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The St. James' Church PARISH MAGAZINE

December

2021



Lord
Saviour
Messiah
Mary's Son
The Way
The Truth
The Word The Life
Jesus of Nazareth
Counsellor The Vine
Living Water
Anointed One Son of
The Rock God
Immanuel
The Good Shepherd
Morning Star Lord of Lords
Prince of Peace Redeemer
King of Kings Lamb of God
Come, let us Worship the New Born King

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This is the last issue of this magazine for the time being. Therefore there is no deadline or copy date for future issues until new arrangements are put in place.

If you have something particular to advertise to the church membership then the slide loop shown before the main Sunday morning services may be an option. Or something can be put on the website. Talk to Brian Inall or Stefan about this.

This magazine is free via the St James' Church website and via the Christleton Village website. A few black & white printed copies may be available for sale (50p) at the back of the church. If you can't find what you want then please ask.

Although the magazine is now stopping for a while, you can still read back copies from these websites.

ST JAMES' CHURCH WEBSITE:

<https://www.stjameschristleton.org.uk>
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ST JAMES ON TWITTER:



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Happy Christmas.



Thank you for reading our magazine. As a church we are very busy organising worship and meetings, creating rotas, planning projects, maintaining the building & churchyard, counting the pennies to make ends meet and talking to each other over coffee, but our prime concern is you. To listen to you, to welcome you and to serve you. To help you understand the Christian faith. To help you and us grow in faith and to know God a little better.

Christmas is a busy and often stressful time for some, a lonely time for others, so it is a good opportunity to take a little time out from the hustle and bustle and to think more deeply and to think about ourselves. So, come along to worship God at our services, or come and talk to us, or just come into the church when it is quiet and sit awhile. You are welcome.

The last couple of years have been very difficult for all of us. Not only the pandemic, but much else besides - not least climate change worries, the challenge of going green, and the implications for all our lives in the years ahead. We pray that 2022 will be a year for putting things right globally, a more positive and peaceful year, and a good year for you and us.

As this is my last edition of the Parish Magazine I want to thank all those who have contributed articles, ads and other content over the last 3 years. Often the main difficulty of a magazine is getting enough content and many churches resort to external material to fill it up (eg: Parish Pump). I've had no such problems and I'm most grateful for the wide range and quality of content that I have received for every edition.

I must also thank John Eccles for managing the commercial advertising, and the advertisers themselves, and for Joce Platel who volunteered to manage the tricky task of subscription renewals and to manage the 'rounds' and the team of deliverers, although her services were not extensively used because Covid struck and it all went free and online. Also to Jenny Davies who used to assist with bundling up the printed magazines into rounds for distribution when they came from the printers, and to the trusty band of distributors. Not least, thanks to our readers and all the kind remarks that I've received. May God bless you.

(Brian Inall)

THE END OF THE LINE?

No. This is just another pause on its journey for the Parish Magazine. It has paused before. After some thought and a change of crew I expect St James' Church to set in motion a new magazine, or an alternative publication, to continue communicating with its members and the surrounding community. So keep a look out and get on board to help if you can. 'Mind the Gap!' (Ed.)





ADVENT:

Advent Sunday begins our new Church year. **Advent** is a season of expectation and preparation. We watch and wait for the coming of Christ in his incarnation, and his coming as judge of all people at the end of time.

Whatever the worldly pressures to decorate and spend for Christmas, our church decorations are simple and spare. Purple is the traditional liturgical colour.

We watch and wait in the shadows and dark of late autumn. Each Sunday morning, we will light our Advent candles, signifying that Christ is the light of the world. The evergreens of our Advent wreath remind us that He is life and brings life to us. All these are arranged in a circle because life in Christ has no end. Each Sunday we will light an additional candle. Then on Christmas Eve, we will light all the candles, including the centre one, the Christ candle.

It is a time when we can be honest about our incompleteness, about our need to be saved by a love beyond ourselves. We are called to wake out of sleep, to face the darkness, both in the world and in our personal lives, and to face the faults we try to hide. Advent is a time to look for God and his hope. A good Advent finds that hope of being rooted in and waiting on God.

Through this last year, we have heard the dramatic narrative of Jesus' life and death in the Gospel according to Mark. Mark writes with directness and urgency, in brief scenes and rapid motion. He builds his narrative around mundane events – journeys, conflicts with families, synagogue and state, and stories of teaching and healings. He speaks to and for ordinary people.

For Mark 'the way' is the central motif in his gospel for discipleship. He has challenged us in the adventure of discipleship in the narrative unfolding over the year. Mark has been preparing us for our coming **Year of Discipleship**, calling us to be disciples of Jesus, disciples on the way.

It is through Jesus that our hearts are opened, and we are freed. Jesus comes as a real person; he lives a real life and confronts the reality of shadow and darkness in our world. In his death and resurrection, he becomes the Christ, the new being, who connects our world of time and history with the eternal.

In October, we remembered the two disciples of John the Baptist who followed Jesus when they first saw him. When he asked them what they were looking for, they responded with a question: 'Rabbi, 'where are you staying?' He said to them, 'Come and see.' They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day.

Discipleship has something important to do with this staying, or abiding, as it's often translated. We learn by sharing life. We learn by looking and listening. Over the next weeks and months, we will explore something of what it means to stay with Jesus, what it means to share his life. And something of what we might expect as we stay with Jesus, as we follow Jesus – those moments when he shows us something, when reality opens up in his company, midst the everyday, in the little spaces of our lives.

Our Lord says, 'I am coming soon.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

With my love and prayers,
Rob

AIR QUALITY AND GLOBAL WARMING:

During the lock-down in 2020, a retired government colleague and I decided to spend most of our time compiling a book on the link between air quality and global warming. There are many publications on air quality and also global warming but few on the link between them. Our aim has been to derive mathematical equations for the link and so identify the win-win scenarios for improving air quality and reducing global warming. In particular, can the temperature rise in global warming since pre-industrial times be confined to less than 1.5°C in line with the Paris agreement in 2015?

There is much debate about reducing carbon dioxide, the most important greenhouse gas, but people do not realize that this gas has an atmospheric lifetime

of over 100 years. Reductions of carbon dioxide today will take a long time to have an effect on reducing global warming.

Methane is the second most important greenhouse gas with an atmospheric lifetime of 12 years, so its reduction will have a more timely impact on global temperature reduction. Methane is the major component of natural gas, a major source of home heating and electricity generation in power stations, as well as escaping gases from paddy fields in India and China.

There is little reference in the media to Ozone, the third most important greenhouse gas, with a lifetime of 20 days. Ozone is formed by photochemical reaction in the atmosphere between hydrocarbons and nitrogen oxides in sunlight. Ozone is an irritant to the lungs but can break down indoors to release oxygen, which is why asthmatics stay indoors during ozone episodes. However, when we realize that half of all nitrogen oxides in the atmosphere originate from the exhausts of petrol and diesel engines, we can see how the move to electric cars and hydrogen powered trucks will result in large reductions of ozone formation in future. Furthermore, methane is an important hydrocarbon, and its reduction will reduce further the formation of ozone.

A clear path to improving air quality and reducing global warming is apparent, and it is interesting to see the progress of the COP 26 conference in Glasgow this month. What have the leaders of the world achieved in tackling climate change?

The reforestation proposals and the end of deforestation (notably in the Amazon forests) is a great start. Trees absorb carbon dioxide, but they take time to grow.

The proposed reduction of methane by 30% in major countries of the world is a real initiative, but we must remember that as coal power stations are reduced many will be replaced by natural gas as well as renewable energy generation. Here, progress will be slow.

Perhaps, the most effective development will be the replacement of petrol and diesel vehicles by electric and hydrogen powered equivalents. Again, this will take time and will need real encouragement by governments and motor manufacturers.

Our book calculates the impact of all these scenarios on global temperature warming and the associated time frames. The reality is that 1.5°C global warming will be exceeded, yet temperatures will fall back once the COP 26 and other major scenarios gather momentum.

The good news is that our book has been accepted for publication, and our work during the lock down will have made a contribution to explaining the link between air quality and global warming. In a small way, we believe we were put on this planet for a purpose, and should use the skills we have to make life on Earth a better place.

John Pearson



A FLUFFY ROBIN:

Christmas cards, do you still send them?

The favourite one on sale for the Hospice this year is the picture of a fluffy robin. Robins are such a favourite bird maybe because of their bright red breast, but more so due to their daring to come close to us humans when we are gardening.

I have been clearing the fallen leaves in my garden, as I swept the borders I heard a snatch of bird song. Then a flicker of movement, a robin had joined me. I stood still, he watched me, head tilted and alert, I felt in my pocket for a piece of bread and stretched out my hand slowly with no sudden movement he committed himself. With a flurry of feathers he landed on my hand and waited. He hopped nearer, then he took the bread and was off again. Trust takes time to build. The robin flew away with his piece of bread, and I went back to clearing leaves with a smile

on my face.

Reflecting on the effects the safe distancing has brought due to the Covid virus parents share with me how the young people struggle to communicate with others now, this example of gentleness with each other will build up trust between each other.

Lord help us to trust today.

Gill Hibbert



THE WATER OF LIFE

'Miracles don't happen anymore' is a lament often heard in various forms, from people of faith and agnostics alike, but is it really true? To many, a 'miracle' is simply any amazing, awe-inspiring and wonderful occurrence. To others, miracles are astonishing events with a supernatural nature and mysterious undertones. However, I would argue that miracles constantly surround us, but have become so familiar that we often overlook them.

The complex natural cycle of the changing seasons, the miracle of life and the vastness of the night sky are astonishing, yet we forget how incredible these things truly are. Scientific explanation for events that would have previously been thought of as 'miracles' is often used as justification for considering God to be redundant but, although science can explain a lot about the workings of the world we live in, it doesn't address the beauty of the microscopic world, which hints at an overall plan.

One of the many useful bits of science is that you can predict the properties of an element or compound from the properties of other similar compounds.

Generally, this works pretty well, but one very common and essential compound doesn't behave anything like its close relatives.

If water behaved as predicted, ice would melt at about -100°C and boil about -70°C , meaning that all water on earth would be in the atmosphere. There would be no seas, lakes or rivers and your body (normally about 60% water) would resemble a shrivelled bit of beef-jerky.

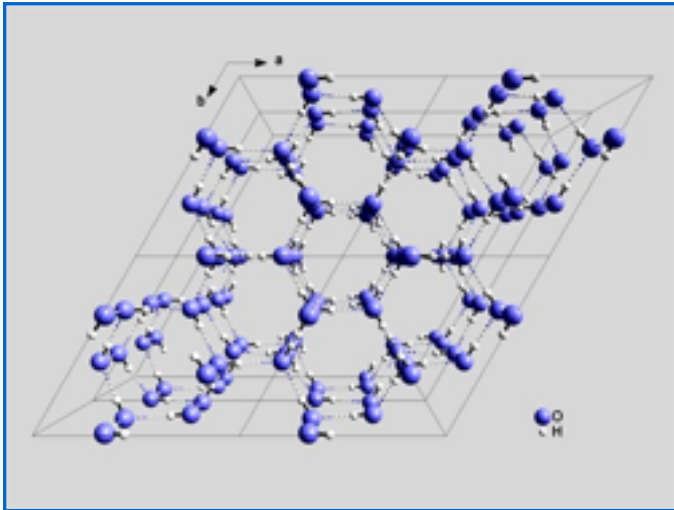
The reason for these anomalies is that, instead of doing their own thing as random individuals, water molecules like to join together and cooperate as a group. (There's probably a sermon in there somewhere?)

The force that joins them is the same thing that holds together the double-helix of DNA – the template of life (probably coincidental, but a nice spiritual analogy).

Something that we all take for granted is actually an even stranger, but very important, anomaly – ice floats on liquid water. Not only does the layer of ice on a lake or river provide a convenient surface for skating, it insulates the bulk water underneath and keeps the temperature high enough for fish to survive winter.



Almost all liquids freeze from the bottom up, but if water did that it would destroy all aquatic life. Instead, as water cools below 4°C and approaches freezing point, it adopts a very open structure with a much lower density than would be expected. For any other nerds out there, here below is a rather pretty representation of the structure of ice.



Crystal structure of Ice

My proof-reader, and most ardent critic, pointed out that because all water's unusual properties are due to a scientifically well-understood phenomenon (hydrogen-bonding) they are not 'anomalies' and certainly not 'miraculous'. This brings us nicely back to the beginning 'Does science make God redundant?' – Not according to the opinions of many scientists.

Although, across most of the world, a higher proportion of scientists are atheists compared to the general public, around one third of scientists believe in God or a divine creator. Personally, as a Christian and nerd myself, I'm fascinated by the unusual properties of water, which allow for life on earth – 'miraculous' or not – and believe that water is only one of the many miracles and blessings we experience every day.

Martin Thompson

CHRISTMAS:

We are about to launch into the annual 'baby fest' which is Christmas. We are beginning to get back to 'normal' and there will be nativity plays and carol services. The Children's Society fundraising Christingle service isn't happening again this year, but the crib service and carols around the tree hopefully will. And then there will be the Christmas Eve midnight and Christmas Day services.

We know the Christmas story so well; Mary and Joseph going to Bethlehem, the baby in the manger,

the angels and Shepherds, and the three kings. We will sing about 'snow on snow' and 'silent night' and 'cattle lowing'.

Cynics of course will say that the Christmas story is just that, a story.

So let's look at it. Luke wasn't an eye witness, he wasn't even a disciple but he tells us that he has researched it all very carefully. All those even vaguely familiar with Luke's Christmas story have heard of Caesar Augustus and his famous decree. It was this decree that sent Mary in the ninth month of her pregnancy 80 miles south to Bethlehem, along with husband Joseph. But could such a thing have really happened? Do we have any proof from historical sources outside of the Bible that the Roman emperor ever authorized a census? Well yes.

Caesar Augustus reigned as emperor of the Roman empire from 27 B.C. to 14 A.D. 41 years in all.

Caesar Augustus's reign was marked by peace and security - the famous Pax Romana - as well as by lavish building projects throughout the empire. We know that he authorized three censuses during this reign. These are recorded on two bronze plaques placed on the outside of Augustus's mausoleum after he died.

There seems to be a difficulty in reconciling the date of the census with Luke telling us that it was the first census taken while Quirinius was governing Syria and that would have been after 6AD. One theory offered is that the Greek word for "first" (prote) is sometimes translated "prior to" or "before." This is a viable solution because the Greek text of Luke 2:2 can indeed be translated, "This census was before Quirinius was governing Syria."

You won't find any reference in the Bible to Mary riding on a donkey, to there being snow in Bethlehem and it was hardly a 'silent night' with Bethlehem full to bursting as Luke tells us. And there is no mention of cattle either.

What about the three kings we are so keen on singing about? Well the only reference to them is in Matthew when we are told there were wise men who came. Nothing about there being three of them but yes, three gifts are mentioned. And Mary, Joseph and Jesus are living in a house by then and if Herod

killed all boys under two it is assumed that it was two years after Jesus' birth.

You won't find any reference to the Nativity in Mark or John's Gospel, so why do we read the beginning of John's Gospel in our Carol and Midnight services?

Because John tells us just what this is really all about. *'In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it'. John 1 vs 1 - 5*

God the son came and lived on earth as a human being. God Almighty, creator of the universe became human, lived on this earth, suffered for us and died for us. That is what Christmas is all about.

Now I enjoy the whole Christmas thing. I love all the bustle and shopping and cooking. I love the nativity plays and carol singing, the Christmas tree, and of course the turkey, Christmas pudding and mince pies.

But let's not lose sight of the enormity of the occasion we are celebrating. Spend some time if you can and just think about it. We can strip away all the argument about the details of the story, we can strip away all the folklore and tradition we have added to it and we are left with the fact that Almighty God, creator of the universe came and lived among us and is alive today.

Elizabeth Inall

THE FRIENDS:

The end of the calendar year will represent the end of the first period for The Friends of the building of St James' Church Christleton or "The Friends" as it is commonly known.



A steady start has been made consistent with its plan

to develop a solid long term base of support for the maintenance of the church building and churchyard.

In the initial stages we were greatly helped by Mandy Harding and her colleague Emma of Chelma Graphics who assisted in the development of our marketing material both creatively and through generous pricing.

Membership of The Friends is by household through either a regular standing order or single donations. At the time of writing we have 20 members following a recent boost in numbers resulting from David Cummings 80th birthday party. All monies can be increased by Gift Aid.

Whilst the PCC does its best to anticipate maintenance expenditure there are inevitably unexpected issues which arise every year and in most years the costs come in between £5,000 and £10,000.

The repair work to the lych-gate is nearly complete. The funding of this project remains work in progress and may be paid for from other sources but The Friends has been able to underwrite these costs in the later stages.

Visitors to the Churchyard may well have seen the introduction of 5 new benches as replacements for some of the weary looking earlier models. This cost has been shared by The Friends and Chris Abrams. They are rather splendid as you will see from the photograph.



John Norbury with Chris Abrams

The two notice boards on Pepper Street are also past their sell by date. It is hoped that their replacements will be in position by the end of January; entirely

funded by The Friends.

A full review of income and expenditure will be prepared for 2021. An AGM will be scheduled followed by a social event.

Looking ahead the PCC is considering two possible projects to be funded by The Friends. The magnificent church windows are in need of maintenance spend. Also the condition of the footpath around the church could be improved and the PCC will review the options.

The excellent turnout for the recent Remembrance Day services outdoor and indoor is indicative of the important role the church plays in the broader life of the village. This is the message of The National Churches Trust which is worth viewing online for those interested in the concept of The Friends. Michael Palin has recently signed up as Vice President of this organization giving it a welcome publicity boost.

I am very grateful to those who have supported The Friends in this first year and hope that we can expand our numbers and continue to show tangible benefits to the church building and churchyard in 2022.

John Norbury – Chair of The Friends

If you are interested in learning more about The Friends please contact me at
john_norbury@btinternet.com

CHRISTMAS PAST:

When I was very young, my family would sometimes travel to Monmouthshire for Christmas, to the family home where I was born- and my mother before me. It was with great excitement, after what seemed then a very long journey, that we reached the old house where my grandparents lived, and saw with delight in the large bow window of the sitting room a wonderful tree, waiting for us to decorate it with all sorts of unusual baubles and figures. There ensued a few happy days of anticipation as the household prepared for the great day.

I slept in quite a large room with twin beds and a rather spooky mirror attached to the dressing table - my memory is it always felt rather cold, but it was a

second home to us as we spent part of every holiday there- and we loved it. I remember so well waking very early on Christmas Day morning and wondering whether Father Christmas had indeed been yet ..we must wait a while. There was always something a wee bit suspicious about the note he would leave behind in slightly familiar looking capital letters and signed 'Santa' - which we never called him! There was always a tangerine at the bottom and a silver coin and a few small things but we certainly had to wait before opening other presents...

The family all trooped down into the village for Christmas Day service, after which, as the final touches to our dinner were being completed, we could finally open the rest of our gifts and give everyone theirs as well.

Christmas dinner was lovely; and when it came to pudding time, - since neither my brother nor I liked the rich Christmas fare (how lucky were we!) a steamed pudding appeared for us - and we were allowed to keep any sixpences the grown ups found in theirs.

After that everyone else seemed to have a good snooze whilst we went elsewhere to play with our newly acquired wonders. There was always some playing of the piano and singing around it - such a strange old piano with two little branching candelabras attached either side above the keyboard. Then a game of Chinese Chequers with those gorgeous brightly coloured balls, or sometimes, wonder of wonders, Charades with all members of the family joining in, and occasionally an aunt and uncle and cousin who lived along the road.

I well remember one never to be forgotten Christmas visit (I must have been a little older now) when it snowed exceptionally heavily. I was well into Arthur Ransome and in particular at that time, Winter Holiday, so my brother and I had a great time following tracks in the garden and field, and practising semaphore, but above all going 'up the mountain' as the hills behind us were always referred to - sledging! No we did not have a sledge, but my good dear father made us a wooden one with which we had endless fun.

Such happy times.. I do hope today's children will have equally magical memories as they grow older.

Jan Bowden

Luncheon Club

As you will have read in the November magazine, we restarted Luncheon Club in October on a trial basis and then afterwards reviewed how it went. Only a simple soup, roll and cake lunch was served to minimise any risks of a crowded kitchen during preparation. With a further emphasis on caution we decided to have another simple lunch in November and that also went well with 47 'customers'. So we're now looking forward to our December lunch. That too will be a simple lunch (sadly not the traditional Christmas lunch) but it will have a festive flavour nevertheless. Sandwiches, including turkey and salmon, sausage rolls, mince pies, Christmas cake and more.

So, the next lunch is :

Mon 20th December at 12.30pm in the Parish Hall

Don't expect all the trimmings, but we aim to make you happy and we plan to have some live seasonal music from Shirley!

BOOKING A PLACE:

If you wish to come on 20th December please tell us (call Brian: 336500, Janet: 325529 or Liz: 409414) to book a place. The number of places will be limited to help keep things safe. Sadly, if you just turn up on the door you may not be able to get a place.

Wear warm clothes as we will have ventilation. Also, at the time of writing this, the hall heating system has broken down and so we are using some portable electric heaters instead. We also request that you wear a face mask except when you are seated at a table. Despite all this, we look forward to seeing you and we assure you that the welcome will be extremely warm!! *(Brian Inall)*

Luncheon Club Advised Protocol

Our team met to review our October lunch and to discuss future lunches. We want to reassure those attending, hence the following "rules" are to be followed for all our safety. This is of course still subject to change if government guidance alters.

Ventilation is vital. Windows and doors **WILL** be open although we hope to help avoid draughts. Please ensure you wear something warm as colder days approach. The heating will also be on.

All those coming should wear a mask on entry, and also when moving about. Once seated, and of course for eating, this may be removed. Therefore mixing is relatively limited to one table of 8.

Helpers will wear masks when serving and moving about.

Helpers have also agreed to ensure to have done a recent negative lateral flow test before attending. This should further reduce the risk – feel free to do likewise.

All should sanitise hands on entry and also when appropriate as each table will be sharing, eg: water jug, etc.

If people are offered a lift, it will be expected that all in the car wear a mask and be aware of the need for ventilation.

Although you do attend at your own risk, we are trying to make this provision as safe as we can as we believe it is important for all our general well-being. **We hope to see you there!** *(Liz McClure)*

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**

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**

AN EVENING WITH PHILIP CHIDELL:

With a welcome drink in our hands, over 70 of us had a lovely evening in church on Friday 12th November when we welcomed back Philip Chidell. He played his violin, made by Klotz in 1750, and gave us an enjoyable concert of different pieces - classics and from the shows. Thanks to Christine Abrams and her team for organising it. The event made £660 profit and this goes to the church for the Parish Hall. (Ed.)



POPPIES:



For Remembrance Sunday the communion table was adorned with a new frontal given to St James' Church. It was made by Ann Barclay and has a circular design of 51 red woollen poppies that represent the 51 from Christleton who gave their lives for this country. The PCC expressed their thanks to Ann. (See also David's article - page: 19)

FOR YOUR AMUSEMENT:

When you run out of Christmas wrapping paper



I hope it's a dog



I am the Ghost of Christmas Future Imperfect Conditional, said the Spirit.



I bring news of what would have been going to happen, if you were not to have been going to change your ways.

Supplied by
Martin
Thompson

CONTACTS DETAILS FOR REGULAR PARISH HALL 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
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
The Ark Toddler Group	Tina Lightfoot	07557 352592	tina.lightfoot@googlemail.com
Fitness Class	Anne-Marie Ball	07715 571481	amefit247@gmail.com
Saturday Painters	Kevin Sparrow	07905 914328	sparrow.kevin@sky.com
Lighthouse Sunday Club	Tina Lightfoot	07557 352592	tina.lightfoot@googlemail.com
Diva Fitness	Emma Fisher	07966 874821	info@diva-fitness.co.uk

CHRISTLETON PARISH HALL - REGULAR ACTIVITIES

Information provided by Maria Norbury - all details 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 Yoga Monday Painters	8am – 3pm 6 – 7pm 7 – 9pm	Monthly 3 rd Monday Weekly Weekly – term time
TUE	Baby Club Cheshire Yoga Baby Club Cheshire Massage Maths GCSE small group coaching Yr 10/11 English GCSE small group coaching Yr 10/11 Aspirations Ballroom Dance	9:30 – 10:30am 10:30 – 11:30am 3:30 – 4:30pm 4:30 – 5:30pm 3:30 – 4:30pm 4:30 – 5:30pm 6 – 9pm	Weekly Weekly Weekly – term time Weekly – term time Weekly – term time Weekly – term time Weekly
WED	Clinical Pilates Clinical Pilates Maths GCSE small group coaching Yr 10/11 English GCSE small group coaching Yr 10/11 WI RSPB meeting History Group	9:30 – 10:30am 10:30 – 11:30am 2:30 – 3:30pm 3:30 – 4:30pm 2:30 – 3:30pm 3:30 – 4:30pm 6:30 – 9:30pm 6:45 – 9:45pm 6:45 – 9:45pm	Weekly – term time Weekly – term time Weekly – term time Weekly – term time Weekly – term time Weekly – term time Monthly 2 nd Wed Monthly 3 rd Wed – not May to Aug – from Jan 22 Last Wed Jan Feb Mar Sept Oct Nov
THUR	Fitness Fusion Pilates The Christleton Painters Diva Fitness Aspirations Ballroom Dance	9:15 – 10:15am 10:30am – 3pm 5:30 – 6:30pm 7 – 9pm	Weekly Weekly – not May to Aug Weekly – from 06/01/22 Weekly
FRI	The Ark Toddler Group	9:15 – 11:30am	Weekly – term time
SAT	Fitness Class Saturday Painters	9:15 – 10:15 10:30am – 1pm	Weekly Alternate Saturdays
SUN	Lighthouse Sunday Club Refreshments after 10:30am church service	10:15 – 11:30am 11:30am	Weekly Weekly



St James' Church Calendar DECEMBER 2021:



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 always 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. 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. We now share the Peace, at distance!

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 afterwards in Parish Hall.

Sun **5th December:** 2nd Sunday of Advent.
8:00am & 10:30am Worship in church.
(Any toys brought to the 10.30 service will be given to KIDSBANK CHESTER.)
We welcome Stefan back from his sabbatical.

Mon **6th December:** 10.30am: WI Gowy Group
Carol Service. Entry by ticket only - £3 each.
Refreshments afterwards in church.

Sun **12th December:** 3rd Sunday of Advent.
8:00am & 10:30am Worship in church.

Sun **19th December:** 4th Sunday of Advent.
8:00am & 10:30am Worship in church.
6.30pm: Service of Lessons & Carols

Mon **20th December:** 12.30pm: Luncheon Club.
Simple Christmas lunch. Please book - page 10.

Fri **24th December: Christmas Eve.**
4pm: Crib service for the very young.
7pm: Carols Around the Tree.
11.30pm: (Midnight) Communion.

Sat **25th December: Christmas Day.**
8:00am & 10:30am Worship in church.

Sun **26th December:** St Stephen, Christmas 1.
8:00am & 10:30am Worship in church.

Sun **2nd January 2022:** Epiphany.
8:00am & 10:30am Worship in church.

Sun **9th January 2022:** Epiphany 1.
8:00am & 10:30am Worship in church.

Sun **16th January 2022:** Epiphany 2.
8:00am & 10:30am Worship in church.

Sun **23rd January 2022:** Epiphany 3.
Week of prayer for Christian Unity.
8:00am & 10:30am Worship in church.

Sun **30th January 2022:** Epiphany 4.
Presentation of Christ in the Temple.
Also known as Candlemas
8:00am & 10:30am Worship in church.

Monday - Friday: 9:00am: Morning Prayer - in church.

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.
Term time only. Further details from Tina Lightfoot.

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

FROM THE TREASURER:

I write this in some haste, having just returned from a very sad funeral in Elgin, Ron's grandson aged only 27. However, Scotland is as beautiful as always and moonrise over Inchkeith island in the Firth of Forth could not have been more magical. I wasn't sure if this pink moon was the partial eclipse "blood moon" or just the atmospherics that evening. See pic above.



Snow on the Cairngorms reminded me it was winter, nearly Christmas, Brian would be after me as I had failed to do my article!! Now, to the matter in hand.

As many of you are aware, we have since the pandemic been unable to pay our full parish share, allocated as 1.25 times the diocesan standard share, due to the socio-economic banding of our community. Last year we started only paying 0.75, not even enough to support a full time rector, but due to the generosity and loyalty of the congregation and some generous donations, were able by the end of the year to make this up to an average of 1.05. This at least provided a small contribution towards less affluent parishes. In theory we owe £12k to the diocese from 2020.

This year we bravely hoped to be able to support 1.05, which indeed we have, the finances of the parish running quite steadily at this lower rate. By the end of the year we will have paid £68k to the diocese, but at 1.25 share we would owe yet a further £13k.

So the PCC deliberation will be how close to the wind dare we sail? Or do we risk going into deficit as in the bad old days! Talking of sails, the 3 "sails" of the Queensferry Crossing, the new bridge over the Forth were unbelievable, white shimmering against a grey sky in early morning sunlight – I didn't dare stop to take a pic on the clearway though!



Our stewardship group has recommended a middle ground for safety, of an overall 1.15 for 2021, an additional £6.5k payment, and the PCC has agreed.

If one wanted to support the church, my very favourite way is by regular standing order, gift aided. This goes into the account by magic, very little effort by myself! This provides the majority of our predictable income. Any info required please contact me! The regular envelope scheme is also steady income, although used much less as cash became less popular during the pandemic.

Contactless payments are working well – we have gained £750 since May when our new banking arrangements took over, very little before this due to lockdown. The donations do attract gift aid through the small donations scheme. Thanks to my Christmas present - was it 3 years ago?!!

The website donations this year to date totals £1,472, the majority of these too being gift aided as a declaration can be made on line.

In addition this year, thanks to John Norbury taking the helm, we also have "The Friends" to support our expenditure on the church building and churchyard, on behalf of the community. Although The Friends is still in its early stages, it too will help us balance the books. The design of the finances of this is that it is a subcommittee of the PCC, forming part of the PCC accounts, in a restricted fund. So any payment to "The Friends" should be to Christleton PCC but referenced "Friends" so I can put it into the correct place. It also means the same treasurer can sort it all out!

We have been incredibly fortunate this year to have received several very generous large donations to keep us afloat. The unpredictability of these does make forward planning and budgeting more of a challenge but I am much indebted to John Norbury for help with this, as I am to Nigel Seddon for managing the gift aid, providing another 25% on the majority of our regular giving.

I think this year I may have run out of Christmas presents! Our congregation has been wonderfully loyal and generous. Perhaps it is the diocese that needs it this year.

Thank you all for your incredible support.
Liz McClure



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.

Monday 6th December - 10.30am

WI Gowry Group carol service in St James' Church followed by refreshments in church.

Entry by ticket - £3 from the WI.

Wednesday 8th Dec - 7.15pm

with Angela Haswell - Christmas Decorations

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 12 and 13. 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:

Rosemary Sunter. Died 7/10/2021 aged 87.
Funeral 17/11/2021 at Chester Crematorium.

BAPTISMS:

Erin Byrne at St James on 12/12/2021

WEDDINGS:

Ffion Perrin & Shaun Hughes at St James on Sat 27/11/2021
Jessica Brown & Dominic Sheppard at St James on Sat 4/12/2021



IN OUR PRAYERS:

All those who are ill or recovering from illness, and those who work hard caring for them. We especially remember those with Covid in hospital at this time. We pray for your recovery. May God bless you.

JIM McCREADY: 1943 - 2021 (Funeral was on 18th Aug '21)

Myself and my family would just like to thank everyone from Christleton and surrounding areas, who conveyed the very kind words and thoughts regarding Jim's life. He absolutely loved Christleton and we all, as a family, made so many wonderful friends here. Their expressions of warmth, and sympathy, really helped us and were very much appreciated.

Regards,

Lynn McCready, Helen and Catherine



PS: I knew Jim via the U3A photographic group. Always enthusiastic and cheerful. (Ed.)

CATHERINE HASLAM 1st April 1938 – 16th October 2021

Catherine, or Cath as we knew her, was a devout Christian lady and loyal member of Father Paul's flock in Rowton and at St. Werburgh's.

She was a member of the Churches Together in Christleton committee and for a number of years served as treasurer. In Waverton, where Cath lived with her husband Brian, she was a devoted carer at the Village Day Centre. A proud Lancastrian, Cath was never happier than when she was helping others.

After the trauma of her recent illness may she now rest in peace.

(Sheila Roberts)



DAISY'S ADVENTURES – PART X

Hello everyone

Did you miss me last month? Well I missed you and the reason was that I got the deadline date for the magazine completely wrong! Very embarrassing but these things happen. The problem is that there's been a lot going on recently so here we go.



I've been to the dreaded vet again! I think I told you a while ago that it was recommended that I pay a visit every two months and I didn't know where we were going when I jumped in the car excited to be going for a ride, but when we parked up and I got out of the car I knew exactly where I was and was not impressed at all. In fact, I refused to move from the car park – I sat down and no amount of pulling on the lead and calling to move on would budge me. So you can guess what happened next can't you – I was unceremoniously picked up and carried to the surgery where the vet man took hold of me and carried me inside. Apparently the problem with my rear end is something that happens to small dogs like me and I suspect it's not going to go away any time soon so I'll just have to put up with it from now on. I've put on a bit of weight apparently, nothing to worry about too much but I'm going to be given less to eat which doesn't please me one bit because I like my food, but I don't really have much say in these things.

Anyway, on to something much nicer. My Daddy was 80 years old last month and we all went to the pub to celebrate. We went on a short car ride to a village called Aldford and there were 16 of us in all where we had lunch, well the humans in the party did, but I had biscuit treats from a jar of doggy biscuits on the bar. Someone said he remembers the times when there were bowls of nuts and

crisps on the bar for the customers to nibble on but those have gone and now there's just doggy treats. Things are looking up I say. I was thoroughly spoilt by everyone with lots of cuddles and hands coming down to me under the table offering me something tasty to eat. After lunch everyone came back to my house where there was a special birthday cake with a steam train on the top with the numbers 80 and you'll never believe what was round the bottom of the cake – yes it was a black and tan dachshund just like me!

And now it's Bonfire Night or what I call Nightmare Night! The problem is that I don't like noise or bangs of any kind and fireworks unfortunately go bang, quite a lot as you know. They seem to start with Hallowe'en and then a week later they're at it again for Guy Fawkes Night and they really upset me. In anticipation of a problem my Mummy bought something which she plugged into a socket and it is supposed to emit a special scent which will calm me down, but it didn't work. "That was a waste of £25" she said. The bangs started about 5 o'clock and they are still going on at 10 o'clock and I'm frightened. I tried hiding under a chair but that didn't work, so I hid behind the computer desk but was pulled out because I'd got tangled up in the computer cables which didn't go down very well with my Mummy. I really don't know what to do with myself - I can't stop trembling and as much as I love cuddles I can't sit still for 5 seconds. I just wish they would all stop making such a noise. Ban fireworks for ever I say.

Now it seems this might be the last time I tell you about my 'adventures' for a while which is very sad because I've enjoyed telling you all about what I get up to each month, but let's hope that sometime in the not too distant future, the Magazine will re-start and I'll have so much to tell you. In the meantime I wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a Blessed New Year.

See you next time, sometime, I hope

Daisy - (Published by kind permission of Janet Milton)

REMEMBRANCE

Looking back in history through time is very interesting, especially here in Christleton from the period at end of the Great War, now over 100years ago, when you learn about the decisions with which villagers were confronted. This was a time when the whole parish felt low, many had lost loved ones, several men were prisoners of war, others just "missing". "How to commemorate the end of the war", or "What should be done to create a lasting and permanent memorial to the fallen", were just some of the issues discussed.

Rector GMV Hickey who had carried the Parish through these troubled times, visiting so many grieving families and conducting so many memorial services, led the discussions, together with representatives of the Church, the Parish Councils, members of the Institute, and villagers. After lots of heated debate as to the site of a proposed Memorial Cross, it was eventually agreed to fund a red sandstone cross and that it was to be placed on the Church Green, adjacent to the lychgate, and be visible to all who came through the village. This was done very swiftly by public subscription, and the new memorial erected on April 25th 1920, even before the National Cenotaph of Remembrance in London later that year. 39 names were inscribed on the memorial, but years later we have discovered that there were at least 51 names that should have appeared. There were clearly problems then, as the names on the Church Wall Memorial, the War Memorial itself, and a memorial board in the Institute, do not match, which is a great puzzle to us today, and cannot be solved a hundred years later. We have however, by researching on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission website, in local newspapers of the day, and family archives, been able to correct some of the missing details.



It is impossible to correct the wrongs of the past on the original memorial cross, but a new WWI Memorial, designed by a local blacksmith, and promoted & financed by the Parish Council, the Local History Group, and interested parties in the village, serves to

bring the list of the fallen up to date as we know it today, and commemorates 51 names rather than the original 39. This is now situated on the Village Green.

Drama was to unfold in 1928, when strong winds in a great storm, blew down the original sandstone memorial, and it wasn't until a year later with yet more financial support from villagers, that the memorial was repaired. It looks from photographic evidence that the base we see today is the original one, and that it was the sandstone column and crown that were badly damaged, and replaced. This is the memorial we see today, which has the addition of a plaque to commemorate the men who fell in WWII 1939-1945. Inevitably fewer names are on this plaque, just nineteen in fact, but a recent search of the churchyard has found another young man from Great Boughton, who died in 1944, who should now be included on this list.



Original and now.

Since 1923, the Churchyard has also seen the burial of 8 servicemen who died of injuries received in battle, in the years after the end of the war, in graves paid for and erected by the Commonwealth Graves Commission. Six of these have the traditional style of CWGC gravestones seen in graveyards all over the world, but interestingly we have two other memorials, quite distinctive in style, which are listed as being supported by the CWGC.

I have also identified with small wooden crosses, graves in the churchyard where men who died in

both WWI & WWII, are now remembered with other members of their family in Christleton, although buried in graveyards all over the world. Since 2019, the Churchyard has been recognised as having Commonwealth Graves, with a green plaque placed adjacent to the lychgate.

Remembrance Day 2021 in Christleton was held on a gloriously crisp morning on Sunday 14th November. Representatives of the Church, the Royal British Legion, our Local Parish Councils, Youth Organisations and members of the Community paraded through the village to the War Memorial, where members of the congregation were waiting. The wreath bearers were led this year by Colonel Ian Large of the British Army in Nato stationed in The Netherlands. He laid a wreath crafted in red fresh flowers on behalf of the church at the centre of the memorial, and later read a lesson in church.

The Reverends Rob Croft and Elizabeth Inall were waiting at the War Memorial at 10.50am to conduct the very moving tribute to the fallen of both Wars and to enable us to be part of the National Commemoration at 11.00am. The names of the fallen were read out, by David Cummings and Paul Forrest. Wreaths were laid, prayers said, and flags of the organisations lowered as the last post was played. The traditional two minutes silence was followed by reveille, and the congregation were led

into church by the Parade to complete the traditional form of the service, familiar to villagers for many generations. Sadly this year there was no member of the Lewis Family to carry the British Legion standard, as Brian Lewis who had carried the Legion Standard with such distinction for 20 years had passed away suddenly in 2020. The family had been involved as standard bearers in Christleton for almost 50 years.

The Church was beautifully decorated for the occasion, and the solemn ceremony carried out by the Reverends Rob Croft and Elizabeth Inall. The lessons were read by Alf Croston and Colonel Ian Large and the Intercessions by Joce Platel. A retiring collection was taken for the Royal British Legion, and after the service the congregation enjoyed refreshments in the Parish Hall.

David Cummings



Colonel Ian Large



HOCKENHULL PLATTS

CWT RESERVE 1972-1921

When I look back after almost 50 years of recording at this special wetland site, I am very conscious of the changes to bird sightings and populations. This wetland site, part of the Grosvenor Estate, was created primarily on the fields of a former dairy farm, with a newly planted stand of poplar trees, planted to eventually be a source of matchsticks, at the edge.

The ancient highway from Chester to London, across a causeway and three medieval packhorse bridges over the River Gowy, ran through the reserve. In the early years cuckoo were almost ever present and bred on the site together with curlew, common and jack snipe, skylark and yellow wagtail. Wheatear, winchat and stonechat were regular visitors, and breeding birds included good numbers of willow, sedge, garden, grasshopper warblers, common and lesser whitethroat. Willow warblers largely disappeared from the site by 1997, their territories being taken over by chiff chaff and black cap, and now, excitingly in the 2020's by cettis and reed warblers. Reed buntings have always been common at Hockenhull with up to 10 pairs recorded in the 1987 BTO Census. The hedgerows were always full of tree sparrows, greenfinch, bullfinch, linnets and yellowhammer, and the wet meadow was a regular haunt of tawny and barn owls, with little owls found in the boundary oaks between the reserve and Christleton. Surrounding meadows also hosted hundreds of lapwing with good number of golden plover in the autumn. How things have changed!

The most significant change was that of farming practices, from dairy to arable with the coming of the Common Agricultural Policy, and the building of a reservoir to service those new farm crops. Much later, the digging of a huge lake on the Tarvin side of the reserve alongside the Gowy has completely changed the nature of the site. Although several attempts have been made to graze the reserve by horses, cattle and sheep, the vegetation has continued to grow and even the big "drier" meadow is now head high with reeds, rushes and grasses in summer months. Gone are the stands of common spotted, early purple and northern marsh orchids and even many of the smaller flowering plants such as ragged robin, lady smock and burr reed, have been taken over by this enormous growth.



Water levels have fluctuated, but the last five years of excessive rainfall has seen water under all three bridges many times, and the whole reserve under water for weeks on end. There has been a great increase in the number of species of damsel and dragonflies, with a similar increase in butterfly species until 2019. Otters now regularly breed on the site, and the new lake has attracted a wide variety of wildfowl. Little grebe, great crested grebe, wigeon, teal, pintail, shoveler, tufted duck, mandarin and the occasional goldeneye are present, and we have even had bewick and whooper swans joining a small local mute population.



Banded Damselfly

Birds of prey, relatively rare in the 1970's, are now common with daily sightings of buzzard, kestrel, sparrowhawk, with occasional sightings of hobby, red kite, marsh harrier and peregrine falcon. One of the most rewarding experiences of late has been the return of good numbers of lapwing, often seen in hundreds, roosting on the island and displaying over the lake and surrounding fields. They have been accompanied by up to four pairs of oystercatcher, and lots of geese. Greylag and Canada geese are regular visitors, but the most exciting change has

been the daily visits by up to 3,000 pink footed geese, which fly over in V shaped skeins, with skein after skein following with excited calling from group to group. Grey Heron, Little egret, cormorant and a variety of gulls are almost ever present on the Gowy or near the lake.

The reserve has always had lots of breeding pairs of blue, great and long tailed tits, and the poplars are home to several pair of greater spotted woodpecker, treecreepers and goldcrests. Spotted flycatchers, once a common sight, are sadly now quite rare, but numbers of thrushes are increasing, with song and mistle thrush breeding on the reserve, and good numbers of wintering fieldfare and redwing seen. Kingfisher and mandarin duck have made attempts to breed in the plantation, but stoats and grey squirrels probably deter these. A kingfisher did build a nest in the bank of the Gowy, and successfully bred young in 2016, despite the nest collapsing, but sightings in the last two years have been rare.

David Cummings

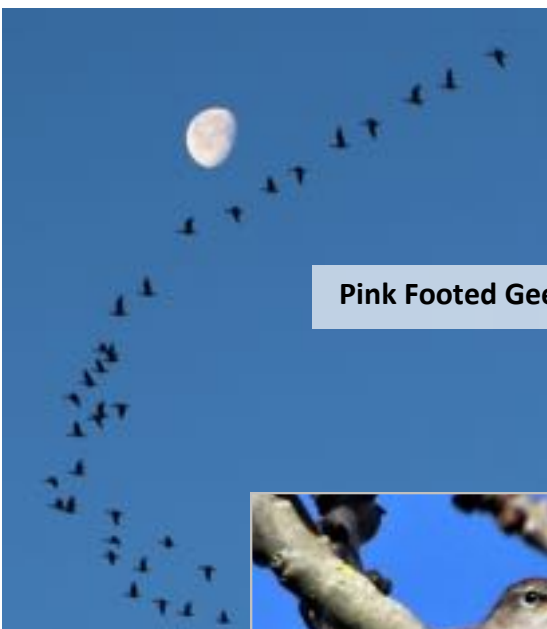
Thanks to Joe O Hanlon, John Ball, David Hiley and the late Vincent Tonge for their sightings on the reserve.



Spotted Flycatcher



Mandarin Duck



Pink Footed Geese



Cettis Warbler

CHRISTLETON4

Readers might like to know that the articles I write for the Parish Magazine, are also produced in a slightly different format on the village website www.christleton.org.uk/christleton4. Each month you will find illustrated articles on Wildlife, History and a new series in 2021, Christleton in the Past. This latter article has a feature illustrating village life through the last 160 years using archive photographs. Each month has a theme, e.g Boat Yards and Boat Building in Christleton, The Farming Community, Horses and Wagons, Village Fetes etc.

If this is the last Christleton Parish Magazine for a short while, please keep up to date using the Village Website and especially **christleton4**

David Cummings

"CHRISTLETON CELEBRATES"

Thank you to everyone who contributed to my fund raising evening "Christleton Celebrates" on Saturday 20th November. I am delighted to tell you that we raised the magnificent total of £750 for Prostate Cancer Research, in memory of Ronald Birks, a great friend of Christleton.

David Cummings

A MESSAGE OF THANKS TO BRIAN INALL:

Thank you Brian for all your hard work and dedication and seeing the Parish Magazine through at least the last three years, as collator and Editor, although your influence can be seen much earlier than that, particularly when the Churchwardens newsletters were produced in the interregnum in 2018.

It is a skilled art to produce a fine style of magazine, having been sent articles of all shapes and sizes from your contributors. It is consistently well produced, attractive and interesting to read. Can I say a really big thank you on behalf of the congregation, for all you have contributed to this magazine, as well as many other tasks, for the village community.

David Cummings

ANNE BUTTERWORTH

24th April 1922 – 18th November 2021

Anne, or Annie as she more recently wished to be known, was born in Haslingden; another proud Lancashire lass! She had three brothers and two sisters and enjoyed a happy childhood.

After attending grammar school she trained to become a nurse. During the war years she worked at the old Salford Royal Infirmary and was on duty the night it was bombed. She rose through the

ranks and in the early 70's came to live in Grove Gardens, Littleton ready to take up the role of senior sister tutor at Chester City Hospital.



Annie lived life to the full and in retirement was able to take even more pleasure in walking, birdwatching and lively conversations with friends, generally putting the world to rights! She took an interest in village activities and was a keen member of the W.I. of which she was president, 1995 and 1996.

Travelling was a particular enjoyment, especially her visits to America where she stayed with Gladys her pen friend of many, many years and on another occasion, accompanied by her very good friend Shela Stokes, stayed with Graham and Mae Omie Mosely who will be remembered by some in this area.

About 3 or 4 years ago Annie moved to 'Oaklands' where she was well looked after and continued to put the world to rights! Several of us went along to serenade her on her 99th birthday; a very happy memory of this lass from Lancashire.

Above all Annie had a deep Christian faith and was a loyal lifelong member of the Methodist Church.

May she now rest in peace.

Sheila Roberts

Churchyard Maintenance



During this pandemic 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 organising working groups. Please come along.

Next date is: **4th December** - starting at 10.30am.

More details and future dates from Mike Lightfoot - Tel: 07787 421357



Please donate non-perishable food and leave it at the back of the church in the Foodbank box. Donations are really needed. Look at the list of what's required or visit their website: westcheshire.foodbank.org.uk
Thank you,
Chris Alderton

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