

# PARISH MAGAZINE

OCTOBER 2020

Free on-line  
Edition



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



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**The next issue is November. Deadline for that issue will be: Thursday 22nd Oct 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>**  
Website maintained by Jonathan Gilliatt  
*jonathan.gilliatt@btinternet.com*

### ST JAMES ON TWITTER:

 **@StJChristleton**

### CHRISTLETON VILLAGE WEBSITE:

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

# St James' Church Calendar

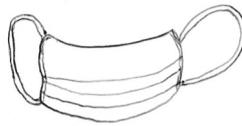
## OCTOBER - NOVEMBER 2020:

As services are now once again happening in church it is possible to set out a tentative calendar for St James. 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.

### **Sundays:**



4th Oct: 17th after Trinity  
11th Oct: 18th after Trinity - **Harvest Festival**  
18th Oct: 19th after Trinity - Luke the Evangelist.  
**Healing service** (to be confirmed).  
No 11.30am on-line service  
**11.15am: Church Annual Meetings (APCM)**  
25th Oct: Last after Trinity - Bible Sunday.  
1st Nov: All Saints / All Souls  
8th Nov: 3rd before Advent - **Remembrance Sunday.**  
15th Nov: 2nd before Advent  
22nd Nov: Christ the King  
29th Nov: Advent 1.  
**4.00pm: Christingle Service in church.**

### **Sundays:**

**10.00am:** Holy Communion service in church. Please wear a face mask.

**11.30am:** Sunday Worship online using Zoom. Currently with local, regional and international folk! The Order of Service, Hymns, Homily and Zoom invitation are all on the church website. Click on the red 'Sunday Worship' button.

(Note: no online service 18th Oct)

### **Wednesdays:**

10.45am: **Holy Communion** service in church. Please wear a face mask.

### **Other Dates to note:**

Sat 17th Oct: 10.30am: Churchyard working party.  
Sun 18th Oct: 11.15am: Church Annual Meetings. See ad on page: 9  
Sun 25th Oct: Summer time ends. Clocks go back 1 hour.  
Sun 1st Nov: 6.30pm: All Souls service.  
Sat 14th Nov: 10.30am: Churchyard working party.  
Mon 16th Nov: 7.30pm: PCC meeting. Either using Zoom or in church.  
Sat 5th Dec: 10am: Wreath Making Workshop in Parish Hall. (Note: No produce/craft sale)  
Sun 6th Dec: 10am: Toy Service (to be confirmed).  
Sat 12th Dec: 10.30am: Churchyard working party.  
Sun 20th Dec: 6.30pm: Service of Nine Lessons and Carols in church.

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



We plough the fields and scatter  
the good seed on the land,  
but it is fed and watered  
by God's almighty hand:  
he sends us snow in winter,  
the warmth to swell the grain,  
the breezes and the sunshine,  
and soft refreshing rain.

*All good gifts around us  
are sent from Heaven above;  
then thank the Lord,  
O thank the Lord,  
for all his love.*

We thank thee then, O Father,  
for all things bright and good,  
the seed time and the harvest,  
our life, our health, our food.  
Accept the gifts we offer  
for all thy love imparts,  
and, what thou most desirest,  
our humble, thankful hearts.





## LOCK-DOWN REFLECTIONS:

I wonder how you might describe your experience of the recent lock down, and regrettably the ones likely to come? What words, images or other media might you use? If you would like to share these with us through future issues of the

magazine please do get in touch with us – we would love to hear from you, and explore conversations in the months ahead.

Churches, as you can imagine, are very interested in exploring what this time might be saying to us. Indeed recently we met as a leadership to begin to reflect on our experiences. Among them we noticed how we instinctively prioritised the practice of prayer (not limited to Sunday services), pastoral care, and learning together. This was encouraging to recognise.

At the same time, it was, at least for me, sobering and unsettling to note all of these priorities could, to a degree, be embodied outside of a church building. I wondered: Does this suggest our church buildings have become too much of a burden on the communities that work so hard to maintain them? Or does it suggest we may need to reimagine how our buildings are used to prioritise the practice of prayer, pastoral care, and learning together for the future emerging?

I wonder how, if at all, these priorities may be aligned with those you are shortly to pen in your letters and emails (one has to always be hopeful you understand) as per my opening paragraph? I suspect it might be lazy and largely incorrect to assume there is some great disparity between them on account of, by and large, the increasingly low levels of interest in church communities across our country and others. Something the church needs to make peace with. Rather, if we were to look closely and reflect deeply together there would be a great deal of commonality between our reflections.

Theologically, and from a Christian perspective, this would make sense. For melding together different texts from our Scriptures. We glimpse the wonder of humankind being made in the image of God

(Gen 1.27), who is love (1 John 4.8); to radiate creativity (Gen 1.1), service (Mt 20.28), and love (Gal 5.22). We notice to live in love - in God - is do justice, and to love kindness (Mic 6.8).

These are values and ways of living that are not owned or controlled by the church. But gifts given to us all, and gifts we may see readily evidenced about us. A cause of great thanksgiving. This said, it is my heartfelt prayer we may grow in our shared practice of them in the coming months ahead in order that we may have life, and have it abundantly (Jn 10.10).

With my love and prayers,

*Stefan*

p.s. Please do remember our pastoral care network (details of which are on our website <https://www.stjameschristleton.org.uk>) remains active and ready to connect people with specific needs to people who can help meet them. This could be as simple, yet vital, as having a chat on the phone regularly in the coming months, which will not be without challenge for many of us.

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## TREASURER'S "INDIAN SUMMER"

Unlike our friends in government at Westminster, the last month or so has seen a degree of stability in the church finances.

Many people have converted their envelope regular giving into bank transfers, or episodic cheques during this period.

Many of those who give by standing order have generously increased these to accommodate not only the standing order but also ad hoc donations. The contactless terminal is coming into its own, attracting about £200 over August. So is our new website online donation facility, which has had much the same amount in throughput.

All of the above have provided a welcome stability.

Not such good news is the Parish Hall finances as of course we continue to have maintenance although not much utilities expenditure. Although we have made a decision to open the hall for hire, the

present restrictions do make our regular hirers hesitant in projecting their use, not surprisingly. I can only predict that we shall be fortunate if we break even this year on the PH financial front.

It is amazing to realise that at the end of August we had a surplus of £20K in the general fund, so I did not need to have a nervous breakdown over that. How can this be?

Well, the PCC made the decision to reduce the percentage of parish share payment from our allocated 1.25 (£6708 monthly), to 0.5 (£2684 monthly) at the time of lockdown when our income took a serious nosedive. As things stabilised and we began to see the way forward, we have increased this to 0.75 (£4025 monthly). So at present we are only paying 3/5ths of the previous full 1.25 share.

Our stewardship group is meeting every month and examining this in detail. You will realise (as does the PCC) that this payment does not support the provision of a full time member of the clergy. It is hoped that as we approach the year end we may be able to redress the balance as we see how things are developing or otherwise relating to our activities and the pandemic.

What is the way forward, we wonder?

Like shops, other charities and commercial ventures, we hope to move towards a reduction in the use of cash, with an increase in online transfers, on line donations, standing orders and contactless transactions. The generosity of our loyal parishioners forever amazes me and if anyone else would be prepared to move to an online method do please get in touch.

I really need to spend more time on the golf course and not talk about money so much. I have had some stunningly beautiful days at Padeswood, also at Caldly with sunset and geese flying over the estuary and also at my home course, Pryors Hayes, where the trees are rapidly turning into their autumn colours and I get hit on the head by acorns as I try to take my shot! It's even worse under the walnut trees.

The rule of 6? No, I really do need my score to be

lower than that!! Very many thanks for all your support

*Liz McClure (01244 409414)*

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## **THE CHURCH'S ANNUAL MEETINGS:**

Every year each church in the Church of England is obliged to hold their annual meetings around March/April time. No surprise that we didn't!

The CofE allowed this situation and amended the rules so we were not in breach of church law. Indeed they now permit the meetings to be online during this crisis if needed. St James' Church is planning to hold the meetings on:

**Sunday 18th October, in church\*,  
at 11.15am following the 10am service.**

Although the church members usually refer to it as the APCM (Annual Parochial Church Meeting) there are actually two meetings that follow each other.

### **1: THE MEETING OF THE PARISHIONERS**

This is a short meeting to elect or re-elect churchwardens. Our wardens have been Tina Lightfoot and Bettie Gilliatt, but Bettie is standing down (having done her 6 year stint). Therefore the church is looking for another churchwarden.

### **2: ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING (APCM)**

This is the main meeting. This will review what the church is doing and receive various reports, including the financial report for last year (2019) and a report on the Electoral Roll. The meeting will also elect or re-elect Parochial Church Council (PCC) members. There's usually an opportunity for anyone to ask questions.

St James' Church is permitted 12 elected PCC members, but there are 2 vacancies to be filled. Also from amongst the PCC the job of PCC Secretary needs to be filled, and Deanery Synod representation.

Information packs available from Janet Milton.

SO THERE YOU ARE !! Put the date in your diary and come along. Wear a face mask and join in the life of the church. If you wish to apply to be a churchwarden then speak to the Rector, or a PCC member then you need to complete and submit a nomination form. Our current PCC Secretary can supply these forms. See ad on page: 9.

\* Depending upon rules meeting may be on-line.

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## UPDATE ON THE BELLS

As was reported in the previous edition of this magazine, work on the bell fittings and frame began on Monday 13th



July 2020 and was completed on Thursday 3rd September 2020. During the eight weeks, the bell wheels, clappers, roller wheels and all fittings were taken to Taylors bell foundry, in Loughborough, for refurbishment. The bell frame was abraded, rust stabilised and then several coats of paint were applied.

The bells were tested on 12th September whilst ringing for a wedding and everything was good!

Isn't it great to hear them again?

Work continues to collate the information relating to this project and produce some content for the church / village records.

Thanks to Nikki Dromgoole for these details.

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## ALL FOR THE LOVE OF YOU

Let me introduce myself. My name is Daisy. I am a miniature Dachshund. In fact from what I occasionally overhear I am probably the most perfect, intelligent and certainly the most beautiful dachshund that roams the earth. My Mummy and Daddy live with me in my happy and ideally



situated home. When I say ideally situated I am implying that a dogs home should be surrounded by the best of places to promenade. Location is all. I have given Mummy, who I will often refer to as she, the position of being in charge of my exercise and fitness training. You must understand that when I say she I am inferring, she who must be obeyed!

My life is well ordered which I put down to a long and distinguished German ancestry. To have a routine is most helpful. That is not to say that surprises are not welcome but to know when something is due to happen does allow me to relax and enjoy the comforts of life. To start each day I like to get up early in the morning and appreciate the breakfast that has been prepared for me. This usually has the effect of causing the tummy rumbling to thankfully subside. My canine instincts then tell me that I need a rest so I often creep off to the spare bedroom and take a mighty leap onto the bed. Watching the birds in the garden usually sends me off to sleep only to be awakened by the paper boy. I rush to the door giving the voluminous chorus of barks. I know most paper boys and all postmen expect this on their rounds. So as not to disappoint I do my best to let him know I am in charge and fully capable of protecting the household and all who dwell therein.

I am quite proud of all my enhanced senses. Especially hearing. So if you think that I am fast asleep in that moving patch of sunshine streaming through the window you are totally mistaken. When I hear the wardrobe door I know she is getting her shoes on, finding my lead and another adventure is about to begin. I leap to my feet and grab the nearest squeaky bone from my toy box. What a commotion there is as I perform my very own version of a whirling dervish. But when I hear her say "Shall we go walkies now Daisy" I compose myself and lovingly look up at her. I then think to myself "Of course, I will always take you for a walk. Could you ever imagine that I would refuse"!

So perhaps next time you might like to come too. See you before you see me. Woof!

*Daisy*

*(Published by kind permission of Janet Milton)*

## FARMING THEN AND NOW:

In 1944 during the school holidays I worked on two farms during threshing. At that time corn was cut with a horse drawn binder. This machine consisted of a large paddle wheel which pushed a swathe of corn onto a long oscillating blade, much the same as a modern hedge trimmer. The cut corn fell onto a moving belt, travelled to the end and was gathered into a bundle, tied with string and dropped on the ground. An assorted team of people following the machine picked up the sheaves and arranged them into stooks of six, four facing one another and two at the end. After several days of drying the sheaves were loaded onto a high sided cart using pikels, the local name for a pitchfork and taken back to the farm.

The first farm I worked at was about ¼ mile from my house. A contractor from Capenhurst arrived at the farm with a big American tractor towing the threshing box with a bailer attached to the back. He had previously used a traction Engine but found the tractor much better. The box was drawn up along the side of the buildings, the bailer behind it and then the tractor. Long canvas belts connected the tractor to the bailer and the bailer to the box. Men in an upper floor of the farm building threw sheaves of corn to men on top of the box who cut the string and dropped them into the thresher. Either side of the thresher, at the back were two chutes with a changeover valve one side for grain and the other for chaff. Bags would be attached to the chutes and the grain and chaff taken away [my job]. The straw fell from the back of the box onto the bailer where a man inserted plates and bailing wire. All told there must have been about 6 men & 2 boys working the machine. Now one man and a machine does both the harvesting and threshing in one operation bailing by another machine chaff left on the field. We carried it to a pile in the field where it was burned later.

One day we had a bit of excitement. At the start of the war a large bulldozer and a grader moved on to the farm, I had never seen such machines before, and turned two neighbouring fields into a landing strip. Three Tiger Moth planes were flown in and it became a training site for new pilots. As we worked a plane came into land, it was too high and tried to take off again, struck a tree, spun round and belly

flopped along side our pile of chaff. The men threshing just kept going and airmen from the nearby hanger jumped two fences and came running. The wreckages had gone the following day.

The second farm where I worked was at Chorlton by Backford and I rode the 6 miles there on my bike. At the first farm I was paid 4s 6p a day [22.5p] at the second 5s [25p]. I visited the second farm quite regularly and would watch 3 men milk 28 cows the average size of herd in those days. They used 2 clusters which they would move from cow to cow, the milk was carried across the yard and poured into a cooler. Every morning two or three tankards would be taken to the farm gate put on a high table to be collected by lorry.

How times change, harvesting for example was a social occasion now it's solitary, a lonely life.

*Ben Williams*

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## PHOBIAS:

Browsing through the BBC website the other day I came across the following which seems good to share with you. It's about phobias. Many people have phobias of one sort or another, some quite debilitating, and there are many phobias that exist - but these were new to me:

**NOMOPHOBIA:** The fear of being without, or not being able to use your mobile phone. From 'No Mobile'. Coined in 2010 by the Post Office and 'the word of the year' in 2018 by Cambridge Dictionary it reflects the fact that smartphones are used so much today that being separated from one affects our sense of identity.

**SESQUIPEDALOPHOBIA:** The fear of long words! (I reckon that's pretty mean to use a long word to describe it.)

**AIBOHPHOBIA:** Is the (unofficial) fear of palindromes. You've guessed it, the name itself is a palindrome. Reads the same backwards.

**DODECAPHOBIA:** Is the (again, unofficial) fear of the number 12. Yep! Have a count, it is 12 letters!

**TRYPOPHOBIA:** First used in 2005. The fear of clusters of small holes. Such as a crumpet, a bad attack of woodworm, or even multiple cameras on the back of smartphones.

**PHOBOPHOBIA:** The fear of fear. Afraid of developing a phobia. Unfortunately this can be self-fulfilling. Is there no escape?

(Ed)

## **ST JAMES' CHURCH - ANNUAL MEETINGS**

**SUNDAY 18th OCTOBER - 11.15am**  
**To be held in Church\* (subject to Covid-19 rules)**

**1: The short Meeting of the Parishioners to elect Churchwardens.**  
**(All parish residents and all church members are invited.)**

**2: The main Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) to elect PCC members and to receive reports.**  
**Also an opportunity to find out what is going on and to ask questions. Information pack available via Janet Milton. (All church members invited, ie: those on the church's Electoral Roll.)**

**( \* If Covid rules say we can't hold this meeting in church, it may instead be held on-line using Zoom)**

### **CHRIST'S BODY:**

Many of us pray for guidance when life is difficult, but I often find the Holy Spirit's replies ambiguous – as though predictive text is switched on, in Swedish. Last year, when Stefan was counselling me over a difficult situation I was struggling with, he mentioned the prayer attributed to Teresa of Ávila:

#### ***Christ Has No Body***

Christ has no body but yours.  
No hands, no feet on earth but yours.  
Yours are the eyes with which He looks  
compassion on this world.  
Yours are the feet with which He walks to do  
good.  
Yours are the hands, with which He blesses all  
the world.  
Yours are the hands, yours are the feet,  
yours are the eyes, you are His body.  
Christ has no body now but yours.  
No hands, no feet on earth but yours.  
Yours are the eyes with which He looks  
compassion on this world.  
Christ has no body now on earth but yours.

Teresa of Ávila (1515–1582)

This jumped out because, at the time, it seemed out of context from what we were discussing. It kept niggling away in the back of my mind, but I still couldn't see the relevance.

My lightbulb-moment came a couple of weeks later, while Hazel and I were in a cinema. The lights had just gone down and the film was starting, when an elderly lady came in. She was struggling to find her seat in the dark, but two teenage girls independently jumped up to help. One held her mobile phone to light the way, while the other located the lady's seat and supported her arm until she was safely seated (pre-Covid of course). In that moment, the relevance of what Stefan said became obvious. I realised that God does intervene – by giving each of us free will to be compassionate and to choose to do His work.

Every day is filled with choices, to do good or not, but Teresa's words made me realise that it is both an onerous responsibility and the greatest honour to be Christ's proxy.

Shortly before she died, Caroline Flack tweeted: 'In a world where you can be anything, be kind'. That seems to sum up Teresa's words nicely.

*Martin Thompson*

## **BRIAN LEWIS 1949-2020**

When we learned of the sudden and unexpected death of Brian a few short weeks ago, both his family and friends were stunned. Brian was always there, steady and reliable, with a gentle nature, kind and generous, and with a delightful sense of humour. Born in Hawthorn Road in 1949, to Bill and Hilda Lewis, Brian was extremely proud of his Christleton heritage and grew up here with his three brothers. He was always resourceful, and made his parents proud by singing in the church choir, bell ringing, and winning a place at Grammar School. He joined the army as a boy soldier aged 17 and soon showed great strengths, a thirst for knowledge, a sense of purpose, and great professionalism. He brought that to the fore later in his life when he proudly carried the British Legion standard on Remembrance Days and other commemorations in the village, following in the footsteps of Bill and Hilda his parents, who had done so for longer than most of us can remember. He was always immaculately dressed and proud in carrying out this role, and a calming influence on the often nervous young people who were also carrying standards in the parade. Brian made swift progress in the army as he was an excellent leader, fair and trusted by his men, a man of his word, someone who always led by example. He duly completed his commando training in Plymouth, but preferred to wear his Army Air Corps blue, to the regimental green beret.

He married the love of his life Lorraine in 1974, and you rarely ever saw them apart. They were true soul mates and became wonderful parents and grandparents. Brian was a dedicated husband and family man, often having to share them with his military duties. There was always lots of fun and laughter, and a small amount of discipline. He had strong standards and a great work ethic, so his training as an engineer in the army provided him with excellent transferable skills for his transfer to civilian life. He had a brilliant logical mind, a unique personality, which made him a respected member of any team. He enabled all who served with him to reach his or her potential. He was a friend to so many people, and so well respected, a point emphasised by the numbers of friends and

neighbours who lined the streets near his home and churchyard as his funeral cortege went by.

Lorraine, Melanie, Mark, Clare, Keiran and Summer will miss him enormously. He was such a dedicated and devoted husband, father and proud grandfather. We will miss him too, as he filled countless voluntary roles in his life, serving colleagues and the community. He was a loyal member of the congregation at St James, Church Treasurer for many years together with Lorraine, and our loyal Standard Bearer. He put his military service and training to good use, in this and other parts of his life, always cheerful, diligent, caring and respected by everyone he met. My last memory of Brian is seeing him together with his great friend Paul, standing on top of tall scaffolding, cleaning and replacing the polycarbonate cover on the outside of the Millennium Window at St James'. Despite the precarious nature of their task, Brian was still smiling and cracking jokes. Remembrance Day 2020 will not be the same this year for so many different reasons, but most of all for us, this caring generous man will no longer be standing to attention at the Village War Memorial. The Village has lost one of its own. Rest in peace Brian, Gone but never ever forgotten.

*David Cummings*

*With sincere thanks to Melanie and the Lewis family for allowing me to share their Eulogy for Brian.*



## THE HISTORY FILE.

### Edward The Black Prince.



Whilst on a family holiday in Kent in August, we had the opportunity to visit Canterbury Cathedral and I was able to photograph the tomb of Edward, The Black Prince. Edward had always been someone I have wanted to study as I first came across his name in the 1970's when I read that he had maintained the bridges at Hockenhull.

*His register records that in 1355 he paid "a grant of 20 shillings for the repair of the bridge of Hokenhull"*

It is thought that as Prince of Wales and Earl of Chester he had good reason to keep the roads and bridges in good repair. He visited Cheshire in both 1353 and 1358. In 1353 there were worrying events taking place and one of his bailiffs "Huw Hamson of Northwich was murdered on the prince's service". He was also worried about the lawlessness that was taking place in the County Palatine, as at that time Cheshire had special autonomy from the rest of the UK. It is recorded that he set in motion improvement to the river navigation on the Mersey and the Dee, and granted Cheshire new privileges and enshrined them into a charter of liberties. He arrived in Cheshire with his great council, and on the 15th August there was a magnificent banquet at Chester Castle.

On the 19th August Cheshire offered 5,000marks (£3,333 13s 4d) as a fine payable over four years, which would be paid by all, in accordance with

their wealth, in lands, goods and chattels, with the exception of the church, and poor people with an income of less than 20s a year. On 10 September he granted a charter of liberties to the County.

During his visit in summer 1358 substantial fines of £1000 and £2000 respectively were levied on the foresters of Wirral & Delamere. It is also said that by this time he was driven by the demands of his chivalric lifestyle, and he was looking to add to his coffers to fund his army. *"Money did not trickle through his fingers so much as to pour through them. Huge banquets, lavish tournaments, a vast retinue of knights and the best clothes and jewellery- in addition to an equally extravagant wife- Joan Countess of Kent placed a great burden on his resources."*

Edward was only 13 years old when he was made Prince of Wales, and 3 years later earned his spurs in battle at the Battle of Crecy in France, but it was in September 1356 that he achieved his greatest triumph, at the Battle of Poitiers during the hundred years war. The power of the English army lay in the longbow, and these weapons were extremely effective against mass infantry and cavalry. At Poitiers he led an army composed mainly of English & Welsh troops, 2000 longbowmen, 3,000 men at arms and 1,000 Gascon infantry. The French army had superior numbers 8,000 men at arms and 3,000 common infantry including 300 German Knights, but it was the power of the English archers pouring down arrows on the massed French infantry which won the day. As the Dauphin's division reached the English line, exhausted after a long march in heavy armour, and continually harassed by hail after hail of arrows, their attack was repulsed after only two hours. As they retreated there was further confusion in the French ranks and they were confronted by Edward with his men at arms and Knights mounted for a charge. At the same moment another line of attack was launched by a mobile reserve of mounted English troops, and in the chaos that ensued, the French army disintegrated, with many soldiers fleeing the battlefield. He sealed his victory by securing the greatest prize of all, capturing King John II of France.

We learn that in 1367 Edward led his army into

Spain, and again the longbowmen were to succeed in the Battle of Najera. This added to his great reputation as a Military leader, but dysentery and malaria broke out amongst the English troops and the Prince himself was struck down. By 1369 he was again in dispute with Charles V of France over the matter of taxes in the region of Aquitaine, but Charles knew that the Prince was desperately ill and seemed to have challenged his authority at Limoges. The action that followed resulted in a siege of the City, and the English force was led by the three sons of Edward III, Edward, Prince of Wales, John of Gaunt, the Duke of Lancaster, and Edmund of Langley, Earl of Cambridge. Reports of the siege are disputed, but from the many accounts we learn that Edward was exhausted and embittered and carried to the city in a litter. When his men stormed the defences and took the city, many defending troops and civilians including women and children were put to the sword, and there were pitiful scenes. It is reported that the evidence points to widespread destruction of property and between 200-400 people and from the garrison, captured or killed. It was a sad end to a glorious military career. He sailed for home in January 1371, and died at the age of 46 on 8<sup>th</sup> June 1376.

The Black Prince had from childhood, a special affection for Canterbury Cathedral, and had given generously to it through his lifetime. He even had a chantry chapel built in the crypt for his burial place, but he was eventually laid to rest in a magnificent tomb within the Trinity Chapel immediately south of Thomas a Becket's shrine. The life size effigy of the Black Prince fully armed is made of copper, and in a tradition of such tombs, his head rests on his helmet with a little dog at his feet. The marble tomb is surrounded by twelve enamelled shields, engraved with his arms for war and peace, with the two mottoes, *Houmont* and *Ich diene*. Replicas of the prince's achievements – surcoat, shield, helm, gauntlets and scabbard hang above his tomb, which is covered by a painted wooden canopy, with a throne of Mercy Trinity, surrounded by the four evangelists.

*David Cummings 2020*

## References.

- Christleton 2000years of History  
 Canterbury Cathedral Guidebook Keates & Hornak  
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 The Black Prince, Pub. Canterbury Cathedral  
 Enterprises  
 The Black Prince Michael Jones Pub. Head Zeus  
 Wikipedia- The Black Prince; Accounts of Battles.

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## NATURE NOTES



### The Legion Meadow Report

The Legion Meadow at Littleheath continues to be an excellent place to walk and observe wildlife, and this year has been no exception. The number of species continues to expand, and this year more people than ever have walked through the site. The warm weather of spring followed by torrential early summer rains caused the many types of grasses to grow taller than we would like, as they dominate the smaller flowering plants. There are however lots of flowers that compete for the same space, and I guess the knapweed showed its ability in late summer by dominating the grasses. The meadow is now cut in Autumn and early Spring each year, following advice given to us by the Cheshire Wildlife Trust. The first flowers that appear are usually yellow rattle, bird's foot trefoil which is also yellow, and cranesbill, a wild geranium which grows in several shades of blue. This year betony and self heal appeared at the same time as our expanding group of common spotted orchids. These are all purple flowering plants, making an excellent splash of colour. Meadow sweet and various forms of wild

carrot including cow parsley also grow quite tall competing with both the grasses and knapweed.

We tried an experiment this summer planting small groups of beautiful bright yellow corn marigolds in the soil brought up onto the meadow by our resident moles. It is said that the Legion meadow is almost too good for wild flowers, as they tend to flourish in poorer soils, so the use of soil from deeper underground might be a way of us achieving better growth in future. We intend to continue the experiment next year using plugs of wild flowers which we hope to obtain from the C W T. wildflower seed bank.

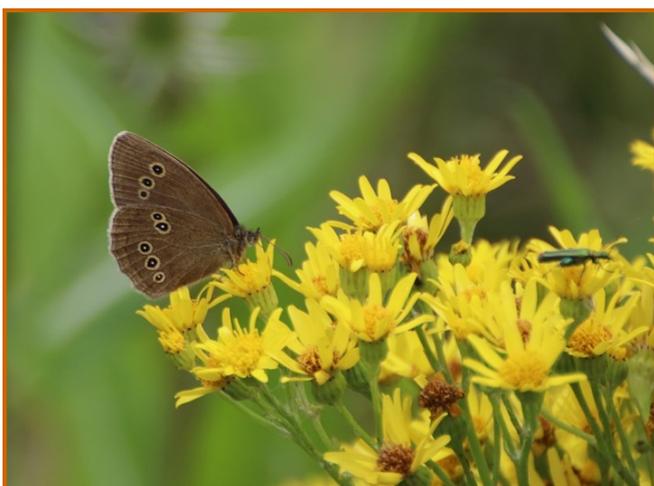


**COMMA**

Bees have flourished on the meadow this year more than ever, and the range of butterflies is becoming really excellent. Meadow browns are common being seen in good numbers, but you can also see, ringlet, small skipper, speckled wood, gatekeeper, small tortoiseshell, small and large white, peacock, comma and both holly and common blues.

recorded one painted lady at any of sites I've searched.

During spring I spotted both male and female banded agrion damselflies on the meadow which is surprising in that I've never seen this species



**RINGLET**



**BANDED AGRION DAMSELFLY**

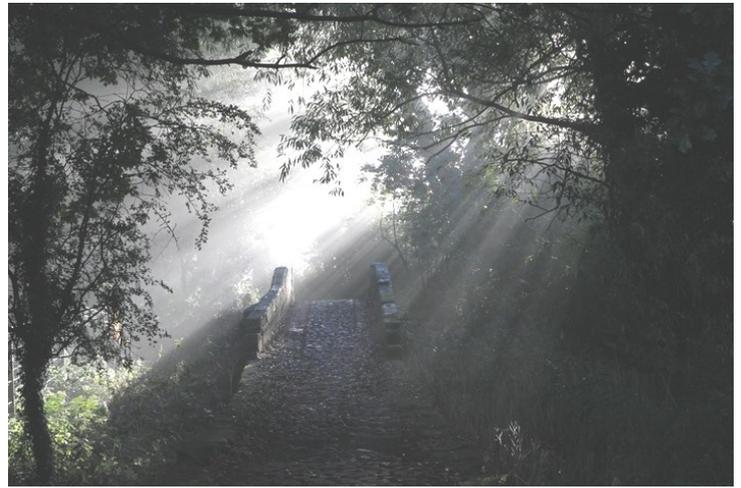
There were no painted ladies this year despite the warm weather, but these are only occasional migrants to the UK, beginning life in Morocco and flying over the Straits of Gibraltar, Spain and France before arriving in the UK. Last year we had a superb count of 60 painted ladies on the meadow on one afternoon in August, with 30million said to have reached the shores of the UK. These amazing butterflies have one of the longest migrations of any butterfly, even rivalling the monarchs in North America, but we've lost out this year, and I haven't

near the Pit at any time. They are however, very common on the River Gowy at Hockenhull, or have been until this year when the numbers were well down. There was another exciting visitor to the meadow when a large blue Emperor dragonfly, the biggest dragonfly in the UK, flew up and down over the tall grasses hawking for insects. I had already spotted it a few days previously flying over the stand of amphibious bistort which grows adjacent to the Pond Dipping Platform. This is now the third successive year that this beautiful

dragonfly has appeared in Christleton. It is bigger even than the brown and southern hawkers that people might be more familiar with, as these two relatively large dragonflies have bred in the Parish for many years.

*David Cummings*

THE BRIDGES AT HOCKENHULL



## Box Opening 2020

The  
Children's  
Society

*Dear Box holders,*

*We are hoping to get directions shortly from the Children's Society regarding Box Opening 2020. Please continue to be custodians of your Box until we are advised of the way forward.*

*Thank you,*

*Lesley Morgan*

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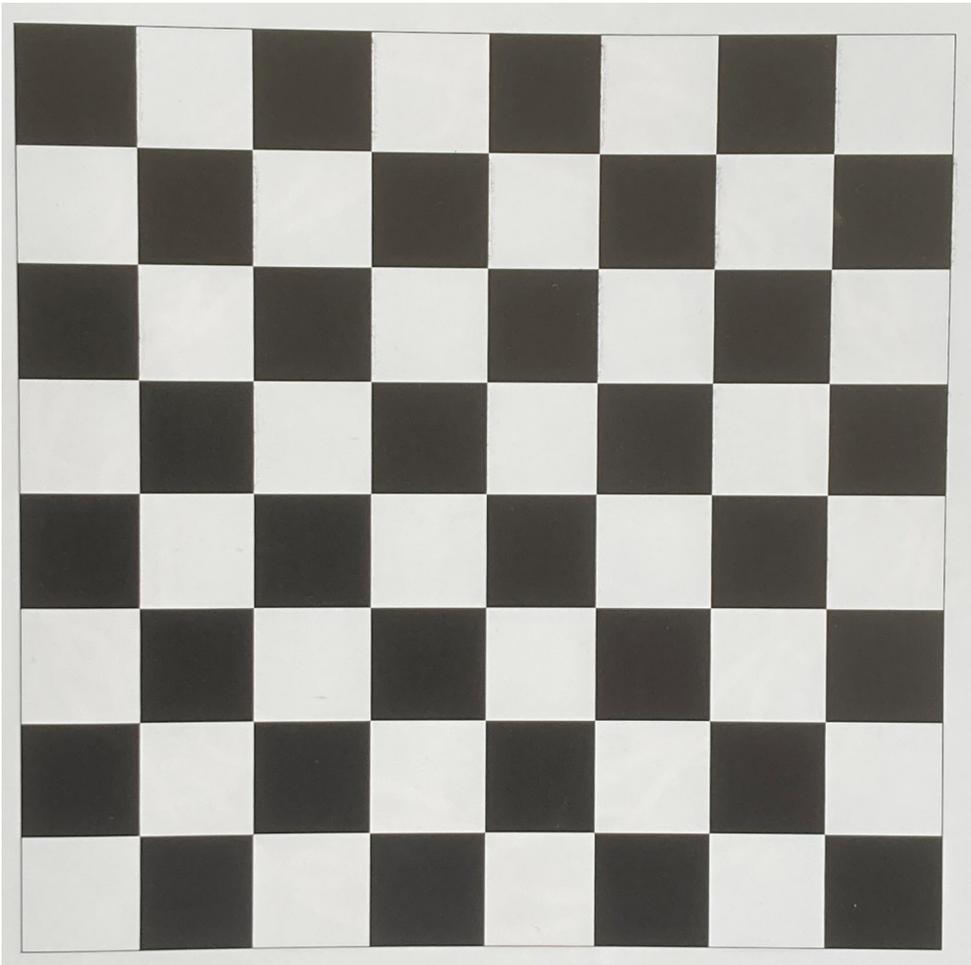
### CHRISTLETON PARISH HALL

By the time you read this it is hoped that the Parish Hall will be open again in a limited way. If you wish to book the hall or have any enquiries then please contact Maria Norbury (below):



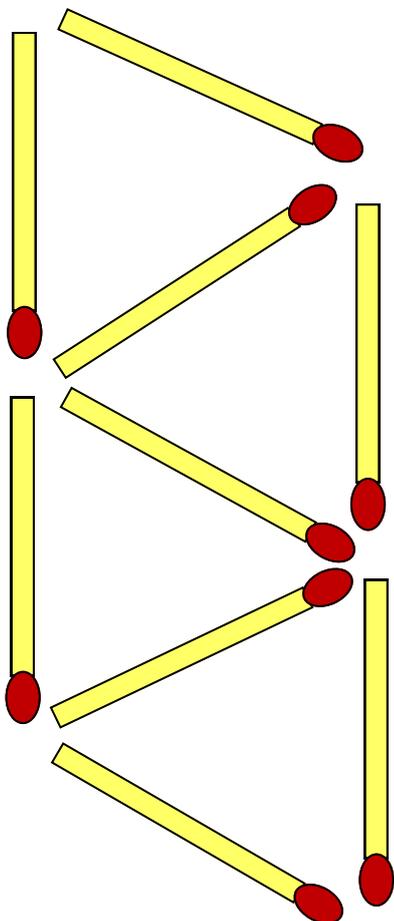
Maria Norbury: Tel: 01244 335499.

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



How many squares are on a chessboard?

(Answer on next page.)



Make four triangles all the same size as the ones shown, with only six matches.

(Answer on next page.)

## AH! MEMORIES!

Back in the days of tanners and bobs, when Mothers had patience and Fathers had jobs. Back in the days of threepenny bits, when schools employed nurses to search for your nits.

Back in the days of Milligan's Goons, when butter was butter and songs all had tunes. Back in the days of Dixon's Dock Green, Crackerjack pens and Lyons ice cream. When snowballs were harmless; ice slides permitted and all of your jumpers were warm and hand knitted.

When children respected what older folks said and pot was a thing you kept under your bed.

Back in the days of Listen with Mother, when neighbours were friendly and talked to each other.

When cars were so rare you could play in the street. When Doctors made house calls and Police walked the beat.

When football team families wore hand me down shoes and T.V. gave only two channels to choose.

It was dumplings for dinner and trifle for tea and your annual break was a day by the sea. When children could freely wear National Health glasses, and teachers all stood at the FRONT of their classes.

Back in the days of rocking and reeling, when mobiles were things that you hung from the ceiling.

When woodwork and pottery got taught in schools and everyone dreamed of a win on the pools.

Back in the days when I was a lad, I can't help but smile for the fun that I had. Hopscotch and roller skates; snowballs to lob. Back in the days of tanners and bobs.

*(Received via the WI)*

## WREATH MAKING & PRODUCE SALE:

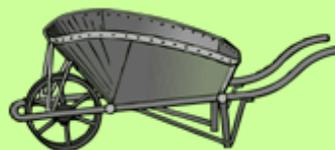
Although the Wreath Making Workshop is still scheduled for 5th Dec, we have cancelled the Christmas Produce and Craft sale on that day as it is just too difficult at this time. Therefore, please do not supply ingredients. Thank you.

### **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.**

**More details from Mike Lightfoot  
Tel: 07787 421357**

***See Mike's article on next page.***



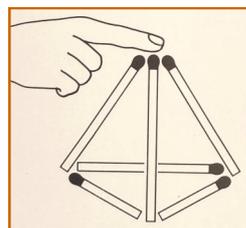
### **ANSWERS TO PUZZLES** (Page: 15):

#### Squares on a chessboard:

64 little squares, 49 '2x2' squares, 36 '3x3' squares, 25 '4x4' squares, 16 '5x5' squares, 9 '6x6' squares, 4 '7x7' squares, and 1 large '8x8' square. **TOTAL: 204 Squares.**

#### Triangles with matches:

To do this you must go 3 dimensional. Use 3 matches to make one triangle, then with the other 3 matches make the sides of a pyramid.



## Maintenance of the Churchyard

You may have noticed recently that our churchyard is being tidied up! Fortunately for us the Community Payback team have been allowed to return and are doing a fantastic job. A big thank you to Val and his team.

During lockdown several people, including John Carr, The Holland family, Huw and Lesley Morgan, Sue Pinner, Marg and Richard Keech and Bettie Gilliatt all did their bit to help. This was really appreciated. (Apologies if I have forgotten anybody.)

We restarted our monthly working party on 19th September. However, it is now slightly different. There are no refreshments provided, please bring your own hot/cold drinks etc. Bring your own tools, and please remain socially distanced when you are working. Under current legislation we cannot all sit to eat lunch together as we will be a group of over 6 people.

Suggested further dates (all starting at 10.30am):

**Saturday 17 October;**  
**Saturday 14 November;**  
**Saturday 12 December.**

Of course the situation could change at very short notice. Please check the parish website regularly.



Any questions - please contact Mike Lightfoot on: 07787 421357.

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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 - on **Sundays 11am-2pm**, and **Wednesdays 2-5pm**.

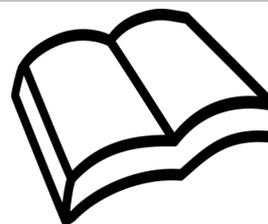
They will be happy with anything non-perishable but long life fruit juice is urgent and always welcome, also tinned meats, instant mashed potatoes, instant noodles, tinned custard & puddings, treats/sweets. They do NOT need pasta, beans, tomatoes.



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)

## FROM THE REGISTERS:



### Funerals:

**Mr Brian Lewis**, died 21/8/2020, aged 70.

Funeral: 7/9/2020

**Mrs Margaret Nickells**, died 26/8/2020, aged 101.

Funeral at Crematorium: 14/9/2020

**Anna Norbury**, died 7/9/2020, aged 26

Funeral: 24/9/2020

**Mrs Nancy Owen**, died 4/7/2020, aged 86

Burial of Ashes: 2/9/2020

Note: The current rules specify a limit to the number attending funerals, and all social distancing and hygiene requirements will apply.

### Wedding:

**Hayley Williams & Richard Lock** - 12/9/2020

**RIP:** It is with great sadness that two church members, **Brian Lewis** and **Anna Norbury**, have unexpectedly died. See the eulogy by David Cummings in this magazine about Brian (page:10). I served on the PCC with Brian a few years back and worked well with him on a number of church projects, also Lorraine, and we continued to remain friends. The sudden death of Anna has also stunned us, and I expect more will be said in the November magazine. They are both missed - may they rest in peace. Our prayers go out to their friends and families.

**THOSE WHO ARE ILL:** We are also very aware of several church members who are ill. During this pandemic it can be more difficult to help those who are ill, and to provide the proper love and care that we would wish. As the Rector says at the end of his article, there's a Pastoral Care Network available via the web. Do make use of it. However, a simple phone call can be most valuable. We are all in a community - both within the church and within our neighbourhoods. Our prayers go to all who are struggling.

*(Brian Inall)*

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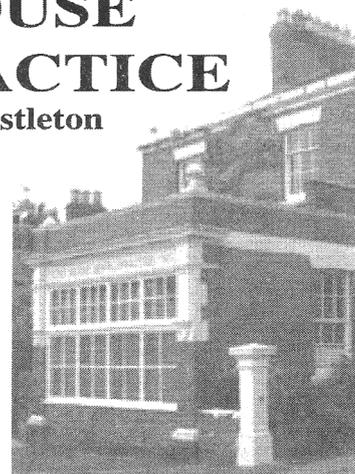
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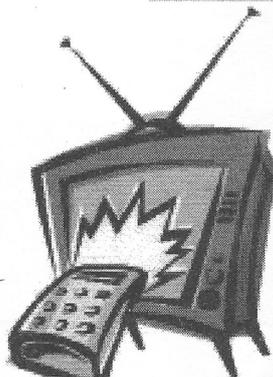
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