

The Magazine

Of St Nicholas' Church, Burton-in-Wirral

Growing and thriving with God in our community

January & February 2013



IN THIS ISSUE OF THE MAGAZINE...

Celebration Service led by Geoffrey Parsons

Start of Messy Church

Briefing on PCC November Meeting

Website: www.burtonchurch.org.uk

From our Vicar

Rev. Cathy Helm

In the words of Cher... *if I could turn back time...*

What would you wish that you could do differently in 2012?

What would you happily repeat?

As we enter another year and say to ourselves.. 'how did that come around so quickly?' it is so often a time when we look back with joy or regret, hope or dismay, thankfulness or resignation or maybe all at once! We may well wish we could turn back time and try again. But as you look at the year ahead, would your response be 'whatever!'?

Its a little word over used by the character of Lauren played by Catherine Tate and has encouraged a generation to use the put down to great effect. To have someone reply 'whatever' is now a harsh put down showing that they just can't be bothered to be interested in the other person, their feelings, their hopes, their joys or concerns. It's become a word which encapsulates feelings of boredom and indifference and a 'couldn't care less' attitude.

As we slide into another new year, will we continue to go ahead clutching at the old habits and unhelpful attitudes that have tripped us up in the past year or will we take the opportunity to do some sober reflection and make some

positive decisions about how we would like to do life with God in the year ahead..... or will we just say '*whatever!*'

St Paul had a '*whatever!*' attitude. However, he used it to much greater effect. He wrote in Philippians 1: 27

'Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Jesus Christ.'

He also wrote to the Colossians

'whatever you do, do it in the name of Jesus , giving thanks to God the Father through him.'

He was writing to them sat on death row, in prison and had no idea how long he would be there, but his loyalty to Jesus was not dependent on a desired outcome. He didn't say to God..... 'I'll give up on you if you don't get me out of here.....rather he said '*whatever...*'

Paul knew he had a very uncertain future but his faith in God wasn't conditional on God doing exactly what he wanted him to do when he wanted it.

Are we ready to trust God with our '*whatever!*'? We don't know what the year ahead will bring, but we can enter it trusting completely that Jesus will be with us every step of the way if we let him.

Have a wonderful New Year....and may we all stay following Jesus.....whatever.

Cathy



You will never regret:

- Thinking before acting.....
- Hearing before judging.....
- Forgiving your enemies.....
- Helping a fallen brother or sister....
- Being honest in business.....
- Thinking before speaking.....
- Standing by your principles.....
- Stopping your ears to gossip.....
- Bridling a slanderous tongue.....
- Harbouring only pure thoughts.....
- Sympathising with the afflicted....
- Being courteous and kind to all....

Anon



Fifty Dedicated Years

Sunday 3rd December was the day for a special celebration, being the occasion of Geoffrey Parsons' 50th anniversary of being ordained as a priest. Happily, it was also the day when the Christingle service in the afternoon replaced the normal 10 am service. This made it possible for those who attend the early communion to stay on in church and join Geoffrey, Anne and their family for a chat, for giving Geoffrey their personal congratulations, and for a slice of the large and beautifully decorated anniversary cake which Anne had made.

It was a testament to the affection which we all have for Geoffrey that such a large number attended the service - more people than his years of ministry! That ministry followed his theological training at Ridley Hall, Cambridge; he was ordained by the then bishop of Chester, Gerald Ellison, first as deacon in 1961, and then as priest in 1962. After an initial three year curacy on the far side of Cheshire, he moved to become curate in Heswall. It was there that he met and married the boss' daughter, Anne, which shows what excellent judgement he has!

His boss was of course our much loved late parishioner, Canon Lee, and that was how Geoffrey and Anne came to join our

congregation on Geoffrey's retirement. But that is jumping ahead somewhat, as Geoffrey spent a total of 32 years as vicar, first in Congleton, then Weaverham, and finally Backford and Capenhurst.

Although Geoffrey retired from full time duties in 2001, he and Anne between them have been stalwart supporters of many aspects of our parish life, and we are grateful to Geoffrey for willingly stepping in to take services when the need arises. Both Geoffrey and Anne are examples of care and thoughtfulness for others; it is no surprise that so many of us wanted to be there for their celebration of the half-century.

As is well known, Anne is a key member of the church's band of bellringers, and both she and Geoffrey perform with others on the handbells. It was therefore fitting that six of the band, including Anne, rang a quarter peal in Geoffrey's honour, on the evening of his celebration, using the 'method' (the complex sequence of changes) called 'St. Nicholas'.

We all wish Geoffrey and Anne many happy and active years to come.

A New Year unfolds

Many bushes, shrubs and roses were in need of a good hard prune as they had grown so high with such a wet summer. The Holly bush and the Twisted Hazel (Harry Lauder's walking stick) also had a good "haircut". The Hydrangea heads provide some colour in the garden and even when they turn brown they will not be trimmed off until the spring as they protect the buds from frost. The Camellias are covered by lace curtains in the very cold frosty weather and this method does protect the buds and the plant itself.

Masses of various bulbs have been planted both in the gardens and various tubs and pots and hopefully they will provide good colour in the spring. Narcissus Paperwhite Grandiflora bulbs were planted in a pot indoors and they have a lovely strong perfume. Unfortunately they flowered before Christmas. Although the days are shorter and the trees are leafless, they do look lovely against a winter sky.

Many birds frequent the garden in winter. The jay is very shy, but the blue, great and long tailed tits are nearly always present on the bird feeders. Cedric, the pheasant, calls frequently for his three highland shortbread biscuits!

Flori Bunda

January/February 2013

THANK YOU...

To all who have shared in celebrating my fifty years as a priest. Your generous thoughts and words have been overwhelming and humbling. Thank you, Cathy, for inviting me to preside at Holy Communion on Advent Sunday - to all who were able to join Anne and myself for that memorable Service - to those who gave or served refreshments - to Nigel for his photographs - and to our bellringers who rang a special ¼ Peal of 'St. Nicholas' before Evensong, as their contribution to the occasion.

Thank you all for your support and encouragement... To God be the glory.

Geoffrey.

Two amusing stories

Preachers dying wish

An old preacher was dying. He sent a message for his banker and his lawyer, both church members, to come to his home.

When they arrived, they were ushered up to his bedroom. As they entered the room, the preacher held out his hands and motioned for them to sit on each side of the bed. The preacher grasped their hands, sighed contentedly, smiled, and stared at the ceiling.

For a time, no one said anything. Both the banker and lawyer were touched and flattered that the preacher would ask them to be with him during his final moments. They were also puzzled; the preacher had never given them any indication that he particularly liked either of them. They both remembered his many long, uncomfortable sermons about greed, covetousness, and avaricious behaviour that made them squirm in their seats.

Finally, the banker said, "Preacher, why did you ask us to come?"

The old preacher mustered up his strength and then said weakly, "Jesus died between two thieves, and that's how I want to go."

The peace and love of God!

After a very long and boring sermon the parishioners filed out of the church saying nothing to the preacher. Towards the end of the line was a thoughtful person who always commented on the sermons. "Vicar, today your sermon reminded me of the peace and love of God!" The Vicar was thrilled. "No-one has ever said anything like that about my preaching before. Tell me why." "Well - it reminded me of the Peace of God because it passed all understanding and the Love of God because it endured forever!"

Harvest Supper



The Harvest Supper was held on Saturday 6 October. This was a Harvest Supper with a difference. While some were having the traditional hot pot, we at St Nicholas' were enjoying home made soup followed by a large platter laden with different cheeses, ham and fruit accompanied by crackers and delicious warm rolls. This was then followed by honey cake, mead and tea or coffee.

The theme of the evening was starting to emerge - Bees were swarming! Our skills were tested with a bee orientated quiz. Some of us were stung, but Jane Davies was really buzzing as she proved to be the winner.

The star of the evening was Chris Lunt, our resident beekeeper, who gave us a really interesting, and as you would expect from Chris, an amusing and informative talk on bees, their life cycle, their homes and their importance. He showed us a model of a beehive describing how it worked. His talk and Cathy's earlier slide show even took us as far as India.

The object of the evening was fellowship and enjoyment. We had that and we also raised £215 for Christian Aid. I should like to thank Chris and all those who prepared such an excellent supper.

Dee Foster

Harvest Festival Service 7 October

We would like to thank everyone who supported our Harvest Festival in October by bringing an abundance of harvest gifts for us to support both Save the Family and the Wirral Food Bank. There was a special harvest gift hamper that was donated by residents at Crabwall Manor Nursing Home specifically for Save the Family as shown in the accompanying photograph that shows Barbara Green and Muriel Colley when the hamper was given to Cathy for our Harvest Supper.

Comments are very welcome, but none have been received this time

As we move to a digital age, speedy communications can be better achieved using our website and I would encourage our readers to both contribute and use our website more. The web address is : www.burtonchurch.org.uk and contributions should be sent to John Morris-Best at admin@burtonchurch.org.uk.

If you want to contribute to the comments section please send items to John Church at john_sue44@hotmail.co.uk.

Messy Church

On Saturday 21st November 2012 messy church took place in Gladstone village hall. First I went over to the colouring table and coloured in a donkey, which I enjoyed lots.

Next I went to the biscuit table where I made a biscuit. First chose a biscuit then iced it, after I added some sprinkles and tasted DELICIOUS!!! After that I sat down at the painting table and painted a star bright yellow then I added a string to hang it up on my Christmas tree at home. I then spotted some children painting a nativity scene, I decided to join them and I painted The North Star, An Angel and Joseph. I just had time to make a nativity place mat at another table I added glitter onto the North star and stuck on some animals, I also added a silhouette of the wise men. we all joined in singing carols and songs then Cathy (the vicar) said a few words and prayers. we then all enjoyed some lovely Christmassy food before going home. I had a spectacular time at messy church and can not wait till the next time!!!!

Harvey



Gladstone Village Hall

The Burton Christmas Fair was a big success thanks to the generous donations for the event - and the tireless work of many volunteers. It's estimated we will make a profit for £900 to spend for further facilities for Gladstone Village Hall and the Sports and Social building.

Holy Communion Soup & Sandwich

Monday January 7th at 11.30am

Monday February 4th at 11.30am

Monday March 4th at 11.30pm

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

'Humour is mankind's greatest blessing.'

Mark Twain

Extracts from Church bulletins which slipped past the editor:

'This afternoon there will be a meeting in the south and north end of the church. Children will be baptised at both ends.'

'The pastor will preach his farewell message after which the choir will sing 'Break forth into joy.'

'This being Easter Sunday, we will ask Mrs White to come forward and lay an egg on the altar.'

During the absence of our pastor, we enjoyed the rare privilege of hearing a good sermon when J.F Stubbs supplied our pulpit.'

And finally..... due to the Rectors illness, Wednesday's healing service will be discontinued until further notice.!



Diary of Events

January 2013

Church Services

- 6th **EPIPHANY**
8:45 am Holy Communion
10:00 am Family Worship
6:30 pm Evensong
- 9th 10:15 am Holy Communion
- 13th 2nd Sunday of Epiphany
8:45 am Holy Communion
10:00 am Morning Worship
- 16th 10:15 am Holy Communion
- 20th 3rd Sunday of Epiphany
8:45 am Holy Communion
10:00 am Family Communion
- 23rd 10:15 am Holy Communion
- 27th 4th Sunday of Epiphany
8:45 am Holy Communion
10:00 am Morning Worship
- 30th 10:15 am Holy Communion

Mothers Union

- 19th Diocesan President & Officers
Commissioning Service at 2:00pm in
Chester Cathedral
- 23rd AGM & Opening Workshop at 2:00pm
in Sports Pavillion

House Groups:

Christian Living:

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

Study Group:

8:00 pm Wednesday 16th and 30th
at Danes Court (0151 336 5446)

From the Registers:

Funerals:

- 14th Sept. Janet Francis [Interment]
30th Sept. Marion Whitelaw [Interment]
12th Oct. Kenneth Henshaw
16th Oct. Anne Robertson
12th Nov. Pamela Dove

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

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

Diary of Events

February 2013

Mothers Union

15th Members' Afternoon at 2:00pm
in Sports Pavillion

House Groups:

Christian Living:

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

Study Group:

No meetings during Lent

First Week of March

3rd 3rd Sunday of Lent
8:45 am Holy Communion
10:00 am Family Worship
6:30 pm Evensong

6th 10:15 am Holy Communion

10th 4th Sunday of Lent
8:45 am Holy Communion
10:00 am Morning Worship

Church Services

3rd 2nd Sunday before Lent
8:45 am Holy Communion
10:00 am Family Worship
**(Guest Speaker Rob Barker
from Church Army at
8:45am & 10:00am)**
6:30 pm Evensong

6th 10:15 am Holy Communion

10th Sunday Next before Lent
8.45 am Holy Communion
10.00am Morning Worship

13th **Ash Wednesday**
10:15 am Holy Communion
7:30 pm Holy Communion

17th 1st Sunday of Lent
8:45 am Holy Communion
10:00 am Family Communion

20th 10:15 am Holy Communion

24th 2nd Sunday of Lent
8:45 am Holy Communion
10:00 am Morning Worship

27th 10:15 am Holy Communion



Mothers' Union

It is hard to believe that yet another year has passed on and we now look forward to the promise and hope of 2013. The MU theme for the coming year is "*The Seeds we Sow*". In the January edition of *Families Worldwide* (The MU resource for Prayer and Action) we are urged to promote growth in order to enable the MU to make a positive impact in society to help support parents and families. This is certainly something to think and pray about as we look forward to another cycle of meetings and fellowship.

Looking Back

Canon Michael Burgess was in fine form at the October Meeting. His talk on *The Seven Deadly Sins* was hilarious. It was good to laugh as much as we did. Laughter certainly lifts the spirits and we are most grateful to Father Michael for his accomplished and amusing delivery.

On November 15, at an unearthly hour, three members set out for the Diocesan Council in Northwich. The meeting began with a Eucharist presided over by the Diocesan Chaplain, Revd. James Ambrose. His theme was St. Margaret of Scotland. It was a beautiful service (despite an initial hiccup - no chalices, bread or wine!) and set the tone for the business part of the day. Angela Klabou, the Diocesan President, gave her

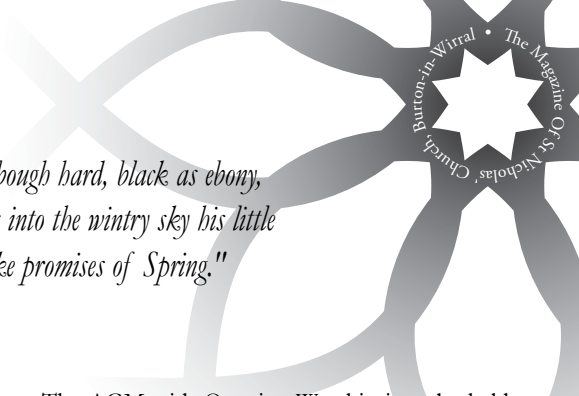
report. Retiring Officers were thanked and new Officers welcomed. We were delighted to hear that both Angela and Revd. James Ambrose are to continue in office for a further three years.

It is always good to attend meetings like this; to encounter other members from across the Diocese and to feel part of a much wider organisation. I would urge our members to try to attend - at least once. It is so worthwhile.

Our meeting in November took the form of a Bible Market. As ever, this proved to be a popular and entertaining occasion, with a wonderful array of gifts offered. A substantial sum of money was made at the Sales Table and grateful thanks go to all who participated.

Several members attended the Deanery Committee Meeting at Willaston on 27 November. Vivien Ley is to be commissioned as Archdeaconry Leader for Chester in January 2013. Elizabeth Larkins will replace her welcomed as the new Deanery Leader for Wirral South.

The Burton Village Christmas Fair on December 1 was the usual colourful and jolly occasion. The MU stall was larger this year as we had been allotted *two* long tables and two benches. This enabled us to display all the beautiful items,



*"... on a sculptured bough hard, black as ebony,
a robin-redbreast flings into the wintry sky his little
sparks of song like promises of Spring."*

donated so generously by members, more fittingly. It was a successful afternoon, resulting in a good profit.. Many thanks go to all who donated gifts and to those hard workers who had set up, manned the stall and cleared away.

Ann Rudd writes *"Advent Sunday, 2 December, was a very special day, for a very special reason. The Revd Geoffrey Parsons was celebrating 50 years of ordination to the Priesthood. At Cathy's invitation he presided over the 8.45 Eucharist. An extraordinary number of people were present (including close family and friends) to hear Geoffrey pronounce the final blessing together with Cathy. It was extremely beautiful and very moving. The service was followed by coffee and a large iced cake. The paparazzi were present in the person of Nigel Griffiths who recorded the joy for posterity!"*

We, in the Burton and Puddington MU, owe Geoffrey a particular debt of gratitude. For years he has faithfully taken our services; offered thoughtful meditations; cheerfully printed out our programmes and service sheets and uncomplainingly ferried various ladies to and from meetings! Dear Geoffrey, we offer you our congratulations with much gratitude and love."

Looking Forward

As we go to press we look forward to our Christmas gathering in Church on 12 December.

The AGM with Opening Worship is to be held on 23 January at 2.00pm in the Sports Pavilion (the date has been changed from the third to the fourth Wednesday this once). The February Meeting (Members' Afternoon) is on 15th at 2.00pm (same venue).

On Saturday 19 January 2013 at 2.00pm in the Cathedral there will be a Commissioning Service for the Diocesan President, Trustees and Officers; Bishop Peter presiding. Do please make this a priority; Angela Klabou from Neston and Vivien Ley from Willaston are to be commissioned. Local interest!

Bible Studies

11.15am in Church on 30 January, (the last Wednesday in January) and 22 February. All welcome.

To conclude: a thought for 2013 - *Sow a Seed in Prayer
God of welcome, take our mustard seed of faith; nourish
it with the Holy Spirit, that confidence will grow within
us to speak your words of invitation. May our vision
flourish. AMEN*

...and may 2013 prove to hold many blessings of peace and joy for all our members.

Anne Parsons
Ann Rudd

November PCC Meeting

Briefing on 6 November PCC Meeting

a) Church Steps, Paths and New Hand Rail

A key item under matters arising from previous meetings was the need to reconstruct the sandstone steps on the main entrance, to re-surface the paths and to install a hand rail on the path from The Rake. The costs were discussed in detail where based on the recommended contractors the total cost is £19,551.00. A grant application had been made to the council's Rural Support Programme for 50% of the costs when a contingency of £1,000 was included to make the total cost £20,551.00. The PCC approved unanimously that a Faculty Application should be made as soon as possible.

Since the PCC meeting we have been advised that our grant application has been unsuccessful, but very fortunately we have received a very generous offer to meet the full costs.

b) Church for the Future

The PCC were briefed on a constructive meeting that Cathy and the Archdeacon the Venerable Dr. Michael Gilbertson had had with Burton Residents' Association when communications were positive with a general recognition that the church needed additional space. Requests were made to re-look at the Vestry extension option and also to consider a building in the woods behind the church. These will be progressed.

A letter has been received from the BRA setting out a suggestion related to a Vestry extension and due to an already busy agenda, the PCC agreed to consider this fully at the next meeting in January. A new committee needs to be formed to take this project forward including the internal works already agreed; these being the installation of a glass door in the Porch, the removal of one part of a pew for wheelchair access and the raising of the floor level in the area behind the choir stalls in front of the Massey Chapel.



Financial Update: Good news from Gift Aid

Bryan Blakeman reported that we have received the tax claim of £14,179 that compares to last year's claim of £11,190 and demonstrates the benefit of people gift aiding their planned giving. The Sound system has now been fully installed and is much appreciated already. We received generous donations amounting to £8000 towards the costs of the sound system and are very thankful to those who enabled this to go ahead.

Growth Action Plans for 2012-13

As a Church our mission statement is that we are 'Growing and thriving with God in the Community.' And with this in mind, the PCC after much discussion at our annual PCC away day and subsequent meeting agreed that our goals for the next year would be largely to consolidate much of the exciting work that has been going on over the last year. Our new goals are therefore:

Goal 1

To continue to develop the Pastoral Care Team and Pastoral Outreach to all age groups.

Goal 2

To continue to build upon the work with children and young families and to start a messy church group.

Goal 3

Continue to look at ways to make the church building fit for purpose for the whole congregation

Bishop Wilson CofE Primary School News

School trips - Viking and Plessington

Class 4 from Bishop Wilson C of E Primary School have been very busy recently. The children have been on two different school trips already and another is coming up this week. On Friday 23rd November the children visited the Weaver Hall Museum to learn about the Vikings for their school project. Also on the Wednesday 5th December they went to Plessington Court Care Home in Puddington. It was all great fun and we learned from both experiences.

The Viking trip was very educational and everyone enjoyed it. One group started off learning about the burial of the Vikings. Vikings used to get buried because of their beliefs. Their friends and family buried them with their possessions believing that they would go to Valhalla (Viking heaven). We learned that items made out of living things rotted. Meanwhile the other group visited Olaf, the Viking trader. They learned all about Viking warriors and traders. Olaf showed them weapons and objects that he would trade with. Some people tried on some of the armour the Vikings wore. We also made Viking models of gods, kings and queens like Viking chess pieces. This helped us a lot with our project and making our books.

Also we went to Plessington Court - an elderly people's home, to sing carols to them. The residents' faces all lit up when we sang to them. We sang three



traditional carols with the elderly people which they enjoyed and two on our own. One of the residents, who used to be a piano teacher, played the song 'Away in a Manger' on the piano as we sang along. It was a great feeling when we made them happier. At the end we were very thankful as they gave us chocolate, drinks, biscuits and mince pies. We had great fun and I think the residents did too.

Overall we had great fun and would do it all again!

By Hannah Clegg and Tilly Clement-Jones

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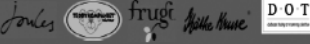


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Junior Football:	Mike Carlyle – 336 6158
Walking:	Allan Trimble – 338 3639
Snooker:	Pat King – 336 3268
Bowls:	Ken Unsworth – 336 2050
Art:	Ruth Langley – 353 8354
Sports & Social Club Membership:	Guy Tilby – 07826 417 047

New members most welcome

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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

Meets at 8pm in the Gladstone Village Hall, everyone welcome!

Thursday 3rd January: Yvonne Mathews will be telling us about 'The Magic and wonder of Bees'.
Why is Bee pollen known as the 'Ambrosia of the Gods'?

Thursday 7th February: 'Handwriting Analysis and Document Evaluation' by Susan Ord. Be
prepared for your handwriting to reveal your secrets!

Thursday 7th March: David Cummings will be showing us his beautiful photos and telling us
about the history of wild swans. His talk 'The Magic of Swans' also includes stories of the
swan families living on the pond in Chrisleton.

Burton and Puddington Sports & Social Club - Contact Guy Tilby on 07826 417 047

*Introducing our new Friday Social Evenings incorporating short, light hearted, fun Quizzes for the 2012/2013
Winter Season*

18 January, 15 February, 15 March

Venue: Sports Pavilion in Burton Village. All members of the Club with their guests are warmly
welcome - prospective members too. Start time around 8.00 pm with an Entrance Fee of £1.00.

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 9 February 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