

PARISH MAGAZINE

MARCH 2020



IMPORTANT: This month's front cover carries an important request from the Diocese to parishes for information about any safeguarding concerns, regardless of whether recent or many years ago. Please read, and encourage others in the parish to read it.

BISHOP ANNOUNCES DETAILS OF SAFEGUARDING REVIEW:

Work is underway in the Diocese of Chester into Past Cases Review 2 (PCR2), a new national past cases review into the handling of safeguarding files in the Church.

PCR2 has a key focus of listening to survivors who want to come forward.

PCR2 follows on from an earlier review in 2007 and is part of the Church's ongoing scrutiny of its handling of past and current safeguarding cases.

The Bishop of Birkenhead, Keith Sinclair, announced details of PCR2 in a letter to all parishes on Monday 27th January, in which he outlined what parishes are required to do.

Bishop Keith, who leads on safeguarding in the Diocese of Chester says: "We want to ensure that all of our worshipping communities and church-related activities are as safe as possible for children and vulnerable adults. All dioceses have been asked to undertake and participate in this new review process which is known nationally as PCR2.

"It is important that all known cases of concern about the behaviour of clergy and church officers towards children and vulnerable adults have been considered and dealt with appropriately."

All information that is shared as part of PCR2 will be reviewed by an Independent Reviewer and appropriate action will be taken.

All parishes are required to respond to PCR2, which is commissioned by the Church of England and is being carried out in order to make our churches safer for everyone.

Further information can be found on the diocesan website here: www.chester.anglican.org/pcr2

Listening to survivors:

Individuals who wish to make representations to the PCR2 process, or who need to come forward with information or make any disclosures regarding church related abuse, are encouraged to make direct contact with the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser, Pauline Butterfield, on 07703 800031, or call the dedicated telephone helpline - 0800 80 20 20 - operated independently from the Church by the NSPCC.

(Issued by the Chester Diocese)

MAGAZINE SUBS

The current subscription year runs out with this March issue. If you wish to continue getting this magazine then please re-new your subscription. The amazing price of only £6 per year!

**Your distributor will collect your money.
Further details from Joce Platel—Tel: 01244 332466**

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*Deadline for submissions for the April magazine will be: **Monday 16th March.***

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The Magazine subscription is currently £6 per year and runs from April to March. Subscribers have a copy delivered, or they may collect from church, and electronic delivery is also an option. If you don't subscribe then 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. Contributions are welcome and more details about this are available from the editor.

Do also look at our church website for back copies of this magazine and more information including a 'live' calendar.

ST JAMES' CHURCH WEBSITE:

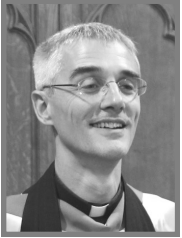
<https://www.stjameschristleton.org.uk>
Website maintained by Jonathan Gilliatt
jonathan.gilliatt@btinternet.com

ST JAMES ON TWITTER:

 **@StJChristleton**

CHRISTLETON VILLAGE WEBSITE:

www.christleton.org.uk



JESUS CHRIST, **THE ONE WHO WAS CRUCIFIED:**

By the time you read this we will be in the season of Lent...again. A season, time, when "it is but right that our hearts should be on God when the heart of God is so much on us", borrowing Richard Baxter's words.

I'm assuming this is the Richard who was a 17th Century puritan church leader, though I am tickled to think it was actually some bloke from the pub the other night with the same name and on fire for the things of God. It's possible, though admittedly my first suggestion is likely the correct one.

Baxter's words remind me of yesterday's worship (9 Feb) when we grasped at the nature of God's wisdom in contrast to human wisdom - also a wonderful gift. St. Paul writes that he came to the church in Corinth (the home of currants apparently - thanks Bettie) in weakness and "my message and my preaching was very plain" (1 Cor 2.1-12, NLT). This message was Jesus Christ, the one who was crucified.

This message is the totality of God's wisdom!? It was absurd then, and it's absurd now.

For the Jews of Paul's day, a person crucified, was a person who was hung on a tree and therefore cursed in the sight of God according to their rules and regulations. The idea this person could be their promised Messiah - the person who was going to save them from oppression and provide them with peace and security was unthinkable. For the Greeks and Romans of St. Paul's day it was the strong and powerful who dictated the way things were and are, not those who were weak and vulnerable and definitely not a criminal whose life ended in obscurity and death. For us to hear that the secret of life is beyond human comprehension, but simply to be found in the person of Jesus Christ, and particularly his death on a cross, is equally absurd and an affront to our human wisdom. It makes no sense. It is primitive, cruel, offensive, arrogant, and illogical. It makes no sense. I still struggle to comprehend it today.

And yet.

You can be alone, together in church on a Sunday morning, or somewhere else - in a pub chatting to Richard Baxter; thinking, feeling, and imagining this person and the events of his last week on earth, which culminated in his death (Matthew 21-end, Mark 11-end, Luke 19.28-end, John 12.12-end). And suddenly something happens. It could be at the first time of

exploring or the 1000th time. You may not be able to explain it, but you feel something has happened through this encounter with Jesus. Your stories and life experiences somehow in silent dialogue with this person Jesus, and the events of his life. His events mysteriously connected with yours. Jesus beginning to make sense of who you are, what you have and are experiencing beneath the surface of your daily living.

I guess this is my simple prayer for us all this Lent. That we might find time to simply sit with the absurd - God's wisdom. Be it through a book, a piece of art, a piece of music, or other. To let it silently speak to who we truly are, and know its power and truth.

With my love and prayers,

Stefan

The St James Monthly LUNCHEON CLUB:

(In the Parish Hall.)

This has become a very popular event in the life of the parish, with the Christmas edition usually attracting over seventy people. It is a great opportunity for fellowship and to chat over a well prepared hot meal.



We do not ask for payment for the meal, but donations are always welcome, which many diners do make. It is an event that has been taking place for several years now. A dedicated team of volunteers work hard to ensure the event runs smoothly and efficiently.

However, we do need a little bit of help! Ask yourself, do I have a specific skill I could share? Could I give up a couple of hours a month to help out? Could I help prepare, cook and serve a meal for forty or so people? Or be prepared to help wash up, clear away, lay tables, meet and greet people on arrival, or offer a lift if someone needs picking up?

We would be so grateful if you could give it some consideration. Come along and see us, and have a chat to the team. Dates of lunches can be found on the parish website, in the magazine and on the noticeboards.

Alternatively ring any of these people, Liz 409414: Janet 325529: Mike 328436. Many thanks for taking the time to read this article.

Mike Lightfoot.

Luncheon Club

More from Luncheon Club:

The 20th January lunch had the traditional Burns treatment, organised by Liz McClure, with the Haggis being piped in and addressed. Great fun and great food was had! Vegetarian Haggis was also served—these are very rare and much more difficult to catch.

(Editor)

The Haggis is 'Piped in and Addressed'



of Birkenhead. Prior to the service a breakfast was held in the parish hall, twenty members of the congregation including the Bishop sat down to freshly baked croissants, toast, preserves, fresh juice, tea and coffee, before making their way over to church for a Eucharist service at 10.45am. The Bishop's sermon was based on the three scripture readings of the day, Malachi 3:1-5, Hebrews 2:14-18 and Luke 2:22-40, to highlight the importance of purification.

There was a congregation of over eighty people. Refreshments were served in the parish hall afterwards.

Mike Lightfoot.

GOOD FRIDAY (10th April):

After a three year break, the hugely popular and successful production of the **Chester City Passion**, from the Chester Mystery Plays Company, and in association with Churches Together, Theatre in the Quarter, and Link Up have agreed to mount the performance once more on the streets of Chester on Good Friday, 10th April 2020.

It's certainly worth going along. Keep an eye out for more details.

(Editor)

CANDLEMAS SERVICE **SUNDAY 2ND FEBRUARY 2020.**

Candlemas, also known as the Feast of the Presentation of Christ, is a holy day commemorating the presentation of Jesus at the temple forty days after his birth.

It is based on the account in Luke 2:22-40. On Candlemas many Christians bring their candles to church where they are blessed then used for the rest of the year.

This year, our Candlemas service was led by the Bishop - 4 -

ADVENTURES IN A BUBBLE CAR:

Jim Hawkes article in the December/January edition of the magazine brought back some fond memories, We too had a Morris Mini Van although it was our second vehicle. The first, as we like to boast was a B.M.W. it was an Isetta Bubble car, an Italian design made under licence by B.M.W. it had the B.M.W. logo. Pre-war only the more affluent had cars, after the war we all wanted something better, to keep us dry and out of the weather, and so the micro car was born, called Bubble Cars in Britain. The leader in Britain was the Bond made in Preston. It had two wheels at the back and a combined engine and front wheel with no reverse.

There were three German Bubble cars, The Isetta, the Heinkel and the Messerschmitt, The Isetta and the Heinkel were substantially the same, with two wheels at the front and one at the back, both had a bench front seat and the whole front of the car was the door which when opened took the steering wheel with it, the Isetta had a B.M.W. engine. The Messerschmitt was much different it was more like an aeroplane cockpit with a canopy which folded back and you climbed in and out, the two seats were one behind the other. Top speeds were in the region of 50 mph.

When we thought of buying a bubble car we hired a Heinkel from a shop in Chester and drove it to Plymouth

to stay at my Uncle's. We spent an enjoyable time exploring the Devon coast travelling as far as Looe in Cornwall and Paignton in Devon. We crossed the Saltash ferry several times [it was closed in 1961] and also the Tamar road bridge. . On the way down we were so tired by the time we reached Gloucester we drove into the city centre and parked outside a pub, had a meal and stayed B&B. We did the same thing coming back, in the village of Ombersley, staying at a private house, we were shown into a room which had a four poster bed, a wash stand with a large china bowl and matching jug full of water.

Shortly after we returned we bought the Isetta. At that time I worked in Helsby and if I wanted to go to our Prescott factory I would go by works car to the Transporter cross as a foot passenger and be picked up



Isetta

by another works car the other side. Then they built the bridge. The day it opened we went in the Bubble car crossed it turned round and came back. Many were doing it and I was so busy gawping I nearly ran into the car in front. The first time I drove it through the Mersey Tunnel I nearly over shot the traffic lights which were then in the tunnel not realising I was going down a steep slope. In 1960 our first daughter was born and I drove to Clatterbridge hospital to pick them up and drove home, my wife with the baby in her arms, there were no car seats in those days. We drove to Chingford Essex to stay with a college friend of my wife's.

Motorways were yet to be built. The next year we had our second daughter. The eldest now 20 months old sat in a car seat which consisted of two wire rectangles covered with canvas and hooked on the seat between us with 'S' hooks, our second daughter travelled in the carry cot on the back shelf. We next bought the van. I made two small arm chairs to go in the back. We exchanged the van for a Mini car.

How times change, we once parked the car alongside the kerb in Princes Street Edinburgh while we went into a café to eat. We drove down to Looe in Cornwall, parked at the side of the road and walked down the street to the harbour. Now there is a large car park and a visitor centre. Now with motorways you can rush from place to place, traffic and parking permitting, but have

things improved? No longer a quiet ramble through the countryside, park in the centre of town or have the freedom to go where you like.

Ben Williams

Congratulations to Ben & Jean Williams who celebrated their 90th Birthdays on Saturday 8th February with a party in the Parish Hall surrounded by family and friends. It was a very special occasion for a delightful couple, long standing members of the community, who have contributed so much to Village Life over many years.



CHRISTLETON COUNCIL NEWS

Things to report this month, plans are afoot for a Defibrillator to be installed in the telephone box at the corner of Birch Heath Lane, Danial Platt, who has been fund raising since the death of his mother from a heart attack, has been in dialogue with BT for several months. Danial is hoping the project will be started in the next couple of months. So far, he has raised approximately £1100 with promises of more donations, the total cost will be in the region of £1925. The Parish Council have given their support to Danial with this very worthwhile cause and would consider a request to top-up any short fall with the cost.

The Parish Council has been in dialogue with the new owners of the College of Law site, who have put forward two potential proposals, conversations are continuing and it is the intention of the Developer to hold a public meeting with the residents in the near future to hear their views.

Work continues and funding is in place to carry forward proposals for implementing measures to alleviate some of the traffic congestion and parking in the village centre. A workshop with a Civic Architect has also been arranged to look for fundamental changes and understand what is possible to achieve to alleviate traffic issues to put forward their recommendations and anticipated costs of any proposals.

The position of Clerk to the council is being advertised as Sue Thwaite the current clerk is retiring after 17 years in the position at the end of April. The advert for her replacement is on the Parish Council website **www.christleton-pc.gov.uk** together with a job description should anyone wish to apply.

Sue Thwaite - Clerk to the Council.

Churches Together in Christleton

CTC are again having a Lent programme of weekly visits to places of prayer on Tuesdays in March.

All are welcome but note that on 10th & 17th places are limited so booking via Judith Edwards (judith@edwards5.co.uk) is recommended.

They begin at 2.30pm with a time of reflection and prayer. They end about 4pm with refreshments.

More details from Joce Platel.

3rd March: Foxhill Conference Centre, Frodsham.

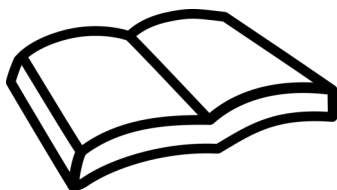
10th: Quiet Garden, Frodsham. (max 20 people)

17th: Sisters of Jesus Way, West Kirby. (max 20)

24th: Gladstone's Library, Hawarden.

31st: Franciscans at Pantasaph.

FROM THE REGISTERS:



Sorry, there are no register entries to report in this period.

Luncheon Club

The next lunch is at
**12noon (for 12.30) in the Parish Hall on
Monday 16th March 2020**

No charge but donations welcome.

A tasty hot 2 course meal plus tea/coffee. All are welcome. It is helpful for catering if you book a place, if you haven't already, by calling:
Liz: 409414; Janet: 325529; or Christine: 335562

Future dates: 20th April; 18th May

What's coming up in 2020?

Philip Chidell (violinist) will be the star spot for our Spring Supper Concert on Sat 25th April. Ticket details nearer the time. Proceeds to the church.

Jig Saw Jazz will be playing for us again at our Jazz Night on Saturday 20th June. Ticket details nearer the time. Proceeds to the church.

LENT LECTURES 2020

Given by Rev'd Dr Stefan Collier

The Rule of St Benedict

'for ordinary people who live ordinary lives'

These lectures take place at St James' Church at 7.30pm. All are invited.

Wednesdays:

4 March:	St Benedict and his Rule
11 March:	Prayer
18 March:	Stability
25 March:	Listening
1 April:	Change



CHRISTLETON WI

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

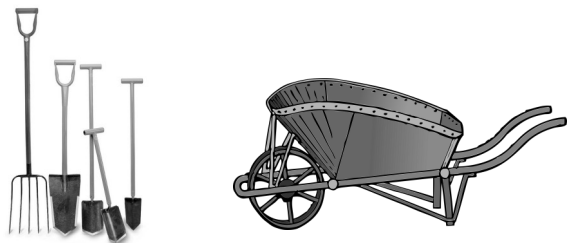
New members welcome.

Details from Elizabeth Inall (Tel: 336500)

Next meetings:

11th Mar: "Storyhouse—our newest theatre"
(Alex Clifton)

8th April: Organic Cheese Making
Demonstration
(Faye Kitching)



Churchyard Maintenance

Next:

Saturday 21st March

also: 18th April

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

Mike Lightfoot - Tel: 07787 421357



CHRISTLETON PARISH HALL

Available for :

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

Our Parish Hall Bookings Secretary is
Maria Norbury: Tel: 01244 335499.
maria_norbury@btinternet.com

You can also make initial enquiries and bookings via the church website.

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



Messy Church

Next Messy Church is:
15th March
at 4pm in the Parish Hall.
Then: 19th April.

Weekly Home Discussion Group

Because of the Lent Lectures and CTC Lent Visits, and because of Easter the Home Discussion Group will not meet for 7 weeks, restarting on Thursday 23rd April.

March 3rd - March 31st

Lent—no meetings

April 7th - April 14th:

Easter—no meetings

**The group then resumes,
but now on Thursdays instead.
Still at 7.30pm in someone's home.**

April 23rd: Venue to be advised

April 30th: Venue to be advised

More info: Chris Platel (Tel: 332466)
or Elizabeth Inall (Tel: 336500)

St James' Church Calendar

MARCH 2020:

Every weekday **Monday to Friday**: 9am: Morning Prayer

Sunday 1st: from 8am: Parish Breakfast in the Parish Hall.
(1st of Lent) 9.00am: Holy Communion. Refreshments after in Parish Hall.
10.45am: Morning Worship. Refreshments.
4.00pm: (No service in church)

Tuesday 3rd: 2.30pm: Churches Together Lent visit. Foxhill Conference Centre.
Wednesday 4th: 10.45am: United Holy Communion (Churches Together). Refreshments.
7.30pm: Lent Lectures by the Rector. The Rule of St Benedict. (1 of 5)
Friday 6th: 10.30am: World Day of Prayer service - St Mary's, Handbridge. All welcome.

Sunday 8th: 9.00am: Holy Communion. Refreshments after in Parish Hall.
(2nd of Lent) 10.45am: Morning Worship. Refreshments.
4.00pm: Evening Prayer / Evensong (BCP).

Tuesday 10th: 2.30pm: Churches Together Lent visit. The Quiet Garden, Frodsham.
Wednesday 11th: 10.45am: Holy Communion (BCP). Refreshments.
12 noon: Churches Together Lent lunch at the Methodist Church Schoolroom.
7.30pm: Lent Lectures by the Rector. The Rule of St Benedict—'Prayer' (2 of 5)

Sunday 15th: 9.00am: Holy Communion. Refreshments and Produce Sale in Parish Hall.
(3rd of Lent) 10.45am: Morning Worship with Communion. Refreshments.
4.00pm: Messy Church in the Parish Hall.

Monday 16th: 12.30pm: Luncheon Club in the Parish Hall.
Tuesday 17th: 2.30pm: Churches Together Lent visit. Sisters of Jesus Way, West Kirby.
Wednesday 18th: 10.45am: Holy Communion (BCP). Refreshments.
7.30pm: Lent Lectures by the Rector. The Rule of St Benedict.—'Stability' (3 of 5)
Saturday 21st: 10.30am: Churchyard Working Party. Lunch.

Sunday 22nd: 9.00am: Holy Communion. Refreshments after in Parish Hall.
(Mothering 10.45am: Morning Worship. Refreshments.
Sunday) 4.00pm: Contemplative Communion Service.

Monday 23rd: 7.30pm: PCC Meeting. (Note: moved from 25th.)
Tuesday 24th: 2.30pm: Churches Together Lent visit. Gladstone's Library, Harwarden.
Wednesday 25th: 10.45am: Holy Communion (BCP).
7.30pm: Lent Lectures by the Rector. The Rule of St Benedict—'Listening' (4 of 5)

Sunday 29th: **Summer Time Begins—Clocks go forward 1 hour**
(5th of Lent) 9.00am: Holy Communion. Refreshments after in Parish Hall.
(Passiontide) 10.45am: Morning Worship. Refreshments.
4.00pm: Taizé Style Service.

Tuesday 31st: 2.30pm: Churches Together Lent visit. Franciscan's at Pantasaph.

Bell ringing practice is every **Tuesday** evening. (More details from Nikki Dromgoole—see page 2)
Church cleaning is every **Thursday** morning. (More details from John Milton—see page 2)
Every **Thursday: 4pm-5pm**: Church Band rehearsal; **5pm-6pm**: Church Choir rehearsal.

APRIL 2020:

Every weekday **Monday to Friday:** 9am: Morning Prayer

Every **Thursday:** 4pm-5pm: Church Band rehearsal; 5pm-6pm: Church Choir rehearsal.

Wednesday 1st: 10.45am: United Holy Communion (Churches Together). Refreshments.
7.30pm: Lent Lectures by the Rector. The Rule of St Benedict - 'Change'. (5 of 5)

Sunday 5th: 9.00am: (No service in church)
(Palm Sunday) from 9.30am: Parish Breakfast in the Parish Hall.
10.45am: Morning Worship for Palm Sunday. Refreshments.
4.00pm: (No service in church)

Wednesday 8th: 10.45am: Holy Communion (BCP). Refreshments.
Thursday 9th: 7.30pm: Maundy Thursday—Meal followed by Watch in Church.
Friday 10th: 2.00pm: The Last Hour—Devotion in church.

Sunday 12th: 9.00am: Holy Communion. Refreshments after in Parish Hall.
(Easter Day) 10.45am: Morning Worship. Refreshments.
4.00pm: (No service)

Wednesday 15th: 10.45am: Holy Communion (BCP). Refreshments.
Saturday 18th: 10.30am: Churchyard Working Party. Lunch.

Sunday 19th: 9.00am: Holy Communion. Refreshments and Produce Sale in Parish Hall.
(2nd of Easter) 10.45am: Morning Worship with Communion. Refreshments.
4.00pm: Messy Church in the Parish Hall.

Monday 20th: 12.30pm: Luncheon Club in the Parish Hall.
Wednesday 22nd: 10.45am: Holy Communion (BCP). Refreshments.
Thursday 23rd: 7.30pm: Weekly Home Discussion Group resumes after break. (* See note below)
Saturday 25th: 10.00am: Christleton Parish Council Open Morning—Parish Hall. We shall be there.

Sunday 26th: 9.00am: Holy Communion. Refreshments after in Parish Hall.
(3rd of Easter) 10.45am: Morning Worship. Refreshments.
12 noon: Church Annual Meetings. All church members invited. Details to be confirmed.
4.00pm: Contemplative Communion Service.

Wednesday 29th: 10.45am: Holy Communion (BCP).
Thursday 30th: 7.30pm: Weekly Home Discussion Group. (* See note below)

BCP means: A service following THE BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER. (Traditional older style language.)

Other services generally follow COMMON WORSHIP with modern language, except where indicated otherwise.

* **NOTE:** Discussion groups now on Thursdays instead of Tuesdays.

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.

CHURCH ANNUAL MEETINGS

The annual meetings, including the main APCM, will take place on Sunday 26th April. All parish residents and church members are invited to the first short meeting 'The Meeting of the Parishioners'. All church members are invited to the APCM meeting that immediately follows. Note: Time & venue TBC.

THE REGULAR PATTERN OF SERVICES IS SHOWN BELOW:

Please note that actual services may differ from this pattern because of special events and festivals, so please check calendars and notices, including the on-line calendar on the website.

	1 st Sunday	2 nd Sunday	3 rd Sunday	4 th Sunday	5 th Sunday
9:00am	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Holy Communion
10:45am	Morning Worship & Lighthouse Groups	Morning Worship & Lighthouse Groups	Morning Worship with Holy Communion & Lighthouse Groups	Morning Worship & Lighthouse Groups	Morning Worship & Lighthouse Groups
4:00pm	(No Service)	Evening Prayer (BCP)	Messy Church in Parish Hall. (Term time only)	Contemplative Communion	Taizé Service

SERVICE STYLES: *9am* is in a traditional style with sermon, organ, and often a small robed choir. *10.45am* is in a more contemporary style with a sermon/talk, using a wider range of traditional and modern hymns and songs, with the words on a display screen, and music mostly played on a piano keyboard or by a small music group.

THE HISTORY FILE

Repairing Cobbles at the Pump House

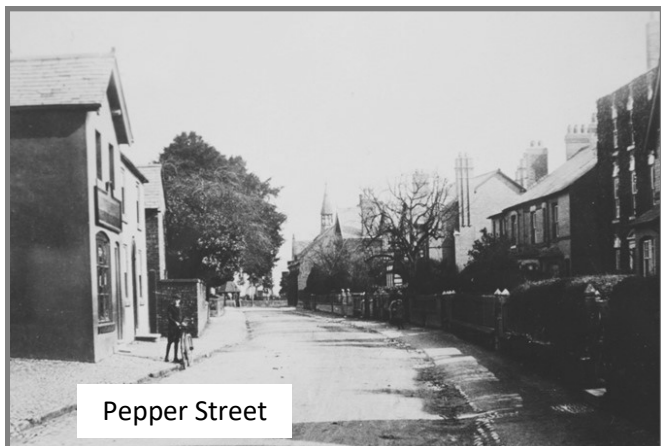
During late January, and early February many readers will have seen two workmen, Rob Pearce & his colleague Stan restoring the beds of cobbles around the village pump house. This is a rare skill and my only other experience of seeing cobbles laid was at Abbey Green adjacent to the Cathedral in the 1980's. Villagers from early times discovered the wealth of material available to them at the Pit. There were pockets of sand for use in the building trade, areas of gravel and rough stones to be used for road making, a deep red clay to make bricks, and a grey clay/marl which could improve the quality of local fields by adding body to the sandy structure and providing a natural fertiliser from the lime content within it. I guess that several pockets of suitable small boulders/cobbles were found in the area too. There is also written evidence from the minutes of the Chester -Tarvin Turnpike Trust that a "new" source of gravel for road making at Littleton came from the area of Hockenhull Platts. The Turnpike Trust had offered a prize of 100 guineas to anyone finding a source of this road making material. The road was the present Tarvin Road through Littleton, built along the line of an older Roman road from Delamere to Chester via Stamford Bridge in the 1780's, and replacing the old medieval highway across the raised causeway and 'Roman Bridges' at Hockenhull Platts.

The cobbled causeway and bridges at Hockenhull were a spectacular sight until 2002, when sadly a 100yard section of the ancient highway was destroyed by the Highway Authority to create a "safe cycle way" from Chester to Tarvin. That section of the cobbled causeway leading to the first bridge on the Christleton side, is now always ankle deep in mud during the winter. However there still is a section of the cobbled area visible on the bridges themselves and between the middle and third bridge on the Tarvin side.



A cobble is sometimes described as larger than a pebble and smaller than a boulder, and formed from volcanic rock. They are very hard and durable. Large areas of the village were once covered in cobbles, and old village

photographs show them along Pepper Street, Village Road, Littleton Lane, Rowton Bridge Road and Plough Lane as well as on backyards and village farmyards. It looks as though the cobbles on village roads were still on the ground in the 1930's, but I don't have evidence



Pepper Street

to show when they were removed. It is clear that in some places, Pepper Street for example, the current tarmac surface was placed on top of the cobbles, as a small section was exposed recently on the approach to Trooper Bridge. Older residents will possibly remember that the cobbles currently being restored were originally laid in front of the Lych Gate, but were removed perhaps twenty years ago as a health & safety issue, and relayed as a decorative feature around the Pump House.

David Cummings

NATURE NOTES

January Garden Bird Watch

I'm delighted to say that our garden had its best Big Garden Bird Watch sightings for several years, the highlight being parties of long tailed tits, which



Long Tailed Tit

continually amuse us with their antics. They are rarely still and seem to tumble and dive around the garden as they come to feed. The numbers of this delightful bird seen in the area has increased rapidly, and as well as reports from friends within the Parish, I regularly see parties of 25 to 50 in the lanes or on the reserve at Hockenhull.

Other highlights included good numbers of blue and great tits, as well as at least ten house sparrows at one time. Observers from the village report sightings of nuthatches, a noisy bird that can climb up and down tree trunks, and several families have seen the elusive tree creeper. This little mouse like bird, with a white underside and distinctive curved bill, flies to the



Tree Creeper

bottom of a tree, and climbs up the trunk, feeding as it goes, before flying down to the base of the next tree. They nest in small cracks behind the bark, and are almost always silent, so the only give away to them being present is to watch their movement in and out of the nest site, or just slowly circling a tree trunk whilst searching for food.

Two tiny gold crests were also reported being seen in January. These tiny birds usually found in hedgerows or on the tops of trees are the smallest in the UK and have a distinct yellow flash on the head. Other favourites from the parishes 2020 bird watch records, have included greenfinch, coal tits, starlings, hedge sparrows and goldfinches. These colourful finches can be easily identified by their colourful plumage. Several pairs of the even more distinctive bull finch have also appeared in gardens in January.

Most small birds are already paring off for the spring breeding season, and territorial disputes can occur at any time. Robins are usually the most aggressive to each other, but blackbirds can also cause quite a disturbance. Great tits are calling from the hedgerows now, and their teacher-teacher- call is quite distinctive

although it's thought to have a repertoire of 9 songs to use. We have at least four song thrush males singing to proclaim their territories at Hockenhull, and recent visitors heard have included chiff chaff and cettis warbler.

It's very exciting that the rare cettis warblers are beginning to settle in this area. Many visitors have heard them singing whilst wintering in reed beds at Burton and other Cheshire meres. It is even thought that they are possibly breeding here. They are probably the noisiest of all warblers with a very distinctive sharp repeated rasping call, and are the latest bird to move from the south of England and head further north, following the avocet, little egret and spoonbill, all now regularly seen and breeding on the Dee Estuary. I heard my first cettis warbler whilst attending a swan conference in Dorset in the 1990's, later finding and reporting the first bird to appear at the WWT reserve at Llanelli in South Wales. I'm really excited that they have now reached Cheshire, and hope that they will find a home in the reed beds at Hockenhull.

David Cummings

OLD BOOKS, OLD CHURCHES AND ME:

For folk of my generation, books were commonplace. We bought them, borrowed them, loaned them (sometimes returned), read and referred to them. They were a pleasure to use and we kept them until a lack of space dictated that some must go. I am trying to do this not so much for reasons of de-cluttering but in order to make room for my growing collection of picture books.

But what do I do with books whose contents are of little interest but which have a label on the fly leaf stating that they were awarded for some particular achievement? What about "Woods Illustrated Natural History" presented by the "SE District Post Office" to one of my relatives in April 1891 as a special prize for "second best attendance and general proficiency". And how about "The Hedge I Know" given to my father in June 1913 for "being a good monitor at Alverton Street Boys School"? Well, for the moment, they will have to remain.

Yet there was still a further group whose antiquity suggests that they might have relevance beyond any sentimental attachment: four bound collections of the St Bartholomew church magazines for the years 1890, 1893, 1894 and 1897. Being in Camberwell, south

London, I wondered if the diocese of Southwark might be interested in these books. Yes, they thought the books were of interest and would make enquiries for me. From them I learnt that the church did not exist any more and that their searches showed that there was no record of the life there. They suggested that I contact the London Metropolitan Archives. This all sounded terribly grand but I decided to pursue it and was surprised and delighted by the enthusiastic response I received from the Archives' senior archivist. She confirmed that there was no contemporary record of the church and that they would like to have the books. This was arranged - a surprisingly formal procedure requiring the donation of the books to be witnessed by a neighbour. The content of the books would be summarised and made available to researchers.

The interest that the existence of the books generated caused me to view them in a new light. I have come to realise that in the absence of other records, they painted a picture of everyday life in 1800's Camberwell. Here was the minister's letter commenting on spiritual issues that affected the local people together with events, stories, poems, music (words and score), travel, DIY tips and adverts for products and services of every kind. Most impressive was the list of people who had roles in the church life and community. It seemed that St Bartholomew was buzzing. Yet by 1982 this attractive 700 seat brick built church had ceased to be used and was demolished in 1994.

So what has this history got to do with me and how did the books come into my possession? I knew that my maternal family had lived in the area but did not know if they had any particular association with the church. I assumed that the books had been kept by my mother but did not know why. The renewed interest in the life of mother's family prompted my cousin to look through some old papers. She found that my mother and her mother (they were sisters) were "christened" (as the local folk would have called it) in St Bartholomew church just after the turn of the century. Hence I now know the association but will probably never know the relevance of the church to my family some ten years earlier. I just wish that the church that took my mother and aunt under its wing as babies was still there and was continuing to spread the good news.

In case you ask, the catalogue reference in the London Metropolitan Archives is P73/BAT.

Jim Hawkes

FOR YOUR DIARY:

Friday 6th March:

10.30am at St Mary's without the Walls, Handbridge.

A service to mark the **World Day of Prayer**. "Rise, take your mat and walk." Everyone is welcome.



Wednesday 25th March 2020

Christleton Local History Group

7.30pm Parish Hall Admission £3 All welcome

Speaker Ken Pye

The Rise, Fall, and Renaissance of Liverpool. The Story of a World Class City.

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7.00pm Parish Hall

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Sunday 17th May 2020

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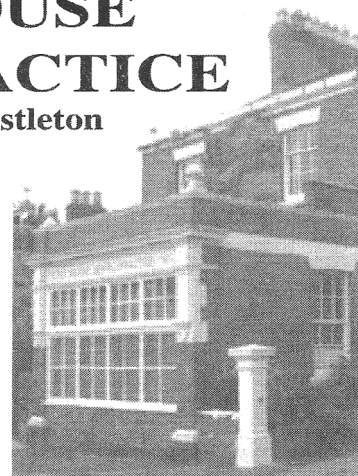
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A LITTLE LIGHTNING STORY:

Many years ago I had the privilege of flying the English Electric "Lightning" fighter aircraft from RAF Binbrook up on the Lincolnshire Wolds. Now, the only Lightnings to be seen are in museums and Binbrook is long closed, but to recall those days here is a little story about the aircraft:

The single seat Lightning itself was famous for looking the part of a futuristic supersonic fighter with its wings which were swept back 60 degrees and its sharply pointed nose which housed the radar unit and around which the air flowed into the hollow fuselage to feed the two buried thirsty re-heated Rolls Royce "Avon" jet engines. The older Mark 3 version of the aircraft could carry about one thousand gallons of fuel which sounds a lot until you know that with both re-heats alight the engines used about a hundred of those gallons every minute! To prolong the very limited endurance a re-fuelling probe was retrofitted to all the aircraft so that they could be re-fuelled in flight from a tanker aircraft, something that was stock in trade for Lightnings.

Well, one day an air test was scheduled for a Mark 3 after some routine maintenance and with its limited endurance this was something that had to be done on two separate sorties, the second being mostly devoted to the high speed supersonic run which went up to around Mach 1,9 - nearly twice the speed of sound. Towards the end of the first sortie of the test the pilot was preparing to descend into Binbrook for re-fuelling, but he was informed by the air-defence radar unit that a Victor tanker aircraft was in the vicinity with fuel to spare and would he like some? The decision took but a mili-second and soon the pilot was able to plug his aircraft's probe into the Victor's trailing basket and fuel flowed. Ten minutes later the happy pilot had full tanks, he unplugged and then flew past the Victor wagging his wings to signal his thanks. He was now in a perfect position 150 miles out over the North Sea, pointing straight at base and all ready to perform the fuel-guzzling high speed run. It didn't take long and soon he was with re-heats engaged and diving to quickly achieve 625 knots on his airspeed indicator, a speed at

which he then climbed and as the aircraft encountered ever thinner air the Mach number steadily increased up to Mach 1,9. He had done it and he even had some fuel to spare. At this point he had a rash thought:

He thought, "I wonder how high this thing will go?" Rash and he knew it, but he didn't care so from his very high speed he pulled back on the stick and rocketed steeply upwards trading his great speed for height. The altimeter needles were a blur and he never did find out exactly how high he got because the needles went off the top of their scale! Despite the bright sunshine the sky became blacker and blacker as he climbed. The air became so thin that he could feel his flying controls getting ever more sloppy and then one re-heat went out shortly followed by its fellow. By now he was worried and started to roll the aircraft over onto its back so that he could pull the nose down, but as he did so one engine flamed out due to lack of air. Now inverted he began to gently pull the nose earthwards, but the control authority was now negligible so everything was so slow to happen. He was now inverted in his Lightning with one engine struggling to stay running and the sky was really black. The darkness was lightened somewhat by the multitude of warning lights in the cockpit!

He was now a very frightened Lightning pilot and he involuntarily spoke the words, "Oh My Gawd." Whereupon a deep, loud and booming voice said:

"YE-ESSS"

(Richard Keech)



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