

# The Magazine

Of St Nicholas' Church, Burton-in-Wirral

*Growing and thriving with God in our community*

January & February 2014



## **IN THIS ISSUE OF THE MAGAZINE...**

**Hardy Perennials 10th Anniversary**

**Wirral Men's Breakfast 2014**

**School's Year 6 Big Maths Day**

**Burton Bus Service Meeting**

Website: [www.burtonchurch.org.uk](http://www.burtonchurch.org.uk)

# From our Vicar

**Rev. Cathy Helm**

I was fascinated to watch the meticulous precision of the shop assistant wrapping a gift. It looked magnificent with the coordinating paper and ribbons, topped by the flourish of a bow and matching gift label. The corners were perfect and the ribbon just the right length and tension. I wondered whether the person receiving the gift would be as enamoured with the gift as the wrapping....after all an iron is an iron!

When you receive a gift sometimes it's easy to work out what's inside. How do you wrap a mug without it being obvious? I like it when someone goes to great lengths to throw you off the scent and wraps a gift so you have no idea what it is.

It's like people; we usually make a quick judgement based upon outward appearance and we then mentally have people we meet fixed in a particular setting, or belonging to a certain character type. Yet as individuals we are so good at developing the external wrapping of identity and hiding what's really going on inside. So often our initial judgements can be wrong.

As we stand at the beginning of 2014, will we again continue to try and present a perfectly wrapped facade to everyone around us. However, good we get at it; God cannot be so easily impressed. He sees us as we are 'warts and all'!

But does He ever ask us to impress Him? When we may be tempted to try and hide behind the construct we make of our lives, he cuts across our excuses and says 'Relax, I already know you.'

With God there can be no pretence, no silver bows needed. He knows what we're really like.

St Paul writes in Romans 5: 8 '*God demonstrated his complete love for us in this, Christ died for us whilst we were still sinners*' when we were unaware of him. He died for those who loved him and for those who didn't, for those who taunted him, those who ignored him and for those who hoped he'd go away. Still, Jesus offers to each of us the opportunity to be ourselves before Him and He will create in us a clean heart, the gift of the fullness of life eternal and the confidence to know that we are loved.

What a wonderful gift, it might have the wrapping of a purple robe and a crown of thorns, but the gift inside is priceless.

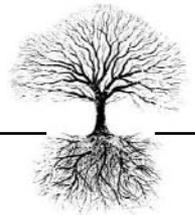
May you know that God is there for you this coming year whatever it may bring, may you learn to trust Him and to enjoy walking in His ways.

**Gifts to give which need no wrapping:**

To your enemy...	forgiveness
To a customer...	service
To an opponent...	tolerance
To all...	charity
To a friend...	your heart
To every child...	a good example
To yourself..	respect
To God...	yourself



*Cathy*



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## St Nicholas' Church Family Tree

Please do go and have a look at the St Nicholas Church Family Tree at the back of church. As part of the celebrations for our St. Nicholas' weekend Dec. 7-8th we have shown all the different activities and groups that happen within our church and who you need to talk to if you'd like to get involved.

It also highlights key needs:

**Magazine editor**

Volunteers to join a small group to look at redesigning the website and magazine

Volunteers to join the church cleaning teams.

# 10th Anniversary of Hardy Perennials - (Tin Anniversary)

What a wonderful title for a group of parishioners who meet for lunch!

The idea was first mooted by Gill Aldridge, the former Vicar's wife, who thought it would be enjoyable for ladies who live alone to have a monthly "get together" for lunch. One bright person suggested the title, which was immediately adopted.

The lunches started in 2003 and were held in Burton Manor, where we were well looked after for many years. When Harold retired as Vicar, Vivienne Blakeman and Linda Jones generously took over from Gill Aldridge.

Sadly Burton Manor closed in 2011, so a new venue had to be found. After visiting various restaurants, Vivienne and Linda chose Pollards in Willaston, which has proved most successful.





We celebrated our 10th anniversary (tin) on 9th September when everyone was asked to bring tinned goods, which were then donated to the Wirral Food Bank. We were joined by Harold and Gill and Cathy, our Vicar, for this special occasion and members were also invited to bring along a friend if they wished. Thirty three people sat down for an excellent two course lunch followed by birthday cake. There was a great deal of chatter and warm feeling of fellowship.

We look forward now to many more happy lunchtime gatherings and we are always happy to welcome new members to our group. If you are interested in joining us please contact:

Vivienne Blakeman 336 7435 or Linda Jones 336 5017

**Ann Halewood**

### **Holy Communion Soup & Sandwich**

Monday January 6th 11.30am

Monday February 3rd 11.30am

An informal Holy Communion service for all who find it hard to get up to the church building, followed by a soup and sandwich lunch in the Burton Cafe at Burton Manor.

If you're interested in coming please contact:

Vicar: 353 0453

Basil Keys: 336 4933

Jen Williams: 328 1006

# Men's Breakfast 2014

At Thornton Hall Hotel 8.00 am to 10.00 am

I have been going to the Men's Breakfast over the past year and apart from an excellent cooked breakfast, I have enjoyed the fellowship of all the men who regularly attend. At the October breakfast we had 215 men attending some of whom had travelled long distances to attend. The breakfasts are organised by Mark Mitchell, who is a well know Christian business man, and Mark ensures that we always have an inspirational speaker. In October it was Carl Beech who explained his call to faith and who now runs the Christian Vision for Men (website: [www.CVM.org.uk](http://www.CVM.org.uk)).

In December we were entertained and inspired by Chic Yuill, who until 2006 was the denominational leader for The Salvation Army in Greater Manchester. Chick has spent over thirty-five years in full-time ministry. Most of this time has been devoted to leading and pastoring local congregations, both in the UK and the USA. He is a passionate communicator and has frequently appeared on national radio and TV, speaking on issues of faith and morality. He is also a regular speaker at major Christian conferences such as Spring Harvest and contributes frequently to Radio Two's Good Morning Sunday show.

The programme for 2014 has already been

arranged and includes the following speakers:

1 February  
Martin Dickson, Director Wirral Youth for Christ

5 April  
Matt Summerfield, Chief Executive Urban Saints

7 June  
Bill Bygroves, Chaplain Liverpool FC

4 October  
Richard Meryon, Director Garden Tomb  
Jerusalem

6 December  
Lyndon Bowring, Executive Chairman CARE

I am planning to attend whenever possible and I would encourage other men in the Parish to join me. If you are interested the cost is £10 each and I am happy to make a booking on behalf of a group of men from St Nicholas' Burton. Alternatively, you can book direct and the website is [www.wirralbreakfast.co.uk](http://www.wirralbreakfast.co.uk).

**John Church (336 2228)**



# Burton Craft Fayre held on 30 November

The Gladstone Village Hall Committee would like to offer thanks to everyone in the village who supported the Craft Fayre and also for their attendance and kind donations.

Special thanks go to Hazel Lyon and Ann Messer for their energetic work and also to Don & Janet Greig for all the effort they put in to ensure a successful event.

Finally, a big thank you to Councillors Louise Gittins and Kay Lock for formally opening the Fayre, which proved a popular event for both villagers and many people from the surrounding area.

**Connie Draper**

## **St Nicholas' Service of Celebration**

St Nicholas' Church evening service on Sunday December 8th was a lovely surprise and most enjoyable.

**Thank you** to all our young people who put a lot of effort into co-ordinating it so well. You are indeed our church's future.

*Gwen Hargreaves*

## **Absence of Bus Service through Burton**

We understand that villagers are concerned that there is no longer a bus service through Burton village.

There is a meeting planned at Neston Town Hall on 24 January 2014 when there will be an opportunity for people to express their concerns that the withdrawal of this facility is affecting residents who relied on the bus service as their only form of transport.

The meeting is from 10 am and 12 noon - and it is hoped that as many people as possible will be there to try to restore the service through the village.

# Finding faith on the doorstep

'I only went because I didn't want to be home alone' said Duncan Jackson, whose wife, Helen had just joined the local church in Yorkshire next to their new home.

It had taken Duncan almost 40 years to come back to church and find a personal faith.

When he and Helen moved to Kirkheaton, within sight and sound of St. John's, Helen wanted to go. Duncan, having lost interest in anything to do with church (which had figured prominently in his childhood), decided to reluctantly tag along. He often worked on Sundays but when at home opted to join his wife rather than be home alone!

He found the people at St. John's very friendly and welcoming, but this made him suspicious. 'I couldn't wait for the service to end' he said.

That was until Easter Sunday 2008. Helen as usual was keen, Duncan dragged along behind her not wanting to be left at home.

Here, in Duncan's own words, is what happened next. 'At first I thought I was having a panic attack! How wrong I was. I found the Sermon very moving, and inexplicably told Helen that I was going to take Communion for the very first time. I cannot adequately describe the feelings I had as I humbly knelt there, but I was suddenly overwhelmed both emotionally and physically and

I had never experienced anything as powerful before in my life. I knew then that I belonged to the Church, but most importantly I belonged to God.'

Helen and Duncan joined the Emmaus Course at the church, which they found to be a 'wonderful, rewarding and enjoyable' journey in their faith. Helen was baptised in October 2008, and both Helen and Duncan were confirmed the following week in Wakefield Cathedral

'I am still continuing to grow in my faith' said Duncan 'and I know that my journey will never end.'



# The start of a new gardening year

Because of the mild autumn and seasonable weather at the end of the year, gardening never seemed to stop. However, little spears of green push through in the various tubs, pots and borders. The winter Jasmine provides colour in the garden and the first of the spring flowers, namely Galathus Nivalis and Elwesii will start to bloom - a lovely sight to behold from the kitchen window on a dull winter day. Euonymus bushes also provide colour all the year around and are often trimmed to keep their shape. Harry Lauder's Walking Stick (Twisted Hazel) continues to grow upwards and outwards and will need to be trimmed. The greenhouse will have a further clean ready for the planting of the sweet pea seeds and various others. The BUDDLEIA Davidii bushes will be pruned at the end of February. A blue fir tree was purchased ten years ago as a small Christmas tree for indoors and this was planted in the garden. It has now grown into a beautiful tree.

Many of our feathered friends are again visiting the garden; namely, blue, great and long tailed tits. The fieldfares which tend to be very aggressive only visit in the very cold weather. Robbie Robin is always present when I am working in the garden - a very welcome companion indeed.

**Flori Bunda**

January/February 2014

## **New Magazine Editor Needed**

John Church who has looked after the Church Magazine for about 5 years plans to step down as Editor at the beginning of 2014 and the PCC are keenly interested in hearing from people who would consider taking on this role.

The job involves seeking articles etc. and collating these in a form ready for type setting and printing. There are 6 issues produced each year and the job also includes managing the magazine advertising and invoicing for space taken. This could be shared with another person.

If you are interested and want to know more please contact either the Vicar or a Churchwarden. John plans to work together with his successor to produce the March/April issue before he steps down.



# Diary of Events

January 2014

## Church Services

- 1st 10.15 am Holy Communion
- 5th EPIPHANY  
8:45 am Holy Communion  
10:00 am Family Worship & Baptism  
6:30 pm Evensong
- 8th 10:15 am Holy Communion
- 12th 1st Sunday of Epiphany  
8:45 am Holy Communion  
10:00 am Morning Worship
- 15th 10:15 am Holy Communion
- 19th 2nd Sunday of Epiphany  
8:45 am Holy Communion  
10:00 am Family Communion
- 22nd 10:15 am Holy Communion
- 26th 3rd Sunday of Epiphany  
8.45 am Holy Communion  
10:00 am Morning Worship
- 29th 10:15 am Holy Communion

## All Stars

(Primary age children 5-11 Years)  
meet every 2nd, 4th & 5th  
Sunday during 10:00 am Service.

## Mothers Union Programme

15th AGM

## House Groups:

### Christian Living:

7:30 pm Wednesdays in term time  
(Contact Dee Foster 0151 336 2336)

### Study Group:

No meetings in January

## From the Registers:

### Baptisms:

- 29 Sept. Arya Elizabeth Jones  
13 Oct. Daisy Melody Green

### Funerals:

- 4 Nov. Winifred Williams  
11 Nov. Thomas Rogers

### Weddings:

- 9 Nov. Raymond Sean Quick &  
Diane Valerie Ward

# Diary of Events

February 2014

## Mothers Union Programme

19th Talk by Ruth Chesworth on Mothers'  
Union Pilgrimage to Wydale Hall

## House Groups:

### Christian Living:

7:30 pm Wednesdays in term time  
(Contact Dee Foster 0151 336 2336)

### Study Group:

8:00 pm Wednesday 5th and 19th  
at Danes Court (0151 336 5446)

## Church Services

- 2nd 8:45 am Holy Communion  
10:00 am Family Worship  
6:30 pm Evensong
- 5th 10:15 am Holy Communion
- 9th 4th Sunday before Lent  
8:45 am Holy Communion  
10:00 am Morning Worship
- 12th 10:15 am Holy Communion
- 16th 3rd Sunday before Lent  
8.45 am Holy Communion  
10.00am Family Communion
- 19th 10:15 am Holy Communion
- 23rd 2nd Sunday before Lent  
8.45 am Holy Communion  
10.00am Family Worship
- 26th 10:15 am Holy Communion

## First Week of March 2014

- 2nd Sunday next before Lent  
8:45 am Holy Communion  
10:00 am Family Worship  
6:30 pm Evensong
- 5th Ash Wednesday  
10:15 am Holy Communion  
7.30pm Holy Communion
- 9th 1st Sunday of Lent  
8:45 am Holy Communion  
10:00 am Morning Worship



**Little Stars**

Praise and play-time for  
babies, toddlers and  
preschool children with  
their parents or carers.

"Pop in, drop in, bring a friend."

**Mondays 1pm - 2:30pm**  
**St Nicholas Church**  
**Burton**



# Mothers' Union

Our October meeting was rather special as we welcomed two of our very creative members, Eleanor and Wendy, who demonstrated to us their crafty hobbies. Both are very talented in this field as they made their designs look so easy to make.

We celebrated our Deanery Eucharist in our Church as we were hosts to our Deanery partners. Thank you to all who participated and who helped with refreshments.

Two representatives from "Save the Family", Gillian Nove and our church member John Church, attended our November meeting when Gillian gave us a very informative illustrated talk about the work that this worthwhile organisation does. For those of you who wish to donate items of clothing, bedding and household items these should be handed to John Church who will take them to Save the Family for you. The proceeds from the sales table were given to Save the Family and the amount made was £88.

The stall at the Craft Fayre took the place of our usual one at the Christmas Fair this year. We are so grateful for all the contributions which you all give at these events. Thank you so much. We took approximately £130 - the Fair always leads on to my favourite time of the year - the beginning of Christmas and at the time of writing we are preparing for our own Christmas Service.

Forget the Christmas Shopping, the parties, the packed shops groaning with seasonal food - this is far too early. Christmas for me is singing our wonderful Christmas music and carols, lighting our homes with pretty lights and making sure that people who are not so fortunate as ourselves are recognised and cared for.

So with that thought in mind, I will wish you all a Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Just as a reminder, our AGM will be on 15 January and the following meeting on 18 February 2014.

Regards

**Josie Isaacs**

## **Thank you**

...to the very kind person who bought us all Advent Calendars with the Christmas story on them. We've enjoyed eating the chocolate and reading the Christmas story.

**From** All the children in Little Stars, All Stars, TBY and Youth Alpha.

# Our First Visit to Messy Church

At Messy Church we play fun games like colouring, making crowns with craft, making chocolate donkey poo and painting. We sang hymns and happy birthday to Jesus and Cathy told us a story from the Bible.

We had a yummy hot dog for dinner and some of Jesus' birthday cake. We also had drinks and got to choose which drink we wanted. The choices were orange or blackcurrant juice.

I really liked Messy Church and so did my sister Emma. We are looking forward to the next one.

**Ben Grantham**



## **Come and Join us in the GVH**

Saturday 1st February 4 - 6pm

Donations invited to cover costs

meal provided

**All welcome**

## **Epitaph (In a cemetery in England)**

Remember man, as you walk by,

As you are now, so once was I,

As I am now, so shall you be,

Remember this and follow me.

To which someone replied by writing on the tombstone:

To follow you I'll not consent,

Until I know which way you went.



## On a lighter note

### The Wisdom of Children

You can't fool the kids in Sunday School, they are way too smart...

'If I sold my house and my car, had a big garage sale, and gave all my money to the church, would I get into heaven? 'I asked the children in my Sunday school class.

'NO!' all the children answered.

'If I cleaned the church every day, mowed the grass, and kept everything neat and tidy, would I get into heaven?'

Again the answer was, 'NO!'

'Well,' I continued, 'then how can I get to heaven?'

A five-year-old boy shouted, 'You gotta be dead!'

### Give me a Break

An atheist was spending a quiet day fishing when suddenly his boat was attacked by the Loch Ness monster. In one easy flip, the beast tossed him and his boat high into the air. Then it opened its mouth to swallow both.

As the man sailed head over heels, he cried out, 'Oh, my God! Help me!'

At once, the ferocious attack scene froze in place, and as the atheist hung in mid-air, a booming voice came down from the clouds, 'I thought you didn't believe in Me!'

Come on God, give me a break!!' the man pleaded. 'Two minutes ago I didn't believe in the Loch Ness monster either!'

### St Nicholas' Colouring Competition

Thank you to all the children from Bishop Wilson School who entered the St Nicholas' colouring competition.

There was a very high standard of colouring!

All the entries, including the class winners are displayed in the church porch.

# Food bank

We will be continuing to collect for the Food bank throughout the year and there will be a plastic box in the porch for the weekend to collect additional donations.

Items which are asked for are:

Tinned Tomatoes | Tinned fish  
Tinned sponge puddings

Tinned fruit | Tea bags  
Coffee | Tinned soup

Breakfast cereal | Pasta sauce  
Biscuits | Sugar

Tinned vegetables | Tinned meat  
Pasta/noodles/rice

Instant mash | potatoes  
Orange juice [cartons]

Milk [UHT/powdered]  
Tinned rice pudding

We still continue to support the Charles Thompson Mission both financially and also through the gifts we receive at the Crib service on Christmas Eve.

## **Lent course:**

The annual Lent course this year will be the York Course on the theme 'Build on the Rock: faith, doubt and Jesus'.

We will be meeting in homes around the parish on Wednesday evenings throughout Lent.

If you would be happy to host a group please let me know.

Cathy: 353 0453

## ***NESTON CRAFTY MARKET***

***Neston Town Hall***

***10am to 3pm Saturdays***

***2nd Nov and 7th Dec***

***Free admission***

***Refreshments in aid of  
local charities***

# Year 6 Big Maths Day

The Big Maths day at Neston High School was really fun because we did different types of maths activities that were hard to solve. One of the most fun activities was the colour cube. You had to take the cube apart then try to put it back together by memory. One of the hardest activities was the tyre tower. What you had was three cones and five tyres. You had to move all the

tyres which had numbers on from one cone to the other BUT, you could only move one tyre at a time and the higher numbers could not go on top of a smaller number. We had lots of fun and it would be great to go again.

**Written by:**  
**Tilly and Jack (Class 4)**



*Olley & Olivia*  
Of Brimstage Hall

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# 0151 336 7967

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## Burton & Puddington Sports Club

To sample the various activities available, please contact:

Cricket: Chris Scudamore – 336 6419  
Tennis: Cath Rogers – 353 0577  
Junior Tennis: Cheryl Elliott – 336 5613  
Junior Football: Mike Carlyle – 336 6158  
Walking: John & Gill Nuttall on 336 7178  
Snooker: Pat King – 336 3268  
Bowls: Ken Unsworth – 336 2050  
Art: Ruth Langley – 353 8354  
Sports & Social Club Membership: Guy Tilby – 07826 417 047

New members most welcome  
Try your skills! Guidance available

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Gladstone Village Hall.  
Contact Connie Draper  
on 336 3679**

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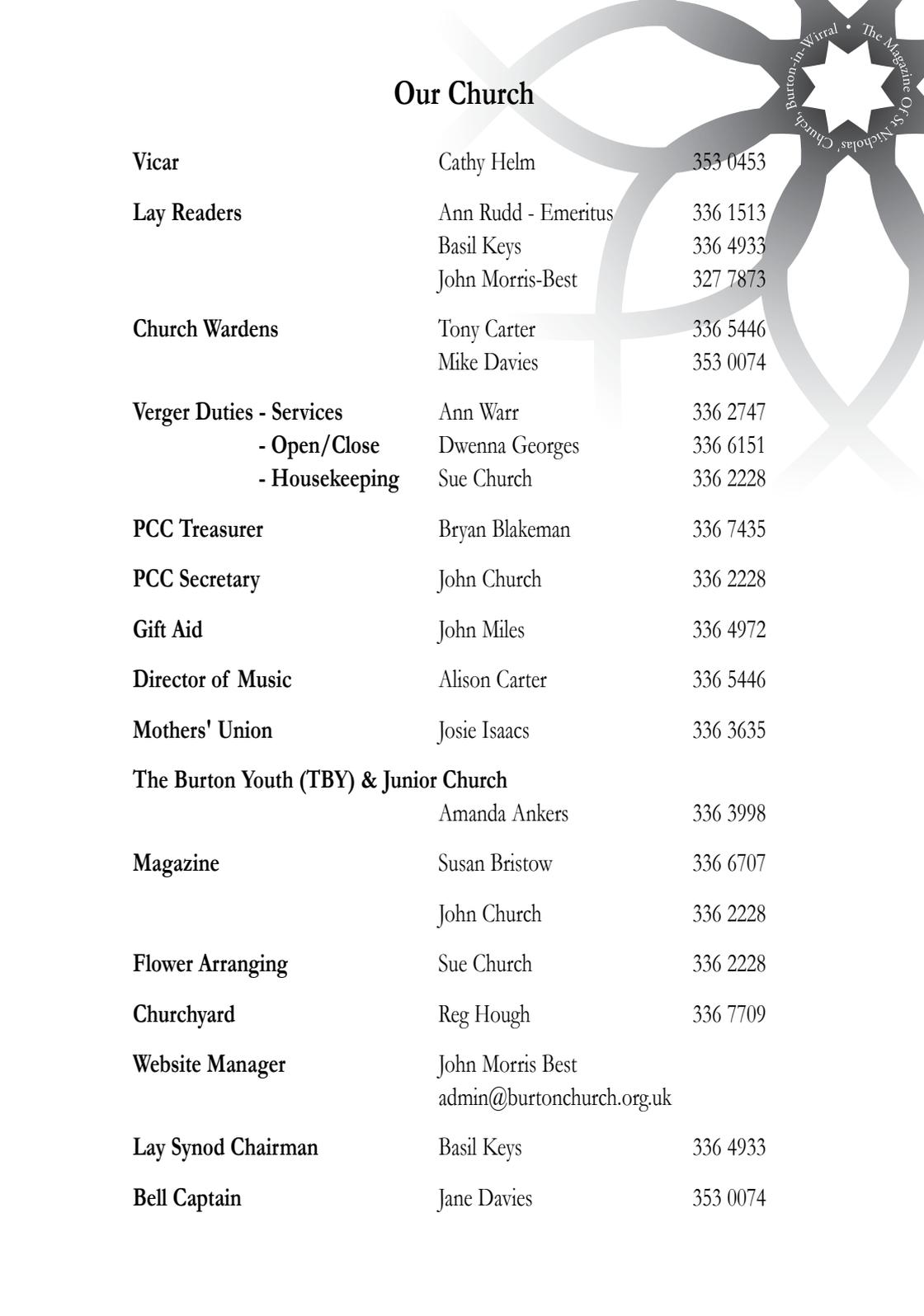
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## Our Church



<b>Vicar</b>	Cathy Helm	353 0453
<b>Lay Readers</b>	Ann Rudd - Emeritus	336 1513
	Basil Keys	336 4933
	John Morris-Best	327 7873
<b>Church Wardens</b>	Tony Carter	336 5446
	Mike Davies	353 0074
<b>Verger Duties - Services</b>	Ann Warr	336 2747
- Open/Close	Dwenna Georges	336 6151
- Housekeeping	Sue Church	336 2228
<b>PCC Treasurer</b>	Bryan Blakeman	336 7435
<b>PCC Secretary</b>	John Church	336 2228
<b>Gift Aid</b>	John Miles	336 4972
<b>Director of Music</b>	Alison Carter	336 5446
<b>Mothers' Union</b>	Josie Isaacs	336 3635
<b>The Burton Youth (TBY) &amp; Junior Church</b>		
	Amanda Ankers	336 3998
<b>Magazine</b>	Susan Bristow	336 6707
	John Church	336 2228
<b>Flower Arranging</b>	Sue Church	336 2228
<b>Churchyard</b>	Reg Hough	336 7709
<b>Website Manager</b>	John Morris Best admin@burtonchurch.org.uk	
<b>Lay Synod Chairman</b>	Basil Keys	336 4933
<b>Bell Captain</b>	Jane Davies	353 0074

# The Magazine

Of St Nicholas' Church, Burton-in-Wirral

*Growing and thriving with God in our community*

## Community Events

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### The Burton Society

- Thursday 2nd January - Edward Hilditch is talking about Burton. 100 years of changes in the local estates and the development of market gardening & garden centres.
- Thursday 6th February - 'Chester Zoo: then and now' is the title of Penny Rudd's talk. Chester Zoo has a vision to promote 'a diverse, thriving and sustainable natural world'.
- Thursday 6th March - Barbara James was a female mountaineering instructor during the 1960's. She will be sharing tales of her exploits and achievements.

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### Burton and Puddington Sports & Social Club

- Quizzes will be held at 8.00 pm on Fridays during January (17th), February (14th) and March (14th). Other than in January, quizzes will be held on the 2nd Friday each month.
- Social evenings will be held on the last Friday during January (31st), February (28th) and March (28th). The bar will open at 7.30 pm at each event and there will be a special drink offers. The Local Brimstage beer is available. Come along and bring friends along as well.
- Further Details from secretary, Janet Greig on 353 8860

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### Manor Gatehouse Club

A club for the retired or partially retired that welcomes new members and meets monthly with an invited speaker. Various interest groups include history, music, painting, literature, travel etc. All meetings are at 2.30 pm in Gladstone Village Hall and the programme for beginning of 2014 is:

2 January - Kings & Queens of Comedy - Budge Growsnell

6 February - The Magic of Swans - David Cummings

6 March - The History of Glass Paperweights - Muriel Mulholland

For information contact Rodney Lyon on 336 3128 or [www.manorgatehouse.info](http://www.manorgatehouse.info)

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### NEXT ISSUE DEADLINE

The deadline for submissions for the next issue will be Monday 10 February 2014, please email your contributions to [john\\_sue44@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:john_sue44@hotmail.co.uk)

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### YOUR EVENT OR SOCIETY

If you have any events you would like included in the Community Noticeboard email: [john\\_sue44@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:john_sue44@hotmail.co.uk)

Website: [www.burtonchurch.org.uk](http://www.burtonchurch.org.uk)