

# PARISH MAGAZINE

NOVEMBER 2020

Free on-line  
Edition



HANDS



FACE



SPACE

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



**We will remember them!**

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Make an Online Donation

Alternatively use the contactless card terminal just inside the church. Thank you.

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***The next issue is a DOUBLE ISSUE for December and January. Deadline: Friday 20th Nov 2020.***

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During this Covid-19 crisis this magazine will be free via the church website and will not be printed or delivered to homes. Any subscriptions already paid will be carried forward until normality is restored.

Please tell others how to find the on-line magazine. Do print it out yourself if that is helpful.

Thank you for reading our magazine. We hope you enjoy it. Feedback is always welcome so please let the editor know what you think about the magazine. Contributions are welcome and more details about this are available from the editor.

The church website not only carries the current issue but also back copies of this magazine and much more information and news about what is happening at St James' Church in these strange and uncertain times.

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### ST JAMES' CHURCH WEBSITE:

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

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### ST JAMES ON TWITTER:



**@StJChristleton**

### CHRISTLETON VILLAGE WEBSITE:

**[www.christleton.org.uk](http://www.christleton.org.uk)**



## REMEMBERING

November is a time of remembering.

On the 1<sup>st</sup> November we celebrate the feast of All Saints. Later that day, we celebrate All Souls (Commemoration of the Faithful Departed), of course, especially

pertinent in light of the Coronavirus pandemic. A week later we celebrate Remembrance Sunday. Please visit our website to get the latest information about these services, since our patterns of worship are necessarily very fluid at the moment.

The introduction to these services in *Common Worship: Times and Seasons* is worth hearing again.

“No Christian is solitary. Through baptism we become members one of another in Christ, members of a company of saints whose mutual belonging transcends death:

One family, we dwell in him,  
one Church, above, beneath;  
though now divided by the stream,  
the narrow stream of death.     *(Charles Wesley)*

All Saints’ Day and the Commemoration of the Faithful Departed on All Souls’ Day both celebrate this mutual belonging. All Saints’ Day celebrates men and women in whose lives the Church as a whole has seen the grace of God powerfully at work. It is an opportunity to give thanks for that grace, and for the wonderful ends to which it shapes a human life; it is a time to be encouraged by the example of the saints and to recall that sanctity may grow in the ordinary circumstances, as well as the extraordinary crises, of human living. The Commemoration of the Faithful Departed celebrates the saints in a more local and intimate key. It allows us to remember with thanksgiving before God those whom we have known more directly: those who gave us life, or who nurtured us in faith.....

Remembrance Sunday goes on to explore the theme of memory, both corporate and individual, as we confront issues of war and peace, loss and self-gift, memory and forgetting.”

There is clearly something really important about the act of remembering.

Ps 77 provides us with further clues as to what this is, giving us the bones of a theology of remembrance. We hear the Psalmist express something of his struggle. A struggle both with his circumstances and God (Ps 77:1.-3),

whom he sees as the origin of his problems (Ps 77.4-9). Amidst his emotional turmoil, he remembers “the deeds of the LORD” (Ps 77:11), and specifically remembers the deliverance at the Red Sea (Ps 77:16–20). After which, his attitude changes from lament to worship (Ps 77:13–14).

It is important to remember because in remembering things happen, things change; the Psalmist attitude moves from lament to Worship. We may be drawn closer into spiritual relationship with our departed loved ones – grow in our awareness and experience that we are members of a company of saints whose mutual belonging transcends death, we may see afresh that we have forgotten God and notice a desire to return to Him which leads to a deep peace and joy, we may be renewed in our determination to seek justice and mercy for all people. It is important to remember because in remembering things can happen, things can change for the better. Because our remembering makes Christ present in our midst as we celebrate and testify to Sunday by Sunday.

This then is my simple prayer for us this month. That in our remembering we may know the gift of God’s transforming love, in Christ, in the circumstances we find ourselves today, just as the Psalmist did.

With my love and prayers,

*Stefan*

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## THE FOODBANK:

For a number of years St James’ Church has supported the West Cheshire Foodbank. However, after closing the church early in the pandemic during the first lockdown it was difficult to maintain our support. We advised parishioners to drop off food at supermarkets or make a regular donation. Fortunately we have now reopened church and regular donations are now coming back . Over the harvest period, we as a church donated 123.5 kgs of food! A truly fantastic effort.

Why do we need food banks in the UK? This has become a subject of heated debate. For some they are an indictment of ‘austerity’ Britain and reflect an increase in the numbers living in extreme poverty, whilst others see them as a ‘free lunch for scroungers’.

A study of 25 Foodbank users in Bristol found that benefit penalties and precarious employment were both important factors in Foodbank uptake.

All interviewees reported significant financial difficulties. More frequently people were benefit



claimants whose income had been reduced by delays in processing new or revised claims. There were many reports of benefit penalties causing financial hardship, such as the under-occupancy penalty or 'bedroom tax', or cuts in Jobseekers Allowance.

All of the people interviewed faced financial hardship, their use of the Foodbank was not always caused by hunger or lack of food. Some people used the Foodbank to free up income that they would otherwise have needed to spend on food.

An extract from a claimant.

**'I missed an interview by five minutes with Jobseeker's Allowance people and they sanctioned me so I lost two weeks money. This is why I'm here today. I was just five minutes late, and I phoned them beforehand and told them as well, but they didn't accept it'**

Research suggests Foodbanks have a more flexible set of rules which means they can respond to people's needs promptly with less bureaucracy or conditions and are treated in a non judgmental way by supportive volunteers.

The footballer Marcus Rashford entered the debate on food poverty in the summer. He was recently awarded an MBE for his services to vulnerable children. In his childhood his mother relied on food banks to help feed him. Marcus has called on people to be generous and to help rather than judge children in families that have fallen on hard times and now rely on Foodbanks. He says, ' Whatever your feeling, opinion or judgement, food poverty is never the child's fault'

**WEST CHESHIRE FOODBANK**  
**SHARING FOOD:**  
**CHALLENGING**  
**INJUSTICE:**  
**PROMOTING**  
**DIGNITY**

His latest initiative, an online petition calling on the government to extend free school meals to 1.5 million more young people from struggling families, is likely to put pressure on the government to do more for hundreds of thousands of struggling families.

The West Cheshire Foodbank is an independent charity providing emergency food to local people in crisis. They are part of the Trussell Trusts Foodbank network. Please take a look at their website at:

[westcheshire.foodbank.org.uk](http://westcheshire.foodbank.org.uk)

Here, you will be able to find out how to donate, check which foodstuffs they urgently need ( by the time I've informed you via the parish magazine that information is way out of date), how the Foodbank process works. I really commend this site to you and thank you for continuing to support a wonderful charity.

**Deuteronomy 15:11**

**For there will never cease to be poor in the land. Therefore I command you, 'You shall open wide your hand to your brother, to the needy and to the poor, in your land. '**

**Proverbs 22:9**

**A generous person will be blessed, for he gives some of his food to the poor.**

Mike Lightfoot.

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## **ANNUAL MEETINGS:**

The St James' Annual Meetings were held online on 18th October. The first meeting 'The Meeting of the Parishioners' (also known as the Vestry meeting) elected Churchwardens. Bettie Gilliatt was standing down after her 6 years and was given a warm vote of thanks for her service. Tina Lightfoot was continuing and Mike Lightfoot was confirmed as the second churchwarden. There were no other nominations.

At the main Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) there were 3 vacancies for PCC members, and Martin Thompson and Bettie Gilliatt were elected. Charlotte Griffin was proposed and is co-opted to the PCC pending election when she fully qualifies. There were no other nominations. Bettie and Joce agreed to continue as Deanery Synod representatives for the period 2020 to 2023. After the meeting Joce also agreed to become PCC Secretary. Liz McClure agreed to continue as PCC Treasurer, and Chris Platel as Electoral Roll Officer.

The PCC listings are as follows:

Ex- officio:

Clergy:

Rev'd Dr Stefan Collier (Rector)  
Rev'd Rob Croft (Assistant Curate)

Churchwardens:

Tina Lightfoot  
Mike Lightfoot

Elected PCC Members:

Ann White (Safeguarding Officer)  
Bettie Gilliatt (also Deanery Synod representative) \*  
Christine Abrams  
Joce Platel (PCC Secretary & Deanery Synod rep.)  
Liz McClure (PCC Treasurer)  
Sheena Cumiskey  
Brian Inall  
Chris Platel (Electoral Roll Officer) #  
Keith Smalls  
Martin Thompson \*  
Paul Forrest

# Re-elected for a 2nd term as PCC member.

\* Elected as PCC member at the meeting.

Co-opted to PCC:

Charlotte (Charlie) Griffin

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## NEWS FROM THE DIOCESE:

The Rt Revd Keith Sinclair, Bishop of Birkenhead is retiring in March next year. He became our suffragan bishop in 2008, but with the Bishop of Stockport (Rt Revd Libby Lane) moving to Derby in February 2019 and the Bishop of Chester (Rt Revd Peter Forster) retiring in September 2019, Bishop Keith was left running the Diocese as acting Diocesan Bishop at a difficult time when just two of the many issues in his plate were Safeguarding and Covid-19.



We were fortunate that he had time to come and lead our Sunday morning service in St James last February.

Now with Rt Revd Mark Tanner in post the way is clear for Bishop Keith to retire, with his wife Rosie, to the Manchester Diocese and nearer to their family. (Ed.)

## NEWS FROM THE PARISH:

Our Assistant Curate, Rob Croft (see the July edition of this magazine) has been active among us for less than 4 months, and yet he has found his way into our hearts as a valued member of our ministry team. However he was missing one vital accreditation as a curate - ordination!



This has now been put right. Rob was ordained a deacon by Bishop Mark on Saturday 24th October, so he is now 'Rev'd' and is sporting clerical attire.

Good news indeed. Congratulations. We look forward to your continuing ministry here and pray that God will bless you and your work. (Ed.)

(See also Mike Lightfoot's article on Page 8)

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## THANK YOU:

Janet and John would like to thank the members of the PCC and the 'family of St James' for their very generous gifts presented on Sunday morning. We both feel that it's been a privilege and pleasure to serve as Verger and PCC Secretary over the years and have met some delightful people who have become our friends.

John is continuing as Verger in a voluntary capacity but will still attend to the pastoral offices of weddings and funerals as well as being on duty each Sunday and Wednesday morning and he hopes to continue for the foreseeable future.

Janet has stepped down as PCC Secretary and is hoping that someone younger will come forward to fill the vacancy but whoever does take it on has to remember that 'nagging the Rector' is a vital part of the job! She'll still be around and willing to help out wherever needed. With grateful thanks from us both.

*Janet and John Milton*

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## A STARTER FOR TEN!

A week last Sunday I did distinctly remember our Rector Stefan talking about the need for some hard cash for the coffers of St James as a result of the Covid-19 crisis. Well, I'm now wondering if his words had any influence on what followed the very next day? Read on.....

On the Monday morning more heavy rain had been forecast that day and in preparation for this I was raking the leaves from the road gullies and drainage grids around the Woodside crossroads so as to try to prevent more flooding of the roadway here. As I worked I did notice a car parked in the old bus stop and a man was there in the driving seat apparently speaking on his mobile phone. As I raked closer to the car the man got out and asked if I was the caretaker of the school - I suppose, not an unreasonable question given that I was raking close to the school entrance. When I replied in the negative he looked a little awkward, but then went on to ask for my help.

He explained that he had driven up from Shrewsbury to drop his daughter at school, but that his car had broken down; it wouldn't start. He had been speaking to his mechanic who had advised that the "starter dog may have not disengaged" after the initial start attempt and that he should try to rock the car back and forth with it in gear to try to prompt the starter's disengagement. Could I help please? Well, the result was that we two struggled to push the car back and forth, but, sadly, all to no avail since nothing changed and it still wouldn't start. I listened to his starting attempts and, to my ear, it did sound as if the battery power wasn't getting through so I decided that a few more volts wouldn't go amiss. This decision resulted in my own car and a set of jump leads being brought over the road from my house together with a feeling of amazement within me given that I was able to find said jump leads so quickly!

It wasn't long before the two cars were nose to nose with their batteries connected and my engine revving as he tried again to start his engine. Nothing. More manipulation of jump lead connectors followed and then he tried again. It worked! Marvellous, and it didn't take long to disconnect the cars, close bonnets and then he was all set for his journey home to Shrewsbury. He was a delighted, relieved and grateful chap, so much so that he tried to press a £10 note into my hand. I waved that away and explained that I was more than happy to help him and that I was pleased that it all worked.

Now, this man didn't know me at all and certainly had no idea as to how I spent my Sunday mornings, but still holding his £10 note, he immediately came back and, without any hesitation said: "Well, give it to the church."



And that is how the collection box at the back of St James is richer to the tune of £10. God does work in mysterious ways ye know!

*Richard Keech*

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## **PIG IRON:**

Lonnie Donegan, in his song Rock Island Line has the driver of the train singing:

*I fooled you, I fooled you  
I got pig iron, I got pig iron  
I got all pig iron,*

Author Lindsey Davis writes Roman detective stories from the period of Julius *Caesar*. Her Private Eye Marcus Didius Falco, searches for stolen silver pigs.

I caused confusion at a meeting in Germany by talking about lead pigs. 'What are lead pigs?' I explained. Why pigs? I didn't know. Fortunately I was there to talk about something else.

At the beginning of the 1700's Abram Darby invented a method of smelting iron using coke. His furnace at *Coolbrookdale* can still be seen. About 50 years later John Wilkinson built a furnace at Bersham Wrexham the remains of that are still there. More recently John Summers built coking ovens and two furnaces working on the same principle at Shotton.

I eventually found out why they are called pigs and realised that some 30 years previous I had seen a practical demonstration at Shotton. On a visit to Summers I was lucky enough to be there when they tapped a furnace, I stood and watched. At one end of a big shed stood the furnace. In front of it and filling most of the space was a thick bed of sand, and from the tapping hole ran a channel through the sand with side channels in rectangular blocks. Three men with long pokers broke the clay seal of the tapping hole, slag flowed out down the main channel, when liquid iron began to flow the men leapt about using sand to divert the liquid iron into the side channels, a hot and dangerous job. Someone with great imagination in the past had likened the layout of the blocks of iron to a sow lying on her side feeding piglets so the blocks were called pigs.

I must add that what I am relating happened in the late 1960's

*Ben Williams*



## DAISY'S ADVENTURES

So, today's adventure begins when my Mummy opens the door and off we go into the big world outside and I'm looking for the cat that lives next door – I don't like cats at all – they hiss and scratch which is not a very nice thing to do to the humans we live with but there's no sign of it today thank goodness. I usually have a run in my favourite stretch of grass and sometimes only my tail is visible if the grass hasn't been cut because I've only got short legs. Then, I freeze because up ahead I can see a very big black dog which I don't like the look of but I'm being told it will be alright and gentle tugs on the lead are supposed to get me moving but I've got a mind of my own, and I'm not moving an inch until that big brute has passed by. He completely ignores me but I'll just give a short wuff to let him know I'm not scared of him. Mummy calls it 'small dog syndrome'.

A bit further on is Simon's house and he has a large Cockerpoo who is very nice and wants to play but I don't so I wait patiently while the humans chat. Then we come to Ruth's house and she's got a sausage dog, just like me, but he's a boy called Hector and what a handsome chap he is. Every time we meet we greet each other with the usual 'sniffs' until we're whisked away from each other in the opposite direction but I would really like to get to know Hector a bit better. Perhaps next time I'll just refuse to move on and see what happens – like I said, I've got a mind of my own.

For some reason I'm pulled in on a short lead when approaching another human and we have to stand to one side while they pass – I'm told it's called social distancing which I don't understand but it seems to be happening a lot so suppose I'll have to get used to it. Another thing I don't understand is when we are approaching a very large roundabout which is called the 'burger roundabout' I wonder why burger because I know you can eat a burger but I haven't seen anything edible when walking across it! However, I've learnt how to cross safely and when my lead is shortened Mummy presses the button and tells me to 'wait' in a very firm voice, and believe me you don't mess with "she who must be obeyed" when she speaks in that tone. Then I wait until she says 'Over Daisy, good girl' and we cross the road while the humans in the waiting cars point at me and I can tell from their faces that they're saying "Aww look at that gorgeous little sausage dog" – well I am gorgeous everybody tells me so.

Today is Sunday and that's my favourite day because when I hear the magic words 'we're going in the car Daisy' I know that I'm going to see Rebecca, Sophie and Antony. Wuff Wuff. When we get to their house I say

a quick hello to Rebecca then run up the stairs, which is a novelty for me because we live in a bungalow, and charge into Sophie and Antony's bedrooms usually waking them up. I might even be lucky if Antony has had a late night supper and find a piece of left over pizza but that's quickly taken off me by Rebecca, spoil sport! Mummy goes off to church and Rebecca takes me out and says I terrorise all the other dogs in Vicars Cross - really! I get spoilt on a Sunday because I get treats for being such a good girl – I love Rebecca. Mummy arrives to take me home and I'll probably fall asleep for the rest of the day after all the excitement.

That's enough excitement for one day, so see you next time ..... I hope. *Daisy*

*(Published by kind permission of Janet Milton)*

## PEOPLE WE REMEMBER

### Anna Kate Norbury 1994-2020

Just a few short weeks ago, the family and friends of Anna, said a tearful farewell at St James' to this amazing young lady. Despite many challenges in her life, she always had a smile on her face, and the capacity to make people happy.



These words from Joe Baxter her fiancé just sum her up perfectly, in the most delightful way. "Anna was funny, kind and nice. She made me laugh. She had a beautiful smile. She was my best friend."

In his tribute Rupert Thompson made similar comments, "Anna was remarkable, she was caring, she was forthright, she had great capacity for joy, and she was very funny. Anna made people happy."

This was the Anna we all knew.

Anna was always a star and in her short life she achieved so much. Despite her handicap she lived as positive a life as was possible. She always had a passion for music and singing, from Disney musicals to Phantom of the Opera. In 1995 Anna was cast as baby Alice in the TV soap Brookside. It was the first such programme to introduce a Down's character, and described by the Liverpool Echo, "as one of Brookside's most memorable

story lines". She was adored by everyone as she grew up, by John & Maria her parents, Connor and Lauren her brother & sister, and by all the families friends especially in Kingsley where she grew up. She loved school and even then was an independent and determined young lady. She also loved dressing up and putting on a show, and was later to enjoy performing in plays at school, youth club, at the Gateway Youth Theatre and at Stagecoach Drama School.

Anna loved football and spent many happy hours at Goodison Park watching her beloved Everton. She was also an incurable romantic, had a strong sense of fairness and a truly devout spirit. She loved attending services at St James. It was a special place for her, and where she was confirmed in 2010.

Despite her difficulties Anna led as normal a life as was possible, and in her teens went to study Hospitality and Retail at Derwen College. I remember her telling me with pride that she was a host, and welcomed guests at the reception desk of the Premier Inn on City Road. What a confidence boost that must have been for her. It was at Derwen that she met her true love Joe Baxter and she was proud to show him off at every possible occasion. Together they appeared in the Channel 4 Documentary, "Home Free" and their relationship lit up the show. Their support worker Gaven said "They bounce off each other so well" Anna and Joe were soul mates, and he like all her family and friends will be bereft at her sudden passing. She lived her short and precious life to the full. All of us who met her have had our lives enriched and blessed to know this wonderful young lady.

Rector Stefan sums this up in his address at her funeral. "For me: Anna, like one of the angels, created space for God to dwell alongside humanity. Anna mediated heaven on earth. Anna showed us that heaven and earth are in fact entwined. Because she saw God, and was kind and generous enough to let God's face shine in her."



Anna will be truly missed, may she rest in God's peace.

David Cummings

## THE ORDINATION OF DEACONS

### Saturday 24th October - Chester Cathedral

Tina and I were honoured to be invited to Rob's ordination in the Cathedral. Rob was one of eight candidates to be ordained at this service from the Deaneries of Chester and Macclesfield.

Bishop Mark greeted us all and introduced the service. This was followed by the presentation of each ordinand by the Archdeacons of Chester or Macclesfield.

The service continued with The Collect, Old Testament reading Joshua 1. 1-9, Psalm 86. 1-6, The Holy Gospel Matthew 28. 16-20. The sermon was preached by the Right Revd Geoff Pearson Hon Assistant Bishop.

The Liturgy of Ordination then followed. Each candidate approached the Bishop's chair, knelt and the Bishop laid his hands on the head of each ordinand saying:

*'Send down the Holy Spirit on your servant for the office and work of a deacon in your church.'*

Each deacon put on their stole signifying the order of their diaconal ministry. The newly ordained deacons stood; The Bishop invited each deacon to come forward to take a copy of the New Testament and their license.

The Liturgy of the Eucharist followed. The Sending Out was conducted by Bishop Mark.

*'God who has called you is faithful. May the Father, whose glory fills the heavens cleanse you by his holiness and send you to proclaim his word. Amen.'*

Mike Lightfoot



Rob with Bishop Mark



The eight new Deacons



## FLAMMKUCHE OR TARTE FLAMBÉE

One Year we decided to holiday in Alsace, we stopped off at Strasbourg to see the Cathedral's famous Astronomical Clock, the most magnificent clock I have ever seen and certainly the biggest. It must have been about 30 to 40 feet high and 20 feet wide. It was the third clock put in the Cathedral and took 30 men 5 years to install and was started in in 1842. The first clock was constructed between 1352 & 1354 . We also took a boat trip and viewed the European parliament building from the river.



We stayed just outside a village in the centre of the wine region Alsace produces many fine white wines our favourite being Gewürztraminer. Storks are a main feature in Alsace and we visited a sanctuary where they were hand rearing chicks. They encouraged storks to nest there and took some of the eggs, the birds would then lay more, they were so tame we could walk amongst them We also visited a motor museum

where in the entrance was a guillotine. It had been use to execute 21 men, it was horse drawn and was taken to the town where the culprit lived. It was hidden in a cave in about 1922 with the last execution by that method in France in 1977.

We also crossed into Germany to visit the town of Freiburg where clocks used to be made but found no evidence of it but had to content ourselves with a trip up the funicular and a hot chocolate in the café at the top. We had a tarte flambée for lunch. We had discovered these when we went out for lunch, and on reaching our accommodation they became our favourite lunchtime snack. It was created by German farmers and was a home-made dish. In the 1960 pizza craze it found its way into restaurants, sometime known as a French pizza. On returning home I started making it. Here's a recipe:

With about 200gm of flour, make a bread dough, if you do not have strong flour & yeast try using a pizza base mix (Sainsbury's sell them).

Roll and stretch the dough into a thin rectangular sheet (I make it round as we have a pizza baking tray). Put the dough in a warm place to rise.

In the meantime, in a non-stick frying pan put a pack of smoked bacon lardons, or a couple of slices of smoked back bacon cut into strips. I prefer to use pancetta cubes. Fry until soft but not crispy. Remove from the pan leaving the fat behind and set aside to cool.

Add a little oil to the pan and fry off some thinly sliced onions, I use a mandolin, until they are soft. Remove them from the pan leaving the oil behind. The best way of doing this is to push the onions to one side of the pan, tilt the pan and soak up the oil with kitchen towel.

When the dough has risen coat it with a layer of Fromage Blanc. As you are unlikely to find this use crème fraîche, which is substantially the same but has a higher fat content, who cares!!! Then evenly scatter the lardons and then the onions. Bake in an oven preheated to 200 degrees C for 10 to 15 minutes. It should be crispy but DONT BURN IT.

*Ben Williams*

## Box Opening 2020

*Dear Box Holders,*

***Due to the Covid-19 situation and on advice from The Children's Society, we are unable this year to collect our boxes in and count the money as we would normally do. Please hold onto your box until we are in a position to receive them. Of course continue to fill them, if possible, with any loose change. Alternatively, if you so wish you can open your own box, count the contents and send a cheque directly to the Children's Society or***

***complete a bank transfer. If you would like to take this option please let me know and I will provide all the required information.***

***Thank you, Lesley Morgan***

**Help us to be there for vulnerable children in this country.**

Charity Registration  
No. 221124

The  
Children's  
Society

# St James' Church Calendar

## NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 2020:

As services are now once again happening in church it is possible to set out a tentative calendar. Things remain very fluid and services and events can change at short notice, so please check the church website or ask the Rector, a Churchwarden or the Parish Administrator if you are unsure.

**The church is open for services and private prayer:  
Sundays 9am to 2pm and Wednesdays 10.30am to 5pm.  
It is also open for Weddings, Baptisms and Funerals.**

**Monday - Friday:** 9.00am: Morning Prayer - in church. Everyone is welcome to this short time of devotion to start the day.

**Wednesdays:** 10.45am: **Holy Communion** service in church.

**Sun 1st Nov: (*All Saints / All Souls*)**

10.00am: Holy Communion in church.

11.30am: Morning Worship online using Zoom.

6.30pm: All Souls service in church.

**Sun 8th Nov: (*Remembrance Sunday*)**

10.45am: Service of Remembrance in church. (10.45 start time.)

(Note: there is no Remembrance service around the memorial.)

11.30am: Morning Worship online using Zoom.



**Sat 14th Nov:** 10.30am: Churchyard working party.

**Sun 15th Nov: (*2nd before Advent*)**

10.00am: Holy Communion in church.

11.30am: Morning Worship online using Zoom.

**Mon 16th Nov:** 7.30pm: PCC meeting in church or online via Zoom

**Sun 22nd Nov: (*Christ the King*)**

10.00am: Holy Communion in church.

11.30am: Morning Worship online using Zoom.

**Sun 29th Nov: (*1st Sunday in Advent*)**

10.00am: Holy Communion in church.

11.30am: Morning Worship online using Zoom.

**4.00pm: Christingle Service in church.**

- Sun 6th Dec:** *(2nd Sunday in Advent)*  
 10.00am: Holy Communion in church. Toys and other gifts may be donated and these will be distributed to local good causes.  
 11.30am: Morning Worship online using Zoom.
- Sat 12th Dec:** 10.30am: Churchyard working party.
- Sun 13th Dec:** *(3rd Sunday in Advent)*  
 10.00am: Holy Communion in church.  
 11.30am: Morning Worship online using Zoom.
- Sun 20th Dec:** *(4th Sunday in Advent)*  
 10.00am: Holy Communion in church.  
 11.30am: Morning Worship online using Zoom.  
 6.30pm: Service of Nine Lessons and Carols, in church
- Thur 24th Dec:** ***(Christmas Eve)***  
 4.00pm: Crib service for the very young in church  
 7.00pm: Carols around the Tree (Outside)  
 11.30pm: Midnight Mass (Holy Communion) in church
- Fri 25th Dec:** ***(Christmas Day)***  
 10.00am: Holy Communion in church.  
 11.30am: Morning Worship online using Zoom.
- Sun 27th Dec:** *(1st Sunday of Christmas)*  
*All services today to be confirmed.*  
 10.00am: Holy Communion in church.  
 11.30am: Morning Worship online using Zoom.



For all services in church masks must be worn, hands must be sanitised on entry and exit and at all times social distancing (2 metres) must be observed. On arrival you will be shown to your seat, and for communion and when you leave at the end you will be guided for everyone's safety. Please do not move to another seat. There will be no hymn books or Order of Service booklets. TV screens will show the order of service.

For potentially busy services in church a booking system may be devised. Please check for details.

For online services a Zoom invitation link will be on the church website, and anyone may join. Click on the red 'Sunday Worship' button on the website home page to go to the Sunday Worship Resources page to find the order of service, Zoom invite link, hymns and homily. Help will be provided to those unsure how to use Zoom - please ask. Your computer needs a microphone, camera and speakers. Tablets and smartphones, and many laptop computers, have these as standard.

The Annual Wreath Making Workshop tentatively planned for 5th December will NOT take place.

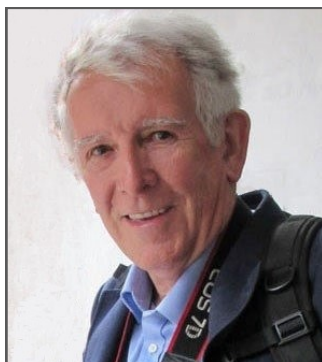
**All dates, times and arrangements subject to change**



## LIFE IN ALL ITS FULLNESS:

We were all proud when Margaret Croston was awarded the British Empire Medal, and could put BEM after her name.

Well, we are all proud again! Mr Christleton (otherwise known as David Cummings) has also been awarded this honour.



Christleton Parish Council nominated David and sent a whole pack of supporting information to the Cabinet Office in London. Many submissions turn out to be unsuccessful, but not on this occasion. The British Empire Medal is a British medal awarded for meritorious civil or military service worthy of recognition by the Crown. Wow!

Originally from Aberdare, he came to Chester in 1964, so how do you start describing David's activities in this place?



The Pit Group; Tree Planting; Nature Reserve (Warden of Hockenhull Platts); Looking after swans; Conservation; War Memorial listings; The Village Fete and Village Show; Leading walks; Researching Christleton History and leading the local History Group; Great War stories; Author; Archivist; As a previous head teacher here and with ongoing links with the schools; Graveyard records; Photography; Travelling; Singing; Charity cards; Charitable talks; Charitable fund raising; Bereavement Visiting; Caring for the frail and giving lifts; and participating in church services including as a choir member.

As you will know he regularly submits articles to this magazine. His energy levels are exceedingly high and he packs so much into his diary that the rest of us stand back in admiration and wonder. Making a difference is important and David is doing that in Christleton, and also in Chester.

Yet he's never seemingly in a hurry - stop him in the street and he's happy to share some of his extensive knowledge about people and events in and around Christleton.

I'm a relative new comer in Christleton and not really qualified to speak about David's long and close relationship with the community that goes back over 50 years and which continues unabated today. So I'm grateful to Sue Robson (Parish Council) for some information, and to David himself.

Thank you, David Cummings BEM, for all you do, for your joyful enthusiasm and your caring friendship. Your honour is well deserved.

*Brian Inall.*

PS: David hasn't yet received the medal so this is a picture of what he can expect.

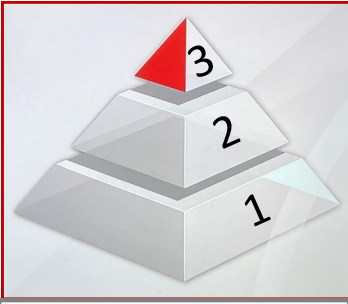
## **CHRISTLETON PARISH HALL - CLOSURE**

After re-opening on 14 September, the Parish Hall has had to close again and the intention is to review this again in January. Although there was enthusiasm from a number of regular hirers to return to use the hall, this has been very short lived due to renewed uncertainty around the Covid-19 pandemic. If you wish to enquire about using the hall in the New Year please contact Maria Norbury (below):

Maria Norbury: Tel: 01244 335499.

[maria\\_norbury@btinternet.com](mailto:maria_norbury@btinternet.com) (See also the church website.)





Is it all ending in tiers?

### **WREATH MAKING WORKSHOP:**

The Wreath Making Workshop scheduled for Sat 5th December is regrettably cancelled because of the current restrictions. We had already cancelled the produce and craft sale on the same day. Despite the need for fundraising, and despite the particular need for being social in the Christmas season, nobody wants to take unnecessary risks or to break rules.



### **GEOFF CLIFTON MBE:**

Friends from Littleton & Christleton will be delighted to learn that Geoff, a resident in Littleton until just recently, was awarded the MBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours List, for services to the Community in Chester. This is no doubt based in part to his leading role in the establishment of Storeyhouse in Chester, making this superb facility one of the most inspirational and cultural features of our city.

Geoff's working career was spent as a conservation accredited engineer, initially based in Chester with Gifford & partners and then Ramboll. His expertise was rewarded with an invitation to sit on the Cathedral Fabric Advisory Commission, and he also served as an engineer to Wells and Lincoln Cathedrals.



He contributed locally with advice to the Christleton Pit Group, and as Chairman of Governors at the Primary School. He was an inspiring leader and I could always call on him for sound and reliable advice. He spent lots of time working with the pupils in class, at Assemblies and accompanying them on school visits and adventures. Helen his wife also gave us so much support in school, and their three sons, Nicholas, Timothy and Alexander were outstanding students at both Christleton Primary & High schools.

*David Cummings*

### **THE HISTORY FILE NOVEMBER 2020**

This article is rewritten from a previous account of the family that I researched in the 1990's, and deposited in the Chester City Archives. The Dixon mausoleum has been the subject of a recent search, by the Mausoleum & Memorial Society of the UK, so I thought it would be appropriate to publish in our own magazine.



#### **The Dixon Family of Littleton**

The Dixon Family of Littleton, a township of the Parish of Christleton near Chester, are buried in two substantial vaults and mausoleum in the churchyard at St James' Christleton. Thomas Dixon the elder 1755 -1811 had been a Captain in the English Navy and served on board HMS Agamemnon under Admiral Rodney. He also served as mate under James Penny of Liverpool, and as a master of his own ship in the West Indies, between 1786 and 1789. When he retired from active service at sea Thomas turned his energy to importing timber, and together with his sons Thomas & James the family acquired & leased land along the River Dee at the Port of Chester on Sealand Road, for both landing timber, and to build a shipyard near the House of Industry.

Thomas Dixon junior b. 1791 was the real success story of the family as he not only gained the acquisition of these yards, he expanded his business by land deals, and in 1817 established the first bank in Chester, the Dixon and Chilton Bank in Market Place. This property was



then sold to Chester City Council in 1859 for £2,800, which helped to fund a new premises in Eastgate Street, to be called the Dixon and Wardell Bank, and later Chester Bank (Dixon & Co). This building still stands, and is an imposing building in the classical Greek style with fluted columns capped by Corinthian capitals, which later became Parrs Bank, the Westminster Bank and is now a branch of the National Westminster Bank. Thomas gave a very grand supper for all the workers on this new project on November 30<sup>th</sup> 1859 which was "much appreciated and enjoyed".

James b.1796 meanwhile was involved with the shipbuilding side, but also in property, purchasing part of the Beachin Estate at Coddington from Townsend Ince, a landowner from Christleton Hall.

Thomas junior was held in the highest regard both in the city and in Christleton where he worshipped. A white marble tablet was erected in the church to celebrate his work.

*"The Parishioners of Christleton being most desirous to record their feelings of high regard and esteem for Thomas Dixon of Littleton Esq, in the said parish/for the great interest uniformly taken by him in all matters relating to the church/ and the keeping of it's paved precincts, in due order and decency [When in office or otherwise] as well as more especially for his zeal and liberality in co operating with the recent repairs of the Church and Chancel/being unanimously agreed/ that this tablet and inscription*

*dedicated to him' shall be placed therein as a lasting testimonial/of their obligation and respect..*

*April MDCCC.XLVII. Rev. T Lloyd Rector*

Thomas was a great asset to the City of Chester and we learn more about him through a speech made by the Duke of Westminster in the Town Hall in 1875 when he

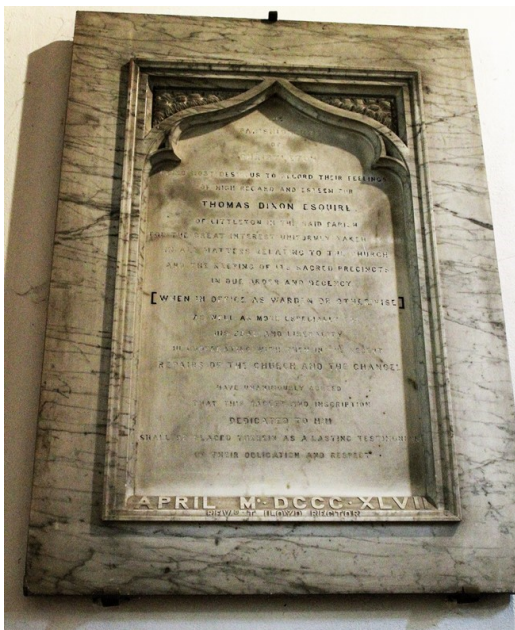
was presented with a portrait of himself. He describes Thomas in these words:

*"I have now Mr Dixon the honour to present you with what I may say is an excellent portrait of you, a gift from the hearts of the very affectionate friends you are fortunate to possess, and from the Citizens of Chester, as a mark of their great esteem from some one who has led an honourable and most useful life."*

Thomas Dixon's bank flourished in Chester, and benefited greatly from money deposited and borrowed from



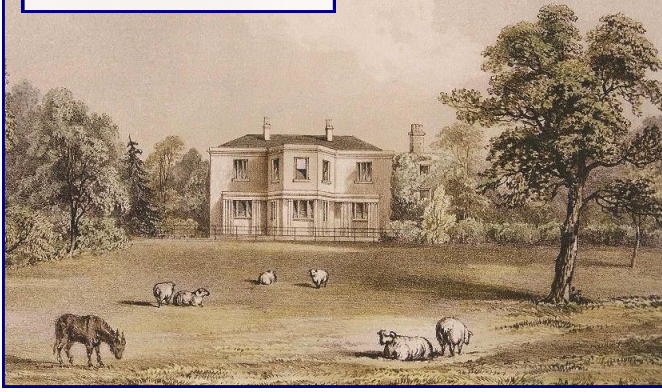
him, by the great railway civil engineering contractor Thomas Brassey. Brassey was born at Buerton in 1805, a village just south of Chester who was responsible for building much of the worlds railways in the 19thC. He was an innovator and contractor, working in France, Canada, Australia, South American and India. He also built the structures including docks, bridges, viaducts, stations, tunnels and other works. He was involved in so much more including, steam ships, locomotives, even water supply and sewerage systems. He left a fortune of £5 million, with so many of his transactions going through his friend Thomas Dixon's Bank in Chester.



Thomas Dixon died in 1879 aged 88years but had played a prominent role throughout his life in the city where he was born. He had been a student at the Kings School in 1810, and had founded his first bank by 1817. He was elected Sheriff in 1813, Councillor in 1835, Alderman in 1835 and Mayor in 1836/7. He was made a J.P. in 1856 and a magistrate in 1862. Thomas and Phillis Dixon lived at Littleton Hall and had seven children, but it's Thomas' brother James b 1796 who lived at Littleton Old Hall, who is the family member responsible for the Dixon name remaining in the public



**Littleton Old Hall**



eye today. He married Mary Anne and when their son died tragically in 1865 aged 30yrs, she, together with his brother William, built a group of six alms houses at Little Heath overlooking the Village Pond. They were intended for the poor of Littleton and Christleton, *“and separate trusts were established not only to build the houses, but to provide income for future repairs, insurance, and a weekly pension for the incumbents”*.

The Alms houses were designed by John Oldred Scott, second son of Sir George Gilbert Scott, in a black & white timber and brick design, which fitted into the style of buildings built in Chester at that time, by The Grosvenor Estate. The alms houses have been in continuous occupation since that time and are much favoured by older members of the community.



**Dixon Alms Houses**

The Dixon's were also benefactors in other ways; Money was given to the Parish to benefit the poor, to the new Boys School project in Christleton Village, and offered towards the rebuilding of St James' Church in 1876. Generations of the family worshipped at St James and in the churchyard there is a large vault and mausoleum for Thomas Dixon junior and his extended family, with a separate smaller box tomb for Thomas Dixon senior, his wife Anne, James and his wife Anne,

and their son James. There are also separate monuments for Dr & Mrs FM Granger and their son Sir Rupert Granger and his family.

*David Cummings*

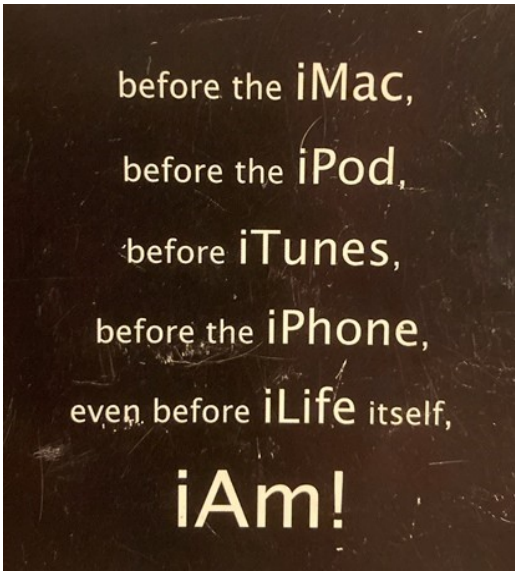
## **WOLLERTON OLD HALL:**

Just south down the A41 for about 50 minutes you'll find Wollerton Old Hall. The gardens are open to the public, although sadly the 16th century house isn't.

The old gardens had long since disappeared, so that in 1982 when the present owners purchased the house the garden was a blank canvas. It has since been re-created, planted up and lovingly nurtured, has matured, and is a pleasure to visit. On our most recent visit on 16th October we expected an autumn garden elegantly fading into winter - but found to our surprise a great deal of colour. A bit of cheer! See the photos. (Ed.)







Thanks to Margaret Bass for the above.

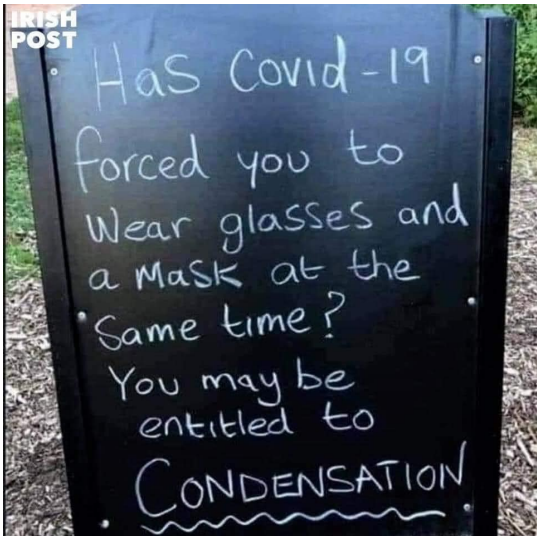
Bible references to 'I Am' are:

**Exodus 3 vs 14 – 15**

<sup>14</sup> God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM."<sup>[a]</sup> And he said, "Say this to the people of Israel: 'I AM has sent me to you.'" <sup>15</sup> God also said to Moses, "Say this to the people of Israel: 'The LORD, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you.' This is my name forever, and thus I am to be remembered throughout all generations.

**John's Gospel: 'I AM' sayings of Jesus:**

- I Am the Bread of Life.
- I Am the Light of the World.
- I Am the door or gate.
- I Am the Good Shepherd.
- I Am the resurrection, and the life.
- I Am the way, the truth, and the life.
- I Am the true vine.



Thanks to Martin Thompson.

**Churchyard Maintenance**

If you wish to help us keep the churchyard tidy then please talk to Mike Lightfoot who knows how this is being done safely at present. Of course, take a walk via the churchyard as part of your exercise. Be joyous in God's amazing creation.

**Next sessions:**  
**Sat 14th Nov and 12th Dec at 10.30am.**  
**More details from Mike Lightfoot**  
**Tel: 07787 421357**



**THEY ANSWER TO THE CALL**

By Peter Kennedy

To those who only serve the cause to tend and to protect,  
 To those who offer healing hands with grace and with respect,  
 To those who smile amid the strife, and tend with loving care,  
 To those who never cast off hope amid the dark despair,  
 To those who fight against the odds, who seek to find a cure,  
 To those who offer comfort in a future so unsure,  
 To those who daily risk their lives with selfless dedication,  
 To those who play a vital role in safeguarding our nation,  
 For them, with most abundant thanks, we offer up our prayers,  
 For many, who have saved our lives' have paid the price with theirs.

They are not dressed as warriors, nor soldiers in the field,  
 They have no orders to stand firm and staunchly never yield.  
 They have no suits of armour and no weaponry at hand,  
 No military strategy, no operations planned.  
 And yet, these Covid warriors, with altruistic pride,  
 Stand tall against the enemy, refuse to step aside.  
 And when one of their noble ranks falls victim to the foe,  
 Another brave civilian will step up to onward go.  
 For when their nation called on them to step into the fray,  
 They donned their masks and robes and then stepped in without delay.

To label them as heroes is to understate the case,  
 For each and every one is blessed with God's Amazing grace.  
 The doctors, nurses, health care workers, carers one and all,  
 Despite the fear of deaths' dark vale, they answer to the call.  
 How brave, the Covid warriors, who answer to the call.

Thanks to Gill Hibbert.

# Calling all walkers and residents of Christleton & Littleton!

Are you upset about no longer having access to well used footpaths around the fields of Christleton & Littleton?

Christleton & Littleton Parish Councils have joined together to create a new **Footpath Action Group** to represent your views.

We are planning to apply to CWaC Council to get 4 footpaths added to the legal record so that we can use them once again.

To do this we need people willing to testify to having used any, or all, of the paths regularly at any time over the last 20+ years. Historical evidence (photos, leaflets etc) would also be useful.

Contact us on  
[communityfootpaths@gmail.com](mailto:communityfootpaths@gmail.com)  
if you think you can help



The Foodbank is still operating and needs your contributions more than ever. Now that the church is open for part of the time you may leave Foodbank items at the back of the church, preferably avoiding busy service times, on **Sundays 11am-2pm**, and **Wednesdays 12 noon -5pm**.

They will be happy with anything non-perishable but long life fruit juice is urgent and always welcome, also tinned meats, instant mashed potatoes, instant noodles, tinned custard & puddings, treats/sweets. They do NOT need pasta, beans, tomatoes.

Or you can use the collection points available in all these big supermarkets: **Sainsbury's, Waitrose, Asda, Morrisons, Tesco**, and also the **Royal Mail Sorting Office** on Station Road has a box. Or people can take items directly to the Foodbank ...the address and directions are on their website: **<https://westcheshire.foodbank.org.uk>** . And finally people can make a money donation to the foodbank - regular or one-off - and again details are on their website.

Thank you for your help. (Chris Alderton)





## ON BEING A SUNDAY "ZOOMER"

On 11 October I thought that our Sunday morning service on Zoom had passed a milestone. For the first time those of us taking part did more than just sit in front of our screens looking at ourselves and what happened to be behind us - of which more later - but mounted a display for others to see. For the day was Harvest Festival and we wanted to have some physical reminders of the good things that God's good earth provides. So squeezed between us were flowers, apples, tomatoes, blackberries, damsons, maize, eggs, quince, salad leaves conkers and sloes. It was essential to keep the displays small so that the people and produce could be included within the angle of the camera lens.

Our Zoom congregation has become a familiar group stretching out beyond the boundaries of the parish. We have attendees from Cornwall, Isle of Man and the USA. Week by week, we are led by Stefan, Elizabeth, Tina and Rob who follow a published order of service that can be printed out or read on screen. Others of us lead with prayers and readings. The hymns are recordings sung with enthusiasm by a choir from St Martins-in-the-Fields, London.

Unless we have some spoken part, we mute our microphones for the whole service. After the initial strangeness, this induced personal silence is welcome as it helps me to become more deeply involved in the experience hopefully not marred too much by our attempts to join in with the singing!. Of course it lacks that sense of common purpose that comes with worshipping together in church but, as an alternative prompted by the present circumstances, it is proving to be a worthy second best.

There are practical advantages in the Zoom service.

Most important for me is that it starts later than the church service - 11.30 as opposed to 10.00. This allows longer in bed, more time for the caffeine to work its miracle on my brain and, particularly as winter approaches, no need to leave the house. To off-set to some extent my natural slothfulness, the opportunity to stay in bed longer is often used to listen to a service on the radio that starts at 8.10. This makes me catholic (small "c") in my worship experiences but also enables me to return to sleep if I fail to engage.

There is also another potential benefit. Being seated in front of the camera means the body below the waist is

not visible to fellow worshippers, giving rise to the possibility of "Sunday best" on the upper half only. Of course I have never indulged in such questionable behaviour!

The camera sees not only ourselves but also what happens to be behind us. This can be a catalyst for the social conversation that we enjoy after the service. What is that hanging on the back of the door behind one of us? It's a "pinny". But what is a "pinny" our American member asks. And for that matter, what is a sloe? Mention of gin provides the answer. Our social "natter" - again requiring interpretation - prompts fun and laughter as we explore the differences between American and local English with occasional diversions to Scottish. The guidance on conducting a Zoom meeting suggests the use of a neutral drape to use as a back drop. However the very clever ones among us are able to use a computer generated back drop. Hence we are treated to a view of a Scottish hillside by one of our number who shall be nameless.

*(Ed: A special green backcloth is needed to make this work reasonably well, otherwise you can get very weird results!)*

Although our after service natter is light hearted, the realities of the world sometimes intrude. Most notably the presence of our American member vividly reminds me of the challenge of the imminent Presidential election and its importance not only to the American people but to the rest of the world.

Thus I am delighted that we are collectively praying that God's will may be done. The issue resonates with me given that so many of my relatives are American nationals.

So, do I look forward to the service each week? Yes. And do I hope that it will continue even after the present virus difficulties are minimised or resolved. Yes. Why not give it a try if you have the necessary facilities?

*Jim Hawkes*



## FROM THE REGISTERS:

Funerals: David Bowden, died: 12/10/2020, aged 81  
Funeral took place in St James' Church on:  
27/10/2020 at 11.00am.

William Eric Evans, died 20/9/2020, aged 91  
Funeral took place at Chester Crematorium on:  
2/10/2020 at 9.20am.



### DAVID BOWDEN:

Once again our community has suffered a great loss with the passing of David Bowden. He had been struggling against ill health for some time and was constantly in our prayers.

David was a true gentleman. He had a keen sense of humour which I enjoyed and a desire to contribute to St James' Church and the community. During last year he offered to help me with the editing of this magazine and was willing to brush up his computing skills, but his health problems prevented him pursuing this. He now rests in peace.

Some of us last saw him on 16th August when he and Jan joined in our Zoom online service.

Our love and prayers go to Jan and the family.  
(Ed.)

### CONGRATULATIONS:

If you are celebrating an important birthday, or anniversary, whether just gone or still to come, then please let me know and I can put it here. Thank you. (Ed.)

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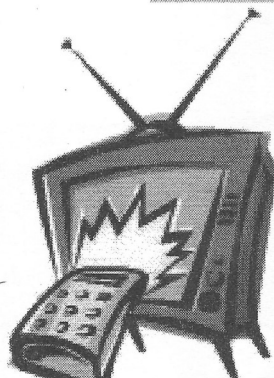
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Photo: David Cummings - 2014