

St. Michael's Church Shotwick



Newsletter August 2011

Welcoming and active at the heart of the Parish

Church Officials

Vicar:

The Revd. Cathy Helm
The Vicarage, Burton CH64
0151 353 0453
chelm@shotwick.org.uk

Church Wardens:

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

Dr. Jenny Sneddon
01244 881493
jcsned@gmail.com

PCC Secretary:

Mrs. Alison Allen
01244 880165

PCC Treasurer:

Mr. George Makin
0151 336 5126

Bell Tower Captain:

Mr. Frank Parry
01244 881731

Visit our website:-

www.shotwick.org.uk

A Message from Our Vicar



Is it just me that's noticed, or is it that almost every time we switch on the news there are even more revelations about those in public and high offices, either politicians, financiers, or newspaper editors that are being uncovered? Are we losing the will to be shocked at what depths some people will stoop to, to get a good story? Thankfully the public voice is becoming much more focused in its outrage against dishonesty and self interest.....and quite rightly so. Surely we have a duty to challenge dishonest practices and injustice and to bring public office holders to account as well as those who report on them.

However, is there not a distinction between challenging injustice and total character assassination? We don't have the stocks any more, (apart from the ones in Shotwick outside Jack's!) but the public voice is in danger of focussing on total public humiliation and ridicule. As the old saying goes 'people who live in glass house, shouldn't throw stones.'

It brings to mind the incident when Jesus came across a woman who had been caught in adultery and was about to be stoned, as the Law required. He challenged the crowd '*if any of you is without sin, let him be the first to throw a stone at her.*' [John 8] Jesus still challenged the woman to change her ways. Wrongdoing does need to be brought to account, but what about mercy and compassion?

As Christians we are called to '*act justly, to love mercy and to walk humbly with our God*' [Micah 6:8]. We are called to play our part in the society in which we live, to seek justice, to bring the light of Christ in to the world. However, we all too readily forget that when light shines it shows up the good and the bad, not just in others, but in ourselves too!

We are all human. We all make mistakes. But isn't this what Jesus died to save us from? So that in him, we will find forgiveness when we go wrong and the light of his love to see the way we should be living.

But is it also not true that justice will catch up eventually?

A thief in Antwerp, Belgium, was more than surprised when, after burgling a house, he jumped over a nine foot wall, dropping down the other side only to find himself in the city prison!

Cathy

Revd. Cathy Helm

Church Services

All at 11.30am

1st Sunday (in the month)

All age Worship

(Family Service)

2nd Sunday

Holy Communion

(Book of Common Worship)

3rd Sunday

Morning Prayer

(1662 Prayer Book)

4th Sunday

Holy Communion

(1662 Prayer Book)

5th Sunday

Holy Communion

(1662 Prayer Book)

Shotwick's Website

Our website (www.shotwick.org.uk) has recently had a bit of a refresh to make it easier to navigate. New information and more pictures have been added, and changes will continue in the future. At the moment about 30 people a week visit the site and recent visitors have come from USA, Australia, Ukraine and Belgium! Have a visit and let us know what you think.

What's Happening – Current Events

Friday 9th September 7.30pm

Professor Lord David Alton

will talk in Church on

"Active Citizenship - Our Duty to Play our Part

Admission by ticket at a cost of £5, which includes refreshments

See the main poster for further details.



Saturday 10th September 9.30am

Wirral South Deanery Church Pilgrimage

Visit the Churches of Wirral. Further details

from Rev. Beth Glover 0151 327 2182 or see the poster in Church

Saturday 17th September from noon onwards

Shotwick BBQ

Join everybody at Jenny's – 1 Hall Lane Shotwick, for the annual BBQ. Bring your own meats to roast – salads will be provided. Hay bale swimming pool!

Saturday 8th October 10am -noon

Help decorate the Church for Harvest

Bring flowers and produce to enable us to decorate the Church for Harvest



Sunday 9th October 3pm

Harvest Festival

Give thanks to God and celebrate Harvest in Church at 3pm, followed by a Harvest Ploughman's at Shotwick Hall.

Admission to the ploughman's is by ticket at a cost of £8

See the main poster in Church for further details.

Tickets Available Every Sunday in Church or From John Carsley
0151 336 5726

Comments from the Visitor's Book

We get many visitors to the Church from around the world – here are some comments that they have left us

'Walking the dogs from Puddington. We have visited the Church on so many occasions since I was little '

'Cleansing for the Soul'

'So peaceful. Thank you for leaving your door open so we could visit'

Thank you so much John for a most interesting talk about this beautiful Church '

'Sri Lanka: Delightful Church. Just as we read of in English classics'

'On a beautiful day it was it was lovely to find this peaceful little Church'

'Lovely spiritual place of history and joy.'

Bell Matters

On Saturday 18th June St Michaels hosted a meeting of the Wirral Branch of the Chester Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers. This is the first time in living memory that Shotwick have actually hosted a meeting we have in the past played second fiddle or back up to either Burton or Capenhurst.



People enjoy ringing at Shotwick and the bells were fully occupied from 3pm to 5pm. We then had a half hour church service taken by Basil Keys (thanks Basil). Hymn singing is well up the list of what bell ringers are good at and with June playing the organ, I don't think we did too badly.

Then it was tea time, and what a feast the female side of Shotwick bell ringers provided led by our very own bell ringing catering manager Joyce Jones. In the speech of thanks following the tea the speaker suggested she should be called Rejoice Jones. The main course was ham turkey and pork pie with potato salad etc. The delicious sweets were provided by Susan Costello Jane Lewis and Eunice Parry, all very yummy.

It was I think a successful meeting and I have received some nice comments about it, Thanks to everyone who helped make it a success. FP.

Bell ringing practice every Friday evening. Contact Frank Parry for more details.

Mailing List

Would you like to be reminded about Church Events?

.....Like to know more about what goes on in the Church?

.....Have the newsletter delivered to your e-mail inbox?

Why not sign up for our electronic mailing list?

It's easy.....

- Go to our website www.shotwick.org.uk and sign up there.....
or
- Email newsletters@shotwick.org.uk with "subscribe" in the subject line.....or
- Write your email and name on a sheet of paper and pop it under the vestry door.

Your email details will not be passed on to any other organisation

BIZARRE VISITORS TO CHESTER CATHEDRAL

On 16th June Nick Fry from Chester Cathedral came to give us a talk on bizarre visitors to the Cathedral.

Nick is the longest serving member of staff at the Cathedral and one of his responsibilities is looking after visitors. He is also the author of the Cathedral guidebook.

Nick began by explaining that 40-50 years ago Cathedral heritage tourism was unlooked for, and it is only in the last 50 years that it has become popular. Visitors are essential to raise money to maintain the fabric, but they expect the same facilities at a Cathedral as at any other heritage attraction and there is a need to maintain a balance between commercial astuteness and the Cathedral as a church.

Nick has found that the Cathedral means different things to different people. It is a living, working church, but many visitors see it only as a museum and do not realise that services take place there on a regular basis. Even a recent Council document referred to Evensong as a "medieval heritage experience."

Most visitors are fascinated by what Nick has to say when he takes them round the Cathedral, but he had many humorous tales to tell of men who jiggle coins in their pockets the whole time and people who read the guidebook (which he wrote) during the tour and then try to catch him out with difficult questions.

Chester Cathedral welcome people as warmly as it can and Nick said that he always makes sure that visitors know that they are welcome to stay for services.

Many thanks to Nick for coming to talk to us and to the catering committee for providing the refreshments afterwards.