



PARISH OF ST JAMES

*serving the communities of Christleton,
Cotton Abbots, Cotton Edmunds, Littleton
and Rowton*

Special Edition

October 2018

50p.

The Rector's letter



Praying our Future

Thank you. When writing this letter I'm only 4 days into the 'job', and am sitting down to pen a few words for our newsletter! This is an improvement on last time where I arrived in the parish on Palm Sunday

and the following week saw about 20 services. The beginning of September is a far better time to arrive I think.

The first words on my heart are thank you. Thank you for the warmth, depth, and generosity of your welcome to us as a family as we now come to share life together with you. Myself, Deborah, and our 2 sons are looking forward to it immensely. How wonderful it was to gather with so many of you on Thursday for my collation, induction, and installation as Rector. A mouthful indeed. And then gather again on the Sunday to worship both in the church and then later through Messy Church and the Crew Youth group in the parish hall. I slept well that night,

and drifted off with a sense of the specialness of this place and its people.

Already, on a number of occasions, I have been asked about what my vision or thoughts are for us as a parish going forward. This is quite understandable, after all we have discerned my coming to you as a leader of the parish. My list already with 26 entries on Monday morning suggests I have some thoughts on this, but the first thing for us to do together is simply to get down on our knees and pray. To ask God for his revelation as to what He is already doing among us, and where He wants to lead us. For it is not my vision, or anyone else's, we want to discern for our community, but God's. This is not to say my vision and that of many others will not overlap (lets hope they do!), but that we constantly submit for direction and purity of formation our hearts and thoughts, our visions, to the Will of God which is perfect and has great plans for us.

One way I shall be doing this is by praying the Daily Office at 9am in the Lady Chapel of St. James' on weekdays, except for Thursdays which will be my day off. You are warmly invited to join me if you are able to, for what is an especial start to the day of between about 15 and 20 minutes. If this time does not work for you perhaps another will. You can pray any of the daily offices online at <https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/join-us-in-daily-prayer> or using your phone by downloading the Daily Prayer App for both iOS and Android.

But turning back to God's vision. From the act of dedication we, not just I, made on Thursday the 13 September we can expect that God's vision will involve sharing the good news of Jesus Christ with all people, to baptise and make disciples of all who come to him in faith; to serve the community where we live and work, growing in faith and understanding as we devote ourselves to the study of Scripture and to prayer; to witness to Jesus in our daily lives, letting them be shaped and formed through the power of God's Holy Spirit and grow in our capacity to love one another

through the gift of worship and our feeding on Christ through the sacrament of his body and blood faithfully and regularly. I already find myself rejoicing in the different ways in which you have embodied God's vision to date. How wonderful was the community lunch that interrupted my writing of this! Our prayers in the coming months and years will clarify, contextualise and embody our renewed act of dedication to go on being relevant and transforming for our communities and those we live among.

Exciting times indeed!

It would be great if as we prayed in the weeks ahead we could notice any responses to the following questions.

1. What two or three things do you value about the parish?
2. What two or three things would you like to see happen in the parish?

I would very much welcome any responses you notice in prayer (on these questions or anything else) by the end of October please. You can email{ rector.christleton@gmail.com, send a letter (The Rectory, Birch Heath Lane, Christleton, CH3 7AP) or phone (01244 335663).

We can then share the anonymised results together. Hence, please forgive any detailed reply to your responses prior to this act of sharing, in order to minimise my administrative burden in these early days. In this way, our responses will form one pointer, among others, towards the journey God is setting before us. A journey which stands in continuity and thanksgiving for all that has gone before.

A Little bit about Me

From what I can tell so far, after now 5 days, it seems a lot of you know a lot about me already! It makes me smile. Prior to Christleton, I was Rector of Esher for 5.5 years in the Diocese of Guildford after serving my curacy in the Diocese of Winchester. Before

this I enjoyed careers as an astrophysicist and nuclear physicist.

I often get asked how did that happen; how did you go from, say, astrophysics to becoming a priest in the Church of England? Well, let me say something about this by way of telling you a little about me.

As an astrophysicist, I spent my time wondering about active galaxies. These were galaxies which emitted, say, a thousand times the energy output of a normal galaxy from a central region which was about the size of our solar system. By watching how the energy output from these galaxies varied on timescales of days to months you could construct pictures of the innermost regions of these galaxies on scales far superior to those of ground or space based telescopes. It was fun, and as a corollary I helped develop a technique to measure the rate of expansion of the Universe.

Then, looking, I guess, for a bit more job security, stability, and pay (oh, the irony), I ended up moving out of this field into applied physics as a weapon designer. Many of the skills I had acquired as an astrophysicist were transferable into seeking an understanding of the physics of weapons. This too was a lot of fun, but I should return to the but how question at the beginning.

Towards the end of these particular life seasons my Christian faith which lay dormant for many years (almost 2 decades) was awakened through contact with a community of Christians in the United States. My faith became alive and real through seeking understanding and practice, and the result over a period of years apparently made me restless for something else.

It was not that I did not enjoy my work, I did and sometimes miss it to this day - maths and physics are more straightforward than people. I was very blessed with a great job, pension, and life stability (not to mention a wonderful wife, Deborah, by then; Deborah and I met in the States while we were doing postdoctoral

work), but the restlessness grew and grew. It was, for the particular time, resolved when I pondered my death, and how I would like to be remembered. I found the answer odd (the question too if I'm honest!), but I simply wanted to grow in wisdom and communion with God and help other people to encounter God (I had no real idea of what this meant), and there was a sense, not least given my character, this would mean change.

Shortly afterwards, I stood in a church affirming the faith I was baptised into – getting confirmed, and the presiding Bishop asked me very bluntly afterwards, when was I getting ordained afterwards. I was ordained shortly afterwards. Then, following my practical training in Winchester I, along with my wonderful wife and two children, moved to Esher and now find ourselves beginning a new chapter of life and service in Christleton.

To date, I'm sure there will be plenty of times to talk about this further, my scientific background works very much in harmony with my developing faith. I see God in his physical creations. I understand doctrines of faith through scientific metaphors. And so I could go on. But how? How did I go from one set of careers to becoming a priest in the Church of England. The answer, I think, is simply and mysteriously an act of God's mercy. I look forward to hearing about the similar acts of mercy that have shaped your lives in the years ahead.

With my love and prayers,

Stefan



The Collation and Induction of Rev'd Dr Stefan Collier



On Thursday evening the 13th September our new Rector was officially installed in St James' at a solemn and moving ceremony in the Church.

This service is both a legal act and an act of worship. It marks the beginning of the ministry of an incumbent and a new stage in the life of the Parish. As the mission and ministry of the Church is the responsibility of all baptised people, so they come together with their new minister, the Bishop and Archdeacon to celebrate this.

It was a busy week for the Diocese as there were three installations in the Chester Deanery. We welcomed a number of clergy both serving and retired, including some who had taken services during our vacancy and representatives from Churches Together in Christleton. Parish Chairman from local government and the Sheriff of Chester also attended.

As the Rural Dean is on a Sabbatical Leave, the service was introduced by Rev'd Hennie Johnston, Chapter Clerk.

The Bishop of Chester, the Rt Rev'd Dr Peter Forster "collated" Stefan. This is the ceremony where the Bishop admits a new rector into his spiritual oversight and the care of the parish of Christleton which is under the patronage of the Bishop. The congregation was invited to pray for the new incumbent and those who will minister with him, to

dedicate ourselves afresh to the service of God in this community and to the call which God makes on each one of us. Prayers of penitence were said by all. The congregation was asked to welcome, support and uphold Stefan in his ministry now and in the years to come.

There were readings from the Bible by members of the congregation followed by a short sermon from the Bishop. Stefan made a declaration of faith and swore an oath of allegiance to Queen Elizabeth. He was then given the cure of souls by the Bishop and was blessed.

A short ceremony was conducted at the font and water poured in as a symbol of baptism. Bread and wine were also offered at the altar.

As part of the installation ceremony, the Archdeacon, the Ven. Dr Michael Gilbertson led Stefan to the door of the Church, placed his hand on the handle and inducted him into the actual possession of the Church following which he symbolically tolled the bell. The Archdeacon placed him in his stall as Rector of the Parish and asked to lead the people in worship and service.

Stefan was then presented to the congregation by the Bishop and greeted with a warm round of applause. Representatives of the local community, schools and churches were introduced by Hennie and they spoke some words of greeting.

Following the Dismissal everyone was invited to the Parish Hall for refreshments and to meet Stefan informally. This was so popular that all the food was eaten and all the drink was drunk!



It was wonderful to see so many people turn out to participate in the service and to greet Stefan, Deborah and George (Jack remained at home). It has been some time since the Church has seen such numbers and we look forward to seeing many return to participate in the life of the Church.



It is a sad fact that many churches have had to close their doors and parishes amalgamate. We in Christleton are fortunate that we have a full-time priest and a dedicated team of parishioners to help in running the many facets of parish life.

We have had a relatively short Vacancy but that has not meant all was plain sailing. Tina and I have been wonderfully supported by many willing people who have gone the extra mile to keep the affairs of the Parish running smoothly. We are indebted especially to Revd Gill and Revd Elizabeth for their ministry, taking many of the services and for their advice, to Janet for shouldering the burden of Parish administration and to John for looking after the Church. The PCC (Parochial Church Council) has also been unstinting in its support.

We look forward to new beginnings and pray that Stefan, Deborah and the boys will find a warm welcome in the community and a ministry of fulfilment.

Bettie Gilliatt

St James' Crew Youth Group

Harvest Thanksgiving

Join us for worship, witness, food and fellowship

7th October 2018

4.30 pm

Plot 18 Boughton Heath Allotments



St James' Church Harvest Festival

**Sunday 14 October
10.45 am**

'Team Olive' will be decorating the Church at 9.30 am on Saturday 13th October. They would welcome help in decorating and donations of harvest food and flowers.

All donations will be distributed to Save the Family and Chester Aid for the Homeless

**Sunday
14th Oct 2018
10.45am
HARVEST
FESTIVAL**

... followed at 12 noon by
**APPLE PRESSING
PRODUCE SALE
and BARBEQUE**
at St James.



Proceeds to Christian Aid Kerala Flood Appeal

Christleton Celebrates Music & Memories

A colourful presentation about Christleton by **David Cummings** aided by the well-known Folk Singing Duo: **Malkin & Sylvester**

**Saturday 13th October
7.00pm The Parish Hall**

Tickets including refreshments £7.
Children free.

Tickets from David 332410 or from the back of church

A Fund Raising Event for Parish Hall Funds.



PARISH OF ST JAMES

CALENDAR OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2018



October	
Monday 1st	09:00 Morning Prayer 7.00pm: Churches Together in Christleton (CTC) Autumn Talk by Peter Kurer in the Parish Hall. Open to all. Refreshments.
Tuesday 2nd	09:00 Morning Prayer 7.30pm: Weekly Discussion Group.
Wednesday 3rd	09:00 Morning Prayer 10.45am: United Holy Communion. Refreshments in church.
Friday 5 th	09:00 Morning Prayer
Sunday 7th 19th after Trinity	8.00am: Holy Communion (BCP). Followed by 'Breakfast@8' in the Parish Hall. 10.45am: Holy Communion. Refreshments in the Parish Hall. 4.30pm: Crew Youth Group Harvest Thanksgiving Service. <i>See Advert.</i>
Monday 8th	09:00 Morning Prayer 1.45pm: Mothers' Union meeting in the Parish Hall.
Tuesday 9th	09:00 Morning Prayer 7.30pm: Weekly Discussion Group.
Wednesday 10th	09:00 Morning prayer 10.45am: Holy Communion (BCP). Refreshments in church. 7.30pm: PCC meeting.
Friday 12th	09:00 Morning prayer
Saturday 13th	7.00 pm: "Christleton Celebrates" - in the Parish Hall.
Sunday 14th 20th after Trinity Harvest Festival	8.00am: Holy Communion. 10.45am: Harvest Festival Service. Followed by: Fundraising Apple Pressing and BBQ. <i>See Advert.</i> 6.30pm: Holy Communion.
Monday 15th	9:00 Morning Prayer 12 noon for 12.30pm: Luncheon Club In the Parish Hall.
Tuesday 16th	9:00 Morning Prayer 7.30pm: Weekly Discussion Group.
Wednesday 17th	09:00 Morning Prayer 10.45am: Holy Communion (BCP). Refreshments in church.
Friday 19th	09:00 Morning Prayer
Saturday 20th	10.30am: Churchyard working party.
Sunday 21st 21st after Trinity	8.00am: Holy Communion. 10.45am: Holy Communion. Refreshments in the Parish Hall. 4.00pm: Messy Church in the Parish Hall followed by Messy Church Worship at 5pm in parish hall
Monday 22nd	09:00 Morning Prayer 10.30am: Fundraising Chicago Bridge Drive with Christleton's Deva Bridge Club.
Tuesday 23rd	09:00 Morning Prayer 7.30pm: Weekly Discussion Group.
Wednesday 24th	09:00 Morning Prayer 10.45am: Holy Communion (BCP). Refreshments in church.
Friday 26th	09:00 Morning Prayer
Sunday 28th Last after Trinity	NOTE: CLOCKS GO BACK 1 HOUR TO GMT. 8.00am: Holy Communion. 10.45am: Morning Prayer. Refreshments in the Parish Hall. 6.30pm: Holy Communion.
Monday 29th	09:00 Morning Prayer
Tuesday 30th	7.30pm: Weekly Discussion Group.
Wednesday 31st	10.45am: Holy Communion (BCP). Refreshments in church.

NOVEMBER	All events are in St James' Church unless otherwise indicated.
Sunday 4th All Saints	8.00am: Holy Communion (BCP). 10.45am: Holy Communion. Refreshments in the Parish Hall. 6.30pm: All Souls Service. A service for all to remember those who have passed on into God's keeping. Refreshments in the parish hall
Monday 5th	09:00 Morning Prayer 1.45pm: Mothers' Union meeting in the Parish Hall.
Tuesday 6th	09:00 Morning Prayer 10.30am: Coffee Morning at Grange House for the Parish Hall Refurbishment Fund. <i>See advert.</i> 7.30pm: Weekly Discussion Group.
Wednesday 7th	09:00 Morning Prayer 10.45am: United Holy Communion. Refreshments in church.
Friday 9th	09:00 Morning Prayer
Saturday 10th	7.00pm: Christleton Local History Group: Commemoration of Christleton during WW1. At Christleton High School. More details from David Cummings.
Sunday 11th 3rd before Advent	8.00am: Holy Communion. 10:45 am: Service for Remembrance Sunday. Refreshments in the Parish Hall 6.30pm: Holy Communion
Monday 12th	09:00 Morning Prayer
Tuesday 13th	09:00 Morning Prayer 7.30pm: Weekly Discussion Group.
Wednesday 14th	09.00 Morning Prayer 10.45am: Holy Communion (BCP). Refreshments in church.
Friday 16th	09:00 Morning Prayer
Sunday 18th 2 nd before Advent	8.00am: Holy Communion. 10.45 am: Holy Communion. Refreshments in the Parish Hall 4.00pm: Messy Church in the Parish Hall followed by Messy Worship at 5pm 6:00pm Crew Youth Group (Parish Hall) 6:30pm Evening Prayer
Monday 19th	09:00 Morning Prayer 12 noon for 12.30pm: Luncheon Club In the Parish Hall.
Tuesday 20th	09:00 Morning Prayer 7.30pm: Weekly Discussion Group. Venue and topic to be decided.
Wednesday 21st	09:00 Morning Prayer 10.45am: Holy Communion (BCP). Refreshments in church.
Sunday 25th Christ the King	8.00am: Holy Communion. 10.45am Morning Prayer. Refreshments in Parish Hall 6:30pm Holy Communion
Monday 26th	09:00 Morning Prayer
Tuesday 27th	09:00 Morning Prayer 7.30pm: Weekly Discussion Group.
Wednesday 28th	09:00 Morning Prayer 10.45am: Holy Communion (BCP). Refreshments in church.
CONTACTS	
Rector	Rev'd Dr Stefan Collier 01244 335663 Email: rector.christleton@gmail.com N.B. Thursday is the Rector's day off
Churchwardens	Bettie Gilliatt 01244 335645 Tina Lightfoot 07557 352592 For either warden email: thechurchwardens@gmail.com
Parish Administrator	Janet Milton 01244 325529 For Weekly Notice sheet, PCC enquiries and initial enquiries about weddings, funerals and baptisms email: pa.saintjames@gmail.com For Parish Hall bookings email: christletonhall@gmail.com

The next

Luncheon Club

is at 12noon (for 12.30) in the Parish Hall on
Monday 15th October

A tasty hot meal. All welcome, but please
book a place if you haven't already by calling:

Liz: 409414; Janet: 325529;

or Christine: 335562



THE PARISH OF
ST JAMES,
CHRISTLETON

♠♥ Deva Bridge Club ♣

MONDAY
22nd OCTOBER '18
10.30am coffee for 11am start



A FUNDRAISING CHICAGO BRIDGE DRIVE for the Christleton Parish Hall Refurbishment Fund

Hosted by the DEVA BRIDGE CLUB in Christleton.
Come and play, have soup, sandwiches & cake for
lunch, and a glass of wine or juice. Prizes.

All-inclusive tickets £12.50 each from:
Annie (01244 342808), Fred (01244 336732)
or Jane (01829 751809)



Raffle!



Coffee Morning 6th. November 10.30 Grange House

*Fundraising event for Parish Hall
Refurbishment*

Further details from Elizabeth Inall



Churchyard Maintenance Saturday 20th October

Once a month we hold a working party to help
maintain our church yard. If you would like to
join us just come along in old clothes with
gloves and basic gardening tools (not
essential). For further information please
contact:

Mike Lightfoot - Tel: 07787 421357


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Ruby Wedding Anniversary

21st of October marks the 40th wedding
anniversary of Mike and Tina Lightfoot.

They were married at St Peters Church, Cathcart
Street, Birkenhead by Tina's father the late Canon
Gordon Robinson.



Stefan's first week at the helm

Immediately after his collation, induction and institution, work began for Stefan. His first essential task was to take possession of the church keys and thus, armed with the code for the alarm, he was able to begin his ministry with us first thing on Friday by saying the morning office. As you will have read in his letter, the morning office will be said in church at 9am each weekday morning except Thursdays and we are all invited to join him. There was a full timetable for him over the first few days giving Stefan the opportunity to really get out and about and meet his parishioners of all ages.

The Churchyard Working Party



There was an excellent turnout for this month's activity. Val and the community payback team arrived and set to work as usual. Our endeavours were confined to the rear of the church due to a wedding taking place at mid-day. Stefan pitched up, suitably attired to attack a few weeds! Mike gave him a tour of the churchyard. Lunch comprising homemade soup, bread, cheese, pickle, courgette cake and cheesecake was shared with the payback team and the Collier family. The boys, George and Jack, got stuck into bonfire

duties, under the supervision of John Eccles.

The next working party is schedule for Saturday 20th October bang in the middle of the 'season of mists and mellow fruitfulness' which can only mean one thing.... fallen leaves to clear away. There is certain to be more stuff to burn for those who enjoy a good bonfire.

Messy Church

We were delighted that so many children and parents turned up for the first Messy of the new school year. Ages of children ranged from a few months to ten years!

This time our theme was the 'I am' sayings of Jesus, learning from them how we can get to know Him better and realise He will always be there for us.

Activities included felt-tip self-portraits in frames; crayon rubbings of beautiful vine-leaves; the decorating of biscuits with marshmallows and icing to make very realistic sheep (very popular); word searches and lots of colouring of crosses. The soles of feet very small and larger were sponged with red or blue paint to make footprints along the Way; and a mixture of adults and children wrote down three interesting things about themselves and placed them in a basket.

In our Worship Time we used these statements to try and guess who had written them - thus learning some interesting, as yet unknown, facts about that person! We then used various 'props' on our table- a sheaf of corn, a wooden cross, a road sign showing the way ahead, the lock of a door, a shepherd's crook, a bunch of grapes, a lantern, to guess which one linked with each of Jesus' sayings.

Jan went on to explain in very simple terms how each saying could tell us more about Jesus and help us to get to know Him better, and be able to trust Him in our lives.

Our willing and excellent musicians (Tina and Huw) then played for us as we sang 'One more step along the way I go' with great gusto. Just time to say goodbye to Liz E. as she moves a little way away, and to thank her for all she has done in the kitchen over many

Sundays (and indeed a chance here to thank all our Messy Cooks, Bettie, Maria and Sue as well). We also warmly welcomed Stefan in our midst who ended our time with prayer before all sitting down to another delicious tea.

Messy Prayer

Thank you Father God for making each of us special. You have blessed us with so many good things and sent us the gift of your Son so that we may have life in all its fullness. You invite us to journey with you. Give us faith to follow you we pray, for you were there in the very beginning and promise to be with us always. May we remain in your love and may our joy be complete in knowing you. We pray that we may share your love with others and grow closer to you day by day. Amen

Jan, Lesley and Ann



Crew Youth Group

It was our first meeting following the long summer break and as ever, our first 'job' was to sort out our noticeboard. There was some reluctance in taking down our 'fruits of the spirit' and 'Road to Emmaus' map but it certainly needed freshening up. Needless to say, we spent more time chatting than doing but that's really the whole point of Crew. We relax, chill out, have a good laugh and basically enjoy being in one another's company. Jess made us all drinks and we had the left-over messy tea to tuck into. Stefan joined



Messy Church on

21st October 2018

4pm.

Parish Hall, Christleton

The Crew
St James' Youth Group
Allotment Harvest
Thanksgiving Sunday 7th
October at 4:30

**There will be NO youth group on
21st October**

LOCAL SERVICES



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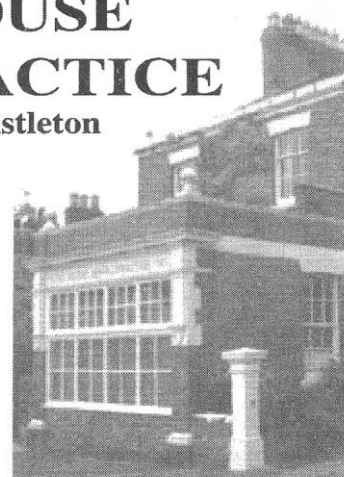
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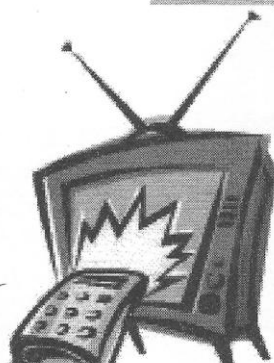
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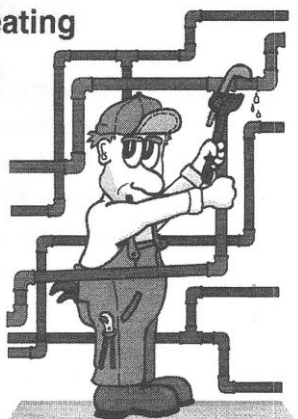
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Artichoke Café Bar Bistro

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drinks"*



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