

The Magazine

Of St Nicholas' Church, Burton-in-Wirral

Growing and thriving with God in our community

May & June 2013



IN THIS ISSUE OF THE MAGAZINE...

**Church Finances
Visit by Dean & Paula Finnie
Seder Passover Meal**

Website: www.burtonchurch.org.uk

From our Vicar

Rev. Cathy Helm

At the time Leonardo da Vinci painted 'The Last Supper' he had an enemy who was a painter. Da Vinci had a bitter argument with this man and despised him. So when da Vinci got to the face of Judas Iscariot he decided to use the face of his enemy so it would be present for all to see as the man who betrayed Jesus. As he worked on the faces of the other disciples he often tried to paint the face of Jesus, but just couldn't make any progress. He felt frustrated and confused and in time he realised what was wrong. His hatred for the other painter was holding him back. Only after he had made his peace with his fellow painter and repainted the face of Judas was he able to complete the face of Jesus and finish his masterpiece.

It seems that da Vinci discovered the truth of what Isabelle Holland wrote in the Long Search *'as long as you don't forgive, who and whatever it is will occupy rent free space in your head.'*

Anger and resentment fester and consume those who allow them head space.

Events of the last few weeks have lead me to think alot about the nature of forgiveness and what happens when we chose not to. The very mixed reaction to the death of Baroness Thatcher has seen an outpouring of admiration and resentment not quite in equal measure. It has highlighted how deep seated anger, bitterness and the inability to forgive can and still is ripping families and communities apart in response to decisions made nearly thirty years ago. There is so much truth in the saying that people with clenched fists cannot shake hands!

Yet there are many stories of other communities that have taken the brave step and started to rebuild broken trust and to decide to forgive past hatreds. Projects in places like Belfast, South Africa and Rwanda which have long histories of hatred have brought people together to seek to forgive and rebuild their communities.

Edith Cavell before she was executed by Germans, being charged as a spy said *'Standing as I do in view of God and eternity, I realise that patriotism is not enough. I must have no hatred or bitterness towards anyone.'*

Celebrating Easter reminds us all of the good news that God offers us all forgiveness. Through Jesus' death and resurrection it is now possible for us all to be forgiven and to know the freedom that comes when forgiveness is received. The joy of Easter is that as we have been forgiven, so we in turn are called to forgive others.

The Bible says *'get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger...be kind to each other, tender hearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you.'*
Ephesians 4: 31 - 32

It doesn't say it's easy... Let's pray that it is work in progress.

Cathy



Confirmation

Anyone considering Confirmation should contact Rev. Cathy Helm as soon as possible. The service for Confirmation this year is on Sunday June 30th at 6.30pm.



Messy Church

The next Messy Church will be Saturday 15th June at 4.30pm in the GVH.

All families welcome.

£2 per person with food provided



Church Expenses

Now Exceed £2,000 per Week

Regular monthly donations, generously given, help meet the costs... but there is still a shortfall!

Regular 'churchgoers' at St Nicholas' Church in Burton currently help meet the rising cost of maintaining the church. On average, just over £2,000 per week is required in order to provide weekly acts of worship at a variety of services as well as meeting the needs of individuals and families throughout the year. At present, the shortfall between what we receive through our regular donations and our expenses is around £20,000 per annum.

As most people will realise, particularly during these times of general financial constraint, the infrastructure necessary to operate a successful church does cost money. For instance St Nicholas' has its own Vicar, but in addition it also has to maintain and repair the church building and run a vicarage. Heating and lighting is another expense as is the churchyard, utility bills and a host of general administration costs. Everything has to be paid for

locally as the church receives no direct funding from Chester Diocese or any national sources. And, whilst our church is probably more fortunate than many, we still need additional regular income to help meet our everyday expenses.

Could you help by making a regular monthly donation by standing order?

People within the parish are very generous. Whenever there is a specific need to finance a project, funding is often secured relatively promptly. Indeed, many of the people who support specific projects also contribute towards day-to-day church expenses every month. But to address the shortfall we need more people to contribute to church funds each month by standing order. Currently, some **40% of people who donate regularly give less than £4 per week**. In stark contrast **6% of people regularly donate over £30 per week**.



Giggle Corner

"Jesus is watching you"

If 67 people who do not currently contribute regularly could find the means to donate around £25 per month, the shortfall would disappear. Realistically we need some people who do not currently donate regularly to begin to support the work of the church and for those who do already give regularly to review their funding with a view to increasing our overall income. So, if you would like to donate regularly to church funds **you can download a standing order form from the website (www.burtonchurch.org.uk)** or pick up a form from Church. **Thank You.**

Bryan Blakeman
PCC Treasurer

A burglar broke into a house one night. He shone his flashlight around, looking for valuables, and when he picked up a CD player to place in his sack, a strange, disembodied voice echoed from the dark, saying, "Jesus is watching you."

He nearly jumped out of his skin, clicked his flashlight off and froze. When he heard nothing more after a bit, he shook his head, promised himself a holiday after the next big score, then clicked the light back on and began searching for more valuables. Just as he pulled the stereo out so he could disconnect the wires, clear as a bell he heard, "Jesus is watching you." Totally rattled, he shone his light around frantically, looking for the source of the voice. Finally, in the corner of the room, his flashlight beam came to rest on a parrot.

"Did you say that?" he hissed at the parrot.

"Yes," the parrot confessed, then squawked, "I'm just trying to warn you."

The burglar relaxed. "Warn me, huh? Who do you think you are, anyway?"

"Moses," replied the bird.

"Moses!" the burglar laughed. "What kind of stupid people would name a parrot 'Moses'?"

The bird promptly answered, "The same kind of people who would name a Rottweiler 'Jesus!'"



Associate Mission Partners:

Dean and Paula Finnie

Many of you will recall Dean and Paula Finnie when they last visited us in 2008 together with their 2 children Joel & Eli. At that time they worked in partnership with Cross Links and through our outward giving we supported their work in South Africa. In 2011 they found that the strategic direction being followed by Cross Links no longer aligned with what they felt they were called to do in South Africa and they made the decision to break away from Cross Links and join Christians Abroad as Associate Mission Partners. Christians Abroad is a project of the Churches Together in Britain and Ireland.

Dean and Paula felt strongly the need to plant a new Church in Macassar which with the help of the Lord came to fruition in February 2012 and is called the Tree of Life. Leading the new church was a whole new adventure for Dean, but one he definitely enjoyed. For Dean and Paula the greatest privilege had been to see some of the local folk step out and trust God as they tried different things for the first time.

We have received monthly newsletters from Dean and Paula keeping us up to date with their progress and you can see them in the following family picture.



In August 2012 as the Tree of Life Church turned 6 months old we were given some of the facts, figures to highlight their exciting journey by then as follows:

- They enjoy a committed core group of 30 adults and at least 10 children each week.
- Dean leads the church and is thrilled to have Chris and Gerrit committed to joining him in leadership.

- The ongoing relationship of friendship and support between Church of Love and Grace in Mitchell's Plain and Simon's Bay Christian Church and Tree of Life is proving to be life giving.
- They have enjoyed one outreach into the community in June and have since welcomed a whole family into the church as a result!
- They are about to conduct their first marriage as a church!
- They celebrated the Diamond wedding anniversary of their oldest member.
- They have enjoyed challenging and life giving teaching and preaching from Dean week by week and have welcomed two preachers from amongst themselves as they preached for the first time!
- Seven of their members are between the ages of 18 and 25.

In 2012, our outward giving split the support previously given to Cross Links to support both Cross Links and Dean and Paula with Christians Abroad, 50/50.

Dean and Paula (but without Joel and Eli this time) are visiting us again on 23 June to talk at both our services and it will be very interesting to learn how their missionary work has developed further.

John Church

Holy Communion Soup & Sandwich

Monday	May 13th	11.30am
Monday	June 3rd	11.30am
Monday	July 1st	11.30pm

Please note the changes for May due to the Bank Holiday.

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 Atelier Coffee shop at Burton Manor.

If you're interested in coming please contact:

- Vicar: 353 0453
- Basil Keys: 336 4933
- Jen Williams: 328 1006



The Seder Meal

Gwen and I [John] attended the Seder meal which Cathy had organised on Maundy Thursday, it celebrates the Passover. It was a similar meal to the last meal that Jesus had with his disciples before being arrested. It consisted of a little salad, unleavened bread, lamb stew, pitta bread and honey cakes which were not as sweet and sticky as we thought but more like carrot cakes with cream inside....very nice. The night was very enlightening. The people who prepared and cooked stews must be congratulated on the hard work and the end results. The vegetarian stew which had dumplings in, although we're not veggies we had a taste and were impressed, there was loads of food to go round everyone.

The honey cakes were also good, again lots of hard work. Congratulations to the bakers, all very tasty.

Not only the stews and cakes but all the hard work by everyone organising, preparing the tables, the hall and arranging the tables in such a way creating a friendly, family atmosphere.

We were left with the impression that everyone who attended enjoyed the evening, with a good meal, a good atmosphere and nice friendly company. If like ourselves, you didn't know what it was all about, it soon made good sense with the breaking of the bread and sharing the food with each other.

Not only the hard work, but the time willingly given to each other. Last but just as important, the clearer ups and washer ups! Well done everyone.

May God bless you all.

John & Gwen Young

**The National Gardens Scheme
Celebrating 25 Years**
Burton Village Gardens Open
Sunday 30th June
11.00 am to 5.00 pm.
£5 entry
6 gardens to see, refreshments, maps

Planting Time

The late heavy snow fall at the end of March was a disaster. Daffodils, crocus and hellebores were squashed under the heavy blanket of heavy snow. However, there is always a silver lining and following the sunshine there was an explosion of colour from the lovely spring flowers. The sweet peas were slow to germinate, having been sown (in the greenhouse) on 16 March. Hopefully they will be ready to plant out in early May. The Gladioli Primadonna and Africa are currently in trays and the Dahlias, Arabian Night, Christine and Pompon Little William are also in pots and will only be planted out when all danger of frost has gone. Nature's Haven (a mixture especially for butterflies) Aster, Duchess Mix, Cornflowers and Lettuce allsorts have been potted up. Of course, Larkspur and Sunflower seeds cannot be missed off the list. Most geraniums have survived the winter. They were cut down and re-potted and are now growing on well. The Camelias were slow to flower. There are masses of seedlings to be pricked out - will the bulbs in the pots and tubs finish flowering before the new plants are ready?

Bark will once again be spread over the large border in the rear garden as this is mostly planted with shrubs and small trees - it cuts down on the weeding.

There have been many blackbirds, blue, great and long-tailed tits feeding in the garden and during the cold snaps a few field fares, Greater spotted woodpecker, thrushes and of course robins. Cedric's appearances have become infrequent recently (pheasant).

Flori Bunda
May/June 2013

Out of the mouths of babes

Finding one of her students making faces at others on the playground, Ms. Smith stopped to gently reprove the child. Smiling sweetly, the Sunday School teacher said, 'Bobby, when I was a child, I was told that if I made ugly faces, it would freeze and I would stay like that.'

Bobby looked up and replied, 'Well, Ms Smith, you can't say you weren't warned!'



Diary of Events

May 2013

Church Services

- 1st 10:15 am Holy Communion

- 5th 6th Sunday of Easter
8:45 am Holy Communion
10:00 am Family Worship
6:30 pm Evensong

- 8th 10:15 am Holy Communion

- 12th 7th Sunday of Easter
8:45 am Holy Communion
10:00 am Morning Worship

- 15th 10:15 am Holy Communion

- 19th Pentecost
8:45 am Holy Communion
10:00 am Family Communion

- 22nd 10:15 am Holy Communion

- 26th Trinity Sunday
8.45 am Holy Communion
10:00 am Morning Worship

- 29th 10:15 am Holy Communion

Mothers Union Programme

- 14th Diocesan Festival at Chester Cathedral

- 29th Tea & Fund Raiser at GVH
"The Piano Tuner" - The Toastmaster of
Chester 2:00 for 2:30 pm

House Groups:

Christian Living:

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

Study Group:

- 8:00 pm Wednesday 1st , 15th and 29th at
Danes Court (0151 336 5446)

From the Registers:

Funerals:

- 1st March Ronald Colclough
- 8th March Nancy Cooper
- 5th April Michael Lyon

Diary of Events

June 2013

Mothers Union Programme

19th 2:00 pm Rev'd Canon Michael Burgess
"An Anglican Pot Pourri"

29th Diocesan Council & AGM at Hartford
Church Centre 9:30 am to 1:00 pm

House Groups:

Christian Living:

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

Study Group:

8:00 pm Wednesday 12th and 29th at Danes
Court (0151 336 5446)

Church Services

- 2nd 1st Sunday after Trinity
8:45 am Holy Communion
10:00 am Family Worship
6:30 pm Evensong
- 5th 10:15 am Holy Communion
- 9th 2nd Sunday after Trinity
8.45 am Holy Communion
10.00am Morning Worship
- 12th 10:15 am Holy Communion
- 16th 3rd Sunday after Trinity
8:45 am Holy Communion
10:00 am Family Communion
- 19th 10:15 am Holy Communion
- 23rd 4th Sunday after Trinity
8:45 am Holy Communion
10:00 am Morning Worship
- 26th 10:15 am Holy Communion
- 30th 5th Sunday after Trinity
8:45 am Holy Communion
10:00 am Morning Worship

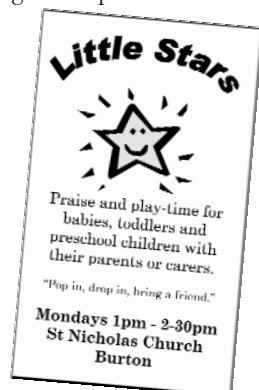
First Week of July 2013

3rd 10:15 am Holy Communion

7th 6th Sunday after Trinity
8:45 am Holy Communion
10:00 am Family Worship
6:30 pm Evensong

10th 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

This month is undoubtedly the busiest month of the year both for Church and Mothers@ Union events.

The February meeting was quite informal with the title of "Helpful Hints to Share". What a varied assortment of ideas! "How to keep Healthy through winter by consuming Zinc tablets" (1 every other day - to keep colds at bay) - I will believe that Anne, if you remain cold free! "Keeping a tyre gauge in your handbag" - most impressive, but how many of you have yet to buy one? Hazel Hindley and I devised a short quiz to fill the spare time. Our short service was prepared and ably lead by Sylvia Somers. Thank you Sylvia, for your well chosen thoughtful words.

Elizabeth Larkins was commissioned as Deanery Leader in Bromborough Parish Church on 26 February and a few of us attended to mark the happy occasion.

10 March was a special day for me as I was commissioned as Branch Leader most appropriately, as it was Mothering Sunday. The service was very uplifting and encouraging. The Lenten Meditation in Church was taken by Rev'd Geoffrey Parsons - a quiet reflective service and Thank You Geoffrey.

At the Wirral South Deanery meeting Elizabeth Larkins reminded us of forthcoming events and particularly the Diocesan Festival at Chester Cathedral to be held on Tuesday 14 May.

On Wednesday 8 May Neston Mothers@ Union are celebrating 100 years - a really special occasion to which we have been invited. On 4 June a "Prayer Stroll" has been organised, which will begin at Neston and end at St Thomas' Church in Parkgate. All are invited.

I thought you would like to see the photo below showing me as the new Branch Leader with retiring leaders Ann Rudd (centre) and Anne Parsons (right).

Josie Isaacs





1st Burton-in-Wirral Scout Group

We are a busy and successful Scout Group with Beavers, Cubs and Scouts, starting at 6 and going up to 14 years.

Our Scout HQ is at Ness Fields, Ness.

We have links with older Sections in the District.

We have waiting lists for both of our Beaver and Cub sections which feed into our Scout Troop.

We run alongside school terms.

We are looking for help to maintain and develop our Group.

Support is needed to maintain our HQ on an occasional basis and to provide support with the administration.

If you are able to commit on a more regular basis, then taking part in helping to run one of our Sections would be great.

A CRB check would be necessary and training given.

You would be joining a team of Leaders who eventually take part in areas such as running activities, record keeping and programme planning.

If you would like more information or wish to discuss this further please contact Les Rober (Group Scout Leader) on 0151 327 4458.

Bishop Wilson School Choir

The children at Bishop Wilson school love to sing and are in need of someone who would be interested in running a choir after school once a week in a voluntary capacity. A pianist would be an added bonus.

The relevant checks would need to be in place but if anyone is interested please contact
Revd Cathy Helm 353 0453 or the Headteacher
Mr Jones 336 3396

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Can you help in any way at all? We would be very grateful.
Please contact Ingrid Sturmey on 336 4974

To donate any of the following, please contact:

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Bottle Tombola	Allan Trimble	336 3639/ Liz Carter 336 2304
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Cakes	Janet Greig	353 8860
Plants	Nila Bradshaw	336 2436

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Church**

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Graham Eccles

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Bishop Wilson CofE Primary School News

Class 3 Residential Trip to Barnstondale

On 25th March our Class had our very first overnight school trip to Barnstondale. When we arrived everything was covered in snow. We were really excited because the activities sounded very awesome. They were actually better than I imagined. We really enjoyed the overnight stay because we got to sleep with all our friends. We did all kinds of different activities but one of my favourites was when we sat around the campfire and ate marshmallows. I felt really nervous when we went on the climbing wall because everyone else fell off it and it was really cold but I was amazed because I did it so in the end I loved it. We really liked it when Mrs Gaddas went on the river crossing. She was very brave. We did team games and the first one was quite hard but the other one wasn't. We had to shout to our team so they got the plan. At night time we put our pyjamas on and we went to watch a film upstairs. After a while we had a chip sandwich and then we watched the rest of the film.

The next day we woke up and went for a walk in the forest. Along the way we came to fields of snow. It was a long walk back to the cabin but we got there eventually. When we got back to the cabin we had to get changed into some nice warm clothes as we were all wet and muddy. It was then time to pack our suitcases ready for going home. Noooo!!! I was tired out but loved the whole experience of the trip.

By Conor McEvoy, Jessica Davies, Emma Ashcroft, Martha Elliott and Ethan Burkey

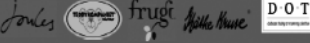


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Junior Football:	Mike Cartlyle – 336 6158
Walking:	Allan Trimble – 336 3639
Snooker:	Pat King – 336 3268
Bowls:	Ken Unsworth – 336 2050
Art:	Ruth Langley – 353 8354
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New members most welcome

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Our Church



Vicar	Cathy Helm	353 0453
Lay Readers	Ann Rudd - Emeritus	336 1513
	Basil Keys	336 4933
	John Morris-Best	327 7873
Church Wardens	Tony Carter	336 5446
	Mike Davies	353 0074
Verger	Ruth Chesworth	336 6331
PCC Treasurer	Bryan Blakeman	336 7435
PCC Secretary	John Church	336 2228
Gift Aid	John Miles	336 4972
Director of Music	Alison Carter	336 5446
Mothers' Union	Anne Parsons	336 3354
	Ann Rudd	336 1513
The Burton Youth (TBY) & Junior Church		
	Amanda Ankers	336 3998
Magazine	Susan Bristow	336 6707
	John Church	336 2228
Flower Arranging	Sue Church	336 2228
Churchyard	Reg Hough	336 7709
Website Manager	John Morris Best	
	admin@burtonchurch.org.uk	
Lay Synod Chairman	Basil Keys	336 4933
Bell Captain	Jane Davies	353 0074

The Magazine

Of St Nicholas' Church, Burton-in-Wirral

Growing and thriving with God in our community

Community Events

The Burton Society

The Burton Society is having it's summer break.
Our first meeting next season is on Thursday 3rd October.

Christian Aid Week 12th – 18th May

Please will you support this very worthwhile charity. During the week of 12th – 18th May we will be dropping off and collecting envelopes for donations throughout the parish. We are hoping to equal or better the very generous total that was contributed last year. Offers of help with this collection would be gratefully received, please contact Janey Griffiths 336 3621.

Burton and Puddington Sports & Social Club

Further details call Sec. Allan Trimble 336 3639

Burton Village Gardens

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS WITH THE NATIONAL GARDENS SCHEME

Burton Village Gardens Open Sunday 30th June from 11-5 pm.

£5 entry, 6 gardens, refreshments, maps

Gladstone Village Hall

Burton Fete on Saturday 8 June (1.00 pm to 5.00 pm)

Manor Gatehouse Club

A club for the retired or partially retired welcomes new members. A general meeting with a speaker is held each month and additionally there are groups for varied interests including history, music, painting, rambling, literature, natural history, travel etc. The general meetings are held at 2.30pm at The Gladstone Hall on the first Thursday of each month. <http://www.manorgatehouse.info>

NEXT ISSUE DEADLINE

The deadline for submissions for the next issue will be 15 June 2013, please email your contributions to john_sue44@hotmail.co.uk

YOUR EVENT OR SOCIETY

If you have any events you would like included in the Community Noticeboard email: john_sue44@hotmail.co.uk

Website: www.burtonchurch.org.uk