

# St. Michael's Church Shotwick



Newsletter May 2011

*Welcoming and active at the heart of the Parish*

# Church Officials

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Mr. Frank Parry  
01244 881731

**Visit our website:-**

[www.shotwick.org.uk](http://www.shotwick.org.uk)

# A Message from Our Vicar



In April we had our annual Church meeting, a wonderful opportunity to look back over the year past at all that has happened and how God has blessed us; but also to review what we else we could do. It's also important to look to the future and see where God is leading us a church.

Hopefully you will have noticed our new 'vision statement' on the front of the newsletter that we would like to become a church which is

***'welcoming and active at the heart of the parish.'***

One of the ways we have been working to this is with our series of evening talks which have proved to be very interesting , enlightening and amusing and as always accompanied by excellent home baked cakes. Please look at the 'what's on' to make note of our future evenings which will be well worth coming along to.

To help us focus on how we can achieve our vision the Parochial Church Council [PCC] have this year reviewed our Growth Action Plan goals and decided to keep two goals from last year. Although we had gone a long way to achieve what we had set last year we recognise there is still more to be done. So our three goals this year are:

1. To continue to increase the level of giving through encouraging the use of the planned giving scheme.

*Being part of planned giving makes such a difference as the amount we get back through Gift Aid is invaluable. Having more people in planned giving also allows us to be able to plan what we can and can't do with funds available.*

2. To be more active within the parish community through relevant events aiming to improve and deepen relationships.

*Hopefully our evening talks, BBQ, harvest supper and fundraising activities all help to achieve this as we engage in a range of activities together.*

3. To enhance the welcome of the church.

*We now have a team of welcomers for Sunday mornings. We have also set up a group to look at the newsletter, our website and booklet which outlines the history of St. Michael's.*

Any comments with regards to the 'new look' newsletter would be gratefully received.

At the annual church meeting it was wonderful to be able to report on how generous so many people have been through various activities, donations and the cookery book towards achieving a creditable amount towards the tower roof which was replaced last autumn. No mean feat for such a small community. Your generosity of time, skills, energy and money have made such a difference to our church.

Thank you.

P.S If you still don't have a cookery book we do still a few left but hopefully you are all now enjoying using the different recipes.



## **What's Happening – Current Events**

### **Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> June**

Burton Summer Fete

### **Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> June 7.30pm**

“Bizarre Visitors to Chester Cathedral”

A talk in Church with Nick Fry

### **Friday 24<sup>th</sup> June – Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> June**

Parish Weekend, Hinsley Hall, Leeds

### **Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> July**

Shotwick Family BBQ

### **Friday 9<sup>th</sup> September 7h30pm in Church**

An evening with David Lord Alton.

‘Active Citizenship - our duty to play our part.’

### **Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> October 10-12 noon**

Decoration of the Church for Harvest

### **Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> October 3pm**

Harvest Festival (no 11:30am service)



## **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)**

# Bell Matters



## THE BELLS

The first record of bells at Shotwick is in 1549-1550 when the tower contained a ring of three bells.

In 1610-1611 the second bell was recast by an unknown founder and this extract from the proceedings of the Consistory Court in 1629 explains what happened:

“Wee present Richard Chamberlain th'elder for taking away and not accompting to the parish in his time for 32 pounds of Bellmetal (being worth xxiijs.) when he was church warden.

Richard Chamberlain Senior of Gt. Saughall saith that 18 or 19 years ago, hee being Churchwarden of Shotwick, a bell viz. the middle bell being cast, he agreed with one to cast the same & saith that after it was cast and came to the church it was not tuneable, and then he did hewe the same thinner & did take out mettle which he caused to be weighed by one John Caldey who said it was 30 *li* or thereabouts which mettle after it was weigh'd he delivered to Robt. Carter the Parishe Clarke of the said P'ishe for the use of the P'ishe.”

In 1616 the tenor was recast by William Clibury of Wellington in Shropshire. The second bell was recast in 1621, probably by William Clibury, and both these bells are of very good quality with fine lettering and ornamentation. The treble was recast by John Scott of Wigan in 1664, but unfortunately this bell was of poorer quality. The diameter was 31½” and the inscription read:

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS DEO CW WD IB 1664

W  
IS

In 1728 the tenor fell from its bearings and the clock hammer was subsequently moved to another bell. As the tenor was not damaged in the fall it probably became wedged in the frame. In 1731 the church agreed to have the bells re-hung in a new frame by Barnes, a Neston carpenter, although his price of £24.2s. was questioned when it was discovered that Burton had had a frame and headstocks made for five bells for only "12 or 14 pounds more." The frame made by Barnes was a fine piece of work, although the hanging was not so good.

About 1850 John Owen visited Shotwick church and wrote:

"The bells are rung from the basement and on the south wall are painted in black letters the rules to be observed by the ringers and dated 1684. It is of the usual kind, ending with:

*'These laws are old, they are not new,  
The Clerk and Sexton must have their due.'*

Unfortunately these rules have now disappeared.

By 1938 the only bell in use was the treble, which was rung by means of a rope attached to the clapper. In that year the Rev. F. R. Wansbrough, Vicar of Shotwick, died, and in his will he left a legacy to the church. Some of this money was used to augment the ring of three bells to a ring of six, and the work was entrusted to Taylors. When they inspected the existing bells they found that the treble had been cracked due to clocking, and in view of its age and the fact that not many of John Scott's bells remained it was decided not to recast it. The bell was initially placed in the north aisle on a platform made from the oak of the old frame, but later it was moved to the base of the tower where it remained until it was stolen from the church in 2010.

The second bell and tenor of the ring of three were found to be in good condition and were rehung with four new bells to form the present ring of six. Details of the bells are as follows:

	Diameter	Weight	Note	Date
1.	2'3"	4-0-23	D#	1938
2.	2'5"	4-3-21	C#	1938
3.	2'7"	5-3-4	B	1938
4.	2'8½"	6-1-0	A#	1938
5.	2'11"	6-2-21	G#	1621
6.	3'2½"	8-3-0	F#	1616

Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 4 bear the inscription:

+D.D.F.R.WANSBROUGH+FECIT TAYLOR MCMXXXVIII+

No. 5 bears the inscription:

+GLORIA IN EXCELSIS DEO 1621

No. 6 bears the inscription:

+JESUS BE OUR SPEED 1616

WC

Bell ringing practice every Friday evening. Contact Frank Parry 01244 881731 for more details.

## Other Items



Revd Cathy Helm has been mentoring Glyn Jones. Glyn, a resident of Shotwick is in the second year of training for ordination and has preached at Shotwick a few times.

### Friends of Shotwick

The Lord's Prayer Board is completely restored and back with us. The Creed is on its way. This would not have been accomplished so expeditiously without the help of the Friends. We will let you know when both Boards are mounted and hope that as many of you as possible will come to see them. In the meantime, many thanks from all at St. Michael's.

Joan Norman

### Deanery Synod News

The key item on the Agenda for the Wirral South Deanery Synod meeting on 10th May 2011 was Women in the Episcopate. The evening was opened by the Rural Dean, Revd Gordon Welch and he then invited Dr John Mason, a member of the General Synod and formerly Diocesan Secretary to address the meeting.

Dr Mason gave a most balanced and even handed presentation of the pros and cons of this issue. In the end we were asked to say yes or no to the motion

“that this Synod approve the proposals embodied in the draft Bishops

and Priests (Consecration and Ordination of women) Measure and in draft Amending Canon No 30”

The debate was lively and wide ranging and in the end voting took place separately for the two houses – Clergy and Laity. The vote was overwhelmingly in favour of the motion in both houses ( I voted in favour) but as a separate rider the Deanery Synod was most keen that the views of those against the motion were respected and acknowledged.

Stephen Fletcher

## Commandment Boards Update



Front before treatment

The most badly damaged of the commandment boards, which were bought by the Church in 1752, has been delivered back from the conservator, Vanessa Andrew.

When the board was removed from the wall, it was found that the frame and the stretcher that holds the canvas were very badly rotten due to water damage. The frame was sent to the National Museums Conservation Centre in Liverpool, where it was injected with a resin solution to stabilise the rotten wood. This avoided

the need to replace the frame, and preserved the integrity of the whole board.

The stretcher, which cannot be seen from the front of the board, has been replaced.

The distortions in the canvas were treated with moisture and heat to relax the material and then gently stretched out using wet brown paper attached to the canvas at one end and the work table at the other. As the paper slowly dried out it contracted put-

ting the canvas under an even tension and so pulling out the distortions.

The canvas was cleaned of a thick layer of surface dirt, retouched and regilded with gold leaf where necessary.

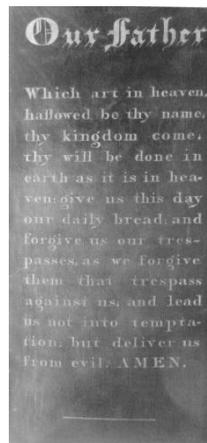
The result has surpassed our expectations, these black and white photographs not doing justice to the final result. More detailed colour pictures have been posted in the Church.

We are very grateful that generous donations have enabled us to send the second board to Vanessa and we will remount both of the boards in the near future when they can be seen in all their glory!

Where the second board was removed, evidence of the plasterwork and painting on the walls done in Victorian times can be seen.

The quality of the work and the end result is really impressive. We hope that the two remaining boards can receive the same treatment and are actively seeking donations or sponsors to enable this to be done.

***Sponsor a Board! -- Contact any of the Church Officials***



Front after treatment

**Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> June 1.00pm**

# **Burton Fete**

We will need items to sell on our stall

- ⇒ Quality Bric-a-Brac
- ⇒ Plants
- ⇒ Produce
- ⇒ Jams
- ⇒ Cakes
- ⇒ Anything readily saleable!

Please bring on the day from 10 am or  
leave in the Church by Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June



## **Fancy That!**

In 1907, workmen engaged in laying a new floor in the Church unearthed near the porch, skeletons of two tall figures standing upright under the flooring. They were reinterred in the Churchyard

