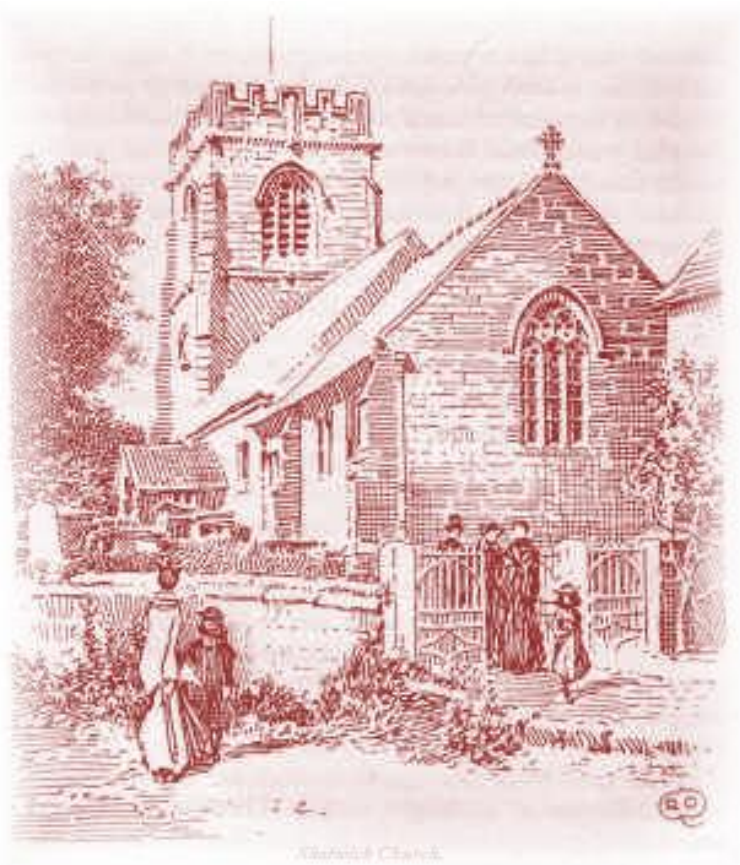


St. Michael's Church Shotwick



Newsletter February 2014

Welcoming and active at the heart of the Parish

Church Officials

Vicar:

The Revd. Cathy Helm
The Vicarage, Burton CH64 5TJ
0151 353 0453
chelm@shotwick.org.uk

Church Wardens:

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

Mr John Carsley
0151 336 5726
john.carsley@btinternet.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



It's been wonderful over the last few weeks to welcome four new families to our parish, all who have moved in over the last few months. You can read how some of them took part in our first Christmas Card competition with amazing results.

It has also enabled us to offer for the first time a Christingle service.

Christingle can be celebrated anytime between the start of Advent and Candlemass [2nd February when the church celebrates the presentation of Christ in the temple]. A Christingle is a service which also supports the work of The Children's Society and enables children to reflect on everything



Jesus, the Christ child, came to do. It goes beyond baby Jesus in the stable, right through to his death on the cross and reminds us of the part we have to play in shining God's light into our world today as we in turn carry the 'Christ light'.



A Christingle is a powerful symbol of God's love for the world, but it's practical too.

The **orange** represents the world in which we live.

The **four sticks** with fruits or sweets represent the good fruits of the earth and the four seasons.

The **red ribbon** which surrounds the world reminds us of the blood Jesus shed for the world he loves.

The **candle** reminds us of the light of Christ which brings light into the world.

Cont.....

We had a wonderful time making our Christingles, learning about what they mean and thanking God for sending Jesus as the light of the world.

Thank you to all who came and helped out.

Yours in Christ

Cathy

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)

Church Festivals And Special Services

Sunday 23 rd March	Children Story Telling at 4pm in Church.
Sunday 6 th April	Annual Church Meeting following the All Age Service
Friday 18 th April	Good Friday service at 4pm
Saturday 19 th April	Decorating of Church for Easter 10:00 – 12:00
Sunday 20 th April	Easter Day 11.30am service and receiving of Water Aid jars.
Saturday 10 th May	Church spring cleaning 10:00 – 12:00
Sunday 11 th May	Rogation Sunday. Bishop Colin Bazley will preach
Friday 23 rd May – Sunday 25 th May	Art exhibition returns over this weekend

Lent Course

This year we'll be using the York Course called

'Build on the Rock: faith, doubt and Jesus'

Written by Canon John Young.

Venue: **Joan Norman's House**

Date: **Wed 12th March onwards**

Bell Matters



I never cease to be amazed by the number of “celebrities” who are ringers (what do you have to do to become a celebrity?). The latest one I’ve discovered is Alan Titchmarsh. He wrote an excellent article on ringing in the Sunday Telegraph of the 15th December 2013 which Lavinia Whitfield kindly showed me.

He learnt to ring when he was 10 years old and rang alongside his mother and father at All Saints in Ilkley, Yorkshire. Being a small lad he had to stand on several boxes!

He writes that even now when he hears the words that are said to start bells ringing from rest – “Look to. Treble’s going. She’s gone”, it makes the hairs on the back of his neck stand on end. He asks us that when we hear a peal of bells to stop a moment and listen and reflect that change ringing, which was developed in this country, has called people to worship for over 400 years

He finishes by saying if you fancy having a go yourself you will be welcomed with open arms by bands of ringers all over the country, and that if anyone needs an “ology” then campanology is as good as any to boast of.

Having written this I am reminded that we do need recruits at Shotwick, so if you are at all interested contact me. Anyone can be taught to ring, age, size or strength make little difference – go on give it a try!

Frank.



RAILWAYS AROUND SALTNEY

After his last successful talk at Shotwick, Geoff Pickard came to this Church again on 24th October to talk to us about railways around Saltney.

The rail network in this country was built in the nineteenth century by small individual railway companies and virtually every major town was connected to it. Saltney was a small hamlet until three railway companies developed rail links there in the 1840s: the Chester and Holyhead Railway was constructed to provide a transport link with Ireland for Irish MPs travelling to London to sit in the Houses of Parliament, the Shrewsbury and Chester Railway was constructed to transport coal from mines at Wrexham to the wharf at Saltney and the Mold Railway was constructed to provide a link with the Chester and Holyhead Railway to transport minerals from the Mold area.



Saltney Station

In its heyday Saltney had a railway station, a marshalling yard and a carriage works. About fifteen trains a day used the station, mainly taking people to and from work in Chester. Saltney Dee Junction was the starting point for the Dee Branch

Line, which provided a rail link to factories built along the line and to a wharf where ships could dock. The marshalling yard closed in 1966 as it was quicker to transport small parcels by road so there were not so many mixed freight trains and so less need for the yard. The Dee Branch Line closed in 1967 because some of the factories it served had closed and others preferred to use road transport.



Steam Train at Saltney Ferry

Cont.....

There was another railway station at Saltney Ferry, together with a marshalling yard, a locomotive shed and a housing estate built by the railway company for its employees. In its heyday about thirteen trains in each direction used the station. The station closed in 1962 along with the whole branch line to Mold, the locomotive shed closed in 1967 when diesel locomotives started to take over and the marshalling yard closed in 1969. The housing estate is still there today although the houses are now privately owned.

Steve Fletcher proposed a vote of thanks to Geoff for his very interesting talk and the evening finished with refreshments kindly provided by Lynda and her helpers.

Susan

Why Is Easter a Variable Date?

The date of Easter varies from March to April each year, but Christmas is always December the 25th. Why?



Easter follows changes in date each year because it is rooted in the Jewish calendar which in turn is based on the moon. The First Council of Nicaea (a council of Christian bishops convened in Nicaea in Bithynia by the Roman Emperor Constantine I in AD 325), established the date of Easter as the first Sunday after the full moon following the March equinox.

The celebration of Christmas did not begin until of couple of centuries later by which time most Christians were gentiles - not Jewish. They all used the Roman calendar which our modern calendar is based on and which follows the sun. The date of Christmas appears to have been selected in Rome so is on a fixed date in the Roman calendar.

Easter Sunday this year is on April 20th.

Christmas Card Competition

At the beginning of December, we gave all the children in the parish the gift of an Advent calendar and invited them to enter a competition to design a picture depicting the Christmas story. The winning picture would then be turned into a card for sale in time for Christmas 2014.

Of the 19 children in the parish, an excellent 8 entries were received and after a great deal of deliberation winners were chosen. Entries were received from:

	Age
1. Rachael	3
2. Georgia	7
3. Nathan	7
4. Jamee	7
5. Zachary	10
6. Ashlee	11
7. Carla	13
8. Jess	6



Nathan



Zachary was awarded first prize in the older category, with Nathan as

the winner in the 7yrs and below group.

Cont.....

Congratulations to all who entered – as you can see, the quality was very high and it was very difficult to choose a winner. We look forward to Zachary and Nathan's pictures featuring on our 2014 Christmas cards.



Zachary

Lest We Forget

The last newsletter featured an article on Paratrooper Frederick Hopwood who is remembered on the Cenotaph at St. Michael's. Lavinia Whitfield wrote the following article for "This England" in 1984 and we thought you might like the opportunity to read it.

On Remembrance Sunday last year, as the Queen watched by millions on television, attended the Remembrance Day service at the Cenotaph in Whitehall, and for a few brief moments other memorials to the fallen in the two world wars were the focus for acts of remembrance all over the country. In towns and cities, villages and hamlets, church services were held around them. How many there are it would be impossible to say; in London alone there are probably hundreds, almost all put up in the years immediately following the 1914-18 war. Never before, and never since, has there been such tangible evidence of a nation's wish to remember.

Paid for by public subscription or by wealthy benefactors, they come in all shapes and sizes. From simple tablets or stone columns to the extremely ornate, some beautiful, and some unashamedly sentimental. The one thing they have in common is that each records every life lost by a group or community, irrespective of rank or standing. *Cont.....*



The elaborate memorial at Port Sunlight
stone cross.

At Eccleston Lane Ends in Prescott, beautiful bronze figures of a mother and son illustrate the legend carved around the plinth, *“With the tears of the mothers the laurels of the sons are watered”* Impressive because of its setting is the plain stone column at Frodsham in Cheshire. Set on a bare hillside it looks down across the town where the men lived whose names are recorded there.

Many of these names bear silent witness to whole families of sons wiped out.

Just as poignant are the memorials in tiny villages such as the one in Shotwick churchyard, where on Remembrance Sunday the Vicar will read out the names of the six men recorded on the simple stone cross which was put up by a community of fewer than a hundred souls.

One of the most elaborate must surely be the one at Port Sunlight, the Lever Brothers' model village, which commemorates all the company's employees who died in the two world wars. Massive tableaux of soldiers and sailors in action and women and children watching and waiting surround the central



The Memorial at Eccleston Lane Ends

Cont.....



Shotwick Memorial

Some inscriptions are also reminders that not all of those who came back were able to take up their lives again where they had left off. One of the men who unveiled the Port Sunlight memorial was a soldier blinded at the first Battle of the Somme.

Few new memorials were built after the second world war, although names were added to the earlier ones and are, sadly, still being added. The one at Holyhead in Anglesey records the name of a man who died in the Falklands conflict. The appearance of women's names is evidence of the part they played; no longer is theirs the passive role of watching and waiting.

Once the wreaths have faded and the poppies have blown away, the war memorials will be just part of the street furniture again, and this is a pity: However you view them, whether as reminders of the horrors of war and the sacrifices made on our behalf, as historic records or even as works of art, they are well worth looking at... and meditating upon.

Lavinia

Thursday 20th March 7:30pm

“Stories and Snippets of the Twenties”

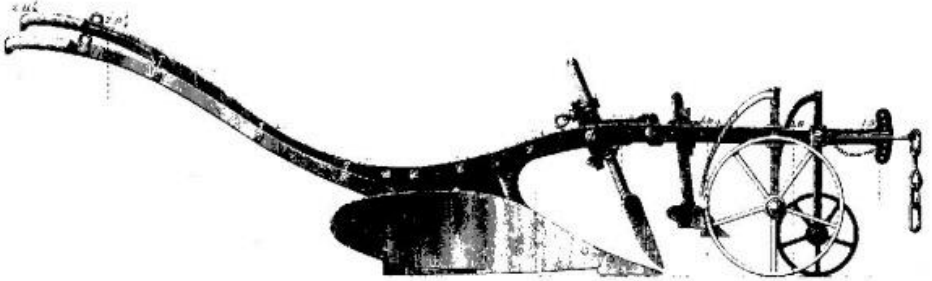
A Talk By
June Corner

Taking place at Gladstone Village Hall

Watch out for more details!

Plough Sunday

On Sunday 12th January, we celebrated Plough Sunday in Church and were delighted to welcome Bishop Keith, who gave a very relevant and interesting sermon.



In early and medieval times the church was often the place to keep the communal plough. After Christmas there was frequently no work for the ploughmen, and therefore no wages or free food. To make ends meet the ploughmen would take the plough around the farmers and landowners to beg for food and money. Sometimes this custom got out of hand, with threats to plough up gardens if money was not forthcoming!

The observance of Plough Sunday at the beginning of Epiphany dates back to Victorian times but it is really a much older celebration marking the first working day after the 12 days of Christmas when it was “Plough Monday”



Nearly 50 people were in Church for our service, which was followed by a delicious ploughman’s lunch, provided by members of the congregation to whom we owe many thanks.

Bishop Keith was resplendent in his robes with a red stole and gold mitre. He also sports a white beard. One of our younger visitors thought Father Christmas had arrived again!

Foodbank News



Since June 2013, The Congregation of St Michael's has donated 312 items of food, averaging 40 items per month.

The top 10 donated items were:-

Baked beans	43
Tinned soup	32
Tinned Fish	28
Rice pudding	20
Tomatoes	18
Spaghetti	18
Meat	18
Peas	11
Cereals	10
Biscuits	10

Foodbank shopping list

A photograph of a handwritten shopping list on a piece of light blue paper, pinned to a dark background. The list includes: Milk (UHT or powdered), Sugar (500g), Fruit juice (carton), Soup, Pasta sauces, Sponge pudding (tinned), Tomatoes (tinned), Cereals, Rice pudding (tinned), Tea bags/instant coffee, Instant mash potato, Rice/pasta, Tinned meat/fish, Tinned vegetables, Tinned fruit, Jam, and Biscuits or snack bar.

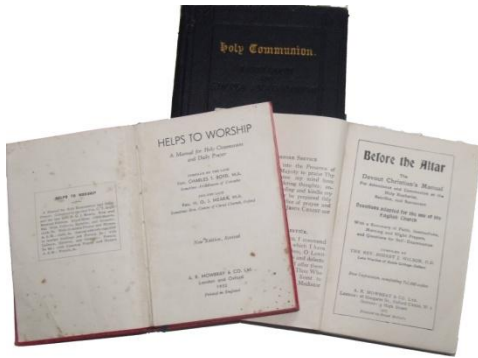
Milk (UHT or powdered)
Sugar (500g)
Fruit juice (carton)
Soup
Pasta sauces
Sponge pudding (tinned)
Tomatoes (tinned)
Cereals
Rice pudding (tinned)
Tea bags/instant coffee
Instant mash potato
Rice/pasta
Tinned meat/fish
Tinned vegetables
Tinned fruit
Jam
Biscuits or snack bar



Typical Monthly Collection

Many thanks to those who contribute – we collect on the first Sunday of each month (the All Age service), but you can donate non perishable and items in mouse proof containers at any time by leaving them on top of the font in Church.

Confirmation Prayer Books



We have been given three slim, pocket sized books by Mrs. Margaret Scane, which were presented to children at their Confirmation. They give a fascinating insight into the Church's teaching of young children in earlier times.



The titles and inscriptions in the books read as follows:-

Holy Communion
By
"Fidelis"

*Emily Evans
From Rev C.F. Cross
June 14th 1894
The lord be with you*

Before the Altar
The Devout Christian's Manual

*Olive Hopwood at her
Confirmation
March 16 1928
Shotwick Vicarage
FRW
(Revd F. R. Wainsborough)*

Helps to Worship
A Manual for Holy
Communion and Daily
Prayer

*Harry Walley at his
Confirmation
March 1932
F R Wainsborough
Shotwick*

Many of you will know that Margaret is the daughter of Harry and Olive and the granddaughter of Emily.

I was struck by the contrast between the 1894 book and the later editions. The two later books give great detail of the many Cont.....

prayers and ceremonies and there is quite an emphasis on self examination. A list is given of 21 questions the children are to ask themselves every evening when at prayer as to whether they have or have not done all the correct things. There is a great deal of beseeching to be forgiven for their besetting sin!

The earlier book is not described as a manual and although it also goes through all the preparation for attending Communion after they have been confirmed and sin and repentance are of course included, it is much gentler. As to attending Communion it speaks of the many excuses for not going: "*Too busy*" "*I am not good enough*" "*I feel so cold about it*" "*I don't understand it anyway*" "*My friends will laugh at me*"

It tells them to ignore their friends – "*Let them laugh – despise the scoffs. Jesus was reviled – take no notice of it*" "*Don't let a few wretched sneers keep you back:-*

*Dare to be a Daniel,
Dare to stand alone,
Dare to have a purpose firm,
Dare to make it known.*

It advises them to read the Gospels and see what sort of a person Jesus was when he lived on earth as a Man. As He went about in Judaea and Galilee, His loving kindness, His gentleness, His unfailing consideration towards others, His love of children.

On the manuals – "*Leave these little books at home. If you cannot pray any more take up your Prayer Book. It is the best manual that has ever been written*" On understanding – "*Always remember Holy Communion is a mystery which no-one can fully understand. It cannot be explained in words. Christ it was that spake it. He took the bread and brake it*"

We will put these books out during Sunday service for everyone to see.

Joan