



# PARISH OF ST JAMES

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

**September 2018**

**50p.**

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## Churchwardens' Update



It has been a great privilege for Tina and I to lead the parish during the vacancy and I endorse Tina's thanks to all for the exceptional teamwork displayed over the last few months. I also would

like to express my own gratitude for the support of Rev'd Elizabeth and Rev'd Gill in conducting so many of the services.

September 13<sup>th</sup> sees the collation and induction of the Rev'd Dr Stefan Collier as our new Rector. We would like to see as many members of our five communities of Christleton, Littleton, Rowton, Cotton Edmunds & Cotton Abbots, as possible come and support the service in the Church and welcome the new Rector and his family. They already have been here painting and decorating the rectory in preparation for moving in at the end of August. We wish them well in their new living and hope they settle in quickly and happily. We will hold them in our prayers and also the people of the parish of Esher who are now embarking on their own vacancy.

Nothing stands still for very long and the Church is no exception. Each year brings new challenges which we must meet to survive.

Some we have little control over, such as the aging of the population in general. For others, like falling numbers in church attendance, children receiving religious education or financial planning we can try to meet the challenge. For example we can encourage better use of our church buildings especially where there are few other facilities in the neighbourhood. The Chester Diocese runs many courses during the year addressing a wide range of issues. They are run by experts in the field and we, in this parish, try to take advantage of as many as are relevant so that we can meet challenges head on.

During the last year we have held a number of fund-raising events, mostly for the refurbishment of the parish hall. The last was a fun barbecue when we were also blest with the only serious rain of the summer, but, stalwarts that we are, we dusted off raincoats and umbrellas, sallied forth and the rain ceased for the last hour or so. As always, we are very grateful for the exceptional generosity of all those who came.

Recently I have received information about the Archbishop of Canterbury's "Mustard Seed Appeal". Most people probably know about the prominence of the mustard seed in the Bible - the smallest of all seeds but which grows into a very large plant. The Mustard Seed Appeal addresses the need for a fairer, more just and equitable financial system that works for all sectors of our society. The appeal is now in its third year and aims to build financial resilience among a vulnerable sector of society. It is supported by the Church Urban Fund - which some will remember we supported with a Big Pancake Party on Shrove Tuesday. It provides shelter and support, addresses child poverty, food poverty and provides children's holiday activities and trips. For example, children who receive free school meals during term often face holiday hunger and parents go without. A number of urban churches e.g. in Middlesburgh (which now has double the national unemployment rate but had full employment in the 60's) provide meals with the help of armies of volunteers. Approximately 4.7 million people are believed to live in food poverty in this rich, developed

## **Parish Magazine**

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