



PARISH MAGAZINE & COMMUNITY NEWS

Burton - Puddington - Shotwick



St Nicholas' Church, Burton



St Michael's Church, Shotwick

August & September 2026

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Gladstone Village Hall's News & Activities

St Michael's Church Latest Events

THE PARISH MAGAZINE OF
ST NICHOLAS' CHURCH, BURTON CH64 5TG
ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH, SHOTWICK CHI 6HX

VALETE

Volunteers are the heart of our Parish Magazine. For many years, a number of dedicated individuals have worked behind the scenes to keep our communities connected.

A Parish Magazine acts as the glue for a local community. Delivered straight to people's inboxes or printed for those who prefer a hard copy, it builds a sense of belonging by sharing updates, local news, and details on St Nicholas' and St Michael's Churches, Gladstone Village Hall, Bishop Wilson School, and other clubs and societies.

From highlighting upcoming activities in Burton, Puddington and Shotwick to connecting residents with trusted local businesses, it serves everyone. Our Parish Magazine plays an essential role in keeping local people up to date. It keeps homebound and former residents involved, while also acting as a historical diary that records our village communities' marriages, funerals and life events.

This edition marks the end of the involvement of two capable and committed volunteers who between them have served the community in this capacity for over 18 years. Their work was largely unseen, but has been incredibly important to our parishes.

Bryan Blakeman took over production and editing of the magazine in 2015 and fundamentally changed the magazine's design and content. Much of the appearance and layout is his work. Bryan recently stepped down from his role in producing both the Parish Magazine and the Weekly Newsletter following Burton PCC's wish to assume editorial control of all church communications.

Sue Birch joined the team in 2019 and since then has done invaluable work compiling the contributions, originating content and assisting with the editing of the finished article. More recently Sue has taken on further responsibility and involvement with the Gladstone Village Hall committee so will continue to be involved in community affairs.

Bryan and Sue, your hard work may have been quiet, but its impact has been massive. Thank you for your dedication, generosity, and for everything you continue to do for our community.

St Nicholas' Church, Burton & St Michael's Church, Shotwick

Church Contacts

burtonchurchpcc@gmail.com

07471 890827

Services at St Nicholas' Church

www.burtonchurch.org.uk



Weekly - Sundays

10:00am Morning Worship

Weekly - Wednesdays

10:15am Holy Communion BCP

1st Sunday of Month

8:45am Holy Communion BCP

3rd Sunday of Month

10:00am Holy Communion CW

6:30pm Evensong

Services at St Michael's Church

www.shotwick.org.uk



1st Sunday of month

11:30am Morning Praise

2nd Sunday of Month

11:30am Holy Communion CW

3rd Sunday of Month

11:30am Morning Prayer BCP

4th Sunday of Month

11:30am Holy Communion BCP

5th Sunday of Month

11:30am Holy Communion BCP



From The Parish Registers

Burton

Weddings

6 June

Thomas Andrew Moorhouse & Rebecca Elizabeth Davies

4 July

Ben Christopher Whitehead & Caroline Elizabeth Alexandra Crossley

25 July

Andrew James Whitley & Clare Dawn Leadbetter

Interment of ashes

15 July

Julie Moyes

29 July

Robert Christopher Lunt

St Nicholas' Church News



PCC and Churchwardens

On 1 June, at All Saints Thornton Hough, Ivor Thomas and John Dennison were sworn in as Churchwardens for the coming year.

Other people who have volunteered to serve on the PCC are Amanda Ankers, Tony Carter, John Church, Ron Curnow, Jane Davies, Nicky Dennison, Janey Griffiths, Nigel Griffiths, Philip Hillman, John Vinson.

Please let any of the PCC members know if you have questions or ideas. A full list of roles is available on the noticeboard in the church porch.

The PCC next meets on Tuesday 22 September.

Fellowship Group

Meet Tuesday 4 August and Tuesday 1 September at 7.30pm. All are very welcome. lindzandrob@hotmail.co.uk for details.

Visiting Bellringers

On the Third Sunday of the month the bell ringers will normally be attempting a Quarter Peal as part of the ringing before the monthly evensong service.

A Quarter Peal is a special composition normally lasting about 50 minutes. Quarter Peals are often dedicated to special occasions like birthdays, anniversaries, national events, church services or in memoriam. If you would like a Quarter Peal dedicated to something close to you, please let Jane know burtontower@gmail.com

Grave Records

A number of years ago, Peter Friend did detailed research into the ancient graves in the Churchyard, recording what he could before the grave markings in the soft sandstone were permanently eroded.

Peter's wife Lin has now kindly given his research to the church and Nigel Griffiths will combine it with his own work and research into the graveyard. Nigel hopes to produce a comprehensive plan which will make the task of locating graves for families much easier.

Spend A Penny

Thank you to all those who contributed to Spend a Penny. Over £500 was raised and our convenience is now far more convenient!

Junior Church & Children and Families Work (CFW)

Email sheilad.stnics@gmail.com for more information

St Nic's Nippers

Preschool.

Mondays at 10:30am in Gladstone Village Hall

Note: In Church during August

Older siblings welcome over the Summer.



Crafternoons

Aimed at children around KS2.



We meet at least six times a year (normally every other month) and start with a variety of games and craft activities all based on a theme or bible story. It often gets a bit messy! We then have messy worship, where we sing songs, join in a story and pray.

We are a loving organisation open to anyone, and supportive of everyone. You don't have to have children, be married, be a woman, or be a churchgoer to join us. To find out more: [Click Here](#)



In June, we had a very enjoyable and informative visit to Hoylake Life Boat Station.

In July, St Nicholas Mothers' Union and friends enjoyed a delicious afternoon tea at Leawood, Mudhouse Lane. Thankfully there was plenty of shade from the hot summer sunshine.



October : Treasure Hunt at Shotwick Parish Church.
November: Annual Luncheon Meeting.

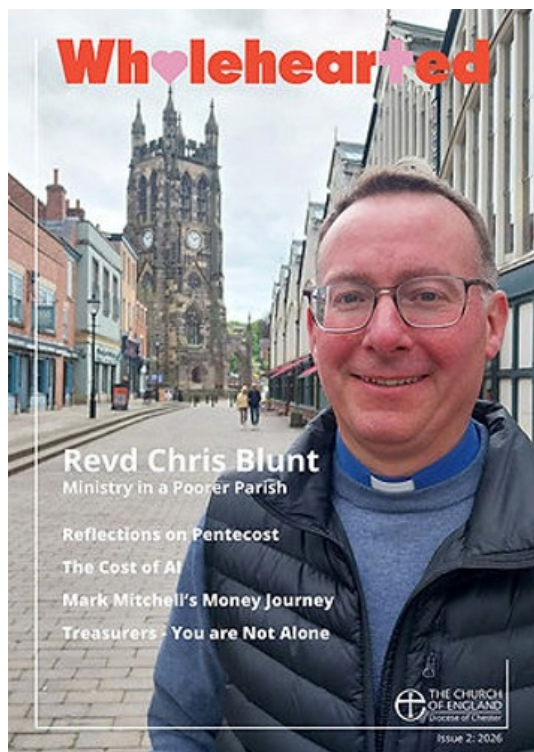
For more information, contact: Valerie Lyon vallyon@btinternet.com

Wholehearted

Wholehearted is a digital magazine created to inspire generosity across the Diocese of Chester. It launched on Valentine's Day (14 February) 2026, a few days before Lent ... the perfect time to start talking about what it means to live and give with love. Issue 2, published in June 2026 has a Pentecost feel – exploring the journey between receiving and sharing God's grace.

Regular features include personal money journeys, book reviews and honest discussions about discipleship and money.

Built on the honest conversations that helped shape our diocesan vision, Wholehearted is designed to support Christians and church communities with real encouragement, practical tips for talking about money, and inspiring true stories that help us grow in our faith.



Read Issue 2

[Flipbook Viewer](#)
[PDF Download](#)

Look out for Issue 3, which will be a harvest edition, printed and distributed across the diocese in September.

St Nicholas' Church Planned Giving

Supporting Church Ministry

Planned Giving is absolutely essential to carrying out the ministry of the Parish. The ministry that St Nicholas' Church currently provides is only possible through the generous and regular giving by church members.

The donations the church receives pay for our vicar, the vicarage, our essential building and churchyard maintenance, hospitality, utilities, church cleaning, admin support, photocopier, and other 'behind the scenes' expenses.

Despite not having a vicar, throughout 2025 and 2026 the PCC has maintained its full parish share to Chester Diocese (what we pay for the minister and housing etc.) which this year amounts to circa £3,100 pcm. We have also maintained donations to charities that the church has supported for many years. This has only been possible by dipping into our small amount of reserves: reserves that can only be spent once.

Thank you to those who continue to support the parish by signing up to planned giving. If you are not already signed up, please prayerfully consider making a regular donation to the church through our standing order scheme.

Our bank details are:

Account Name	St Nicholas Church Burton
Sort Code	20 – 29 – 50
Account number	20773638



St Michael's Church News



A Perfect Evening

The joy of being serenaded by Bethan and Charlotte of Hefin Duo fame gave the evening's 'Rich Tapestry of Music' a touch of perfection.

Beautiful opening words by Revd Malcolm Cowan, a hospital chaplain, about the comfort and healing that music can give the sick and terminally ill; this focused the audience.

The opening Sonata by Handel led the rhythmic journey on which we were all bound, accompanied by the warm dappled evening light infusing the nave of St Michael's. Welsh folk tunes swiftly followed, the story of each narrated by Bethan.



The bold centrepiece of Carmen Fantasy displayed total unison of Hefin Duo, who have played together for some years. It was a sight and sound that proved their dextrous synergy and vitality, combined with subtle mood changes. The senses of the audience were fuelled with heat and passion then unease as the piece moved to its definitive closing notes. The tapestry was rich indeed!

A touch of jazz next including the iconic Brubeck's 'Take Five'. This was a first for the duo, they relished in it, as did we!

Maybe the 'takeaway' was Ennio Morricone's 'Gabriel's Oboe' which felt particularly powerful set within the walls of the medieval church. The richness and delicacy created by the duo were imbibed by the audience whose emotive applause reflected this.

More varied folk music before Mascagni's 'Intermezzo' was perfectly presented.

Philip Hillman's closing words reminded us of the incredible musical journey we had all taken, he was in awe of the polished musicianship of Bethan and Charlotte. He gave special thanks to all involved before the food and wine flowed freely when praise for the entertainment continued!



Some comments in reviews I received:

"Spellbound at the quality and stunning artistry"

"Each piece transported us to other worlds. Breathtaking"

"Magical amazing evening"

It was a privilege to work with Bethan and Charlotte in curating such an event. Hopefully they will be back next year.

Thank you to all who supported the event. We raised £925 towards the much needed Tower restoration appeal.

Rosemary Taylor

A Recent Gift

In May St Michael's was presented with a very special framed architectural drawing of the church by Cyril Morris as described below:

This is an original perspective sketch of St Michael's Church, Shotwick made by Cyril Morris in 1944, then aged 17 years, during his first year as an undergraduate at the School of Architecture at Liverpool University. The sketch is marked "M" for merit on 6 October by Professor Lionel Budden who was at that time Head of the School of Architecture.

Cyril commenced work at Cheshire County Council in 1949 and became Assistant County Architect. He was appointed Director of Technical Services at Chester City Council in 1973 until his retirement in 1989.



Rosemary and I went to collect the picture from Cyril at the Grosvenor Manor Care Home in Chester where he now resides. Cyril's daughter Rosemary Clare and his friend Greg Yates were also there. It was a very enjoyable occasion which gave us the opportunity to learn about Cyril's distinguished career in which St Michael's played a very small part.

Cyril also presented the church with two books which he co-authored (Conservation in Chester and Preservation and Progress) and a booklet (Leading the way....) which he wrote to celebrate Chester's role in European Architectural Heritage Year 1975. The latter was published by The Chester Civic Trust of which Cyril was a founder member.

The picture is now displayed on the wall to the left of the main door of the church. We are very grateful to Cyril and his family for this unique gift and also to Greg who arranged to have the drawing framed.

Vanessa Stevens



St Michael's Church

Heritage Open Day

Saturday 12 September 2026

10:00am to 4:00pm

St Michael's Church is a Grade I listed building which dates back to the 12th century but was largely rebuilt in the 14th century. The oldest part is the carved Norman doorway while the tower was built around 1500. Notable features include the medieval arrow sharpening grooves in the porch and the 17th/18th century furnishings – the canopied churchwarden's pew, the box pews and the three decker pulpit.

Self Guided Tours

Highlighting the main features of the church – sheets available for adults and children.

Bell Ringing

Demonstrations of bell ringing with the opportunity to try ringing a bell under supervision.

Tower Tours

Climb to the roof of the tower for views of the surrounding countryside. Tours will take place at 11:30, 13:20 and 14:30 and will be limited to 6 people at a time. Sensible shoes and clothing must be worn.

The Organ

Find out about what is involved in playing the organ with the opportunity to try it out – at 13:30 and 14:40.

Guided Walks

Explore Shotwick village at 10.30, 12.10, 14.00 and 15.20.

Refreshments available all day. There is a car park opposite the church and toilet facilities are available. There is a ramp for wheelchair access. The paths to the toilet are well made but up a slope. Assistance available if required.



Bishop Wilson Church of England Primary

"The joy of the Lord is your strength" Nehemiah 8:10

As another busy and successful academic year draws to a close, it is wonderful to reflect on all that we have achieved together as a school community. There have been so many memorable moments, from our beautiful church services and singing to the residents at Chapel House, to our OFSTED inspection, the continued development of our school garden and greenhouse, and the burying of our time capsule alongside members of the Burton community during the Autumn Term - to name just a few.

While these events have been significant milestones, it is often the quieter, everyday moments that stand out the most. Watching our Reception children blossom into confident readers and writers during their very first year at school is always a privilege. Equally rewarding was hearing inspectors speak so positively about the thoughtful conversations they had with our Key Stage 2 pupils, who proudly shared their learning, visits, experiences and life at Bishop Wilson. These moments remind us that education is about so much more than outcomes; it is about inspiring curiosity, confidence and a lifelong love of learning.



We are delighted to be welcoming another bumper Reception cohort in September 2026, with families already making enquiries for September 2027. Alongside the continued growth of our Baby Room and Pre-School, and several families joining us through in-year admissions, our school community continues to flourish.



Bishop Wilson Church of England Primary

"The joy of the Lord is your strength" Nehemiah 8:10

To ensure we continue to meet the needs of all our pupils, we will be operating across three classes from September. This new class structure has been carefully planned to support some of our smaller year groups in Key Stage 2 while accommodating the larger cohorts in the lower school. As always, our dedicated staff are excited about the opportunities this brings and remain committed to delivering the high academic standards and warm, nurturing environment that are at the heart of the Bishop Wilson Way.



As our school garden continues to grow, we would love to hear from members of our local community who might be willing to share their time and expertise with our pupils.

Whether you are an experienced gardener or simply enjoy growing plants, your support would help children develop valuable skills while fostering a deeper appreciation of the natural world and their role as responsible stewards of the environment. If you are interested in

volunteering, please contact admin@bishopwilson.cheshire.sch.uk.

On behalf of everyone at Bishop Wilson, we would like to thank our pupils, families, staff, PTA, Governors, Trustees and the wider community for your continued support throughout the year. We wish you all a happy, restful and safe summer break, and we look forward to welcoming everyone back in September for another exciting year of learning and growth.

Bishop Wilson Crew

Follow us on [Facebook](#)



Ness Gardens

Annual Show

Ness is hosting its annual show on Sunday 16 August 2026.

It's set to be a day filled with a variety of displays and friendly competition. Get ready to be inspired or maybe even enter your own masterpiece. There are some brilliant prizes so don't miss your chance to compete.

[Click here](#) to find out more.

Punch and Judy Show with Magic

Wednesday 5 and 19 August

Join one of the North West's favourite entertainers, Will Cousins, for his ever-popular Punch & Judy and Magic shows. Prepare yourself for rip-roaring laughter, plenty of 'it's-behind-you's and some spellbinding tricks. A show not to miss. Free (Garden admission applies).

11.30am - Punch and Judy

1.00pm - Magic

2.30pm - Punch and Judy

[Click here](#) to find out more.

<https://www.liverpool.ac.uk/ness-gardens/>

Down the Garden Path with Flori Bunda

The Sweet Peas were wonderful with Swan Lake (white) the first to flower. But, although the blooms are lovely, the stalks are very short! Misty Mountain, Nimbus, Robert Uvadale followed on with long stalks. Many vases and bowls have been filled with these beautiful flowers.

The various pots are stunning. Annual mix, Zinnias, Larkspur, Pansies and Hostas.

The Catmint and Alchemilla Mollis (Lady's Mantle) are still blooming. Agapanthus Alba and Blue Eryngium (Sea Holly), Phlox (pink) and Roses make a lovely border.



May Hokkaido/Pixabay

Mrs Tottering-by-Gently is now showing her second flush of pale lemon blooms.

Alec's Red, as its name suggests, is a dark red rose with a lovely perfume. Useful as a specimen rose in a flower show.

The Hydrangeas are wonderful – blue, dark pink, and mauve but the florets droop and need plenty of water in this current heatwave.



Couleur/Pixabay

Buddleia Davidii (Butterfly Bush) are in flower but in the heat the blooms quickly fade.

All in all, the garden is a blaze of colour. The weeds are wonderful and growing with such speed!

Blue, great and long-tailed tits, blackbirds, Mrs Robin and her small brood, Jenny Wren and a cock pheasant visit the garden.

Tasks to be getting on with:

- Water plants and tubs
- Try to keep ahead of the weeds
- Most of all, enjoy the garden

Happy Gardening!



Burton Mere Wetlands



As the summer continues with periods of hot weather and very little rain the young birds at RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands are growing up. Many young Black-headed Gulls are seen on all pools and finding the young Mediterranean Gulls is quite an effort. Many of the Avocet chicks have grown up and moved on, and the ducklings and goslings are becoming more difficult to separate from their parents. Young warblers are being seen with a Reed Warbler family close to the visitor centre.

Our group of summer staying waders are still about with Knot, Bar-tailed Godwits, Ruff and summer plumage Spotted Redshank all present.

Other highlights include Kingfisher, Green Woodpecker and a couple of Barn Owls using the owl nest box.

It is a busy time for spotting Moths and Butterflies, with both Essex Skipper and Small Skipper seen in the same area. The first sighting this year of Purple Hairstreak Butterfly has been recorded, a specialist species seen on oak trees.

In August we will start to see the return of more Arctic breeders, firstly the waders such as Curlew Sandpiper, and later our wintering ducks and Geese.

We look forward to welcoming all visitors to enjoy a stroll, guided walks and events and refreshment in our air-conditioned café.



Godwits & Knot (J Hewitt)



Spotted Redshank & Godwit
(T Gregory)



Purple Hairstreak (S Warburton)



Burton Village Gardens

NATIONAL GARDEN SCHEME OPEN DAY

28th June 2026

TOTAL MONIES RAISED FOR CHARITY

A huge

£5,273.00

Thank you to all who attended!
We enjoyed greeting and meeting you all.
We hope you enjoyed our gardens.

See you next time.

From all of us at
Burton Village Gardens

Thank you!

GARDENS
VILLAGE
COMMUNITY
CHARITY

From A Hopeful Weather Watcher

I have an educational weather monitoring device in my orchard in Shotwick which I hope to download data from regularly.

In 2022 Joe Shute released a book *Diary of the Lost Seasons*.

A few highlights.



[Jill Wellington](#)

In the early 1700s Robert Marsham started the UK craze for weather watching with 27 indicators of spring. Four seasons are now reduced to a dark and a light season. This was akin to the experience of people in the dark ages who counted their age as the number of winters they had survived. Spring is now 11 days early and swallows sometimes find our wet warm winters homely enough to dispense with the trouble of migrating.

Collyweston Welsh slate roofs the Guild Hall in London and several other prestigious buildings in capital cities around the globe. This slate quarrying industry depended on repeated freeze/thawing events manually created with mid winter post midnight water throwing on slate rocks. Frost is now too rare. A slate industry survivor now runs a 21st century version of this skill using second hand freezers from Tesco.

Hebden Bridge has suffered 4 major flooding events in 10 years. The local council has a Calder Valley sphagnum moss venture soaking up over 35% of the catchment area. The community has built 859 out of 959 leaky dams to encourage the spread of water over upland forest floors. The river through town now has strengthened banks and clear raisable barriers to maintain the river view when it floods. The community has successfully focused its trauma on a community opera called Calderland. There were four performances in an open air theatre in Sheffield - it rained every night!

Jenny Sneddon

Gladstone Village Hall

Upcoming Events

Folk, Blues & Beyond

Friday 7 August,

Friday 4 September

At 7pm in the Pavilion

Sound Bath For Children

Monday 31 August at 11am

Quiz Night

Friday 18 September

Doors open 7.30pm

In the Pavilion

Summer Brocante

Sunday 9 August at 10am



[Join our 100 Club](#)

Next draws: Monday 3 August, Monday 7 September

gladstonevillagehall.org - [Facebook](#) - [Instagram](#)

Cheshire West & Chester Libraries

Mobile Library

Puddington from 10:40am to 11:00am

GVH in Burton from 11:10am to 11:50am on the following dates:

Friday 21 August, Friday 11 September

Neston Library

Parkgate Road, Neston, CH64 6QE

Telephone: 0151 337 4670

Monday, Wednesday and Thursday: 9am - 5pm

Tuesday and Friday: 9am - 7pm

Saturday: 9.30am - 1pm

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Takeout Pre-Orders – Enjoy our delicious food at home or on the go by placing your order in advance

Online Shop – Order specially made treats ready for any occasion, customised to your liking by visiting our website anytime



10 The Cross, Neston, CH64 9UB | 0151 336 3970 | info@thebluebicycle.co.uk | www.thebluebicycle.co.uk

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local activity
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Community & Local Society Contact Information

The Puddington Society

For information on activities & events
please contact puddingtonsociety@gmail.com

Burton & Neston History Society

Church Hall, Parkgate & Neston United Reformed Church,
More information at: <https://sites.google.com/site/burtonnestonhistory/home>

Burton Bridge Club

Burton Bridge Club meets on Monday evenings at Gladstone Village Hall to play
Duplicate Bridge. Play starts at 7pm. Please arrive by 6.50pm.

New members welcome, partners not always required.

For more information, please contact Hazel Huxley
0151 336 2288 or hhuxley336@outlook.com.

Burton Residents' Association

Promoting & protecting the interest of Burton Village. Membership is open to all
residents. burtonresidentsassociation.co.uk

Friends of Hampston's Well

Friends of Hampston's Well brings together a community of people who care for and
maintain this ancient site. For more information, please contact the Secretary at
friendsofhampstonswellburton@gmail.com

Friends of Burton Manor Gardens

For more information please contact 0151 336 6154 or email
burtonmanorgardens@gmail.com

Gladstone Village Hall

Information and to sign up for the GVH Newsletter
gladstonevillagehall.org

St Nicholas' Church, Burton & St Michael's Church, Shotwick

The Parish Magazine is published bi-monthly, six times a year, by the PCCs of St Nicholas' Church, Burton-in-Wirral and St Michael's Church, Shotwick.

The PCCs and editorial team retain the right to edit items submitted for publication and are wholly responsible for the design and layout.

Copies of this magazine can be found at:

www.burtonchurch.org.uk and www.shotwick.org.uk

Publication is made possible through the contributions and donations of members of both churches, Friends of St Nicholas' Church, and Friends of St Michael's Church, as well as residents, advertisers and other members of the community.

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burtonchurchpcc@gmail.com

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