the Bishop of the diocese is referred to as its incumbent. Or, for example, as the Rector or Vicar. The difference between a Rector and Vicar is now historical. In the past the Rector would have received the tithes from the income of the land(s), referred to as the Benefice, of the parish, whereas the Vicar would only receive a portion of the tithes. While I have remarked on who holds the relevant various posts of Bishop, Archdeacon and so forth as we have gone along, I'm assuming naming the Rector of the parish would be superfluous!

This then is a brief overview of the organisation of the church of England. Some would argue its all about the parish, the base unit of the organisation, since this is the coal face of ministry. The rest of the organisation is the servant of this base unit. Others would argue its starts with the diocese as the base unit of the organisation, since Anglican theology speaks of the local church as comprising the diocesan bishop and the clergy and laity who are in communion with him or her. Therefore, the parishes only exist as part of their diocese. I'll leave you, should you choose, to ponder this in the weeks ahead.

With my love and prayers,

Stefan

THE CHURCH ANNUAL MEETINGS:

As a result of the St James' Church Annual meetings held via Zoom on 16th May we have some changes and elections to report:

CHURCHWARDENS:

Tina Lightfoot stood down as Churchwarden as she is embarking upon ordination training. The Meeting of the Parishioners (also known as the Vestry meeting) elected Bettie Gilliatt as a churchwarden. Mike Lightfoot was elected to continue as the other churchwarden.

(Churchwardens are elected every year for a 1 year term. They can serve 6 consecutive years.)

PCC MEMBERS:

Sheena Cumiskey and Brian Inall had each completed their 3 year term of office, and the APCM accepted each for a further 3 year term.

(PCC members are elected for a 3 year term, with a maximum of two consecutive terms.)

Other PCC offices were confirmed as:

PCC vice chair: Mike Lightfoot

PCC Secretary: Joce Platel

PCC Treasurer: Liz McClure

Electoral Roll Officer: Chris Platel

Deanery Synod: Bettie Gilliatt & Joce Platel

The Standing Committee consists of the Rector, both Churchwardens, PCC Treasurer, & PCC Secretary.

Your PCC now looks as follows:

Revd Dr Stefan Collier (Incumbent & chair)

Rev'd Rob Croft (Assistant curate - ex-officio)

Churchwardens:

Bettie Gilliatt (Deanery Synod)

Mike Lightfoot (Vice chair)

Elected members:

Christine Abrams

Sheena Cumiskey

Paul Forrest

Charlie Griffin

Brian Inall

Liz McClure (PCC Treasurer)

Chris Platel (Electoral Roll Officer)

Joce Platel (PCC Secretary & Deanery Synod)

Keith Smalls

Martin Thompson

Ann White (Safeguarding)

As we are allowed 12 elected PCC members there is one place vacant.

THE ARK:

Play and Praise toddler group



What is 'The Ark'?

As you know, Noah was instructed by God to build an ark, to shelter those who were faithful to him during the storm and to protect the creatures of the earth. 'The Ark' Toddler Group provides a similar function. It is a place of shelter but also a place of fun and joy where children can play and parents can relax together away from the 'storms' of their everyday life (if only for a short period of time every Friday).

In addition to playing, colouring, dressing up and much more, during each session, we remember how much God loves us and we listen to a story



from God's story book, also known as the bible.

If you know of anyone who might enjoy a trip on The Ark, please ask them to email tina.lightfoot@googlemail.com

How can you help?

We would love to have members of our congregation offering to come and simply chat to our parents and play with the children. The Ark is all about making time to get to know one another.

We also need people who can help set up, clear away and clean toys between meetings. In addition, donations of new toys would be greatly appreciated (ages 0-5 years)

Why not pop along on a Friday morning between 9.15 and 11am to get a taste of what it's all about before committing?

Tina Lightfoot

COVID-19 ASYMPTOMATIC TESTING CENTRE

With restrictions starting to ease and more people meeting indoors, the scientists are recommending that we all get tested regularly even if we have been vaccinated. This is to detect and thus prevent transmission of the disease long before people have symptoms. It is estimated that 1 in 3 people have Covid-19 do not have symptoms.

Chester Cathedral is hosting a testing centre which is situated in the South Transept.

The tests are free of charge and no appointment is necessary so if you are in town shopping, you can just pop in.

You carry out the Lateral Flow Test (LFT) test yourself using a swab which you will rub at the back of your throat and in one nostril. The test isn't painful, although it may be slightly uncomfortable. The swab is analysed at the test centre, and your results will be sent to you by text message or email

approximately half an hour after you have done your swab. If you do not have a mobile phone or email address, you can either telephone 119 to receive your results or, if you've been shopping, you can pop back into the centre where the staff will give you your results.

Since Easter I've been attending the cathedral as a lay chaplain twice weekly to support the centre staff and those visiting the cathedral to be tested. Some attending are quite nervous but the centre staff are all really helpful and understanding.

The cathedral staff are all getting tested regularly and we're also getting to know people from the local businesses who come in for testing, usually on a twice weekly basis. All of this will help to boost confidence as we gradually start doing more of the things we love to do.

So, next time you're in town why not come along and get tested and perhaps take the opportunity to simply spend time in our wonderful cathedral.

Tina Lightfoot

CHRISTIAN AID RESULTS:

Thanks to the givers and collectors of money for this year's Christian Aid week.



A fantastic result given the limitations this year. The Christleton CA Group collected £3,022.35. The money has been banked and sent off to Christian Aid and hopefully it will reach those in need as quickly as possible.

Once again thank you all.

Chris Platel

CONTACTLESS PAYMENTS:

Are you confused by a contactless payment to the church not being processed?

Over the last month we have changed to a different company to process our contactless donations. This was forced on us as our previous processor was no longer able to do it for us. Our treasurer, Liz McClure, has been suffering hair loss and acute anxiety as she navigated a tortuous process of migrating our donations to the new company which has involved tricky multi-layered on-line form filling, contracts and electronic signatures. Just as we successfully achieved that we then discovered the contactless terminal itself wasn't working and needed an upgrade of its internal SIM and other cards, and eventually it had to be sent away for upgrade of other software within the terminal.

This is a long explanation and reason why you may have used the contactless terminal, but that nothing has been charged to your card, and nothing has arrived in our bank! Oh dear!

We are so sorry, but if you were affected in this way we would appreciate you trying again – either using the contactless terminal which is now working properly, or by donating via the church website, or by standing order, or some other way.

Please talk to Liz (Tel: 409414) if you have any questions about all this.

Thank you. (Editor)



PARAPROSDOKIANS:

I've never heard of a Paraproisdokian. Our friend Connie in the US has passed the following on to us, so it seemed a good idea to share it with you. Sorry if you've already seen this via social media.

Paraproisdokians are figures of speech in which the latter part of a sentence or phrase is surprising or unexpected and is frequently humorous. (*Sir Winston Churchill loved them*).

1. Where there's a will, I want to be in it.
2. The last thing I want to do is hurt you ...but it's still on my list.
3. Since light travels faster than sound, some people appear bright until you hear them speak.
4. If I agreed with you, we'd both be wrong.
5. We never really grow up -- we only learn how to act in public.
6. War does not determine who is right, only who is left.
7. Knowledge, is knowing a tomato is a fruit. Wisdom is not putting it in a fruit salad.
8. To steal ideas from one person is plagiarism. To steal from many is research.
9. I didn't say it was your fault, I said I was blaming you.
10. In filling out an application, where it says, "In case of an emergency, notify..." I answered "a doctor."
11. Women will never be equal to men until they can walk down the street with a bald head and a beer gut, and still think they are sexy.
12. You do not need a parachute to skydive. You only need a parachute to skydive twice.
13. I used to be indecisive, but now I'm not so sure.
14. To be sure of hitting the target, shoot first and call whatever you hit the target.
15. Going to church doesn't make you a Christian, any more than standing in a garage makes you a car.
16. You're never too old to learn something stupid.
17. I'm supposed to respect my elders, but it's getting harder and harder for me to find someone older than I am.

(Ed:)

THE MERSEY IRON WORKS

In my piece about Whitby Hospital I said that the Wolverhampton Corrugated Iron Company brought workers from Wolverhampton to live in houses they had built for them in Ellesmere Port. One of Jean's recent carers related from another carer, who had recently retired at the age of 70, how their family walked from Wolverhampton, a considerable distance, taking sandwiches to eat along the way. Nothing remarkable for the 1900's except they walked along the canal.

I wonder why? To move they would have to bring all the contents of their current house, a significant amount. A narrow boat can carry 20 tons of cargo & the butt 50 tons. I wonder if that's how they moved house, walking alongside the boats?

The I:Tea +Coffee Club

(see ad below)

All invited. It is an informal series of 4 sessions in church where you can learn more about using iPads and iPhones, and other similar devices, and share your experiences with others and ask questions. Tea & coffee also on the agenda.

Don't be frustrated with technology.

We may be able to help you.

You can get more details from the Parish Administrator (07487 642912), or the Rector.

IF MUSIC BE THE FOOD OF LOVE, PLAY ON:

If only!



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

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

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

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

CAN YOU HELP PLEASE?



MAGAZINE EDITOR/COMPILER:

Do you like designing and creating documents on your computer? Do you need a good excuse to do this? Then you'd make a great editor and compiler for this magazine! We'd be pleased to hear from you.

Contact the current editor, Brian Inall. See page 2.

The I:Tea +Coffee Club.....

Do you crave connection in our digital age?

Do you find technology frustrating? Let the I:Tea+Coffee Club help you....

A free, short introduction to using an iPad whilst creating space for conversation. Starts 3 June @ 2pm for 4 weeks @ St James, Christleton.

With grateful thanks to support from Cheshire West and Chester Council

Parish of Christleton, St James Church Tel: 0746 7642912 Email: office@stjameschristleton.org.uk Web: <https://www.stjameschristleton.org.uk>

Make an Online Donation

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

CHRISTLETON PARISH HALL - REGULAR ACTIVITIES

Information provided by Maria Norbury - proposed start dates in red are subject to changes in government guidance.

MONDAY	Community Lunch Yoga Monday Painters	8am – 3pm 7 – 8pm until Sept 6 – 7pm from 06/09 7 – 9pm	Monthly 3 rd Monday tbc Weekly – from 24/05 Weekly – term time from 06/09
TUESDAY	Baby Massage Class Aspirations Dance	9.30 – 10.30am 6 – 9pm	Weekly – from 22/06 Weekly – from 18/05
WEDNESDAY	Clinical Pilates Clinical Pilates WI RSPB meeting History Group	9.30 – 10.30am 10.30 – 11.30am 6.30 – 9.30pm 6.45 – 9.45pm 6.30 – 9.30pm	Weekly – term time from 19/05 Weekly – term time from 19/05 Monthly 2 nd Wed – from 08/09 Monthly 3 rd Wed – not May to Aug – from 15/09 Last Wed of Jan Feb Mar Sept Oct Nov – from 29/09
THURSDAY	Fitness Fusion Pilates The Christleton Painters Aspirations Dance	9.15 – 10.15am 10.30am – 3pm 6 – 9pm	Weekly – not before July Weekly – not May to Aug – from 02/09 Weekly – not before Sept
FRIDAY	The Ark Toddler Group Aspirations Dance	9.30 – 11.30am 6 – 9pm	Weekly – term time from 16/04 Weekly – not before Sept
SATURDAY	Saturday Painters	10am – 1pm	Alternate Saturdays – from 11/09
SUNDAY	Refreshments after church services Messy Church	 4pm – 6pm	Weekly – tbc Mthly 3 rd Sunday tbc

CONTACTS DETAILS FOR REGULAR ACTIVITIES

Community lunch	Liz McClure	01244 409414	elizabeth.mcclure070@gmail.com
Yoga	Jonny Hunter	07546 183000	jonnyhunteryoga@gmail.com
Monday Painters	Kathleen Bulmer	07957 802145	bulmerkathleen1@gmail.com
Baby Massage Class	Stephanie Tully	07969 318547	babyclubcheshire@outlook.com
Aspirations Dance	Richard Colley	07885 233182	info@aspirationsdance.com
Clinical Pilates	Claire Phillipson	07709 400643	clairephillipson@icloud.com
WI	Anne Large	01244 336108	annelarge34@gmail.com
RSPB	Liz McClure	01244 409414	elizabeth.mcclure070@gmail.com
History Group	David Cummings	01244 332410	cummings.d@uwclub.net
Fitness Fusion	Laura Jones	07867 692806	fitnessfusion1@outlook.com
The Christleton Painters	Graham Kay	0151 342 3697	gkay@grahamkay.co.uk
The Ark Toddler Group	Tina Lightfoot	07557 352592	tina.lightfoot@googlemail.com
Saturday Painters	Kevin Sparrow	01244 316168 07905 914328	sparrow.kevin@sky.com
Messy Church	Lesley Morgan	01244 335088	lesley02@hotmail.com
Booking Secretary	Maria Norbury	01244 335499	maria_norbury@btinternet.com

MARRIAGE THEN AND NOW:

Having just celebrated our 50th Wedding Anniversary I have been reflecting on the ethos of the service and the promises we made then and the equivalents in today's Marriage service.

We, of course, were married using the Book of Common Prayer (BCP). There wasn't a choice then, it was the only service available in the Church of England.



From the opening paragraph it is evident that there has been a shift in thinking. The phrase 'this man and this woman' has changed to naming them as individuals. Later they are declared Man and wife in the BCP and husband and wife in the new service. A subtle difference maybe, but significant none the less.

The language of the BCP is quite stark. The introduction read out says marriage was not to be 'enterprised, nor taken in hand, unadvisedly, lightly, or wantonly, to satisfy men's carnal lusts and appetites, like brute beasts that have no understanding;' The reasons for marriage were 1st. to produce children, 2nd to prevent sin (fornication), 3rd to love and comfort each other.

The new service turns that round and puts Love and trust 1st, sex 2nd and children 3rd. In the BCP declarations the Bride is asked to declare that she will obey and serve her husband as well as love and honour him whilst the groom declares he will love, comfort and honour his wife.

In the vows that follow the husband promises to love and cherish his wife, the wife promises to love, cherish and obey her husband. In today's service both bride and groom say the same words – they promise to love and cherish each other.

There is a prayer in the BCP which is simply not found in the new service. It prays 'that this woman may be loving and amiable, faithful and obedient to her husband; and in all quietness, sobriety, and peace, be a follower of holy and godly matrons'.

So I promised to obey and serve my husband, there were fervent prayers that I should be amiable, faithful, and obedient and in all quietness, sobriety and peace be a follower of holy and godly matrons. And not only me of course but all of us who were married before the first new services were introduced in 1980. The BCP service is still an authorised service and indeed I have used it. And there are alternative vows in the new service which include 'obey' for the bride to say and I've used those as well.

How society has changed! And thankfully that is reflected in the Marriage service. But there is one phrase which crops up in both services and I am glad it is still there – the promise to love and cherish. That is such a powerful phrase: what exactly does it mean to cherish someone? To me it encompasses everything about caring, nurturing, reassuring someone. It is about helping them to achieve their potential as people, boosting their self esteem, boosting their self confidence. And in a marriage I think that is a two way process between equal partners.

Have I obeyed my husband for 50 years? Yes. Have I always in all quietness, sobriety, and peace, been a follower of holy and godly matrons? I'm not so sure about that, you'll have to ask Brian.

Elizabeth Inall

The Ark Play and Praise Toddler Group



Ark has re-started

***It meets weekly in the Parish Hall
Fridays 9.30 am to 11.30 am***

***For further details please contact:
tina.lightfoot@googlemail.com***

DO YOU REMEMBER THIS FROM OUR DECEMBER MAGAZINE LAST YEAR?



Perhaps now we should say:

ZOOMING OUT!

That's because we no longer have any worship from St James' Church via Zoom. We're back in church. The recent Annual Meetings were held on Zoom, but there's a good chance that all future meetings will be held face to face. Of course that depends upon the

rules, and they can change in response to the Covid situation.

So no more Zoom? Did I hear you say that you had only just got to grips with it, and were actually enjoying the experience?

I'm sure you'll continue using Zoom for family and friends, and maybe for a few church meetings where it is logistically sensible. But do you wish to worship via Zoom? Occasionally or on a regular basis?

That's quite possible. Do please express your wishes and if there is a demand then we will do our best to meet it. (Ed.)



St James' Church Calendar - JUNE/JULY 2021:

THE ST JAMES' CHURCH BUILDING IS OPEN FOR WORSHIP.

Open for private prayer 9.30am to 5pm every day.
Open for 9.00am Morning Prayer. All welcome.
Open for 8.00am & 10.30am Sunday Worship.



Despite some recent relaxations of the rules, Covid-19 precautions remain in place in church - hand cleaning, masks, social distancing, etc., until we are advised otherwise.

THE SUNDAY PATTERN IS:

8:00am: Holy Communion (said) in church.
A quiet meditative service.

10:30am: Holy Communion in church.
Our main family service.

NO ONLINE SERVICE on Sunday morning.

Thu 3rd June: I-Tea +Coffee - Help with using iPad.
2pm in church. Session 1 of 4 (see page 7)

Sun 6th June: 1st after Trinity
8:00am & 10:30am in church.

Thu 10th June: I-Tea +Coffee - Help with using iPad.
2pm in church. Session 2 of 4 (see page 7)

Sun 13th June: 2nd after Trinity
8:00am & 10:30am in church.

Thu 17th June: I-Tea +Coffee - Help with using iPad.
2pm in church. Session 3 of 4 (see page 7)

Sun 20th June: 3rd after Trinity (Father's Day)
8:00am & 10:30am in church.

Thu 24th June: I-Tea +Coffee - Help with using iPad.
2pm in church. Session 4 of 4 (see page 7)

Sun 27th June: 4th after Trinity
8:00am & 10:30am in church.

Sun 4th July: 5th after Trinity
8:00am & 10:30am in church.

Sun 11th July: 6th after Trinity
8:00am & 10:30am in church.

Sun 18th July: 7th after Trinity
8:00am & 10:30am in church.

Sun 25th July: 8th after Trinity - St James
8:00am & 10:30am in church.

NOTE: All arrangements subject to change.

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

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

Wednesdays: The Wednesday morning service has not yet been restarted. Further details will be given when known.

Fridays: 9:30am: The Ark - Play and Praise Toddler Group. 9:30 - 11:30am Parish Hall



The Friends was launched at the beginning of April and is an organisation that wishes to recruit members and their donations to help preserve the St James' Church building and churchyard for the village and for future generations.

Whilst the church members do their best to keep the building and grounds in good order, they really do need some help.

Please consider becoming a Friend.

Contact: John Norbury
Tel: 07971 556714
Email: john_norbury@btinternet.com

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



CHRISTLETON

Come and join Christleton WI Meetings held on the second Wednesday each month in the Parish Hall at 7.15pm. Tea and biscuits served with time for a chat. We have speakers who talk on a wide range of topics, outings arranged and meals together.

For the present time our second Wednesday monthly meetings are held on Zoom but we hope to resume normal meetings in the Parish Hall in September 2021 (COVID permitting).

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

WE WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

CHRISTLETON PARISH HALL



The lights are back on in the Parish Hall!
The Ark toddler group has been running on Friday mornings since April, while May saw the return of yoga on Monday evenings, Aspirations ballroom dancing on Tuesday evenings and Clinical Pilates on Wednesday mornings. Baby Massage will start in June on Tuesday mornings and we hope other regular activities will be back by September, including refreshments after Sunday church services, the Community Lunch (Luncheon Club) and Messy Church. All the details are shown in the table on page 8.

At the time of writing, the lifting of Covid 19 restrictions from 21 June is looking less likely and all of this is, of course, subject to ongoing government guidance. A further update will appear in the July magazine and, meanwhile, if you wish to enquire about using the hall please contact Maria Norbury (below) for details:

Maria Norbury: Tel: 01244 335499.
maria_norbury@btinternet.com (See also the church website.)

FROM THE REGISTERS:



WEDDING: Liberty & Matthew
2pm, 26/6/2021 at St James

FUNERALS/BURIALS:

Dudley Cunnington Died 26/4/2021 aged: 92
Funeral: 13/5/2021 at St James.

Ronald Birks Died: 18/5/2021 aged: 88
Funeral: 14/6/2021 at Crematorium, Warrington

David Brickland Died 17/3/2021 aged: 59
Burial of Ashes: 17/5/2021 at St James.

Nellie Sharp Died: 30/4/2021 aged: 91
Funeral: 30/6/2021 at St James.

Grace Roberts Died: 14/4/2021 aged: 77
Burial of Ashes: 27/5/2021 at St James.

Michael Jones Died: 22/5/2021 aged: 81
Funeral: 15/6/2021 at St James.

THANK YOU:

Thank you to all the cards, gifts and good wishes for our big anniversary. They were much appreciated.
Brian & Elizabeth

KIPPER QUOTE:

Heard at one of our online services a few weeks ago about liturgy and what is right or wrong:
"The Lord doesn't care a Kipper!"



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THE DROWNING MAN:

You've probably heard the modern parable of 'The Drowning Man' in one of its many variations, possibly this:

A terrible storm was sweeping across the country, and emergency services in a riverside town sent out warnings that the river would soon burst its banks and flood nearby homes. They ordered everyone to evacuate immediately.

A faithful Christian man heard the warning and decided to stay, saying to himself "I trust in God and if I am in danger, then He will send a divine miracle to save me." The neighbours called at his house and said, "We're leaving and there is room for you in our car, please come with us." But the man declined, saying "I have faith that God will save me."

As the man stood at his front door, watching the water rise up the steps, a man in a canoe paddled by and called to him, "Hurry and get into my canoe, the waters are rising quickly!" But, again, the man declined, "No thanks, God will save me."

The floodwaters rose higher, flooding the ground floor and forcing the man to retreat upstairs. Police in a passing motorboat saw him at the window and shouted "Don't worry, we will come and rescue you". But the man refused, waving them off and saying "Use your time to save someone else. I have faith that God will save me!"

The flood waters continued to rise and the man had to climb onto his roof. An Air-Sea Rescue helicopter spotted him and lowered the winchman, who pleaded with the man "Hold onto me and we'll lift you to safety". But the man STILL refused, folding his arms tightly to his body. "No thank you! God will save me!"

Shortly afterwards, the house collapsed, the man was swept away by the floodwaters and he drowned.

When he arrived in Heaven, the man stood before God and complained, "I put all of my faith in You, so why didn't You come and save me?" And God replied, "My child, I sent you several warnings. I sent you a car. I sent you a canoe. I sent you a motorboat. I sent you a helicopter. What more were you looking for?"



The ongoing pandemic made me think of this story, particularly when I read that a lot of East European Orthodox Church-leaders and American Evangelical groups are opposing vaccination against Covid-19. This is mostly based on conspiracy theories that the vaccine contains aborted human foetus cells, even though these have been widely debunked – including, most significantly, by the Vatican Bioethics Advisory Board.

Whatever your view on the source of SARS-CoV-2 (a subject I'm happy to debate over a pint) it seems obvious that God has sent us a fleet of Lifeboats – variously labelled 'Oxford-AstraZeneca', 'Pfizer-BioNTech', 'Moderna'

If anyone still believes that Christians have a conflict with taking the Covid-19 vaccine, the greatest vindication comes from Pope Francis, who has himself been vaccinated and subsequently said "I believe that, ethically, everyone should take the vaccine. It is an ethical choice because you are gambling with your health, with your life, but you are also gambling with the lives of others."

Martin Thompson

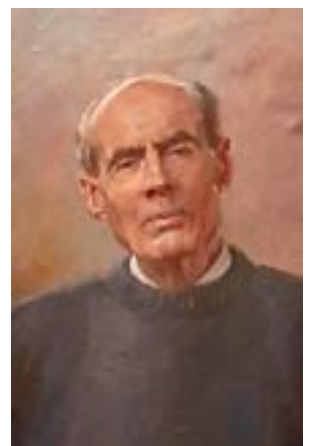
PEOPLE FROM THE PAST:

Group Captain Leonard Cheshire VC, OM, DSO & Two Bars, DFC

The Leonard Cheshire Home at Christleton

Newer residents of Christleton will probably not be aware of the connection of the famous Group Captain Leonard (later Baron) Cheshire has with the village. After a very distinguished career in the RAF he became engrossed in the life of the disabled, of conflict resolution, and was awarded a life peerage in recognition of his charity work.

Leonard Cheshire was born in 1917 at Hoole, Chester, but brought up near his parent's home near Oxford. He attended Stowe School in Buckinghamshire and Merton College Oxford. During a stay in Potsdam Germany with family friends, he witnessed a huge Adolf Hitler Rally and pointedly refused to give the Nazi salute. This clearly influenced him, and prepared him for the dark years ahead. Whilst at University he joined the Oxford



University Air Squadron, and in 1937 after gaining basic flying skills, he received his commission as a pilot officer in the RAF Volunteer Reserve. In 1940 he was promoted to Flying Officer with 102 Squadron of Bomber Command.

After exhaustive training among other famous pilots, by June 1940 he was commanding his own aircraft. It is said that he was always concerned about the anxieties of the men under his command, both in the air and on the ground. He was soon flying on bombing raids around the clock taking the war to the enemy. Serving in the RAF from 1937- 1946 he had one of the most distinguished careers of any RAF Officer. He gained the rank of Group Captain and served with or commanded 102 Squadron, 35 Squadron, 76 Squadron and 617 Squadron all whilst flying bombers. By the end of the war he had been awarded the Victoria Cross, the Order of Merit, DSO & two bars, DFC and was mentioned in despatches. After flying 102 missions he was awarded the Victoria Cross, for the rare citation of "sustained courage and outstanding effort" He also acted as the official British Observer for the nuclear bomb attack of Nagasaki. He was deeply affected by this attack and of all his own actions during the war, which almost certainly pointed him in the direction of care for others in his post war career.

He was married twice, to Constance Binney and then Sue Ryder and it was through his marriage to Sue Ryder that he became famous for his inspirational work with the disabled. They founded the Ryder - Cheshire Foundation at the time of their marriage in 1959, and this led to the setting up of homes for the disabled which initially became known as Leonard Cheshire Homes.

"The Green", also known as "Holly Bank" in Christleton was set up in the early 1800's as a school for gentlemen, by Benjamin & Ephraim Parkin. It then became a private home of Canon Garnett's sister Annie Rolt, grandmother of the canal restorer LTC Rolt, and then Canon Garnett's daughter Amy Clarke. Many years later it was left to a charity by Miss I Williams Roberts, and in 1964 became



the Leonard Cheshire Home for twenty five severely handicapped children.

It was cared for by Matron Mrs Cox and a staff of seven, and managed by Mr Gordon Stratton. Many village organisations such as the Fete, WI and Wednesday Group, raised money for the Home and many fairs were held in its grounds. Leonard Cheshire visited the home many times as can be seen in the accompanying picture. The Home closed in the late 1970's and is now Birch Heath Lodge Nursing Home.



Following his incredible career where he was responsible, under orders for destroying thousands of peoples lives, Leonard Cheshire threw his life into caring for the disadvantaged, the rehabilitation of disabled people, and the prevention and treatment of tuberculosis. In 1953 he founded the Raphael Pilgrimage to enable sick and disabled people to travel to Lourdes, and in 1990 founded the UK Charity Memorial Fund for Disaster Relief, and was also influential in the establishment of the National Memorial Arboretum on Cannock Chase, where the amphitheatre is dedicated to his memory. He was determined to be present at the unveiling of the memorial to Arthur "Bomber" Harries in 1992 against the advice of his doctors and died two months later.

Two quotes from his obituary sum him up. "He had a school-boyish sense of humour" and "He was a legend in Bomber Command, a remarkable man with a mystical air about him"

There is a blue plaque commemorating his birth in Hoole, and his portrait hangs in the Grosvenor Museum Lecture Theatre in Chester. His medals can be seen in the Imperial war Museum in London.

David Cummings 2021

Ref. Leonard Cheshire Obituary File

NATURE NOTES:

Where have all the swallows gone?

This question could also be asked for house martins and swifts as well. Although small numbers of swallows and martins were initially seen (parties of twenty and thirty) flying around the area, and rather later than usual, they all seem to have moved on. I have done several searches of known sites and as I write on 19th May, nothing! We walked along the canal last night from Rowton to Christleton and heard and saw up to six singing chaff chaff, two black caps several blackbirds etc Although we have seen several families of mallard, they too are down in numbers, and there were no families of moorhens along this stretch. Where are the swallows, martins swifts etc? I just don't know, and there is nothing I've read nationally that gives any clues. It is a possibility that the extreme weather patterns we saw in April, with persistent cold winds from the Arctic, on the jet stream, stopped their northerly movement from continental Europe. This was followed by a short spell of southerly winds and warm sun when the first arrivals were seen, but a change in wind direction again coming from the north seems to have stopped their progress once again.

Many varieties of wild flowers seem to be benefiting from the unusual heavy rainfall and occasional warm sun, and the first signs of common spotted orchids can be seen in the meadow, and friends have seen early purple orchids in full flower in North Wales.

A group of us have been planting wild flower plugs and plants in the Legion Meadow, including 150 plugs of yellow rattle, to try to suppress the overwhelming growth of grass varieties.



The meadow will be at its best in June/July, and the variety of plants are increasing every year. It is said that a wild flower meadow takes 15 years to mature and the

Legion Meadow was first established in 2008. We also took the opportunity this late winter to thin out the growth of trees between the Meadow and the Dixon's Alms Houses. We also removed lots of ivy which was beginning to kill many of the saplings. This has allowed more light to reach the meadow and the Alms Houses and opens up the view for the residents.

The first butterflies have been seen on the meadow, with speckled wood, comma, orange tip, red admiral, peacock and holly blue being recorded. Among the birds heard calling and possibly nesting are, black cap, chaff chaff, willow warbler, goldfinch, goldcrest, robin, wren, nuthatch, song and mistle thrush and blackbird. A kestrel was seen frequently, and groups of house martins and swallows were flying over the meadow at the beginning of May. The meadow is there for everyone to enjoy, but please keep to the mown paths and keep dogs on leads. The flora and fauna can all be seen from the paths.

Several people have become concerned and reported to the Parish Council, that there is a greylag goose with a piece of plastic in its beak at the Pit. I have watched it now for the last six weeks and as it is perfectly happy feeding, and flying in and out of the Pit daily, I'm sure it is ok. Although the plastic is still visible the bird is behaving and feeding normally. Several coots, moorhens and mallard have had families and are very visible at the Pit, but the attractive shoveler ducks have now gone, probably to the Dee Marshes. They are a relatively new species to the village, and we have hoped each year that they would breed, but sadly for the fourth year now they have over wintered, then moved on in late spring.

David Cummings

PS:

We had two swallows sitting on the telegraph wires outside the house last night. Perhaps all is not yet lost.



Churchyard Maintenance



During this lockdown it hasn't been easy to arrange any Churchyard Working Parties although, with grateful thanks, the work by the Community Payback Team restarted a few weeks back and the churchyard is all the better for it.

We can now organise working groups again, with some adherence to Covid restrictions.

Next is: 19th June - starting at 10.30am.

Bring your own tools, refreshments and lunch if you wish to stay longer.

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

WEST CHESHIRE FOODBANK:

West Cheshire Foodbank is a project founded by local churches and community groups, working together to combat hunger in our local area. It is part of a nationwide network of over 2,000 food banks in the UK, of which 1,200 are run by the Trussell Trust and over 900 are independent.



St James' Church became involved in the scheme through the initiative of Mike Lightfoot in 2013 and has continued ever since.

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

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

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

The church is now open again, so you can leave food there in the box at the back. Try to avoid service times as this can lead to congestion when we should all be distanced from one another. As usual the supermarkets continue to offer contribution collection points.

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

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

Chris Alderton

ANSWERS TO MAY PUZZLES:

How did you get on with the four puzzles last month?

1: CIGARETTES:

The tramp collects 49 butt ends during the day. This is made up into 7 full size cigarettes which he smokes, leaving 7 more butt ends as a result. He makes these into 1 more full cigarette. So he smokes 8 cigarettes in total, with 1 butt left over for the following day.



2: BIG BEANSTALKS:

In actual fact the additional growth each day is half of the original height. So in 198 days it had added 99 times its original height, making it 100 times its original height. Those looking for ambiguity in the question found it over complicated.



3: BOILING AN EGG:

More than 1 way, but we were asked for the quickest. Start the 7 minute and the 11 minute hourglasses immediately as you put the egg into boiling water. After the 7-glass has run out, turn it over. When the 11-glass runs out turn the 7-glass over again. It will run for a further 4 minutes making a total of 15. A lovely hard boiled egg!



4: COLOURED LOOPS OF STRING:

It is the green loop that must be cut to free the others. (Loop 'B' if viewing in black & white!)



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