



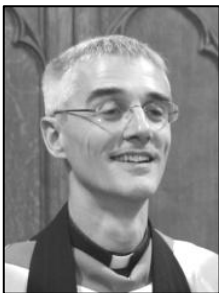
PARISH OF ST JAMES

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

MARCH 2019

50p.

THIS THING CALLED LENT:



As you read this, there is a good chance we will be in the church's season of Lent.

I remember one time giving up chocolate for Lent. If you know me, you'll appreciate how difficult this was! So, you can imagine my joy when my boss at the time told me the forty day period of fasting did not include the Sundays between Ash Wednesday [the start of Lent, this year on the 6 March] and Easter Sunday. How could you fast on the Lord's day he said or words to that effect. Well, I leave you to imagine what happened thereafter! If your mind has wandered to feeding time at the zoo, then you are in the right ballpark – weak man that I am. A weakness, maybe mischievousness, that continued when I passed on the good news to the school children of the local church school I was pastor of. Needless to say they were delighted that they too could feast on Sundays during Lent.

So, Lent is a time of self-denial. There is much more to it than that, but this is where I should like to stay for now. I wonder whether our focus on self-denial often misses the point, however. Because our self-denial has, often,

at its heart – ourselves. Does that make sense? What I mean is that we often say I will give up, for example, chocolate because this will make me healthy. It's about me really – what I can do for myself, what I can do to make myself better. If this is the case, then I think we are missing the point of Lent.

For it is, among other things, a time of being renewed, reconciled, and restored in Jesus Christ, God Himself. Surely this suggests if we are to settle on a discipline of self denial this Lent then it should be one that allows for, or is directed towards, this being renewed, reconciled, and restored in Christ? The Christ who loves us.

With this in mind, I quite like the idea of taking something up for Lent as a practice of self-denial and movement into the heart of God. A book might be a good option, and the Archbishop of Canterbury, both present and past, have had the habit of supporting a book for study during Lent. This year the book is called Reconciliation by Muthuraj Swamy. Last year, 2018, it was the book called Say it to God: In Search of Prayer by Luigo Giola. By reading one of these or another book we can deny ourselves, and draw close to God this Lent, and know his renewal, direction, and blessing. I look forward to hearing your stories of the same.

In addition, and as part of our commitment to seeking to be a community energized by faith, we will be offering a Lent course this year, which affords another opportunity for you. A time of community learning, which is a really important part of being church and a follower of Jesus. It is based on the film 'The Theory of Everything' which will be shown on the evening of 5th March at 7:30pm (most likely in St James, but please check the website or call 01244 325529 for final details). The course, which will not require any technical or other capability, is called 'The Mystery of Everything'. It is written by Hilary Brand and "explores ways in which the mysteries of the universe and of everyday life – and the acceptance that we have more questions than answers – can reinvigorate our faith and spiritual journeys". It, the same course, will

run Tuesday evenings at 7:30pm on 12, 19, and 26 March and 2 and 9 April as part of our home group, details available from 01244 325529, and on Wednesday mornings at 10:30am on 13, 20, and 27 March, and 3 and 10 April at St James church. You are warmly invited to join with us as we share this journey of learning and self-denial this Lent.

There is truth in the old adage – you get out what you put in. To observe Lent both as individuals and a community of faith involves a cost and sacrifice which will be different for each one of us. It is a cost and sacrifice we have to weigh and choose to bear, but, in God's economy, this is where the old adage gets turned on its head – you get out far more than what you put in.

With my love and prayers,

Stefan

THE STEEP AND RUGGED PATHWAY:

A few years ago Brian and I went trekking in the Himalayas one January. It was a truly amazing experience in so many ways. It was extremely cold. As the temperature outside has recently been below zero, it's hard to imagine that we spent eight days in even colder temperatures. At one point on the trek the temperature outside was -16°C and inside was -8°C!

The trek itself I have to say was very hard work, made more difficult by the high altitude which left me quite breathless at times. For most of the trek we were either walking up hill or downhill and rare sections on the level were sheer bliss! We walked on snow and ice and I did manage to fall over a couple of times. But I bounced and nothing was hurt save my pride!

It may seem strange but there was a hymn which kept coming into my head and the picture of the steps will give a clue to what it

is: 'Father hear the prayer we offer.' It was the second verse which came so readily to mind '*Not for ever in green pastures do we ask our way to be; but the steep and rugged pathway may we tread rejoicingly.*'

I don't know about you but the idea of rejoicing at the steep and rugged pathway that can be life doesn't sit too easily with me. For many the traumas that life can throw at us are far from an anything to rejoice about. They are certainly times when we have to dig deep into our spiritual resources and find comfort and strength to cope. Yes they are times when our friends can pray for us, and can offer practical help and support. With hind sight they may well prove to be times of growth. But treading the path rejoicingly? I doubt it. (Other interpretations of the hymn are available!)

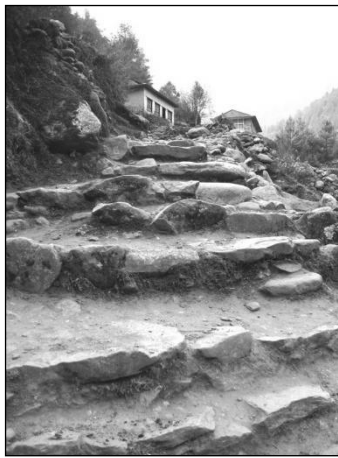
There are times when the opening lines of Psalm 22 would seem a more honest response and more appropriate '*My God, my God, why have you forsaken me, and are so far from my salvation, from the words of my distress*'

Thankfully our trip was not all hard work we were rewarded with spectacular views of snow capped mountains, river valleys and pretty villages, walks through pine and rhododendron forests and along river banks. We enjoyed good food and good company and it was great fun.

The highest point of the trek was at a place called Tengboche at about 4000 metres. It was so cold! But we got up at dawn to see the sunrise on the surrounding mountains including Everest. It was breath taking. The sense of elation I felt was quite remarkable, it was truly a glimpse of the Glory of God in creation.

The rest of my group chose to walk up even higher whilst the old lady was left to wander around in the snow and drink in the stunning surroundings. When I was sure I was quite alone and no one could hear I expressed my feelings by singing another hymn, literally singing out loud – *Praise my Soul the King of Heaven, to his feet thy tribute bring..... Angels*

help us to adore him, ye behold him face to face, sun and moon bow down before him, dwellers all in time and space, Alleluia, Alleluia, praise with us the God of grace.



Perhaps such moments are given to us so that we will be able to remember them and remember the ever present, ever loving God when life is that 'steep and rugged pathway'.

Elizabeth Inall

TREASURER'S UPDATE:



There is NO Treasurer's Report this month. Oh dear! Is it because the finances are all OK? No, although the situation is improving! Is it because there is nothing to report? No, there is always

something going on to report!

As forecast, it is because Liz has fled the country. She has taken herself virtually as far away from us as it's possible to go - to New Zealand. Have a great time Liz, may God keep you safe, and hopefully by the time this is being read you'll be back counting our beans again!

(Editor)

MY WAY?

Along with thousands, probably millions, of folk of my generation, I have been a lifelong fan of Frank Sinatra.

"Ol' blue eyes" knew how to take the sometimes sloppy banal words of a popular

song and work a special kind of magic with it. His phrasing, diction and breath control were second to none. In happy carefree times he had us "hand in hand swinging down the lane". In times of lost love he came with us with "full moon and empty arms" and when that loss kept us awake at night, he reflected it back with "in the wee small hours of the morning, that's the time you'll miss her most of all". With so much to applaud and be grateful for, it hurts to say that what is probably his most popular, superbly interpreted song, distresses me.

The story goes that Sinatra was having dinner with the song writer Paul Anka. He told Anka that he was thinking of leaving the music business. Anka went home and returned the following morning with the "My way" lyric to the music of an earlier French song "Comme d'habitude". The song records that, as Sinatra's career ends, he has loved, laughed and cried. Indeed he has led a full life with few regrets doing what he had to do. And above all he stood tall and "did it my way".

Given this shout of confidence at the end of an outstanding musical career, the listener might join the applause but many in our society have taken the song away from a comment on an outstanding musical achievement to become, for them, an obituary. A celebration of how the "Me generation" has lived in defiance of the odds against it.

Writing to the Corinthians, (Saint) Paul lists the astonishing things that he has endured: flogging, prison, shipwreck, stoning, hunger etc, etc. Indeed the New International Bible heads this section "Paul boasts about his sufferings". Sounds as if he would agree with the line from the Sinatra song "I ate it up and spit it out" but he doesn't because he goes on to say that he is boasting as a fool.

In later life Sinatra came to regard the song as self-serving and self-indulgent. Well I am with you Frank because my life experience can be summarised in the words of the spiritual "T'is grace that's borne me safe thus far. And grace (I trust) will lead me home".

Jim Hawkes.

CHURCHES TOGETHER - LENT 2019

We now have definite dates and places for our five visits to Chapels in our area (see last month's magazine). We shall meet at the venues at 2.30pm each time - visit the Chapel, have a time of prayer and learn about the work of the Chaplaincy, stop for tea and chat at 3.30 and leave at 4pm. Please let us know if you need help getting there, although parking arrangements still need to be advised.

Please note that the first four are on Tuesday afternoons, the last on a Thursday. They are:

Tues 12 March:

The Hospice of the Good Shepherd, Backford

Tues 19 March:

The Catholic High School, Handbridge

Tues 26 March:

The Countess of Chester Hospital

Tues 2 April:

St Peter's at the Cross, Chester

Thurs 11 April:

The University of Chester, Cheyney Road

We would be delighted if you could join us!

Jan Bowden

TALKING ABOUT THINGS:

To discuss something means to delve further into 'that something', to look at it from several perspectives perhaps. But, in order for a discussion to really bear fruit, certain prerequisites are needed. Primarily the atmosphere must be relaxed and there must be trust or trust should develop, between those taking part in the discussion.

Without trust and the right atmosphere there is unlikely to be real honesty about views and feelings and, without that element of honesty, exploring the depths of any topic is much more difficult, as is allowing such discursive study to lead one on to new insights.

The St James 'discussion group' which has been meeting every week since October 2018, has had as its aim this particular kind of informal relaxedness, which it was thought

would help drive a deeper look at scripture in relation to our everyday lives and commitment to Jesus Christ. Thus we spent many weeks talking about how the Christian life should be led in the modern world, what we do and what we should perhaps do to follow Christ more fully. More recently we have been grappling with the meaning of the Holy Spirit and the gifts he gives.

All the people who belong to the group seem very positive about its benefit and the way that we all have spoken about some issues would indicate to me that trust is developing really well. Using personal experience and understanding, with the Scriptures as a basis for discussion, has enthused people, I think, and encouraged everyone to contribute when they felt ready. A discussion group will always be a work in progress, but so far commitment and interest remain strong.

We would encourage more people to come and join us. More groups could arise to benefit more people. Christians are a pilgrim group following the Great King on a journey to our real home in another place. We need to support each other as closely as possible along that road.

Chris Platel

RE-OPENING OF LISTED CHURCH IN BRISTOL:

Despite the popular opinion that churches are struggling to survive, some churches are NOT closing.

St Nicholas Church in Bristol closed due to bomb damage during the Blitz which destroyed the city's neighbouring commercial centre.

It has since been leased to Bristol City Council and used as a museum, tourist information centre and offices.

On Sunday 9th December 2018, it re-opened as a church with a carol service - the last regular service was in 1959. As there is no organ, live music is the order of the day.

It has been a costly exercise to bring it back into use – it is Grade 2* listed and it features a vast altarpiece commissioned for St. Mary Radcliffe in 1755 and painted by William Hogarth.

It is planned to use it as a resourcing church aiming to serve the wider community and those currently unconnected with the Church. The site was first established as a church in the 12th century and formed part of the old city wall. The main church was built in the 18th century though the crypt dates from the 14th century. Mid-week services are planned to cater for workers in the area.

(Supplied by Bettie Gilliatt)

QUIZ:

WATT SHOCKING NEWS: After having a spark of an idea I once trained as an electrician. Initially I felt very positive about being wired up to this activity to help friends and family with odd electrical jobs, but the feeling became rather neutral and then negative when I discovered the current high cost and effort involved to maintain proper accreditation. It brought me down to earth. I had bonded with the other students and connected with their ambitions, but my resistance to proceed eventually prevailed after alternating between "shall I, shan't I". A bit of high tension one could say as I terminated my plans making me feel a little insulated from my colleagues. Despite the fact that the potential for setting up a small casual business had been short-circuited I was not phased, but I disconnected myself from the idea and became grounded in my thinking that I had made the right choice. This has since generated other ideas and switched on opportunities. I am alive to those ideas and will try and plug myself into them, subject of course to my capacity to learn something new.

QUIZ: For the above passage can you count all the electrical references? Answer on back page. (Editor)

PARISH HALL BLINDS

It seems ages ago that those lovely orange coloured curtains were taken down in the Parish Hall to enable redecoration. The painting was done thanks to the Community Payback team, but what about the curtains?

The hall now echoed rather a lot and sunlight



needed shading for slide shows, and so something needed to be put back at the windows - but not those curtains.

Grey coloured black-out blinds were discussed as the preferred

option, sponsorship was chosen to cover the cost (just under £4,000 in total with fitting) and indeed most of the blinds now in place have been paid for by sponsors. Appropriate plaques will be fixed alongside the blinds.

Please enjoy them, and grateful thanks to the sponsors and those who organised the work.

(Editor)

ST JAMES' CHURCH PRAISES COMMUNITY PAYBACK:

Offenders carrying out Community Payback have been praised for the work they have done maintaining the grounds of St James' Church in Christleton.

People sentenced by the courts to carry out unpaid work carry out a range of tasks at the Grade II listed building, which can trace its history back to the Domesday Book. Groups of up to eight people supervised by the Cheshire & Greater Manchester Community Rehabilitation Company (CGM CRC) work at the church every Saturday as part of an arrangement that stretches back two years.

Tasks undertaken include mowing the grass, maintaining the cemetery and cleaning commemorative plaques and grave stones.

Revd Dr Stefan Collier said: "We are profoundly grateful for the Community Payback team, who under the kind and wise care of Val Barker, have been helping to maintain our large churchyard. "Their committed hard work forms an essential backbone for making the churchyard the wonderful place of peace and encounter with God and loved ones that it is."

Once a month members of the church community join the Community Payback team and share soup and bread, in an event arranged by parishioner Mike Lightfoot. Stefan added: "The payback team's humour and friendship at these times is an especial blessing to us, and one for which we are continually giving thanks for."

Christleton won the Best Kept Village award for Cheshire West. Val Mears, a Community Payback supervisor for CGM CRC, said: "I am delighted the work carried out by our service users has been appreciated by the church.

"Community Payback is a punishment for breaking the law, it is rigorously enforced, but it is also a way for people to make amends for whatever they have done and to ultimately learn new skills. The fact their work is so clearly welcomed means a great deal."

(Community Payback)

Congratulations to Eric & Alison Kenyon who celebrate their Diamond Wedding Saturday 30th March. With best wishes from all their friends in the village.

You are invited to join us for:
Coffee, Cake and Chat
First Thursday each Month
at Christleton Methodist Church
10 - 12 noon.

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP:

As you all know you must re-apply to go onto or to stay on the Electoral Roll this year. It happens every 6 years when it is completely wiped and recompiled.

So what are the benefits of church membership? Dave Walker is a cartoonist for the Church Times and gave us 6 key benefits. Sadly we can't include the amusing drawings, but here are the descriptions of those suggested six 'must have' benefits:

- 1: Use of the secret 'Members Only' lounge.
- 2: Previews of sermons the night before.
- 3: Exclusive special bumper parish magazine members' edition with all those extra juicy bits of information.
- 4: A 'Get out of Rota Free' card.
- 5: Priority lane at the after service coffee.
- 6: Badge and stickers.

(Editor)

Thank you to everyone who phoned, e-mailed & visited me with their kind thoughts, prayers & best wishes following my recent surgery. Slowly but surely I'm making good progress towards a full recovery but please be aware
I WILL BE BACK. *John Milton.*



CHRISTLETON WI

Meets on the 2nd Wednesday each month.
7.15pm in the Parish Hall

New members welcome.
Details from Elizabeth Inall (Tel: 336500)

Next meeting: Wed 13th March
Speaker: Janet Bradshaw
"Sweet Memories"

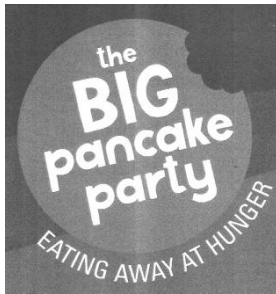
**Bettie's
BIG PANCAKE PARTY:**

Tues 5th March

10.30am at
East Garth, Tarvin Road, Littleton.
CH3 7DF (Tel: 335645)

Eat freshly cooked pancakes with
all the trimmings, plus tea &
coffee. All welcome. Raffle.

Donations to "Network Together"



which helps
end hunger
in this country.

(Church Urban Fund.)

**CHURCH ANNUAL
MEETINGS:**

Sunday 24th March 2019

12 noon in the Parish Hall

The Meeting of the Parishioners
(to elect Churchwardens)
immediately followed by the main
Annual Parochial Church Meeting
(APCM) when reports will be given
and PCC members elected.

All church members (those on the
new Electoral Roll) are invited to
attend and participate.

St James' Church is proud to invite you to:

**SUPPER with
MUSIC**

Featuring the talented violinist:

PHILIP CHIDELL

ON

Sat 16th March '19

7 for 7.30pm

Christleton Parish Hall



£15 each including a welcome drink
and a two-course hot meal.

Tickets: Christine Abrams (tel: 335562)

Please bring any extra drinks.



For the Parish Hall
Refurbishment Fund

LENT GROUPS:

Two parallel groups following the same
course work for Lent. Tuesday evenings at
7.30pm in someone's home, and
Wednesday mornings at 10.30am in the
side chapel in Church. These replace the
regular events at these times for just the 5
weeks of Lent. Open to all. You can switch
between the groups to suit yourselves.

We'll be using a study book (optional cost
£5) so please indicate on the sign-up list in
church if you hope to come.

Tues 12th & Wed 13th March
Tues 19th & Wed 20th March
Tues 26th & Wed 27th March
Tues 2nd & Wed 3rd April
Tues 9th & Wed 10th April

In preparation a film will be shown at 7.30pm
on 5th March - probably in church.

St James' Church Calendar

March & April 2019

Every **Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday** and **Friday**: 9am: Morning Prayer

MARCH:

<u>Sunday 3rd:</u>	8am:	Holy Communion (BCP) followed by Breakfast in the Parish Hall
<i>(next of Lent)</i>	10.45am:	Holy Communion. Refreshments.
	6.30pm:	Evening Prayer
Monday 4th:	1.45pm:	Mothers' Union in the Parish Hall
Tuesday 5th:	10.30am:	Big Pancake Party morning at Bettie's. (See page 7)
<i>(Shrove Tues)</i>	7.30pm:	Home Discussion Group - the film preparing for the Lent Group to be shown, probably in church, & replaces the normal home group.
Wed 6th:	10.45am:	United Holy Communion with Imposition of Ashes. Refreshments.
<i>(Ash Wed)</i>	7.30pm:	Holy Communion with Imposition of Ashes
Saturday 9th:	10.30am:	Churchyard Working Group
<u>Sunday 10th:</u>	8am:	Holy Communion
<i>(1st of Lent)</i>	10.45am:	Morning Worship. Refreshments.
	6.30pm:	Holy Communion
Tuesday 12th:	2pm:	Churches Together Lent Visit (1st of 5) (see page 4)
	7.30pm:	Home Lent Study Group (1st of 5) at Grange House, Village Rd.
Wed 13th:	10.30am:	Lent Study Group (1st of 5) in church. (See page 7)
Saturday 16th:	7 for 7.30pm:	'Supper with Music' featuring Philip Chidell (Violin). (See page 7)
<u>Sunday 17th:</u>	8am:	Holy Communion
<i>(2nd of Lent)</i>	10.45am:	Holy Communion. Refreshments and Produce Sale.
	4pm:	Messy Church in Parish Hall
	6pm:	Crew Youth Group in Parish Hall
	6.30pm:	Evening Prayer (BCP)
Monday 18th:	12.30pm:	Luncheon Club in the Parish Hall
Tuesday 19th:	2pm:	Churches Together Lent Visit (2nd of 5) (see page 4)
	7.30pm:	Home Lent Study Group (2nd of 5) at Sandheys, Plough Lane
Wed 20th:	10.45am:	Lent Study Group (2nd of 5) in church. (See page 7)
<u>Sunday 24th:</u>	8am:	Holy Communion
<i>(3rd of Lent)</i>	10.45am:	Morning Prayer (trad) . Refreshments.
	12 noon:	Church Annual Meetings in the Parish Hall, comprising: The Meeting of the Parishioners followed by the APCM. (See page 7)
	6.30pm:	Holy Communion
Tuesday 26th:	2pm:	Churches Together Lent Visit (3rd of 5) (see page 4)
	7.30pm:	Home Lent Study Group (3rd of 5) at Sandheys, Plough Lane
Wed 27th:	10.45am:	Lent Study Group (3rd of 5) in church. (See page 7)
<u>Sunday 31st:</u>	<u>Mothering Sunday</u> . Also, note that <u>clocks go forward 1 hour to Summer Time</u> .	
<i>(4th of Lent)</i>	8am:	Holy Communion
	10.45am:	Holy Communion. Refreshments.
	6.30pm:	5th Sunday evening Service

APRIL:

Monday 1st:	1.45pm:	Mothers' Union in the Parish Hall
Tuesday 2nd:	2pm:	Churches Together Lent Visit (4th of 5) (see page 4)
	7.30pm:	Home Lent Study Group (4th of 5) at Sandheys, Plough Lane
Wed 3rd:	10.45am:	Lent Study Group (4th of 5) in church. (See page 7)
Sunday 7th: (5th of Lent)	8am:	Holy Communion (BCP) followed by Breakfast in the Parish Hall
	10.45am:	Holy Communion. Refreshments.
	6.30pm:	Evening Prayer
Tuesday 9th:	7.30pm:	Home Lent Study Group (Last of 5) at Grange House, Village Road
Wed 10th:	10.45am:	Lent Study Group (Last of 5) in church. (See page 7)
	12 - 1.30pm:	Churches Together Lent Lunch (See page 10)
Thursday 11th:	2pm:	Churches Together Lent Visit (Last of 5) (see page 4)
Sunday 14th: (Palm Sunday)	8am:	Holy Communion
	10.45am:	Morning Worship. Refreshments.
	6.30pm:	Holy Communion
Monday 15th:	12.30pm:	Luncheon Club in the Parish Hall
Tuesday 16th:	7.30pm:	Home Discussion Group - venue TBA
Wed 17th:	10.45am:	Holy Communion (BCP). Refreshments.
Thursday 18th:	7.30pm:	Service for Maundy Thursday (<i>followed by Stripping the Church</i>).
Friday 19th:	7.30pm:	Service for Good Friday
Sunday 21st: (Easter Sunday)	8am:	Holy Communion
	10.45am:	Family Communion. Refreshments and Produce Sale.
		(no evening service)
Tuesday 23rd:	7.30pm:	Home Discussion Group - venue TBA
Wed 24th:	10.45am:	Holy Communion (BCP). Refreshments.
Sunday 28th: (Easter 2)	8am:	Holy Communion
	10.45am:	Morning Prayer (Trad). Refreshments.
	6.30pm:	Holy Communion
Tuesday 30th:	7.30pm:	Home Discussion Group - venue TBA

LOOKING FURTHER AHEAD:

- Mon 13th May: 7.30pm, St John's Aldford. Archdeacon's Visitation Service.
Sat 18th May: (Provisional date) Fundraising concert in Church with the Kelsborrow Choir.
Sat 22nd June: A fundraising evening with "Jig Saw Jazz" in the Parish Hall.
Sat 29th June: Christleton Village Fete. St James' Church will be there.
Sat 13th July: Christleton Show. Theme: "Reuse and Recycle"

Note: BCP means the service uses the Book of Common Prayer and older traditional language.

All Calendar entries subject to correction or change. Check also the "What's On" calendar on the church website as this may show more up-to-date information.



Churchyard Maintenance.

Next is:

Saturday 9th March

Once a month at 10.30am we hold a working party to help maintain our church yard. If you would like to join us just come along in old clothes with gloves and basic gardening tools (not essential). For further information please contact:

Mike Lightfoot - Tel: 07787 421357

Luncheon Club

The next lunch is at
**12noon (for 12.30) in the Parish Hall on
Monday 18th March 2019**

A tasty hot meal. All welcome, but please book a place if you haven't already by calling: Liz: 409414; Janet: 325529; or Christine: 335562

**CHURCHES TOGETHER
IN CHRISTLETON**

LENT LUNCH

including homemade soup on
Wednesday 10th April 2019
12 noon - 1.30pm in the
Methodist Schoolroom.
Proceeds to Christian Aid
All welcome

The Crew

St James' Youth Group

The next meeting in the Parish Hall
Sunday 17th March at 6 pm



Messy Church

on

Sunday 17th March 2019
4pm in Christleton Parish Hall

CHRISTLETON PARISH HALL

Available for
Meetings, Parties, Functions, etc.
The Hall has wheelchair access and
specially adapted facilities.
For bookings please contact the
Booking Secretary
Janet Milton
Tel: 325529 (before 8.00pm)
email: christletonhall@gmail.com

Wednesday 27th March. 7.30pm
Local History Group. Christleton Parish Hall.
Memorable Memorials & their stories.
Speaker: David Cummings

Saturday 30th March. 7.00pm
Christleton Parish Hall.
David & Beryl Cummings present:
*A Journey through South Africa, from Pretoria
and Port Elizabeth, to Knysna, Cape Town and
the Cape of Good Hope.*

A Talk for the 2019 Christian Aid Appeal.
Tickets £7 including refreshments. Available
from David 332410 or from the back of church.

THE HISTORY FILE.

Christleton Girls & Infants School 1940-45. Extracts from the School Log Book- Part 1.



Whilst doing research for a new project about the village in WWII, I've come across the log book from the Girls and Infant School which makes fascinating reading and I'd like to share some of the contents with you. What I find extraordinary is that the authorities seemed to be taking things seriously even in 1938.

1938:

Sept 30th. Children dismissed and school closed to enable teachers to attend Air Raid Precautions Meeting at Hoole Council School. School resumed at 1.00pm.

1939:

May 24th. Empire Day celebrated this morning by special lessons on peace, singing Empire songs and the National Anthem.

August 29th Time table has been interrupted by Gas mask drill.

Sept 1st. School closed at 3.00pm on receipt of telegram to close.

Sept 12th. Admitted 15 evacuees in the afternoon session. These came without a teacher and were merged into the classes. They are all from St Patrick's RC School, Liverpool.

Sept 13th. Headteacher left school for a short period to attend a conference with Miss Earlam and the Liverpool teachers at the Boys School.

Sept 15th Mr Saunders HMI called this morning and made enquiries about the arrangements for the evacuees.

Sept 18th School opened on double shift system this morning. First session. Cheshire children taking morning shift 9- 12.30 and evacuees taking the afternoon session 1.30- 5.00pm. At the morning session there were also 2 classes of evacuees.

Sept 29th The children have been taken for Nature Walks and Games during the afternoons.

Oct 2nd. Double shifts have been reversed this week. Cheshire children taking the afternoon session 1.30- 5.00pm, and the Evacuees Morning session 9.- 12.30.

October 20th & other dates

The children have been taken for walks and games during the mornings this week

Nov 3rd The children have been taken for the usual activities in the afternoons.

Nov 17th During the past week the children have been given homework to do in the afternoons which have been wet.

Nov 21st Combined full time school began this morning. Room A 76; Room B 28; Room C 85.

1940:

Jan 15th Ten children were transferred from Class III to Class II, and seven from Class II to Class I. this was necessitated by uneven numbers in the classes caused by the return of unofficial evacuees to their homes.

Jan 25th Children were granted a half day holiday and taken to the cinema as part of a Christmas Treat.

May 14th School reopened this morning due to National emergency.

May 17th During the past week the children have had Air Raid Drill each day. The Head Teacher 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.

May 24th. Empire Day was celebrated by singing songs of Empire and the National Anthem. School closed at 12 noon for a half day holiday.

August 30th. Attendance was 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.

David Cummings

NATURE NOTES:

What a strange winter and spring this has been. Some plants don't seem to know what season it is. As I look out on our garden, the winter jasmine has finished but we have a beautiful yellow cowslip in flower. Also a single rose, an Oriental poppy, a clump of cyclamen, a small number of miniature iris, daffodils and crocus. In the village the new ring of crocus we planted on the Village Green has started to emerge, but very few of the old stock seem to have survived. It is some years now since we had the magnificent display of crocus that lit up the Green in spring each year. I've noticed elsewhere that there are groups of delightful hebeborines in flower and at Thurstaston on Wirral a roundabout of bright yellow daffodils in full bloom. Around the village and surrounding countryside snowdrops of different varieties are making wonderful displays.

I've mentioned previously in my nature notes that there have been huge skeins of pink footed geese flying around the area, and that often at night, strange sounds have been heard, coming from the sky over the village.



We've now discovered that these Icelandic geese are feeding each day in fields between Waverton & Hargrave and we estimate that there are about 2,500 birds in the flock. They are an incredible sight here, but further north on the marshes near Martin Mere the count is nearer 30,000 geese. These wintering birds will soon be on their way back to their traditional breeding grounds in East Greenland, Svalbad or Iceland, but they make a wonderful addition to the wildlife sights in the area whilst they are here.

It seems that the RSPB Bird Watch Census didn't bring any major surprises in the parish, but a number of people have reported seeing tiny gold crests feeding in their gardens. These insect feeders usually live high in the canopy, especially conifers, but in times of cold weather will often come much lower on the ground to look for food. A good spot to see them are on the hedgerows around the churchyard and car park. They really are miniature birds, in fact Europe's smallest bird, and are mainly green in colour, with a yellow stripe on the crest of their heads. The call is really not very loud, but is a persistent see-see-see. Male robins are singing very loudly now, and often compete with the unobtrusive little dunnock or hedge sparrow which has a surprisingly beautiful call, if singing from its perch on top of the hedge. It is a thicket loving bird but will often be seen around the base of a bird table looking for scraps the other birds have left behind. It has a thin pointed bill rather like a warbler, and is mainly an insect feeder. Dunnock are present in most gardens around the village. Our own census revealed that we have three robins in the garden, which is rather surprising in that they are very territorial and are usually seen fighting each other, but these three seem very happy together, at least for now.

I mentioned last month that there aren't many starlings about, but just in the last week or so there have been large

gatherings at dusk in the skies around Boughton Hall and Belgrave Road in Boughton. Not quite a murmuration yet, but getting there, with thousands of birds swirling around making delightful patterns in the sky.

David Cummings

CHRISTLETON PARISH COUNCIL:

The main event for the Parish Council in February was the two village meetings held at the High School on Wednesday, 6th February giving the residents of Christleton the opportunity to find out first-hand how the Parish Council has been working on its behalf to try to find the best and most effective way in managing the very complex traffic issues that beset the village.

Both the afternoon and evening meetings were very well attended with a presentation given by Cllr Simon Kent, who is the lead Councillor on the Parish Council for Traffic & Road Safety. The presentation was followed by a 'clarification' question and answer session with a great number of the audience taking part, with both questions and suggestions on traffic management within Christleton.

The Parish Council will now set up a Traffic Working Party of up to eight members, which will comprise of two Parish Councillor and the remainder of the group comprising of residents across the entire village, traffic creators, businesses, organisations, schools, churches etc., to work on the four recommendations outlined in the presentation and then to bring their findings back to the village for them to decide by way of a referendum.

For those residents who were unable to attend the meetings a copy of presentation, together with a summary of the questions and answers can be viewed on the Parish Council website: www.christleton-pc.gov.uk

On other news, the application to build 42 new homes at the Christleton Hall has once again been refused, we will be monitoring this issue closely to see if the developers launch an appeal against this decision.

The Planning Inspectorate is to hear the appeal for Beechmoor Nurseries application to demolish the existing garden centre buildings and redevelop the site to provide 111 care apartments and bungalows, on 19th February 2019. The Parish Council has submitted an additional submission confirming their opposition to this development. Two Councillors will attend the hearing on behalf of the Parish Council.

Sue Thwaite, Clerk to the Council

Congratulations to Christleton Parish Council who are the winners of this year's Les George Award.

This county wide award is made in memory of Les George OBE, a former Chairman of the Cheshire County Playing Fields Association. It is open to Parish or Town council, sports club or organisation involved in the management of playing fields, children's playgrounds or sports grounds to enter and this year the Little Heath Play Area in Christleton was successful in winning this award.

CHAPLAINCY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

If there is anyone who would be willing to help bring patients along in a wheel chair to the Sunday Chapel Service at 11am at the Countess of Chester Hospital, on a monthly rota, we would love to hear from you.

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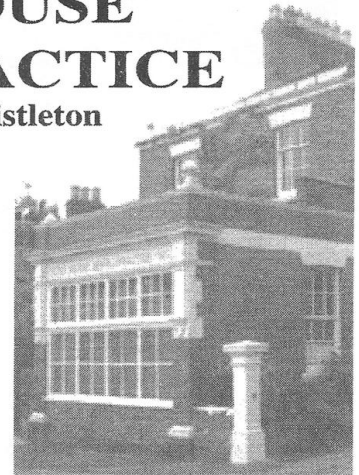
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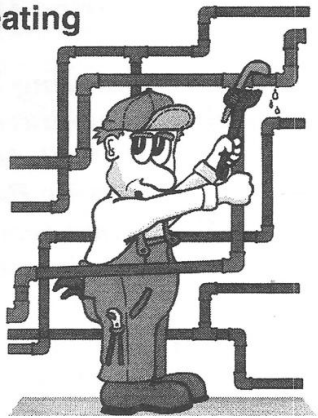
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PARISH ADMINISTRATOR, PCC SECRETARY & HALL BOOKINGS:

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ST JAMES' CHURCH WEBSITE:

www.stjameschristleton.org.uk

ST JAMES ON TWITTER:

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CHRISTLETON VILLAGE WEBSITE:

www.christleton.org.uk

MAGAZINE:

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The editor is: **Brian Inall**

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We wish to build the editorial team. If you think you can help please contact Brian Inall.

Deadline for submissions for the April magazine will be Monday 18th March.

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The Magazine subscription is currently £6 per year (renewal is in April) with a copy delivered each month to your home. Please check with us whether your home is on one of our delivery routes. Otherwise, you are invited to buy individual copies each month from the back of St James' Church. If all the spare copies have gone then please ask - we will be pleased to help.

Thank you for reading our magazine. We hope you enjoy it. Feedback is always welcome.

Do also look at our church website for more information including a 'live' calendar.

Q U I Z : 2 8 (I f y o u g o t t h a t , y o u ' r e o h m a n d d r y j ;)



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