

St James' Church

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



Free online from the church website and in full colour.

Printed Black & White copies available from Church at: 50p to cover costs.



DISCIPLESHIP AND HOW WE LIVE TOGETHER

As we enter October, our gospel readings each Sunday take us on 'the way' with Jesus and his disciples as he travels to Jerusalem, and to his death on the cross. In Mark's account, chapters 8 to 10 tell of Jesus' teaching on discipleship, starting with the story of the blind man healed at Bethsaida, and ending with the healing of blind Bartimaeus at Jericho. As we travel with Jesus, we see something of who he is. We hear what he says. We see what he does and how he does it.

In preparing for our 'year of discipleship', four of us had a go at capturing what we might see, what might happen, if we focus on seeking 'the way' over this next year, relating our faith to our everyday lives. We tentatively grouped the possibilities that emerged into three over-arching groups:

- **Abiding in Christ** (including prayer; variety in our worship; and our callings)

- **Learning together** (including shared conversations about everyday life and faith; talking about who Jesus is; a thirst for learning together about the Bible and Christian tradition; creating a rule of life; and groups of people and resources to support learning)
- **Diverse community** (including growing children's and young people's work; the church visible to and engaged with the community; willingness to work through conflict to learn from diversity and difference; coming to church with new relationships, new insights and new gifts from the community; growth in our welcome of strangers and new disciples; growth in our pastoral care; and evident care for creation)

We'd love to share what we did and what emerged and to receive your views, comments, and questions! We're planning the choice of a daytime and an evening meeting in church in early October, lasting about an hour. You can get details from Marj, our parish administrator, or from me – our contact details are on page 2.

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PARISH CONTACTS:

RECTOR:

Rev'd Dr Stefan Collier

The Rector is on sabbatical and cannot be contacted until 1st December 2021. Please contact Rob below.

ASSISTANT CURATE:

Rev'd Rob Croft Tel: 01244 683926 / 07745 624323
robcraft@hotmail.co.uk

(Rob's day off is now usually Saturday each week)

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gillianhibbert80@outlook.com

Rev'd Elizabeth Inall Tel: 01244 336500
elizabeth@inall.co.uk

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(Vacant)

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WEDDINGS, FUNERALS AND BAPTISMS:

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The next issue of this magazine will be for November 2021.

Deadline for content: **Friday 22nd October 2021.**

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For the present time this magazine will remain free via the St James' Church website and via the Christleton Village website. In general it will not be printed or delivered to homes although a few black & white printed copies may be available for sale (50p) at the back of the church. Please encourage others to read the magazine online. The editor always welcomes feedback and contributions - thank you.

ST JAMES' CHURCH WEBSITE:

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

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

ST JAMES ON TWITTER:



@StJChristleton

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Website:

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



(continued from front page)

We begin the month by observing **Safeguarding Sunday** on 3 October. At the heart of the gospel is the self-giving way of the cross – Jesus’ self-giving offering of love to his Father and the world, for the sake of the world. We hear something of this self-giving in ‘the agreement between all God’s children that we will witness and remember and take care of each other.’¹

We are all called to this taking care of each other. It reflects God’s passion for justice, God’s passion for right relationship, and God’s passion for the wellbeing of every creature. For us to live together well demands caring for each other in all we do, and our receiving from others that same care. God wills that each is safe and that all are safe; that each is safe, respected, nurtured, and loved. We are called to be alive to what goes on around us, to discern where there may be harm and not care, and to give voice to our concerns promptly and responsibly, that good may prevail – for each other, and for ourselves.

On the afternoon of 3 October, at 4:30pm we celebrate **harvest** in a service led by Tina on their allotment behind the park and ride. We will be celebrating the opportunities we are gifted to rest and be still to allow the spirit to quietly work within us, nourishing us and renewing our strength so that our harvest may be more abundant. And on 10 October we have our **traditional harvest festival** with those timeless hymns of harvest thanksgiving. I always have evocative images in mind because my grandfather was the foreman of a farm in East Yorkshire and at harvest-time ten labourers would come to stay, to gather the harvest. Each day my grandmother would take their dinner to the fields, together with a fresh shirt for each man.

In mid-October we will begin **Pastoral Principles for living and learning well together**, a course developed by the Church of England in the face of divisions around deeply held convictions about marriage. The Pastoral Advisory Group has identified six Pastoral Principles, addressing things ‘that can impair our relationships’. We will reflect in five sessions on ignorance and power, fear, prejudice, silence, and hypocrisy. I’ve been impressed by the quality of the materials, and we will have good

conversations together. I have trained as a facilitator for the conversations, and have facilitated other conversations for Retreat House Chester. Please contact me to find out more about this important work, finding creative ways to grow and learn together in the love of Christ.

At the end of October, we will be celebrating **All Saints Day** on 31 October. And, at 6:30pm we will celebrate **All Souls**, commemorating the Faithful Departed. We will remember that through baptism we become members one of another in Christ, members of a company of saints whose mutual belonging transcends death. As is our custom, we will be inviting families who have been bereaved to this service.

As I was writing this, the image came to me of the fallen leaves of autumn. What a beautiful carpet they make, a carpet reflecting the sheer extravagance of our creator in the beauty of the world. By the end of October those lovely colours have come to our trees and woods. In our lives many things are laid alongside each other weaving a tapestry of beauty and grace. We are invited to lay down, side by side, our journey on ‘the way’ of Jesus, our work of care for each other and safeguarding, our living and learning well together as we embrace diversity and break down division, and our remembering of all who have gone before yet with whom we are one.

Thanks be to God for the coming month.
With my love and prayers,

Rob

¹ Thomas Lynch, ‘Good Grief’, *Christian Century*, 26 July 2003

[TREASURER’S UPDATE AUTUMN 2021:](#)



Hopefully we have all had a little bit of a change over the summer, perhaps managing to see family, have a stay-cation or the brave ones going abroad!

So what of the new beginnings we hope for this Autumn?

I personally have not had any more sad endings but I am aware the funerals have been rather frequent and sadly family illnesses do seem to abound – I have 2 malignancies in my step family, much too young.

To beginnings – are we going to be able to have gatherings safely? This is the big question and the answers are not shared amongst the 4 nations of the UK. Personally I think the North West is behaving more like Scotland and has been hit pretty hard. I have mostly attended indoor gatherings with family members, the most exciting being my daughter's wedding with about 90 – not all family I hasten to add! My favourite grandchild pic



So what of the finances?

I must congratulate you all all keeping the financial situation very stable and under control, such that I have no anxiety at the end of each month other than the somewhat exciting task of trying to make all the figures reconcile!

The reason, as I have said before, is that we are financially stable because our parish share payments are approximately £1000 less each month on a 1.05 share, rather than our designated 1.25 share. (apologies for a mistake last magazine).

It remains to be seen whether our income over the year will support paying back the rest of the share "owing" over the last 2 years, which will I think come to approx £25k, which would be unlikely to be surplus in the general fund at the year end but one can always hope!

We have been very blessed by significant donations early in the year, a grant from CWAC relating to the lychgate, also more sadly a recent generous bequest from David Bowden. Much of this money is in designated or restricted funds relating to the purposes planned, in agreement with the Stewardship and PCC, ie Church development, Friends, Restoration and Audio-Visual Innovation.

We have chosen to change our energy supplier to Octopus which we hope will be a cost saving in addition to improving our carbon footprint – not that I understand this, I just know the process of doing so is every week adding to my workload so hopefully it may soon be accomplished!!

Talking of the AV fund, many of you will be aware we now have a phone and broadband in the church which clearly increases our options for using the church on behalf of the community.

Other income now is beginning to include the use of the parish hall, very ably organised by Maria Norbury who should be congratulated not only on keeping the majority of our previous users but making a significant number of new arrangements to maximise this. Well done Maria!

Once again, very many thanks to all of you who have restarted your envelope regular giving, sent me cheques where this has not been practical and especially to those who have reviewed and increased standing orders, my favourite source of income for the church.

It is fantastic to see that in just over the year we have had website donations we have had £2,500 by this route, and the new merchant bank for the contactless terminal is also functioning really well, despite a hassle undergoing the change initially with a few gaps due to change and of course earlier reduced use of the church. This year I have just worked out we have had almost £600 this way.

Website donations can of course be any figure, and gift aid declarations can be made on these, whereas of course the terminal is smaller amounts. We can of course usually claim gift aid on the latter through the small donations scheme. Both these clever systems do take a small fee, hence my preferring direct donations or standing orders but everything is welcome!!

If anyone is interested in more details rather than generalities, please don't hesitate to ask.

Liz McClure

SUMMER HAS ENDED!

In the early hours of Sunday 31st October Summer Time (BST) ends and the clocks should be put back an hour to Greenwich Mean Time (GMT). So we all get an extra hour to spend how we like. We don't have to spend it at night, but we can use it whenever we wish. The equinox will have already passed so nights will be longer than days, and increasingly so. Indeed - winter drawers on!



How will you spend that gift of an hour? Probably asleep, but you could be reading, writing a sermon or preparing a talk, preparing something for the next magazine or listening to music? Catching up with TV. A phone call you've been meaning to make. How about an early morning walk listening to the dawn chorus? You could spend that extra hour in prayer, especially if you arrive at church an hour earlier than you should! (Ed.)

CHURCH DEVELOPMENTS - ARE YOU SITTING COMFORTABLY?

As you will know from previous articles in this magazine, St James' Church has a series of plans to take the church forward and make it fitter for the future. They are part of our 'mission'.

Phase 1 is to get a new Audio Visual system installed and this is progressing, although rather slowly. It will not only tidy up the ugly temporary screen arrangements and give us better control but also allow us to live stream services and other church based events.

Phase 2 is to consider reconfiguring the seating space within the church to make it more flexible. We are evaluating types of chairs that could be used and Keith Smalls has been getting samples for us to try. Some have been eliminated but we are now down to 4 styles labelled 'A', 'D', 'G' and 'I' (see photo) each of which can be supplied with or without arms and upholstery. You are asked to try those chairs and indicate your preference on a feedback sheet in church.



Phase 3 is to extend the church building to provide toilets, a kitchen area and some storage.

Other areas of activity include new pastoral care arrangements, development of discipleship, and longer term ideas about the use of the church land beyond the current churchyard. Already activities for children are being built up - Ark and Lighthouse. Luncheon Club, seen as outreach to the community, is also restarting. The church is busy! (Ed.)

I'M ALREADY ADDICTED TO COFFEE!!

Have you noticed the old hairdressers in Christleton (Allure) is undergoing a transformation? Most of you will know that a new café is being created by the Ring O'Bells owner, and the work is nearing completion.

I understood from somewhere that its new name will be 'KOOV' but we won't know for sure until the name gets put up over the door.

Another step up for Christleton. I'll be there checking out the coffee, and possibly afternoon tea & cake!

(Ed.)

PS: Please continue supporting all the small shops and businesses in Christleton.



BREAD MAKING - A TIP:

Before the lockdown one of my Grandsons was trying to establish himself as a professional musician, between times working as a junior chef, having worked his way up from a pan washer whilst at university. The lockdown put him out of work.

When the regulations eased the restaurant reopened for limited dining outdoors. He was given the job of making the bread rolls.

Here is a tip he gave me. Don't measure the volume of water used, weigh it using digital scales, its easier & more accurate.



(1 cc or 1 ml of water weighs 1 gram)

Ben Williams

'MAD' , 'BAD' , 'SAD' , 'GLAD'

What? At the end of the 'Listening' session in church (18th Sept) we were given some homework. To list as many other words as possible that had the same meaning (in different degrees, perhaps) as each of the four words above. So actually four lists of synonyms and related words. Without having gone through the exercise myself just yet, I can guess that the lists could be quite long depending upon how many obscure words you can dig up. Start with the easy words and probably best to stick to English!

It occurred to me that this was a good 'quiz' for this magazine, except that I don't plan to publish the answers.

When we have our 2nd Listening session on 16th October the reason for this homework should become apparent!

Have fun! *Brian Inall*

HARVEST FESTIVAL

Our annual Harvest Festival will be an All Age Family Communion on Sun 10th October at 10.30am. We shall be singing some of our favourite harvest hymns and thanking God for the harvest and for our food and all who produce it.

Please bring non-perishable foods and long life milk and juice as a harvest gift. These will be passed onto the local Foodbank. (See the list of things that the Foodbank needs.)

Thank you.



The St James'

Luncheon Club

You'll recall that it was every third Monday in the Parish Hall until it was abruptly stopped in March 2020 by the pandemic. Now that restrictions are being lifted we are pleased to be able to restart our Luncheon Club again. It's a valuable opportunity for fellowship and a good chat with friends.

We are all very cautious and so for our first lunch in October it will be quite simple. Hot tasty soup and a roll & butter, with cake and tea or coffee to follow.

MONDAY 18th OCTOBER in the PARISH HALL

We serve it at 12.30pm, but you can arrive any time from midday. **Please bring a mask.**

No charge but we welcome any donations, either by **cash** or via our **contactless card terminal** which we shall bring over from the church.

Thank you, Brian Inall.

THE PILOT AND THE PRIEST

A priest dies and is waiting in line at the Pearly Gates. Ahead of him is a guy who's dressed in sunglasses, a loud shirt, leather jacket, and jeans.

Saint Peter addresses this cool guy, 'Who are you, so that I may know whether or not to admit you to the Kingdom of Heaven?'

The guy replies, 'I'm Jack, retired airline pilot from Devon.'

Saint Peter consults his list. He smiles and says to the pilot, 'Take this silken robe and golden staff and enter the Kingdom.' The pilot goes into Heaven with his robe and staff.

Next, it's the priest's turn. He stands erect and booms out, 'I am Father Bob, pastor of Saint Mary's Church for the last 43 years.'

Saint Peter consults his list. He says to the priest, 'Take this cotton robe and wooden staff and enter the Kingdom.'

'Just a minute,' says the good father. 'That man was a pilot and he gets a silken robe and golden staff and I get only cotton and wood. How can this be?'

'Up here - we go by results,' says Saint Peter. 'When you preached - people slept. When he flew, people prayed!'

(supplied by Martin Thompson)

CONGRATULATIONS:



Mary & Ivor married in St James' Church 7th August. It was a wet day, but the sun came out just at the right time.

CONGRATULATIONS also to David Cummings on his 80th birthday this month, and for his BEM investiture on 28th July at Tatton Park.



WHERE'S THE RECTOR?

Stefan is now off and away and well into his three month sabbatical. Part of his plans include a pilgrimage walk - but who knows where he is? (Ed.)

(There's a rumour that he may be on this beach somewhere!)



IF MUSIC BE THE FOOD OF LOVE, PLAY ON:



We welcome Shirley Hurst who has stepped in to play the piano at some of our Sunday services. She started at our service on 19th September and it was so good to have live music again! She is known to some of our congregation and has played for us in the past. Good news indeed that she can fill in for us and that we won't have to sing to recorded music every week! Thank you Shirley.

Shirley is a pianist, so we are also on the look-out for someone who can play the organ. If you can help then please contact Rob Croft on (01244) 683926, or our churchwardens.

Thank you.



THE FUTURE OF THE **PARISH MAGAZINE**

Anyone thinking about helping with the magazine production to ensure its continuance into 2022 should let me know as soon as possible. I'll be pleased to chat over what's involved and to explain the opportunities to give the magazine a fresh new start.

Please contact me:

Brian Inall - Tel: 01244 336500 - brian@inall.co.uk

CHRISTLETON PARISH HALL - REGULAR ACTIVITIES (from October)

Information provided by Maria Norbury - proposed start dates are subject to change. Note that times are the times for the hall booking and may not exactly match the event timings.

MON	Luncheon Club	8am – 3pm	Monthly 3rd Monday starting 18 Oct.
	Yoga	6 – 7pm	Weekly
	Monday Painters	7 – 9pm	Weekly – term time
TUE	Baby Club Cheshire Yoga	9:30 – 10:30am	Weekly
	Baby Club Cheshire Massage	10:30 – 11:30am	Weekly
	Class Fitness Pilates	11:45 – 12:45pm	Weekly
	Maths GCSE small group	3:30 – 4:30pm	Weekly – term time
	coaching Yr 10/11	4:30 – 5:30pm	Weekly – term time
	English GCSE small group	3:30 – 4:30pm	Weekly – term time
	coaching Yr 10/11	4:30 – 5:30pm	Weekly – term time
	Aspirations Ballroom Dance	6 – 9pm	Weekly
WED	Clinical Pilates	9:30 – 10:30am	Weekly – term time
	Clinical Pilates	10:30 – 11:30am	Weekly – term time
	Maths GCSE small group	2:30 – 3:30pm	Weekly – term time
	coaching Yr 10/11	3:30 – 4:30pm	Weekly – term time
	English GCSE small group	2:30 – 3:30pm	Weekly – term time
	coaching Yr 10/11	3:30 – 4:30pm	Weekly – term time
	WI	6:30 – 9:30pm	Monthly 2nd Wed
	RSPB meeting	6:45 – 9:45pm	Monthly 3rd Wed – not May to Aug – from Jan 22
	History Group	6:45 – 9:45pm	Last Wed Jan Feb Mar Sept Oct Nov
THUR	Fitness Fusion Pilates	9:15 – 10:15am	Weekly
	The Christleton Painters	10:30am – 3pm	Weekly – not May to Aug
	Christleton Rainbows (temp)	5 – 6pm	Weekly – term time until return to Methodists
	Aspirations Ballroom	7 – 9pm	Weekly
FRI	The Ark Toddler Group	9:15 – 11am	Weekly – term time
SAT	Shine Bright Pregnancy Yoga	9:15 – 10:15	Weekly
	Saturday Painters	10:30am – 1pm	Alternate Saturdays
SUN	Lighthouse Sunday Club	10:15 – 11:15am	Weekly
	Refreshments after	11:30am	Weekly

See next page for contact details:

CONTACTS DETAILS FOR REGULAR ACTIVITIES

Luncheon Club	Liz McClure	01244 409414	elizabeth.mcclure070@gmail.com
Yoga	Jonny Hunter	07546 183000	jonnyhunteryoga@gmail.com
Monday Painters	Kathleen Bulmer	07957 802145	bulmerkathleen1@gmail.com
Baby Club Yoga/Massage	Stephanie Tully	07969 318547	babyclubcheshire@outlook.com
Class Fitness Pilates	Diane Harris	07929 842662	di.harris@classfitness.co.uk
Maths GCSE	Lisa Gornall	07929 771844	lisa.gornall@gmail.com
English GCSE	Lisa Miller	07764 318416	lisaannemiller@hotmail.com
Aspirations Ballroom Dance	Richard Colley	07885 233182	info@aspirationsdance.com
Clinical Pilates	Claire Phillipson	07709 400643	clairephillipson@icloud.com
WI	Anne Large	01244 336108	annelarge34@gmail.com
RSPB	Liz McClure	01244 409414	elizabeth.mcclure070@gmail.com
History Group	David Cummings	01244 332410	cummings.d@uwclub.net
Fitness Fusion	Laura Jones	07867 692806	fitnessfusion1@outlook.com
The Christleton Painters	Graham Kay	0151 342 3697	gkay@grahamkay.co.uk
Christleton Rainbows	Hannah Ewins	07734 314733	hannahewins@gmail.com
The Ark Toddler Group	Tina Lightfoot	07557 352592	tina.lightfoot@googlemail.com
Shine Bright Pregnancy Yoga	Laura Blanchard	07415 832299	laura@shinebrightyoga.co.uk
Saturday Painters	Kevin Sparrow	07905 914328	sparrow.kevin@sky.com
Lighthouse Sunday Club	Tina Lightfoot	07557 352592	tina.lightfoot@googlemail.com

Allotment Harvest Thanksgiving Service Sunday Oct 3rd 4.30 pm

**On Mike & Tina Lightfoot's allotment
Plot 18 Boughton Heath allotments (back of park and ride)**

**Come and join us for our annual short service of thanksgiving
followed by refreshments and fellowship.**

Come in sensible footwear, bring your own mug (for soup) and chair

Lighthouse Club

Sundays 10.15 – 11.30 am in the Parish Hall

Lighthouse Club is for children aged 5-10

Senior Lighthouse

Sundays 5pm – 5.45pm Online

Senior Lighthouse is for anyone year 7 and above who wants to discover more about Jesus and being a Christian

For more information please contact Tina Lightfoot on
tina.lightfoot@googlemail.com

The Ark Play and Praise Toddler Group

We meet every Friday morning (term time)

Where: St James' Parish Hall

Time: 9:15 to 11:00 am

*No need to book a place, just come along
Refreshments (for grown-ups) provided*

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

St James' Church Calendar - OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2021:

THE ST JAMES' CHURCH BUILDING IS OPEN.

The Church is open daily and available for private prayer and a place of peace. Covid restrictions are relaxed but we shall still be taking some Covid precautions in church - eg: hand sanitising, masks, etc. We are also keeping the North Aisle pews marked up to retain social distancing for those wanting that. The remaining areas are fully open, but we suggest that you only sit closely with those in your household. We are reviewing the situation but wish to remain cautious.



For Communion we are only receiving in one kind. That means a wafer only and not the wine. We are not currently sharing the Peace. The good news is that we're singing again with words on the screens, and for some services we have Shirley playing the piano. We are being asked to sing with masks on, which isn't good, but is necessary at the moment.

THE SUNDAY PATTERN IS:

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

10:15am: Lighthouse Club in the Parish Hall

10:30am: Holy Communion in church.
Our main family service.
Refreshments after in Parish Hall.

Sun **3rd October:** 18th after Trinity
8:00am & 10:30am Worship in church.
4.30pm: Harvest Thanksgiving on Mike &
Tina Lightfoot's allotment. Ask for details.

Sat **9th October:** 10.30am.
Churchyard Working Group.

Sun **10th October:** 19th after Trinity, Harvest.
8:00am & 10:30am: Harvest Festival and
All Age Family Communion.

Sat **16th October:** Listening - Session 2.
9:30am in church.

Sun **17th October:** 20th after Trinity
8:00am & 10:30am Worship in church.

Mon **18th October:** Luncheon Club. Parish Hall.
Cautious restart of our monthly lunches.
Arrive from midday. Lunch served at 12.30pm
No charge, but donations welcomed.

Sun **24th October:** Last after Trinity, Bible Sunday
8:00am & 10:30am Worship in church.
We welcome Lesley Cook to preach at 10:30.

Sun **31st October:** 4th before Advent. All Saints.
8:00am & 10:30am Worship in church.
6.30pm: All Souls service in church.

Sat **6th November:** 10.30am.
Churchyard Working Group.

Sun **7th November:** 3rd before Advent
8:00am & 10:30am Worship in church.

Sun **14th November:** Remembrance Sunday
8:00am Worship in church
10:50am Starts at the Memorial, then moves
into church just after 11am.

Mon **15th November:** 12 noon - Luncheon Club

Sun **21st November:** 1st before Advent.
Christ the King
8:00am & 10:30am Worship in church.
We welcome Barbara King, leading at 10:30.

Sun **28th November:** Advent Sunday
8:00am & 10:30am Worship in church.
4:00pm: Christingle Service in church.

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

Tuesdays: 10:30am: Online Coffee Morning via Zoom. More details from Liz McClure.

Fridays: 9:15am - 11:00: The 'Ark' Play and Praise Toddler Group in Parish Hall. Further details from Tina Lightfoot. (See page 11)

Sundays: 10.15am - 11.30: Lighthouse Club for primary age children in Parish Hall.
5:00pm - 5:45: Senior Lighthouse online. (See page 11)

NOTE: As usual all arrangements are subject to change.

***Whilst Stefan is away on his sabbatical, until the beginning of December, please contact our Assistant Curate, Rev'd Rob Croft, or the churchwardens.
(See 'Contacts' on page 2)***

LET'S REST A WHILE!

New benches have appeared in the churchyard. Five in fact. They are all up at the top end. How has that happened?

The Friends of St James have purchased three for us, and the other two are private donations. St James' Church is very grateful. Thank you.



Please try them out. Sit and view the churchyard, the wild flowers and insects. Listen to bird song. Read a book. Say a prayer. Close your eyes and meditate (or have forty winks) or listen to some soothing music from your smartphone.

Contemplate the lives of those who have been laid to rest here over the years. You may have known some of them. You may wish to say something.

Whatever you do, enjoy those few minutes of rest before you re-join the hustle and bustle of normal life. (Ed.)



THE FRIENDS:



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

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

Please consider becoming a Friend.

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

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



CHRISTLETON

MEETINGS IN THE PARISH HALL

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

Wed 13th October - 7.15pm
Ian Black on the History of Hairdressing

Wed 10th November - 7.15pm
Danielle de la Wonk on travels and street performance in Chile.

Contacts:

Elizabeth Inall	Telephone 01244 336500
Chris Orgill	Telephone 01244 335163

WE WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

CHRISTLETON PARISH HALL



It's been business as usual at the hall since September. Almost all regular activities have returned along with some new ones. Since Covid restrictions have been lifted, it's now up to users to decide how Covid-cautious they want to be.

All the details are shown in the tables on pages 9 and 10. In addition, there has been a considerable increase in enquiries for occasional bookings, particularly parties for children and other celebrations, so don't delay getting your enquiry in if you're thinking of using the hall.

If you wish to make an enquiry, you can view the live Parish Hall Calendar and complete a Parish Hall Contact Form at www.stjameschristleton.org.uk – look under the Parish Hall drop down menu – or contact Maria Norbury (below) for details:

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

FROM THE REGISTERS:

FUNERALS/BURIALS:

Rayna Dornford-May. Died 22/7/2021; Aged 91
Funeral 4/8/2021 at St James.

Harry Morgan: Died 16/4/2021; Aged 96
Funeral 4/8/2021 at St James.

June Owen: Died 23/7/2021; Aged 89
Funeral 9/8/2021 at St James.

Jim McCready. Died 24/7/2021; Aged 78
Funeral 18/8/2021 at St James.

Wendy Capper. Died 23/8/2021; Aged 79
Chester Crematorium: 16/9/2021.



Geoffrey Tilston. Died: 25/8/2021; Aged 88.
Chester Crematorium: 20/9/2021.

Nigel Bromage. Died 1/7/2019; Aged 86
Burial of ashes 27/9/2021 at St James.

WEST CHESHIRE FOODBANK:

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



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

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

Sadly, the level of food donations seems to have dipped in recent weeks at St James and at other collection points and so the foodbank is struggling to have enough to distribute. Please try to give.

URGENT - More donations required now.

Please donate non-perishable food at the back of the church into the Foodbank box. A list of items particularly needed (and items not needed) is available, or look it up on the foodbank website:

<https://westcheshire.foodbank.org.uk>

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

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

Christleton Local History Group Winter Season 2021

Please note our new e-mail address:

davidbery180@uwclub.net

(please don't use the old address)

With restrictions now easing, Christleton Local History are planning their winter programme for the **Parish Hall at 7.30pm** on the last **Wednesday** of the month. We have a stimulating programme of talks on a wide range of subjects, followed by tea/coffee & biscuits. There is no joining fee but we ask for a contribution of £3 per lecture. Everyone is welcome.

The next two dates in 2021 are:

Wednesday 27th October

The Blitz A fully illustrated talk by Alan Robinson.

Alan, one of our most popular local speakers, is one of the UK's leading experts on battles and battlefields. He brings his own perspective to one of the most historic events.

Wednesday 24th November

The Rise & Renaissance of Liverpool. Ken Pye.

Ken Pye is Managing Director of Discover Liverpool, has a wealth of knowledge about Liverpool & Wirral, has researched and written many stories about the region. These are published as books, films and DVDs, and he gives fascinating talks about his subjects.

David Cummings (Chairman)

THE HISTORY FILE.

A Hole in the Road.



I'm sure many people were as intrigued as I was in

seeing a section of Quarry Lane near the old Girls and Infant School closed for a month. There was a huge mound of sand lying on the bank extracted from the hole and built up by some seriously big machinery. By the end of August large hollow box sections were being lowered and secured back into the hole. If you have been following my History File through the year you might remember me quoting this story in the February edition.

"There are lots of records of the village being flooded in the early 1900's when a village pond at the bottom of Village Road and Quarry lane overflowed, sometimes so badly that children from the Girls and Infants School couldn't get across the road to get to their homes. The amount of water that fell in the village was compounded by the agricultural sewage that flowed down Village Road from nearby farms. Even the present "toast rack- car park" was formerly a pond for Digger Swindley's Old Farm. A sewage and waste water system was laid in the village around 1910, but it is believed that the new pipes going through the village weren't large enough to take any excess flood water under the canal and then into Caldry Brook, beyond the bend of the A41 opposite the "Cheshire Cat". This flooding still happens today, but not as often as it used to, as the council have put in a water pumping station in Sandrock Road."



It is clear that following recent flooding another major attempt is being made to solve this 100+ year old problem, but what is fascinating is that the material from the hole seems to be almost exclusively sand.

Maybe this is partly glacial sand that was deposited in the last ice age, but I would have expected to see some evidence of silt and mud from the pond which existed adjacent to this site in the early 1900's. The excavation is also opposite the site of a very large air raid shelter which was big enough to cater for the children from the boys and girls schools. I understand that this was between the old Girls and Infant School and across the present entrance to Sandrock Road. The name Sandrock Road is very apt in this instance. As far as I am aware no photographs exist of this air raid shelter, but I have met adults, who were children at the school in the village in the 1940s, who clearly remember going into it. It must have been very substantial, to cater for the numbers of children attending school in the village at this time, as they included evacuee children from St Patrick's Catholic School in Liverpool, who shared the schools in Christleton with local children. Reports in the School Log Book in 1940 record;

May 17th During the past week the children have had Air Raid Drill each day. The Headteacher received the 10 keys for the Air Raid Shelter

May 21st Mr Solloway, Head Warden for Christleton, inspected the children's gas masks during the afternoon session.

August 30th. Attendance very low in morning and afternoon, due to a long air raid warning during the night.

Sept 6th. During the week the curriculum has been interrupted by Air Raid Warnings during the day and night

Sept 13th. During the week attendances have been lost through air raid sirens through the nights

Sept 20th This past week the curriculum has been considerably interrupted by air raid warnings during the day. The Policeman called to examine the children's bicycles.

Nov 29th Attendance was low owing to intense enemy action during the night.

As I mentioned at the beginning of this article the inspiration for this story is the hole in the road in Quarry Lane. So much of history is lost through not being recorded, but in Christleton we have the benefit of people still being alive who remember the situation, and old photographs from the Village Archives which sometime reveal things that people have forgotten.

I had a long discussion with a member of the Highways Authority some years ago who said there were no

records of a pond at this particular site. We could not only provide old maps and photographs, but also written records from the Headteacher's log books. It is my aim to continue to record these stories and publish the photographs on the website so that they are passed on to future generations.

David Cummings August 2021

The website; www.christleton.org.uk/christleton4

NATURE NOTES OCTOBER 2021

August was a relatively quiet month for our wildlife, an almost in-between season. The growth of vegetation however has exploded out of control everywhere, and until the last week it has been impossible to get onto the Nature Reserve at Hockenhull, and we've been waiting for a contractor to cut the Legion wildflower meadow. Teams of volunteers have worked extremely hard on the churchyard to cut down excessive growth and to prepare the ground for the planting wildflower seeds in the older area of the churchyard in 2022. During the past two years or so, when a section of the area has been left to itself, butterflies, moths and dragonflies have been seen more frequently. This year has been no exception with brown, southern hawker and common darter dragonflies, banded agrion and common blue damselflies being seen. Butterflies seen include small and large white, small tortoiseshell, red admiral, comma, peacock, heath brown, small copper, small skipper, holly and common blue butterflies.



Southern
Hawker



Brown
Hawker



Holly
Blue

A similar species list has been recorded on the Legion Meadow this summer, but my favourites from both sites has to be the small copper. This diminutive butterfly seems to enjoy the bright yellow corn marigolds that we grew from seed and planted on the meadow. Small skippers seem to enjoy this food but were also seen on several types of long grasses which currently still dominate the meadow. Purple hawkbit, which flourishes on the meadow, is just one of several purple/blue plants which can be seen late into August, whilst many of the early season flowers have now turned to seed, including the common spotted orchids and the ever growing number of yellow rattle plants. Visitors to the Meadow will have seen us plant 150 yellow rattle plants in two distinct areas in spring, and the idea behind this is to try to suppress the growth of grasses in future years. Yellow rattle also helps to protect other wild flowers especially orchids and we have been delighted to see our small area of common spotted orchids expand again this year. It is noticeable that they grown best together with yellow rattle plants.

Many of the Legion meadow plants are annuals, so it is important that when they are cut by the contractor they are allowed to lie for a few days before removing the vegetation. The seeds then lie on the ground and hopefully will germinate again next spring. Other new plantings this year have included plugs of ragged robin and red campion. These have been very successful and with the continued growth of species such as meadow cranesbill, purple vetch, meadow scabious, birds foot trefoil, meadow sweet and self heal, are providing real colour throughout the meadow through spring and early summer.

I've constantly complained this year about the dearth of birds like swallows, house martins and swifts, and it clearly has been a very poor season. The few swifts seen over the village, and Brown Heath Road didn't stay long. A few house martins have been recorded in Church walks, and swallows seem to have been missing except for a few nests in Rowton. This week (*end of August*) however has seen the gathering of up to 100 swallows in Croft Close, and it appears to be an annual trend. These mainly newly born swallows must nest relatively close to this "gathering ground" before their annual migration, but what instinct is passed on from parent to young that they gather in the same place as previous generations of swallows? You can expand this by asking the question. How and why do these same swallows fly 7,000 km across the world to South Africa, and have the ability to come back to the same nest site in our area each year? They cross seas, mountains, deserts and other hostile terrain and yet have the ability to navigate so precisely. I think it's astonishing, one of the great feats of the

natural world.

PS:

On Thursday September 16th 100+ house martins were to be found hunting over the farm fields and canal at Rowton and appeared to be in a frenzy of searching for food. Later in the day in the village at Church Walks, and at Walk Mill on the Gowy, small groups of these tiny individuals were also seen feeding on insects, ready to make their own migratory journey to parts of Africa.

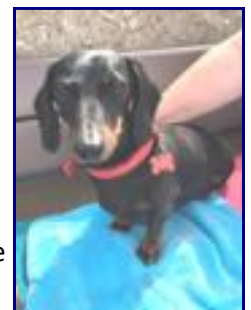


House
Martins

DAISY'S ADVENTURES – PART IX

Hello everyone

The weather during August was rather disappointing although we did manage to get to the beach a few times. One day we went to Llandudno and I haven't been there before. Parking was a bit difficult because it was so busy but we did find a place eventually and then had a lovely walk along the promenade and right at the end is the pier. We didn't go on the pier but we did watch a bit of the Punch & Judy Show which I found a bit weird with Mr Punch hitting everyone with a stick and a crocodile trying to bite his hand off but did you know there are only 3 Punch & Judy Shows left in this country and Llandudno is one of them. I bet you didn't know that. We'd taken a picnic lunch and sat on a bench in the sunshine surrounded by lots of noisy seagulls who were swooping down and almost took a sandwich out of my Mummy's hand - how rude!



We've been to the pub, again! We picked up some human passengers called Gill and Edward and I sat on

the back seat of the car this time which was OK and we went to Parkgate to meet a very nice man called David who thought I was beautiful – well he got that right. We had lunch in the pub and I was happy to sit under the table until the humans had finished their meal. We then went to David's house where there were lots of lovely new scents for me to pick up and as it was a farm house there was a sheepdog keeping guard but he was OK with me and let me have a wonder around in my own time, which I did, until we made our way home.

Simon and Linda came to visit and I like Simon very much. The minute he arrives I just roll over onto my back and he gives me lots of 'belly rubs and tickle tums' which send me into seventh heaven and he also has very interesting scents on his trousers probably from his Westie called Jasper yet another friend of mine.

Now I have to tell you something awful has happened, again! I was so excited when I got into the car and was wondering where we were going but when we parked up and I jumped out of the car, I realised where we were going and I refused to go another inch nearer to the dreaded veterinary surgery. No I wasn't going to budge and just sat down on the footpath so I was picked up and carried to the door. Due to the dreaded Covid-19 we waited outside and the vet came out to collect me but I refused to go with him. Yes, I really did and he was quite amused, (but I wasn't), so he picked me up and carried me into the surgery. He did something to my rear end (I won't go into details) and then took me back to my Mummy waiting outside and I heard him say that I should pay them a visit every two months. I definitely don't think I can cope with that so watch this space!

There's a nice lady called Alix who lives in a house overlooking the River in Dee Banks and she's got a special tin with doggy treats in her cupboard and if I stare at her for long enough, she gives me something tasty from the tin. My Mummy says she makes lovely coffee so between us we like paying her a visit but I did hear them talking and discussing my diet and waistline both of which seem to be doing OK, thanks mainly to all the walking we do every day.

Have I told you about one of my favourite places in our bungalow? No – then I have to tell you that it is lying on the spare bed on a beautiful soft blanket with lots of dachshunds in the design and I bask in the sunshine coming through the window – absolute bliss. Also, I'm able to keep an eye on what's going on outside such as when 'Jasper' my friend from over the road comes out for a wonder round the grass and then another friend Coco

from next door also comes out and I watch them chasing one another. When the window cleaner comes, who I really don't like, I bark at him through the window but he doesn't take any notice of me for some reason and likewise the postman. But hey ho we can't all be perfect can we – just me!

See you next time I hope

Daisy - (Published by kind permission of Janet Milton)



Box Opening 2021

Dear Box Holders,

As a result of the Covid-19 situation and on advice from The Children's Society, we were unable to hold our normal Box Collection and counting activities during 2020. We are now able to take any Children's Society boxes you have for 2020 & to date in 2021. You can either hand them in at St. James' Church or I can collect them directly from you. Please let me know if you need me to collect them. I am very aware that during these changing times we are moving towards a more cashless society. If you would prefer to set up a standing order for The Children's Society, I can provide the required information.

Thank you to those of you who have kindly emptied your own box and sent the money directly to the society.

Stories from the young people you support can be found at: childrenssociety.org.uk/childrens-stories

Lesley Morgan

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

Churchyard Maintenance



During this lockdown it wasn't easy to arrange Churchyard Working Parties although, with grateful thanks, the work by the Community Payback Team and by volunteers has restarted and the churchyard is all the better for it. It now has an intended mix of tidy and wild areas.

We are now organising working groups again. Please come along.
Next dates are: [9th October](#) and [6th November](#) - starting at 10.30am.

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

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