



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



WHAT IS SUCCESS?

I've been with you just over a year now, and as you can imagine, it has naturally led to a period of reflection. One that is ongoing.

One key moment came back in Nov 2018 when, after asking the church community about what is valued and would like to see happen, the Parochial Church Council (PCC) engaged in auditing the health of our church community.

This audit process led to the setting of four priorities (behind which there was substantial detail). Priorities seen as important for us to develop a healthy church, and engage in what God is doing in our communities (his mission).

1. The development of our service pattern and provision.
2. The development of a learning community of disciples.
3. The development of our church building for missional purposes (not least greater use by community groups).
4. The development of our understanding of what our mission and vision is in this place, building on the initial values work that has been done.

It's really tempting to unpack all what we have done (and it is a lot) in seeking to deliver these so called missional priorities over the past year. And while there is great value in this – we have developed a new service pattern, we have offered a number of learning opportunities to the community, we have commissioned (and are awaiting) a feasibility study of how the church might be developed which we will open for wide consultation in the near future, and made some progress in developing what we think God is asking us to be as a community – I am not convinced it is entirely necessary or indeed helpful.

For it might inadvertently suggest it is more about what we are doing rather than what God

is doing among us. It might suggest it is more about appearing relevant, successful, in control, and other associated adjectives. I can't escape the feeling that this is folly, more of the values of this world than those of God's new creation.

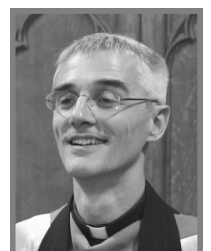
Don't get me wrong. I trust that in our faithful sitting at Jesus' feet, letting his love become the love we embody in this place, amazing things have, are and will happen through his name. Our missional priorities are an important expression and instrument in mediating Jesus' love for all people. But as I said earlier, I just can't escape the feeling that a lot of this will happen beyond or other to the programme of our church and its articulated priorities. What do I mean?

Perhaps I mean the only irrelevant (yes, that was deliberate) metric of success is: are we helping create a church community of people that can say we are in love with Jesus? A community that, in Henri Nouwen's words in his book In the Name of Jesus, "knows the heart of God, a heart that forgives, that cares, that reaches out and wants to heal. In that heart there is no suspicion, no vindictiveness, no resentment, and not a tinge of hatred. It is a heart that wants only to love and receive love in response. It is a heart that suffers immensely because it sees the magnitude of human pain and the great resistance to trusting the heart of God who wants to offer consolation and hope".

In this community we will see, for example, a single home visit of any member of our parish communities, the confident embracing and peaceful resolution of conflicts, the sharing of soup and bread with the community payback team, or the comforting of a bereaved family as just as successful and valuable as a new service pattern or developed church building.

With my love and prayers,

Stefan



PARISH CONTACTS:

RECTOR:

Rev'd Dr Stefan Collier

Tel: 01244 335663

rector.christleton@gmail.com

(Day off is normally Thursday)

OTHER CLERGY IN THE PARISH:

Rev'd Gill Hibbert Tel: 01244 336544

gillianhibbert582@btinternet.com

Rev'd Elizabeth Inall Tel: 01244 336500

elizabeth@inall.co.uk

CHURCHWARDENS:

Bettie Gilliatt Tel: 01244 335645

Tina Lightfoot Tel: 07557 352592

for either warden:

thechurchwardens@gmail.com

MUSICAL DIRECTOR:

Hannah Williams

Tel: 01244 675578 or 07399 147664

stjamesmusicmatters@gmail.com

PCC SECRETARY:

Janet Milton Tel: 01244 325529

pccsecretary@stjameschristleton.org.uk

(Note: email address in course of setup)

PARISH ADMINISTRATION:

(including the Weekly Notices)

Marj Keech Tel: 07487 642912

office@stjameschristleton.org.uk

PARISH HALL BOOKINGS:

Maria Norbury Tel: 01244 336499

maria_norbury@btinternet.com

Also: enquiries & bookings online via website.

WEDDINGS, FUNERALS AND BAPTISMS:

Initially please use enquiry forms via church website, or please contact the Rector.

VERGER:

John Milton Tel: 01244 325529

MAGAZINE:

EDITOR:

The editor is: **Brian Inall**

Tel: 01244 336500 *brian@inall.co.uk*

*Deadline for submissions for the Dec/Jan double magazine will be: **Monday 18th November.***

COMMERCIAL ADVERTISING:

John Eccles

Tel: 01244 336355

jeccles46@sky.com

DISTRIBUTION & SUBSCRIPTIONS

Joce Platel

Tel: 01244 332466

chrisandjoce@hotmail.co.uk

The Magazine subscription is currently £6 per year and runs from April to March. Subscribers have a copy delivered, or they may collect from church, and electronic delivery is also an option. If you don't subscribe then 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 so please let the editor know what you think about the magazine. Contributions are welcome and more details about this are available from the editor.

Do also look at our church website for back copies of this magazine and more information including a 'live' calendar.

ST JAMES' CHURCH WEBSITE:

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

ST JAMES ON TWITTER:

 **@StJChristleton**

CHRISTLETON VILLAGE WEBSITE:

www.christleton.org.uk

GETTING HEALTHY!



At a Parochial Church Council (PCC) 'Away Day' a year ago (24/11/2018) we spent some time evaluating our health. Not personally of course, but the health of our church.

We considered different ways of understanding and seeking to develop a healthy church community; pointing out the overlap between different methods. At the same time, we saw how the so called 5 Marks of Mission resonated with the charisms of healthy churches. We with input from the wider church membership, assessed the health of our church community using one particular model, the 'Seven Marks of a Healthy Church'. These were as follows:

1. Energised by faith
2. Outward looking focus
3. Seeks to find what God wants
4. Faces the cost of change and growth
5. Operates as a community
6. Makes room for all
7. Does a few things and does them well

We didn't score very well, and resolved to put plans and actions into place to improve our health.

This article is focussed on the development of our worship pattern which anyone who has recently set foot in St James on a Sunday morning will have seen.

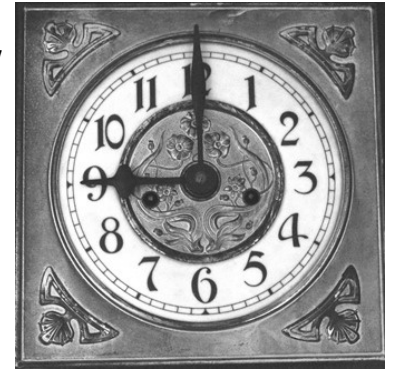
We have created two Sunday morning services that have different styles, in an effort to respond to the significant decline in our Sunday worship attendance, the difference between the demographic of our parish and those attending church on a Sunday, and in response to good practice noted in various church growth reports and evidenced in churches across the country.

We recognise these changes have been difficult for some, and encouraging for others. And we are committed to holding them in prayer in the coming months, and evaluating the impact of our changes with you in the near future.

You should be aware that St James' Church is normally open during the day, so unless there is a choir practice or cleaning is in progress you'll normally find it a haven of peace and quiet. A chance to sit and pray or think or meditate or read. There are some books on the shelves by the children's corner.

SO WHAT ARE THESE 'NEW' SERVICES?

9.00am: This is a traditional Holy Communion service. It is really just the previous 10.45am service but moved forward to the new time of 9am.



It uses Common Worship words (ie: modern language, not the older language of BCP), it has a sermon and well known and traditional hymns played on the organ by our new Musical Director, Hannah, and generally with a small robed choir to help lead us. We are planning to build up the choir with new choristers and Hannah is working to do just that so that a good musical tradition again exists at St James. The service lasts for about an hour and is followed by refreshments and fellowship across the road in the Parish Hall.

Once a month on the first Sunday there is Parish Breakfast from 8am in the Parish Hall. A good start to the day with fresh brewed coffee or tea, pastries, toast & marmalade, and more. After breakfast then come to the 9am service.

10.45am: This is called Morning Worship and is a development of the Morning Worship we used to have once a month at 10.45. Now it is every week.



It is a more contemporary, less formal, service. It does not include communion, except for the 3rd Sunday in the month. There will be a sermon or talk, and we sing a mix of traditional and modern hymns and songs. Hannah usually plays a piano/keyboard and is supported on some Sundays by a small church band or music group. Occasionally she uses the organ. Hannah has plans to grow that church band as well.

The big (and we mean big) innovation for us at St James is the introduction of TV screens on which the words of the service, and of the songs are shown. This means that

there are no service books, and hymn books are not given out, although hymn books are provided to those who especially request them. This service also lasts for about an hour.

Currently the TV screens are rather obvious and less than attractive, but they work well and are just a temporary and experimental arrangement until we know what will be the permanent AV (audio-visual) solution.

The technology enables new things to happen. We have, for example, experimented with visual confessions and intercessions (prayers), we have used single slides and video sermon illustrations, and used a music video to teach a new song.

Before the service begins we have a loop of slides advertising events coming up and other useful information but we still have the Weekly Notice sheets that you can take away.

After the service we again have refreshments and a chance to chat in the Parish Hall across the road.

This freedom is both exciting and a responsibility. Being innovative takes effort, and brings risks of making mistakes—and we do. A lot of people are working very hard at St James on all these 'healthy' plans. Unless we take those risks we won't discover what opportunities and possibilities lay ahead. Jesus took risks, he embraced new thinking and had the clear purpose to communicate the Good News of forgiveness, love and eternal life. That's our message too - not just to the faithful who normally come to St James, but also to those in the community, to visitors, to children, youth, young adults, families, the more mature, to those who haven't been

for a while - indeed we wish to open our doors and welcome the whole community.

Children: Children and young people are welcome at all our services. In the fullness of time we hope to restart Sunday Clubs in some form for children to run alongside our services.

Other Services: We also have **4.00pm** services of differing styles on some Sundays, including Messy Church in the Parish Hall, so please check the calendar.

Something that hasn't changed is a mid week **10.45am** communion service on **Wednesdays** which uses the Book of Common Prayer (BCP), except for the first Wednesday in the month when it is a 'United' communion service with Churches Together in Christleton. It is held in the round in the intimate Side (Lady) Chapel at St James.

At special times and festivals even more choice is available, and we are not that far away from Advent and Christmas when there will be a lot going on.

Whilst all these are times for worshipping God, their varying styles enable more people to come along and feel comfortable as they do so. Perhaps even sufficiently comfortable that they help with our worship - readings, welcoming, prayers, and more.

We look forward to welcoming you to worship God with us, and hearing from you 'on our health'. Please keep your church here in the centre of Christleton in your prayers.

Thank you.

St James' Church PCC.



The screens in use at 10.45am

TREASURER'S ARTICLE:

You will be delighted to know that I am still enjoying playing with the figures of the church finances.



The difficulty for me is how best to communicate my findings to you all, as my computer programme has the potential to provide almost too much information, so a chart can look just too busy and it is easy to become lost in the detail.

A few key points.

I presented a paper to our stewardship group recently of the first 6 months finances – looking at our major income streams and expenditures on a monthly basis, we had a monthly surplus of £13!!

No wonder it feels there is little room for manoeuvre!

We are trying to consider how best to maintain the “facility” of which we are in charge. As a unit, this would include the churchyard, the church, the Parish Hall. We are now three quarters through the year as I write this. It can of course be split up into areas for consideration but it is in fact a magnificent community facility and an enormous responsibility to steward.

I looked at the overall figures for this to date – the salaries, the utilities, the insurance, the parish share, the rectory and the general expenses for these areas. This comes to an expense of £250 per week, £35 per day!!! If we take off the Parish Hall rental which obviously we would expect to support some of the PH expenses, the figure drops a little - £215 per week and £31 per day. This is quite an alarming message, considering all our income other than the rental is from voluntary contributions.

Maybe it gives you some understanding of why I am so boring about encouraging gift aid, envelope schemes and standing orders, which all provide the backbone of support for our “facility.” (please note I am always contactable to discuss any of these!!!!!!)

Had I better tell you some good news?
Compared to last year: Despite change / because of changes, our collections are £500 more.
Our gift aid envelopes are £3,500 more
Our standing orders are £3,000 more
We have been extremely fortunate to receive another legacy – this time of £18,823, so I need not worry our accounts are in deficit. It is earmarked I suspect for development and is safely in our investment account.

Less good news:

Our donations are down by £7,000 compared to last year. Last year we had reimbursement of clergy fees in addition during the vacancy – not now of course. The parish hall rental income is down by £4,000. Our blue envelope income is down by £1,000.

So, as at the end of September, our overall income is £6,400 less than last year. Our overall expenditure is only £200 more – that **IS** a miracle!!

If I remove the legacy from this last 9 months' accounts, our overall deficit is £2,921. Despite all our investment in the parish hall and the innovations in the church, I do believe this is pretty good going.

Please do ask me about this if you are interested or want to understand it better. I really have thrown a lot of figures at you this time, with nothing like enough details of my holidays.....

I had better have a rest so will fly to Portugal to play golf and watch beautiful birds – did you know my birdwatching telescope fits into my golf bag???? Now that **IS** a bonus!

Thank you, as always, for your wonderful support, donations and most of all, friendship.

Liz McClure



You may have noticed the above strapline appearing on notices, little cards in the pews, on the screen at 10.45, and elsewhere. It follows a discussion by the Stewardship Group to better promote the Contactless Terminal.

It coincides with the three donation options being set to £5, £10 and £15 and the knowledge that awareness of the contactless facility needs to be improved.

In an increasingly cashless society this facility is vital to enable those visiting with only plastic in their pockets or handbags to contribute to and support the church.

So - **No Problem!**

(Brian Inall)

OPEN THE BOOK:

Open the Book began in 1999 in Bedford. A member of my previous congregation, Judith, was a founder member. She writes:



“A man called Dave Todd noticed that children had no knowledge of bible stories anymore and was inspired to do something about it.

His vision was to gather volunteers to present all the main stories of the bible, in chronological order, to local lower schools within a school year. Each story was to be accompanied by attractive props. He and four friends worked hard over the next year to develop the project, calling it ‘Open the Book’. By September 2000, 60 storytellers from 22 different churches across the town were trained and ready to go. 15 schools took part that year. Bob Hartman was interested in how his Storyteller Bible was being used in the project and after visiting Bedford asked if he could tell others about it. The rest is history! Open the Book became so large that it needed to be properly managed and in 2013 became part of the Bible Society - see the website: <https://youtu.be/Ccl3UdaXpDg>

From its humble beginnings, Open the Book now has over 17,000 storytellers and operates in well over 3000 schools.”

And Christleton Primary School is one of them! There is a very small team who go into the school to lead an Open the Book assembly most weeks during term time. The team is led by Jon Hosker and is a Churches Together in Christleton initiative.

We would love to have a few more people in the team to maybe take turns in being there. So please look at the website link above and do let me know if you think you could get involved occasionally or ask me if you would like to know more.

Elizabeth Inall

ON BEING A "GUY"

The catering and hospitality businesses have decided that I am a "guy". Previously, particularly at this time of the year, that word made me think of the ragged figure stuffed with straw that we placed on top of the bonfire. I also thought of it as referring to a male figure but have noted that my wife is also a "guy", as far as these various businesses are concerned, and that mixed gender diners, for example, are also "guys".

Thinking more about this, I must have been aware of the American male version of "guy" shortly after 1955 when I was much taken with the film version of the Frank Loesser musical "Guys and Dolls". The Stubby Kaye rendition of "Sit down you're rocking the boat" remains one of my favourite musical theatre moments. The lyrics of the song concern the character Nicely who dreams of taking his gaming dice and bottle of whiskey to heaven.....but I'll not go there!

Although I am not completely comfortable with it, I embrace the latest version of "guys" because it seems to include male and female, old and young, white and black, and indeed all ethnicities. If it's not being too grand, it can be understood to include the whole of humanity. I have been much exercised with the idea of inclusivity recently. It probably explains in part my desire to spend time in London. I love spending late evenings mingling with the crowds, many of whom will not be speaking English. Looking down on them from the balcony of the National Theatre, I see them dining late into the night while, on a sunny day, I see them enjoying the riverside from the viewing balcony of the Blavatnik Building that is now part of the Tate Modern. Crowds of course can be sinister, hiding those who would steal, harm others or be prompted to riot. As I write, the crowds for Extinction Rebellion are blocking parts of London to highlight issues that concern us all. Fortunately I have not encountered any of this but rejoice in the vitality of it all and that life-enhancing sense of belonging.

Jesus was often in crowds. Sometimes he found them stressful and sought to get away but other times I think that he welcomed sharing his humanity with them all. Most notably on that famous occasion known as "the feeding of the four thousand". He had spent three days with them. Mark's gospel records that Jesus said "I have compassion for these people". He was concerned that they were hungry as no doubt he was too. But the word "compassion" tells me that he related to the crowd in a much deeper way than simply trying to deal with hunger, important though that was. He felt pity, he wanted to help or be merciful as the dictionary suggests the word means.

I like to think that if Jesus was looking down today from one of London's high places on us "guys" as we enjoyed our evening revelry, he would show that compassion that he did those years ago. I believe I would sense it and trust that others might sense it too.

Jim Hawkes

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF THE PARISH

ADMINISTRATOR:

The following covers a period of approx 15 years & I think I would fill the magazine but suffice to say this is a taste of what's involved.

An e-mail arrives in the PA's in box via the St James website from an undertaker requesting a funeral at St James. Stefan will view the e-mail & more than likely agree the funeral can go ahead & it's then the job of the PA to finalise the date given by Stefan, find another priest if Stefan is not available, check the organist is available & if not, find another organist, confirm with the Verger, advise the gravedigger having established if it's a new or existing grave, or a burial of ashes. Final details will be sent later confirming the order of service and music chosen by the family & this information is then sent to the organist. Confirmation of fees payable is discussed with the undertakers & final arrangement details sent to various people involved in the funeral service for information as well as the website electronic calendar.

An e-mail arrives asking for details of the Food Bank to go on Weekly Notices – add this to template for updating.

The phone rings “can I hire the hall in December for my son's 5th birthday party?” “I'll just check availability on the calendar *click* click yes, you can but I need some details first & then I will send you a booking form”. Agree how many hours the booking will last, calculate the fee & send the paper work to the enquirer with a covering e-mail.

An e-mail arrives asking for an item to go on the Weekly Notices regarding Christian Aid, add this to the template copy to be updated.

It's Wednesday afternoon & time to update the next week's Notices. Make the amendments for the current week regarding dates, what's on, bible readings, the sick list, and anything else that needs to go on.

An e-mail arrives from Stefan advising changes in the regular service pattern to go on the Weekly Notices – update the template.

The phone rings It's the man from *e.on* to read the electricity meters for the church & the Parish Hall wanting to know when he can have access.

The phone rings “Can I bury my dog in the churchyard?” The phone rings “I'd like to hold a 90th birthday party for my mother in the Parish Hall & wonder if it's available?” Check the date on the electronic calendar & advise. Agree appropriate fees & take details.

The phone rings “I understand the funeral of is taking place today & would you be able to tell me the time please”

An e-mail arrives from Oregon, USA saying she is coming to Chester in 3 months time & would like to visit St James church where her mother & father were married & also perhaps have a look at Littleton Hall where her mother lived as a child. This sounds really interesting so the PA responds in a very positive way & after contacting David Cummings who comes up with lots of information for the lady in Oregon about her parents & Littleton Hall, she sends this to Oregon much to the delight of Celia, the lady in USA who made the initial enquiry. Several e-mails were then flying backwards & forwards between Oregon & Christleton during which time the PA & Celia have become firm friends. Celia duly visited St James during the summer (you might remember the article in the July magazine). What a pleasure it was to meet Celia & husband Jim thanks to the wonders of e-mail.

It's Thursday morning & having finalised the current week's Notices, the PA goes to St James & photocopies 60 – 80 copies of the Notices, some of which go on the 3 Notice Boards.

The phone rings “Can I give you details of an event to go on the Notices this week?” “So sorry, but the deadline was yesterday at 12 noon & the Notices are now printed, but it can go on next week for you if that's OK”.

The phone rings “I'd like to pick your brain”. “What brain” says the PA, “because it's completely scrambled but I'll try to help”.

An e-mail comes in via the website enquiring about the availability of the Parish Hall for a regular weekly Yoga class. The PA will reply giving details of the sessions available & hope this will become a regular booking because the income from such sessions is important to St James. The enquirer may ask to look at the facilities in the Hall & arrangements are made to show them round & if the outcome is a positive booking, the necessary paper work is dealt with.

It's 6.15 pm on a Saturday evening when the phone rings & it's one of the regular users in the Parish Hall saying the electrics don't work!!! The PA has no idea what the problem is but after talking on the phone for about 10 minutes to establish exactly what the problem is, the caller then says that whatever the problem was seems to have rectified itself & all is well!!!!

An e-mail comes in via the website applying to get married in St James in 2021. Initially, Stefan will pick this up, agree & date & nearer the time will e-mail the PA advising the order of service, music required etc. The PA

will need to check the availability of the organist, advise the Verger of the date, & if bells are required speak to Nikki Dromgoole as well as confirming fees with the Bride & Groom.

The phone rings "My mother has been taken into hospital & I would be very grateful if you would put her name on the sick list". "Of course, we can do that for you & hope she gets better very soon".

An e-mail comes in via the website applying for a baptism. Stefan will pick this up & after meeting the family will confirm a date, or otherwise, & put the date on the electronic calendar. The family may phone the PA later with a query regarding the baptism.

Well, I hope that's given you a flavour of what the PA does within the Parish – an interesting & frequently amusing job – you just never know what's going to happen when you answer the phone or open an e-mail.

I've enjoyed participating in the administration of Christleton parish for about 15 years now & it all started by volunteering to do a few hours each week for Peter Lee. I then worked with the churchwardens during the 12 month Interregnum following Peter's retirement followed by working alongside Malcolm Cowan for 7 years. He then moved on to Arrowe Park

and we had a Vacancy for 6 months during which time I worked closely with our 2 amazing church wardens who got us through that Vacancy in a record time of 6 months after which Stefan was appointed as our new Rector. We've worked together now for 12 months & it's been a joy & a pleasure to do so and I'm sure that Marj will enjoy the job as much as I have given time to let her settle in & I wish her well.

Janet Milton

THANK YOU JANET:

To thank Janet for her many years of good service to St James' Church as Parish Administrator and Hall Bookings Secretary she was given a splendid plant and a round of applause in a ceremony at the service on 29th Sept.

Janet continues serving the church in many other roles.



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

No charge but donations welcome.

A tasty hot 2 course meal plus tea/coffee. All are welcome. It is helpful for catering if you book a place, if you haven't already, by calling:

Liz: 409414; or Janet: 325529

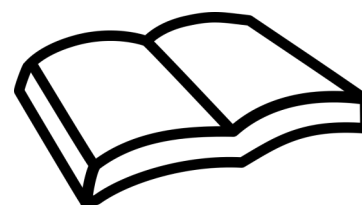
Future dates: Christmas Lunch 16th Dec.

**This is always a busy lunch—you must
book a place to be sure of getting in.
Booking list at the November lunch or
call one of the above. Thank you.**

Luncheon Club

FROM THE REGISTERS:

With thanks to
Ann White who is
gathering this
information:



Weddings:

28th September 2019:
Matthew Davies & Hannah Cox

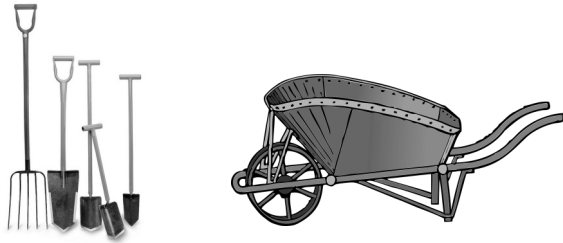
Baptisms:

29th September 2019: Tobias Ollies
6th October 2019: Eleanor Wright

Funerals:

27th September 2019: Jessie Stacey

Note: All these were at St James' Church unless otherwise indicated.



Churchyard Maintenance

Next:

Saturday 9th November
also: 7th Dec

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



CHRISTLETON PARISH HALL

Available for :

Meetings, Parties, Functions, etc.
The Hall has wheelchair access and specially adapted facilities.

Our new Parish Hall Bookings Secretary is Maria Norbury: Tel: 01244 335499.
maria_norbury@btinternet.com

You can also make initial enquiries and bookings via the church website.

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



Messy Church

Next Messy Church is:
17th November
at 4pm in the Parish Hall.

2nd Christleton Guides

Jumble Sale

2pm on Saturday 9th Nov 2019

Christleton Scout Hut

(on the A41 opposite the Trooper Pub, CH3 6AH)

Admission 50p; Children 10p
Refreshments available



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St James' Church Calendar

November and December

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

NOVEMBER:

- Sunday 3rd:** from 8am: Breakfast in the Parish Hall.
(*All Saints*) 9.00am: Holy Communion. Refreshments after in Parish Hall.
10.45am: Morning Worship. Refreshments.
4.00pm: Young Person's Service.
6.30pm: All Souls Service.
- Tuesday 5th: 7.30pm: Weekly Home Discussion Group. (Grange House, Village Road. Tel: 336500).
Wednesday 6th: 10.45am: United Holy Communion (Churches Together). Refreshments.
Saturday 9th: 10.30am: Churchyard Working Party.
- Sunday 10th:** REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY
(*Remembrance*) 9.00am: Holy Communion. Refreshments after in Parish Hall.
10.50am: Remembrance Service. Starts just before 11am at the memorial (weather permitting), and then moves inside the church. Refreshments afterwards.
4.00pm: Evening Prayer (BCP).
- Tuesday 12th: 7.30pm: Weekly Home Discussion Group. (Sandheys, Plough Lane. Tel: 332466)
Wednesday 13th: 10.45am: Holy Communion (BCP). Refreshments.
- Sunday 17th:** 9.00am: Holy Communion. Refreshments and Produce Sale.
(*2 before Advent*) 10.45am: Morning Worship with Communion. Refreshments.
4.00pm: Messy Church in the Parish Hall.
- Monday 18th: 12.30pm: Luncheon Club in the Parish Hall.
Tuesday 19th: 7.30pm: Weekly Home Discussion Group. (Grange House, Village Road. Tel: 336500).
Wednesday 20th: 10.45am: Holy Communion (BCP). Refreshments.
- Sunday 24th:** 9.00am: Holy Communion. Refreshments after in Parish Hall.
(*Christ the King*) 10.45am: Morning Worship. Refreshments.
4.00pm: Contemplative Communion Service.
- Tuesday 26th: 7.30pm: Weekly Home Discussion Group. (Sandheys, Plough Lane. Tel: 332466)
Wednesday 27th: 10.45am: Holy Communion (BCP). Refreshments.
7.30pm: PCC Meeting.
Saturday 30th: 10.30am? Christingle making ready for tomorrow. Please help. Check notices.

Bell ringing practice is every **Tuesday** evening. (Contact: Nikki Dromgoole)

Church cleaning is every **Thursday** morning. (Contact: John Milton)

Every **Thursday: 4pm-5pm**: Church Band rehearsal; **5pm-6pm**: Church Choir rehearsal.

DECEMBER:

Every **Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday** and **Friday**: 9am: Morning Prayer
Every **Thursday**: **4pm-5pm**: Church Band rehearsal; **5pm-6pm**: Church Choir rehearsal.

- Sunday 1st:** from 8am: Breakfast in the Parish Hall.
(*Advent 1*) 9.00am: Holy Communion. Refreshments after in Parish Hall.
10.45am: Morning Worship. Refreshments.
4.00pm: Christingle Service.
- Tuesday 3rd: 7.30pm: Weekly Home Discussion Group. (Sandheys, Plough Lane. Tel: 332466)
Wednesday 4th: 10.45am: United Holy Communion (Churches Together). Refreshments.
Saturday 7th: 10.30am: Churchyard Working Party.
10.30am: Wreath Making workshop with lunch in Parish Hall. (see ad page 12)
2.30pm: Christmas craft & produce sale in Parish Hall. Open to all. Refreshments
- Sunday 8th:** 9.00am: Holy Communion. Refreshments after in Parish Hall.
(*Advent 2*) 10.45am: Annual Toy Service. Refreshments.
4.00pm: Evening Prayer (BCP).
- Tuesday 10th: 7.30pm: Weekly Home Discussion Group. (Grange House, Village Road. Tel: 336500).
Wednesday 11th: 10.45am: Holy Communion (BCP). Refreshments.
- Sunday 15th:** 9.00am: Holy Communion. Refreshments and Produce Sale.
(*Advent 3*) 10.45am: Morning Worship with Communion. Refreshments.
4.00pm: Messy Church in the Parish Hall.
- Monday 16th: 12.30pm: Luncheon Club in the Parish Hall.
Tuesday 17th: No Home Discussion Group. Restarts 7th Jan. at Sandheys.
Wednesday 18th: 10.45am: Holy Communion (BCP). Refreshments.
- Sunday 22th:** 9.00am: Holy Communion. Refreshments after in Parish Hall.
(*Advent 4*) 10.45am: Morning Worship. Refreshments.
(no 4pm service)
6.30pm: Service of Nine Lessons & Carols. Seasonal refreshments.
- Tuesday 24th:** 4.00pm: Crib service. A short service for the very young, their families & friends.
(*Christmas Eve*) 7.00pm: Carols Around the Tree. Outside if weather permits. Refreshments.
11.30pm: Holy Communion.
- Wednesday 25th:** from 8am: Breakfast in the Parish Hall. (To be confirmed)
(*Christmas Day*) 9.00am: Holy Communion. Refreshments.
10.45am: Morning Worship for Christmas Day. Refreshments.
- Sunday 29th:** 9.00am: Holy Communion. Refreshments after in Parish Hall.
(*Christmas 1*) 10.45am: Morning Worship. Refreshments.
4.00pm: Taizé Service.

BCP means: A service following THE BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER. (Traditional older style language.)
Other services generally follow COMMON WORSHIP with modern language, except where indicated otherwise.

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.

THE REGULAR PATTERN OF SERVICES IS SHOWN BELOW:

Please note that actual services may differ from this pattern because of special events and festivals, so please check calendars and notices, including the on-line calendar on the website.

	1 st Sunday	2 nd Sunday	3 rd Sunday	4 th Sunday	5 th Sunday
9:00am	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Holy Communion
10:45am	Morning Worship	Morning Worship	Morning Worship with Holy Communion	Morning Worship	Morning Worship
4:00pm	Young Person's Service	Evening Prayer (BCP)	Messy Church in Parish Hall. (Term time only)	Contemplative Communion	Taizé Service

SERVICE STYLES: *9am* is in a traditional style with sermon, organ, and often a small robed choir. *10.45am* is in a more contemporary style with a sermon/talk, using a wider range of traditional and modern hymns and songs, with the words on a display screen, and music mostly played on a piano/keyboard or by the church band.

CHRISTMAS IS COMING:

Please note in your diaries:

- Sun 1st Dec: 4pm - Christingle Service.
- Sun 8th Dec: 10.45am - Toy Service.
- Sun 22nd Dec: 6.30pm - Nine Lessons & Carols.
- Christmas Eve: 4pm: Crib Service
7pm: Carols Around the Tree
11.30pm: Holy Communion
- Christmas Day: 9am: Holy Communion.
10.45: Morning Worship



FUNDRAISING EVENTS COMING UP

- Sat 7th Dec: Wreath making and Christmas Produce Sale. (See ad below)
- Jan 2020 ? Ceilidh. Live band. More info to come.
- Sat 25th April: Supper/Concert with Philip Chidell (violin).
- Sat 20th June: Jig Saw Jazz evening.



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 meetings:

- 13th Nov:** AGM & "Living in Styl" (Eddie Tarry)
- 11th Dec:** Christmas Party & Meal (at Eaton Golf Club)

Sat 7th December - Parish Hall

10am - WREATH MAKING WITH ANGELA HASWELL

Refreshments, Soup & Sandwich Lunch
Tickets: £15 - Joce Platel: 01244 332466
(or from PCC members)

2.30pm: CRAFT & PRODUCE SALE

Christmas Produce & Crafts
Homemade Mincemeat. Christmas Puddings, Cakes, Crafts. Refreshments. **All welcome**
Fundraiser for St James' Church

THE HISTORY FILE NOVEMBER 2019

To coincide with the new publication of a booklet about Christleton Pit I am going to explain the origins and activities at this favourite village site. The revised booklet is dedicated to the memory of the late Ian Gorst who did so much to solve problems that occurred during our conservation work.

The project started as an exercise in research by children from Christleton Primary School in 1973 and which after the severe droughts of 1975 and 1976, became a rescue project. The children's initial work was entered in the "Daily Telegraph Save the Village Pond Campaign" and much to our delight won second prize in the competition, and an invitation to appear on the BBC TV Programme "Animal Magic" live from the studios in Bristol. This appearance inspired the village community and a hundred trees donated to the school as a gift, were planted all over the village. Most of these still stand, now as mature trees, enhancing our landscape. However the most severe period of drought of the last century caused the Pit to dry out completely and it resembled a moon landscape. Shortly after this, groups of enthusiastic children and parents began the seemingly daunting task of reclaiming the pond as a feature of the village. The children had the support of the community, and particularly the Parish Council.

The new booklet in colour tells the story in full, and can be obtained from David Cummings price £4. All proceeds are going towards the Pit Project to aid further work of managing and enhancing this wonderful village amenity. These are just a few extracts from the text:

Earliest evidence of the Pit at Little Heath.

The origins of the pit at Little Heath date back to at least 1710 when Gerard Townsend, a Merchant of Chester (Ironmonger), who had purchased the Old Hall, built "a pond for fish", enlarging a pond on land belonging to the then Lord of the Manor, Sir Henry Harpur of Calke Abbey in Derbyshire. Evidence for this comes from a case at Chester Assizes in 1772 when Robert Townsend, Gerard's son and heir, was prosecuted for not having paid tax to the Lord of the Manor of Christleton for the pond on his land over the subsequent years. Robert was at that time Recorder of Chester (senior solicitor) so it was a very high profile court case with opinion being sought from lawyers all over the country, including Grey's Inn in London. The case involving "a pond for fish" at Little Heath was a very long drawn out affair, but it appears that Robert Townsend won the argument in court. The pond was on an area of land, even then

described as "common land", land that the people of Christleton Parish had a right to use for grazing and watering their animals, a place to roam freely. There are stories in village folklore that suggest that "horses of the Parliament" were watered there, and that it was the site of a medieval "ducking stool", but there is no actual evidence for either story.

Extraction of minerals from the Pit.

Villagers from early times discovered the wealth of material available to them at the Pit. There were pockets of sand for use in the building trade, areas of gravel and rough stones to be used for road making, a deep red clay to make bricks, and a grey clay/marl which could improve the quality of local fields by adding body to the sandy structure and providing a natural fertiliser from the lime content within it.

Brickmaking.

When the children of the Primary School began work on the Pit in the 1970's they found evidence of a brick kiln where local hand made bricks, more variable in size and shape than today's bricks, were made and fired. The bricks to be seen in many of the older cottages and walls around the village date from around 1700 when much rebuilding of the village took place, following its destruction during the Civil War in 1645. Indeed the name "Bricky Lane" is given to the lane to the north side of the Pit, indicating strongly that there was a Brick Kiln there.

Whilst carrying out research I discovered that Christleton bricks were very expensive, and in a document at the Cheshire County Record Office we found an order for 73,000 bricks from Christleton. These at 9s 2d per 1000, were more than twice as much as bricks from other local sources, notably at Pulford.

Problems of Water Supply.



The majority of people visiting the Pit have no idea that the only source of water to the pit comes from rain water and from several road drains from Little Heath Road. There have been many times in the history of the Pit that the area has dried up, and caused concern to the people of the village. In 1893 Canon Garnett writing in the Parish Magazine describes the Pit as "becoming a problem", and in 1896 the minutes of the new Parish Council state that "the Pit has dried up and something needs to be done about it". Yet by 1900 we see cattle drinking water from a well filled pit so something was done. This situation has occurred again at least four times since then, and thanks to the efforts of the Parish Council and Pit Group volunteers the area looks as good now as at any time in its history.

David Cummings.

ROBERT DUDLEY EARL OF LEYCESTER & THE CHRISTLETON CONNECTION

At the September meeting of Christleton Local History Group, I had the opportunity of telling the story of Lord Robert Dudley, The Earl of Leycester, and his connection with Christleton. The main source of my information was from the papers of the late Rector, Rev'd Alyn Arthur Guest Williams, a keen antiquarian and collector. When I retired I took on the task of cataloguing his collection of papers and artefacts at the Cheshire Archives & Record Office. There were over 40 boxes of papers relating to his family, or that he had acquired, and among the thousands of items seen, was what appeared to be an important document on calf skin with a huge wax seal. I immediately recognised that the seal belonged to Robert Dudley, Earl of Leycester as it showed the family crest of the Bear & Ragged staff on the front and a Knight in armour on the reverse. As I folded back the paper held by a ribbon at the bottom of the document, I could clearly see the signature R Leycester. This document appears to be giving land in Denbigh to Baron Lord Robert, a child of Robert Dudley and Lettice Knolles, once a lady in waiting to Queen Elizabeth I. Robert Dudley was a highly controversial figure in Elizabeth's life, a statesman and favourite of the Queen, in fact a suitor for her hand for many years. The child called "The noble Impe" on his tomb at St Mary's Warwick, died aged 3 ½ yrs. The tomb is in one of the



finest chapels in England. Known as the Beauchamp Chapel or "The Chapel of our Lady" it was built in the middle of the fifteenth century to house the tomb of Richard Beauchamp, the 13th Earl of Warwick.

Richard gained fame as a soldier defeating the army of Welsh rebel Owen Glenower, in fact capturing his banner, and was made a Knight of the Garter, the height of medieval chivalrous honour. He later became Governor of Normandy and presided over Rouen at the time of the trial and Martyrdom of Joan of Arc.

The highly coloured and decorated tomb of Robert Dudley and Lettice Knolles is another major feature of the chapel, and extracts from the inscription on the tomb reads;

Sacred to the God of the living. In certain hope of a resurrection in Christ, here lieth the most illustrious Robert Dudley, fifth son of John, Duke of Northumberland, Earl of Warwick, Viscount Lisle, etc. He was Earl of Leycester, Baron of Denbigh, Knight of both the Order of the Garter and of St Michael, Master of the Horse to Queen Elizabeth. Steward of the Queen's household. Privy Councillor, Justice of the Forests, Parks and Chases. Lieutenant & Captain General of the English Army sent to the Netherlands. Lieutenant Governor of England, against Philip II of Spain, in 1588.

The tomb of the infant Robert lies to the south side of the chapel. His figure is dressed in a sexless gown rather than the breeches which boys wore from the age of seven. It was once said that his suit of armour was kept in the Great Hall at Warwick Castle, and curiously has one leg shorter than the other, perhaps suggesting a deformity. We also learn that perhaps in one of the periods when he was out of favour with the Queen, Robert took up residence as Constable of Denbigh Castle, and that is the time from when the document found in the Guest Williams papers dates.

In 1563 Robert had been granted Kenilworth Castle by the Queen, and his brother Ambrose a soldier, Warwick Castle. Robert converted Kenilworth Castle, first built in 1120 by Geoffrey de Clinton, into a great house for her entertainment, which culminated in 19 days of activities in 1575. The castle although in ruins is well worth a visit, and English Heritage has recently restored the glorious Elizabethan garden. Robert also founded the Lord Leycester Hospital in Warwick, one of the finest timber buildings of its day, and one of the best preserved examples of medieval courtyard architecture. It is now a charity supporting ex- servicemen but is open to visitors. On the wall of the main hall is a shield depicting many families connected to Robert Dudley, and by complete coincidence, one is the shield of Robert

FitzHugh, the Baron of Malpas, who is recorded to have been given the Church of Christleton in 1071, by Hugh Lupus the first Norman earl of Chester. It is also said that Fitzhugh went on to donate the church, or capella and its land to the Abbey of St Werburgh on its foundation in 1093. After his death, his daughter Letitia was to extend the grant by giving the whole manor of Christleton to the Abbey.

David Cummings

Ref:

The Collegiate Church of St Mary Warwick
Kenilworth Castle. English Heritage.
Christleton 2,000years of History

CHARLES LONSDALE

Charles Lonsdale who died on 7th July aged 87 was born and brought up on Tarvin Road with his sister Sylvia. They were nursed by Mrs Allington who lived in a cottage opposite the Christleton pit.

Charles went to Mostyn House Prep School, followed by Lancing College, before becoming assistant manager at the Grosvenor Hotel, Chester.

He and his wife Wendy were married at St James' Church, Christleton, by the Rev'd Guest-Williams (1926-1965) who always gave a piece of Georgian silver to the local girls when they married. Charles on being asked whether, as a school boy, he had received a gift, 'Yes' he answered, 'a valuable penny black stamp'.

He became a manager at a hotel in Llandudno before, with Wendy, setting up their own establishment. On the occasions that they returned to visit friends in Christleton Wendy always joined the church choir on a Sunday morning, as an alto, before travelling became too difficult in recent times.

Charles's funeral was at Holy Trinity Church, Llandudno on 22nd July 2019.

Alf Croston

CONGRATULATIONS TO LIZ McCLURE



This is the Cheshire Federation of WI Greenwood trophy. I won it in a team of 2 with colleague from Pryors Hayes golf club.

It appears from the records on the shield that Christleton WI has not won it before.

Liz

HARVEST FESTIVAL:

A vast quantity of produce was given at the Harvest Service on 13th October. This was shared between the local Foodbank and Save the Family unit. Not only that shown in the photo, but so much more all around the window ledges and at the back of the church.

So, thank you to all who gave and all who moved it.



**THE KNIFE ANGEL IS COMING
TO CHESTER CATHEDRAL:**

The 'National Monument against Violence and Aggression' or 'Knife Angel' is a sculpture created by artist Alfie Bradley and the British Ironworks Centre (BIC) to raise awareness of the human cost of knife-crime. It stands 27 feet tall, took over 2 years to construct and comprises over 100,000 bladed weapons, which came from a knife amnesty organised and funded by the British Ironwork Centre.

BIC constructed and supplied 200 knife bins to 43 police forces at their own cost. Thirty percent of the knives used in the sculpture were bloodied on arrival and came in police evidence tubes.



Bradley sterilised and blunted all the blades before sorting each weapon by size and colour. While this proved the biggest technical hurdle, he found that "The hardest part of creating the *Knife Angel* was meeting and hand engraving personal messages on each feather on the back of the angel's wings from affected people and families, and seeing them become overwhelmed with emotion once seeing the angel."

Pictures don't do justice to the emotional impact of

The Knife Angel. Bradley spent a great deal of time on the Angel's expression and the attitude of the hands - they exude sorrow and pain, and appear to ask the question "Why?"

The Knife Angel is currently (at the time of writing) outside Derby Cathedral, but will be coming to Chester Cathedral for most of November (1st-29th November). Other work by Alfie Bradley, including the famous 'Spoon Gorilla', and by many other artists can be seen at The British Ironworks Centre, Oswestry, Shropshire SY11 4JH. www.britishironworkcentre.co.uk

Martin Thompson

NOVEMBER 5th !



David & Beryl Cummings
Present

Vienna through the Seasons

A journey through the year in this wonderful capital city & surrounding countryside.

Saturday 23rd November 2019. 7.00pm

Christleton Parish Hall

Soup & Sweet Supper

Admission Adults £8 Children £4

All Proceeds to the Parish Hall Refurbishment Fund

Tickets from David 332410 or from church.

Christleton Local History Group
Wednesday 27th November 2019
Christleton Parish Hall 7.30pm
Speaker David Cummings
Talk. A new look at the English Civil War 1642-1646, from The Battle of Edgehill to The Battle of Rowton Moor & Siege of Chester.
All Welcome.

CLEANER REQUIRED:

We are seeking to appoint a cleaner for the Parish Hall for four hours per week. For further information, terms and conditions, please contact one of the churchwardens by email at:
thechurchwardens@gmail.com

CHRISTLETON PARISH COUNCIL NEWS:

TRAFFIC & ROAD SAFETY

The Traffic Working Group are continuing their regular monitoring of traffic movement within the village. Passing places through the S-bend on Village Road will be tested with CWAC Highways in November.

A51 Improvement Scheme - A report from the Parish Council was submitted to CWAC Highways Commissioner outlining the Council's concerns and objections to the proposed improvements – the full report can be seen on the Parish Council Website at: www.christleton-pc.gov.uk

A further roll out of the 20mph limit along the A41 corridor is scheduled to be implemented in the near future to include Bridge Drive, Haslin Crescent, Durban Avenue, Toll Bar Road and Greystones Road.

KING GEORGE'S FIELDS TRUST

Following last month's news regarding the possibility of turning the KGF first field into a wildflower meadow, having investigated this proposal it was found to be very costly. The Trust are now going to contact landscape/groundwork companies for advice on the best way and costs of flattening the surface to make it more usable for sporting activities.

FUTURE PROJECTS

There will be a short presentation at the December meeting of the Parish Council from John Heselwood, Policy & Development Manager from Cheshire Community Action to give guidance on producing a Neighbourhood Plan for Christleton. He will advise on the neighbourhood planning process, resources and

support available. ***Residents of the village will be most welcome to attend and hear what he has to say.***

FISHING AT THE PIT

Earlier this year the Parish Council were fortunate in obtaining the services of Will Wrigley, a resident of the village with many years' experience in fishing, to act as volunteer Bank Warden to oversee the issuing of fishing permits to children of the village to fish at The Pit. He has been very active over the summer months engaging with the youngsters advising them of the correct equipment to use. Will has also made the area next to the fishing platforms more accessible by cutting back overhanging tree branches and vegetation, removing litter and encouraging anglers to 'take their litter home'.

The PC have also welcomed a volunteer Sub-Bank Warden, Steve Jones, to assist Will in all aspects of monitoring the fishing activities at The Pit and would like to thank them both for taking on these roles it is very much appreciated.

HIGHWAYS FAULT REPORTING

To report any highways faults please contact the following:

Report road faults including potholes, missing signs, broken streetlights...

www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/residents/contact-us/report-it/potholes-and-road-faults.aspx

PLEASE NOTE THE NOVEMBER MEETING IS ON:

Tues 12th November – 7.30 in the Methodist Church Hall

Sue Thwaite—Clerk to the Council

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2 for 1 Burgers Every Monday enjoy 2 for 1 Burgers, buy one of our mouth-watering burgers and get another one free of charge!

2 for 1 Pizzas Every Wednesday enjoy 2 for 1 Pizza, buy one of our fabulous homemade hand stretched stone baked pizzas & get another one free of charge!

Saturday Breakfast Club Every Saturday from 9am serving our Breakfast/Brunch menu alongside tea, coffee & cakes.

Tel: 01244 335422 Email: info@ringobellschester.co.uk
Address: Village Rd, Christleton, CH3 7AS

ROCK HOUSE DENTAL PRACTICE

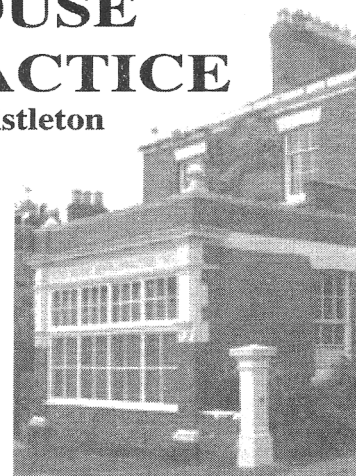
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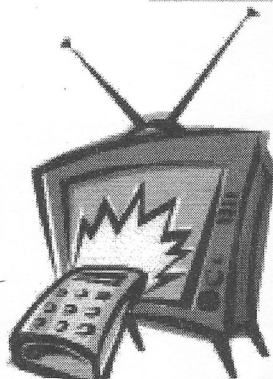
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ST JAMES' CHURCH
INVITES YOU TO

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All instruments and abilities welcome.

Weekly rehearsals take place
Thursdays 4-5pm
St James' Church, Christleton

For more information contact Hannah on
07399147664
stjamesmusicmatters@gmail.com



MAKING MUSIC:

Hannah is developing our music at St James.

Weekly rehearsals on Thursdays for the Church Band (4-5pm) and for the Choir (5-6pm).

Please join in for fun and to help create joyful music that praises God.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT HANNAH:
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