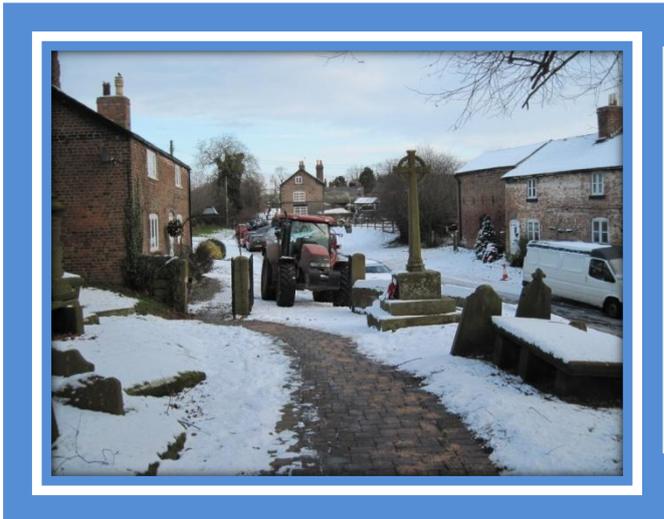


St Michael's Church Shotwick

January Newsletter 2010

Coming up this quarter:

**You the juror – an interactive lecture from Steve Fletcher (JP);
Shotwick Lent meetings; Growth Action Planning plans; dates for
the year; details on Planned Giving.**



News from the Vicar

Revd Cathy Helm As a family, Steve, Jonathan, Amy and myself, we can hardly believe we have been here in the parishes of Burton & Shotwick for just over a year now. There has been so much to reflect upon over the last year as we have shared many joys and also on some occasions, very sad times with you. Thank you again for your warmth and welcome. Already we are well into 2010 and my prayer for this year is that we can all have that confidence of knowing God is with us.

One of the big questions we have looked at as a church over the last year was

‘How can we grow as a church?’

We have looked at this through the Growth Action Plan [GAP] process. If you can remember the warmer and yet very wet days of July, we held an Open Forum in Jack’s garage and put out questionnaires to encourage as many people as possible to think about this question.

Taking the feedback from these, the Parochial Church Council [PCC] spent a day in September to distil these thoughts into our overall Vision:

We aim to be:

A welcoming & active spiritual centre which provides a focal point for the needs of the parish, wider community and many visitors.

So how do we achieve this? Where do you begin trying to achieve this Vision?

Three specific objectives for the first year were identified to help us to work towards this goal. They are:

1. To increase our giving by 20% through the development of the planned giving scheme.

If we want to grow as a church, grow in our love and understanding of God and grow in the number of people gathering to worship each Sunday then we will need to be able to financially sustain all we do already and maintain the building. Despite popular opinion, we do not get money from any centralised church finance pot, we fund all that

happens in our church and all that could be happening, ourselves.

2. To arrange 4 community events a year to encourage church growth & deepen/improve relationships between the church and wider community.

We believe it is important to use the beautiful church building we have been blessed with as a place which positively encourages people to come and worship God; but is also used as a place to allow people to get together and enjoy belonging to a community of people. Before the Victorians put their architectural stamp on our churches, churches were used as places for people to come to gather. So far we have held two very successful events, a ‘Hymns of Praise’ evening with Neston Ecumenical singers and a Christmas crafts morning. As you will see in the newsletter there are more events coming up soon. Steve Fletcher’s talk ‘On the bench’ will be a very entertaining evening and one not to be missed. The Lent course is to be held on Tuesday’s throughout Lent and great opportunity to discuss the book ‘*The Life you’ve always wanted*’ by John Ortberg.

3. To improve communication of all that St. Michael’s has to offer.

If we aim to do more through and within our church we need to improve the way we communicate all of this, through as many types of media as possible. Please let us know of any practical suggestions or even offers of help!

The year ahead promises to be full of challenges and opportunities. There will be times when we face difficulties and pressures and times of great joy but whatever we face, we can hold onto the promise given to us by Jesus when he said

‘Peace, I leave with you, my peace I give to you. I do not give as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.’

John 14: 27

Rev. Cathy Helm



Dates to note in 2010

Lent: Wednesday 17th February until Saturday 3rd April
Shotwick Lent meetings at Westbrook, Shotwick Village
(alisonallen961@btinternet.com) on **Tuesdays in Lent at 8 pm** apart from on Monday 15th March (rather than Tuesday 16th March).

Friday 2nd March
Good Friday Service 6 pm.

Friday 12th March
An interactive talk from Stephen Fletcher where you are invited to act as juror in cases he will present from his experiences on the bench. In Church 7h30 pm. Refreshments afterwards.

Friday 19th March
Family Folk Music event Gladstone Village Hall Burton 7h30pm..

Saturday 20th March
A Wedding in Shotwick Church 1 pm.

Saturday 27th March
Easter Craft & Card making in Church 2-4 pm

Saturday 3rd April
Decoration of the Church for Easter Sunday – please bring flowers 10 am – 12 noon.

2-4 pm **Easter Egg rolling** and tea at the Vicarage.

Sunday 4th April
Our Easter Sunday Service at 11h30 am.

Saturday 17th April
Our usual Spring Clean please come between 10 am – 12 noon **armed with cleaning apparatus** or **graveyard tidying apparatus** so that we can give the Church and graveyard a tidy up.

Thursday 27th April Shotwick Annual Church Meeting in Church 7h30pm.

Thursday 4th May Archdeacon's visitation at Burton The occasion when Churchwardens elected at the Annual Church Meeting are sworn in.

Saturday 5th June
Double stall at Burton Village Fête. Any contributions – **especially home produce** are most welcome.

Thursday June 10th
We are hosting our Patrons from Lichfield and visitors from St John's Hospice Lichfield. Visits to Ness Gardens and each Church are planned.

Saturday 3rd July
Shotwick BBQ at 1 Hall Lane. Shotwick. Details to follow.

Sunday 10th October.
Harvest Festival 3 pm. No 11h30 am Service. Afterwards, there will be the **Harvest Supper** at Shotwick Hall Farm. Information on tickets to follow.

Sunday 14th November
Remembrance Day. Congregate in Church at **10.50 am** prior to a short ceremony by the Cenotaph. Normal service follows.

Sunday 19th December
Carol Service 8 pm (mince pies afterwards).
No 11h30 am Service on that day

Saturday 25th December Christmas Day
11h30 am Communion
(**no 8 am Service on Christmas day**)

Sunday 9th January 2011

Plough Sunday

We are planning a further lecture on archery this year and hopefully a concert, both to be held in Church. We also plan to hold a joint social event with Burton on 18th Sept. 'Prom Praise' at the Bridgewater Hall Manchester.

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Church Wardens: Mrs Joan Norman jopn5@yahoo.co.uk 0151 336 2954

Jenny Sneddon : jcsned@gmail.com 01244 881493

Service Rota

All services start at 11h30 am

First Sunday: All Age Worship (Followed by coffee)

Second Sunday: Holy Communion (Common Worship)

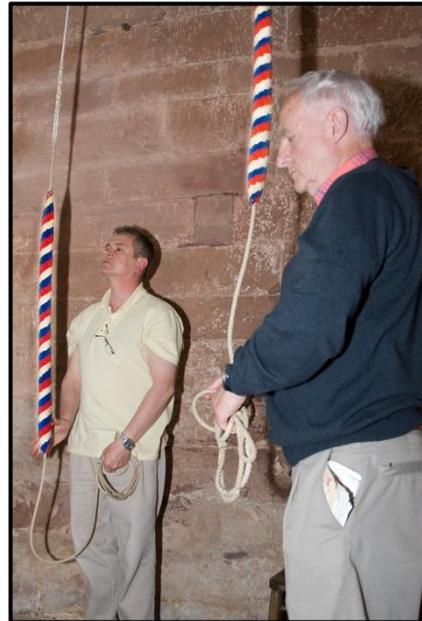
Third Sunday: Matins (1662 Book of Common Prayer)

Fourth Sunday: Holy Communion (1662 Book of Common Prayer)

Fifth Sunday: Holy Communion (1662 Book of Common Prayer)

Bell Matters!

Bell ringing practice every Friday evening: contact Frank Parry on 01244 881731. The bell ringers ring for Sunday services and special Church occasions.



We ring in all weathers!

BELL NEWS JANUARY 2010

For Remembrance Sunday we rang the bells half muffled, which gives the affect of an echo of the previous note and has a sombre sound to suit the occasion. I personally always find it a very moving service.

On a more cheerful note one of our leading bell ringers, Matthew Lewis had

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his Twenty First birthday in November for which we rang a quarter peal. Congratulations Matthew.

And then into December and the run up to Christmas this is always a busy time for ringers with extra services we tend to move around to help out at other churches.

The church carol service is very special at St Michael's, and then of course ringing for the village carols on the green which is a very happy time and is followed next morning by the Christmas day service, when we had some of the best ringers in the Wirral with us.

Ringling in the New Year is quickly becoming a Shotwick tradition and it always surprises me how many ringers turn up.

In January we had Plough Sunday which I think was a new service for most people as it was for me. It proved very popular especially the sit down meal that followed the service. FP



Hymns of Praise

This was held on Friday 2nd October to celebrate the installation of our new sound system. Everyone who wanted a particular hymn sung forwarded their choice to Revd Cathy Helm and most people were lucky!

Deanery Synod

The 13 parishes of the Wirral South Deanery, which includes St Michael's Shotwick, are jointly undertaking the creation of a Deanery Banner under the supervision of a professional textile artist. This will be a two year project and it is envisaged that every parish will be involved in the embroidery and in the design chosen to represent their Church. It promises to be a beautiful tapestry 7' Please give ideas to Joan Norman. Our next meeting to discuss progress will be on 2nd February.

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Planned Giving

There is a popular misconception that the Church of England has vast inherited wealth and some even think that it is subsidised by the State. Neither of these is correct and the cost of running St. Michael's is met entirely from the contributions of parishioners. We recently issued a leaflet showing where our money goes and where it comes from and asked you to reflect on your giving.

The best and most efficient way you can help is by joining our **Planned Giving Scheme** and contributing regularly by making a Standing Order payment monthly, quarterly or annually. Planned giving is much more than a mechanism for our gift; it is the key to generous and committed giving.

If you decide to give by Standing Order then there is no need to put anything on the collection plate. You and God know your planned giving and that is what matters. However, when we thank God for the gifts in church you will want to feel that your gift is included. The offering of our money is an important part of the service. It is more than money; it is a sign of the offering of our lives. We will offer you a simple card to put on the plate as a symbol of your planned giving to God's work in this Church.

Your Parish Giving Officer, John Carsley (john.carsley@btinternet.com), will be pleased to make the necessary arrangements and answer any questions that you may have.

Recent activities

We had a successful Christmas Crafts event last year on 28th November and hope to repeat this for other opportunities e.g. Mothering Sunday & Easter. **Plough Sunday** on 9th January was followed by a Ploughman's lunch in Church was a great success. This was the reason behind the picture of the tractor outside Church. We now have a system in place for direct communication with our supporters to give

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them reminders



of when events are coming up.



Water Aid

Our **Lent Appeal** is Water Aid once more. 'Turn buckets of pennies into buckets of water'. We will have labels available in Church again this year for use on jars to collect small change throughout Lent, and to bring to Church to the service on Easter Sunday morning and present at the altar.

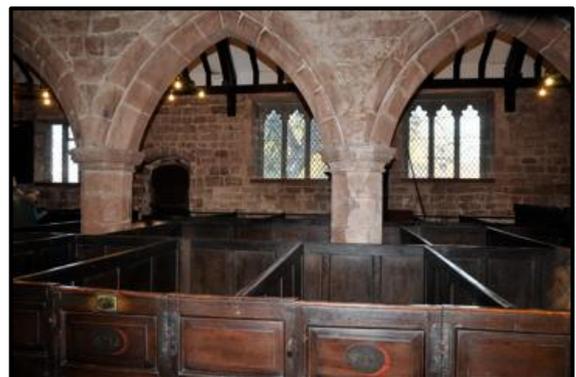


Last year St Michael's sent £200. As the Archbishop of York says "Water Aid helps the very poorest get their first essential step out of poverty by giving them access to clean water and sanitation." More information can be found on the Water Aid web site at www.wateraid.org

Thank you to all our volunteers for general maintenance, Jane Robbison for opening & closing up, altar flowers....the list is long

Friends of St Michael

We take this opportunity to thank the Friends who have responded generously again this year. If you are not already a Friend and would like to help in our efforts to keep the Church open and in good repair, please get in touch with Joan Norman.



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