

The Magazine

Of St Nicholas' Church, Burton-in-Wirral

Growing and thriving with God in our community

March & April 2014



IN THIS ISSUE OF THE MAGAZINE...

New Editor Details

Lent Courses

St Nicholas' Family Tree

Website: www.burtonchurch.org.uk

From our Vicar

Rev. Cathy Helm

Some questions are harder to answer than others such as why do they wake you up in hospital to take a sleeping tablet or why isn't phonics spelt as it sounds?

Some questions have been asked since the being of time such as 'is there really a God?' or 'Why does believing have to be so hard?' Or 'why does God allow suffering?'

During Lent this year we will be providing the opportunity to explore and question and to share perhaps some of our own doubts and questions. There's no guarantee they will all be answered but perhaps we can help each other along the journey of faith rather than think we're all alone in our uncertainties.

The Scottish comedian Billy Connolly is open about his views 'I've absolutely no idea if God exists. It seems unlikely to me, but then does a trout know that I exist?' and TV presenter and Private Eye editor Ian Hislop admits 'I've tried atheism and I can't stick at it; I keep having doubts. That probably sums up my position.'

For so many people, there's the 'I'm not quite sure' dilemma and yet not wanting to completely rule out that God does exist.

There's a Polish proverb which says 'To believe with certainty, we must begin with doubting.' And

writer Lillian Smith believes that 'Faith and doubt are both needed - not as antagonists, but working side by side to take us around the unknown curve.'

Sometimes perhaps the best that we can say is like the man whose son suffered from convulsions [you can read his story in Mark's gospel chapter 9], as he turned to Jesus and said 'I do believe, help my unbelief!'

Joining a Lent group will be a really good opportunity to raise these questions and to see if in Jesus we can find some answers. Jesus was always gentle in his response to those who doubted him but he also rejoiced when he met with faith. Living with the assurance of God's love is not just for the very young or old but for all people. Thomas Nagel a Professor of philosophy wrote 'I want atheism to be true and am made uneasy by the fact that some of the most intelligent and well informed people I know are religious believers.'

Even if you've never been to a group before, come and join us and take the opportunity to ask some questions.

Cathy

If you never felt pain, how would you know that I am a healer?

If you never went through difficulty, how would you know that I am a Deliverer\?

If you never had a trial, how would you know that I am a comforter?

If you never made a mistake, how would you know that I'm forgiving?

If you know it all, how would you know that I will answer your questions?

If you were never in trouble, how would you know that I will come to your rescue?

If you were never broken, how would you know that I can make you whole?

If you never had a problem, then how would you know that I can solve them?

If you had never known suffering, then how would you know what I went through?

If you never went through fire, then how would you become pure?

From 'A Barrel full of fun' by J. John & Mark Stibbe



A visit to Messy Church

Our last Messy Church was all about Joseph and his brothers and very special multi-coloured coat.

Our painting of Joseph can be found in church.

This is what two of the children thought:

'I liked helping Mum in the kitchen at Messy Church' Iolo aged 5

'Last weekend I went to Messy church. I decorated some cakes and did art. It was all great fun.' Blythe aged 7

St. Nicholas' Church Family Tree

Thank you's

Thank you to all who have responded to the requests for volunteers to fill different roles within the church.

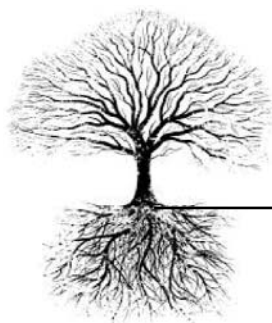
We will be welcoming a new editor to the magazine in our next issue and I look forward to working with Sarah Curnow as she takes over from John Church. John has done a wonderful job over the last few years and we're very grateful for all the hard work he has put in to ensuring we have a magazine published every two months.

A new 'maintenance group' will be headed up by Nigel Griffiths co-ordinating the care of the graveyard, grass cutting and general maintenance for the fabric of the church. Thank you to those who have offered to help with the grass cutting, Nigel will be in touch!

Also a working group is meeting to look at how we can update and use our website more effectively. Thank you to those who have offered their skills in that area and if anyone else is interested in this please do let me know.

We still need more offers of help with the cleaning of the church and those who can arrange flowers.

It has been so encouraging having all these offers of help to ensure that our church grows and flourishes within our community and again.....



A Woman went to the Post Office to buy stamps for her Christmas cards. 'What Denomination?' Asked the clerk. 'Oh, good heavens! Have we come to this?' said the woman. 'Well give me 50 Baptist and 50 Catholic ones.'

You are cordially invited to attend the

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

of

GLADSTONE VILLAGE HALL

(encompassing the Gladstone Village Hall AGM, GVH Facilities Ltd AGM
and the AGM of the Sports & Social Club)

Wednesday, 5th March 2014

at 8.00pm

Gladstone Village Hall, Burton

At the conclusion of the meeting you are all warmly invited to join the
Committee in the Sports Club when the bar will be open and a light
supper available. All welcome.

Visit the website: www.gladstonevillagehall.org.uk
for all our up and coming events and news

Potential Archery Classes on Sports Field

There has been a request from two experienced archers, who have been running archery classes down at Burton Manor, to use part of the GVH Sports Field for a small group of archers. They would probably be shooting at targets close to the ground and up to 50 yards distance away. Safety measures would be put in place such as notices on gates, shooting would take place in a small area of the field, prescribed safety distances being set up around the shooting area, etc. In addition, there would be one person acting as 'look out' for pedestrians and dogs. If this goes ahead, it may take place on a Wednesday afternoon.

Any comments or questions may be directed to Don Greig on behalf of the GVH Committee on 0151 353 8860.

Attending a wedding for the first time, a little girl whispered to her mother, "Why is the bride dressed in white?" "Because white is the colour of happiness, and today is the happiest day of her life." The child thought about this for a moment, then said, "So why is the groom wearing black?"

Wirral Men's Breakfast

On Saturday 1st February, 205 men attended the Wirral Men's first breakfast of 2014 at Thornton Hall Hotel when the inspirational speaker was Martin Dickson who chose as a theme that "Great things are usually done by ordinary people" to give encouragement to us all - you do not have to be great to achieve great things! Martin is the Director for Wirral Youth for Christ and is the Chairman of the Merseyside Eden project. This time I invited a guest to join me from Ashton Hayes for me to both discuss his wish to volunteer at Save the Family, but also for him to experience the occasion.

These breakfasts are attended by men and boys of all ages, representing churches across a very wide area and it is one of the big successes for men's groups across the country. We always enjoy the company of others whilst we tuck into a full English breakfast before we listen to a speaker. We congregate from 7.45 am onwards with coffee or tea and the breakfast proceedings are from 8.00 am to 10.00 am leaving everyone to still have a full day ahead of them.

The next breakfast will be on Saturday 5th April when the inspirational speaker is Matt Summerfield who is the Chief Executive of Urban Saints. For further information and bookings telephone 0151 347 5658 or book online at www.wirralbreakfast.co.uk and the cost is £10 per person.

John Church

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.

New Editor

It is good to report that Sarah Curnow has volunteered to take over as Editor of the magazine and whilst I am master minding this issue I am also starting the handover to Sarah during the next few weeks to ensure a smooth handover. The plan is for Sarah to manage the next issue with me helping in the background. We are extremely grateful to Sarah for taking on this important task and as the outgoing Editor I wish her every success. I believe that a change of editor also gives a fresh impetus and I trust you will all support her and I should like to thank you all for the fantastic support you have given to me.

For the next issue can you please send your reports and items for the magazine to Sarah on saron@lineone.net or post your content to Sarah at Springfield, Haddon Lane, Ness, Neston, CH64 8TA Tel: 0151 336 8210

The reason I have decided to handover responsibility of the magazine is that I have managed this for over 5 years and I have increased my involvement at Save the Family from Deputy Chair of the Board of Trustees to take on the full time role of Chief Executive since 5 February this year.

I should like to take this opportunity to thank

everyone at St Nicholas' Church for their faithful support of Save the Family and the generous financial contribution given as part of the Outward Giving. Save the Family along with many similar charities are struggling financially as government funding is withdrawn or reduced. Save the Family depends heavily on charitable donations to maintain its' mission to keep families together and to avoid the high cost to the taxpayer of taking children into care. PLEASE hold both me and Save the Family in your prayers as we struggle to achieve a sustainable future.

Many thanks

John Church

A father was approached by his small son, who told him proudly, "I know what the Bible means!" His father smiled and replied, "What do you mean, you 'know' what the Bible means?" The son replied, "I do know!" "Okay," said his father. "So, son, what does the Bible mean?"

"That's easy," Daddy. It stands for "Basic Instructions Before Leaving Earth."

Job Vacancy - Disciple

Want a job? Fancy a change of scene or are you looking for a role with real purpose? Looking for inspirational leadership? Look no further and apply today. What follows is a modern job description compiled from various things Jesus said to his early followers.

Job Title

Follower of the Way

Disciple

Employer details

Jesus of Nazareth

Location

Flexible. You will essentially be a field worker fulfilling the requirements of the role in your local community. You will be prepared to leave the security of home behind at certain times.



Role and Purpose

- You are to live as Jesus taught, and follow his example.

Responsibility, timescale and nature of the role

- The position carries the security of a job for life, and beyond, for the successful candidate.
- The successful candidate must be available to start immediately with no exceptions for family emergencies or sensitivities.
- You will be given power to drive out evil spirits and heal every disease and sickness.
- You may be required at times to undertake public relations exercises to senior officials hostile to the organisation, Specific instructions for these exchanges will be supplied in the field.
- You will pray always and not give up.
- You will be successful in your role if you are recognised as loving other followers of the way.
- You will love God and others as you love yourself.
- Ideal Candidate Profile
- You will be clear about your priorities -

loving your family must come second to loving your employer.

- Loving Jesus even more than your own life you will be highly commended.
- You will be prepared to undertake suffering as and when it is required of the job taking up your cross each day.
- You will be someone with focus and determinations; once you undertake a task you must give it your full attention, ploughing for example.

Qualifications and Experience Required

- Past experience as a miscreant of some kind is often a bonus although you will be expected to put any harmful practices behind you.
- The ideal candidate won't be a worrier. Particularly about food security and clothing.
- Understanding of agricultural metaphors will help.

Salary or Salary Guide

- Whilst not paying a salary in the conventional sense you will undertake your position on the following understanding.
- Be prepared to sell all your possessions and give to the poor.
- Freely you have received, freely give.
- When travelling do not take money, a bag, spare clothes or shoes.
- Whoever follows Jesus, will never walk in darkness, but will have the *light of life*.

Applications

Applications can be made in confidence at St Nicholas' Church Burton by prayer.

I was at the beach with my children when my four-year-old son ran up to me, grabbed my hand, and led me to the shore, where a sea gull lay dead in the sand. 'Mummy, what happened to him?' the little boy asked. 'He died and went to Heaven,' I replied. My son thought a moment and then said, 'And God threw him back down?'



Diary of Events

March 2014

Church Services

- 2nd Sunday next before Lent
8:45 am Holy Communion
10:00 am Family Worship & Baptism
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
- 12th 10:15 am Holy Communion
- 16th 2nd Sunday of Lent
8:45 am Holy Communion
10:00 am Family Communion
- 19th 10:15 am Holy Communion
- 23rd 3rd Sunday of Lent
8:45 am Holy Communion
10:00 am Morning Worship
- 26th 10:15 am Holy Communion
- 30th 4th Sunday of Lent
Mothering Sunday
8.45 am Holy Communion
10:00 am Morning Worship

Mothers Union Programme

- 7th Women's World Day of Prayer
Theme: "Streams in the Desert"
2.00 pm Willaston Parish Church
7.30 pm Neston Parish Church
- 14th MU Wave of Prayer
Theme: "Sowing the Future Together"
12.55 pm in Church
- 19th Lenten Meditation in Church
Revd Geoffrey Parsons
- 29th Bunching Posies in Church
At 10.00 am
- 30th Mothering Sunday Service in Church at
10.00 am

House Groups:

Christian Living:

Lent Courses will run weekly through Lent.

Study Group:

Lent Courses will run weekly through Lent.

From the Registers:

Baptisms:

5th Jan Emily Rose Beaumont

Funerals:

23rd Jan: Bertha Terrace

5th February: Derek Booth

11th February: William Porter

Diary of Events

April 2014

Mothers Union Programme

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

House Groups:

Christian Living:

Lent Courses will run weekly through Lent.

Study Group:

Lent Courses will run weekly through Lent and
the next study group will be on 30th April.

First Week of May 2014

4th 3rd Sunday of Easter
8:45 am Holy Communion
10:00 am Family Worship
6:30 pm Evensong

7th 10:15 am Holy Communion

11th 4th Sunday of Easter
8:45 am Holy Communion
10:00 am Morning Worship

Church Services

6th 5th Sunday of Lent
8:45 am Holy Communion
10:00 am Family Worship & Baptism
6:30 pm Evensong

9th 10:15 am Holy Communion

13th **PALM SUNDAY**
8:45 am Holy Communion
10:00 am Morning Worship

16th 10:15 am Holy Communion

17th **MAUNDY THURSDAY**
7:30 pm Holy Communion

18th **GOOD FRIDAY**
2:00 pm One hour Devotional at the
foot of the Cross

20th **EASTER SUNDAY**
8.45 am Holy Communion
10.00am Family Communion

23rd 10:15 am Holy Communion

27th 2nd Sunday of Easter
8.45 am Holy Communion
10.00am Morning Worship

30th 10:15 am Holy Communion

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.



Mothers' Union

Since my last report we have said goodbye to Christmas and welcomed another year. I would like to thank Cathy for leading our Christmas Service, Alison for playing the organ and all the Readers for their contribution. We welcomed our visitors from Shotwick who told me that they were pleased to share the afternoon with us.

At the AGM in January we were reminded of an enjoyable year just gone and in going through our packed programme for this year. We have much to look forward to,

Anthea tells me that her hip operation has been delayed, but hopes it will take place later this month. We wish Ann Warr a speedy recovery after her operation last month.

At the AGM, Ruth read us news of Vivian Ransdell who has recently moved South to be near her daughters. She now has constant visits from the family and seems to be very happy in her new surroundings.

The few words below are a reminder of how Christmas affects our lives throughout the year.

Wartime Christmas

(by Joyce Kilmer)

Led by a star, a golden star,
The youngest star, an olden star,
Here the kings and shepherds are,
a-kneeling on the ground.
What did they come to the inn to see?
God in the Highest, and this is He,
A baby asleep on his mother's knee
And with her kisses crowned.

Now is the earth a dreary place,
A troubled place, a weary place.
Peace has hidden her lovely face
And turned in tears away.
Yet the sun, through the war-cloud, sees
Babies asleep on their mother's knees.
While there are love and home - and these -
There shall be Christmas Day.

Regards

Josie Isaacs

Spring Time

This is such a beautiful time of the year with new growth everywhere. The Galanthus Novalis/Elwesii are in full bloom as well as wonderful Winter Aconites with their pretty yellow flowers and rosettes of leaves. Harry Lauder (Twisted Hazel) is producing some stunning catkins which look very good in flower arrangements. The Camellias (four) were very late coming into bloom, the first to produce flowers being a double white unnamed variety. Felic Harris and Lady Macon are both pale pink, but the latter is very slow at flowering, which perhaps means that she is in the wrong position in the garden.

The greenhouse was thoroughly cleaned before the onset of winter, but requires a little spring clean. The pots for the sweet pea seeds do not need to be washed as they are contained in "tights" and keep clean. They are to be filled with seed and cutting compost prior to planting so that the compost is "warmed". They will be sown on 16 March. Other seeds will be sown a little later namely: Pansy, Larkspur, Aster and Fragrance mix.

Many varieties of birds have been in the garden i.e. Blue, Great and long tailed tits, robin, blackbirds, one fieldfare and a tiny goldcrest. The robin has been a constant companion when I have snatched the odd minute in the garden.

Flori Bunda

March/April 2014

On a very cold, snowy Sunday in February, only the minister and one farmer arrived at the village church. The minister said, 'Well, I guess we won't have a service today.' The farmer replied: 'Minister, even if only one cow shows up at feeding time, I feed it.'



Come and Join us in the GVH
Saturday 22nd March 4 - 6pm
Donations invited to cover costs
meal provided
All welcome



On a lighter note

CATHOLIC PETROL?

Sister Mary, who worked for a home health agency, was out making her rounds visiting homebound patients when she ran out of petrol. As luck would have it, a petrol station was just around the corner.

She walked to the station to borrow a petrol can and buy some petrol. The attendant told her that the only petrol can he owned had been lent out, but she could wait until it was returned.

Since the nun was on the way to see a patient, she decided not to wait and walked back to her car. She looked for something in her car that she could fill with petrol and spotted the bedpan she was taking to the patient

Always resourceful, she carried the bedpan to the station, filled it with petrol, and carried the full bedpan back to her car.

As she was pouring the petrol into her tank, two men watched from across the street. One of them turned to the other and said, "If it starts, I'm turning Catholic."

THREE DADS

Three boys are in the school playground bragging about their fathers.

The first boy says, 'My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a poem, they give him £50.'

The second boy says, 'That's nothing. My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a song, they give him £100.'

The third boy says, 'I got you both beat. My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a sermon. And it takes eight people with baskets to collect all the money!'

NESTON CRAFTY MARKET

***Neston Town Hall
10am to 3pm Saturdays
2nd Nov and 7th Dec***

Free admission

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

Safari Supper

The TBY and Youth Alpha groups stepped out into the dark and cold on Sunday 26th January to visit three different homes. We thought it would be good to get a report not just from one of the young people who always enjoy good food, but also from someone who survived as host to 12 teenagers.

‘It was with great pleasure that we were asked to host the first leg of the Safari Supper Evening on Sunday 26th January. My husband Gareth, who unlike myself is known for his culinary expertise, prepared a delightful arrangement of wraps and nibbles for our hungry guests. From the moment they arrived they were all courteous, friendly and very appreciative which made the evening pleasurable and very relaxed. We would not hesitate to invite the young adults back in any capacity, our door is always open. I think Safari Supper is a great opportunity for the young adults to get to know other members of our church family and likewise for those opening their doors and welcoming others to share a bite to eat. A lovely evening was had by all.’ Rachel Green

And from one of the young people.....

‘We started our safari supper off at my house

and then walked to Maria Challis's house for our main meal, where we enjoyed pizza and played table tennis in a very lively competitive setting. We then ventured back out into the dark with our torches and wellies to Linda and John Mayhew's house where we enjoyed a range of homemade desserts. Everyone was very welcoming it was a happy and cheerful environment and we all had a lovely evening.

Lydia Milburn

Holy Communion Soup & Sandwich

- Monday March 3rd 11.30am
- Monday April 7th 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**

Year 5 and 6 Athletics Competition

The children who took part in the inter-schools indoor athletics competition did very well throughout. They particularly did well in the running races because they came first in nearly all of them. Mr Weaver timed every team that took part and Bishop Wilson children had some of the fastest times. The children of Bishop Wilson did very well in the field events but it wasn't enough to come 1st. However, Bishop Wilson came 2nd

overall and were very pleased with themselves. They were very grateful to Mrs McGowan and Mr Weaver for taking them.

Written by Holly and Tom (Class 4)

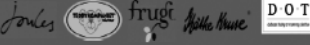


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Burton & Puddington Sports Club

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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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 Duties - Services	Ann Warr	336 2747
- Open/Close	Dwenna Georges	336 6151
- Housekeeping	Sue Church	336 2228
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	Josie Isaacs	336 3635
The Burton Youth (TBY) & Junior Church		
	Amanda Ankers	336 3998
Magazine	Susan Bristow	336 6707
	Sarah Curnow	336 8210
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

Thursday 6th March - Barbara James was a female mountaineering instructor during the 1960's. She will be sharing tales of her exploits and achievements.

Thursday 3rd April - Our AGM will be followed an illustrated talk about Port Sunlight by Elizabeth Newell. Through photographs we will walk round Port Sunlight Village and take a glimpse inside the Lady Lever Art Gallery.

Burton and Puddington Sports & Social Club

Quiz Nights held at 8.00pm: Friday, 14th March and Friday, 11th April in Sports & Social Club

Social Evenings: Friday, 28th March and Friday, 25th April held in Sports & Social Club

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

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:

6 March - The History of Glass Paperweights - Muriel Mulholland

3 April - Tins, Tubes and Tenacity - Meg Sharpe

For information contact Rodney Lyon on 336 3128 or www.manorgatehouse.info

NEXT ISSUE DEADLINE

The deadline for submissions for the next issue will be Monday 14 April 2014, please email your contributions to saron@lineone.net

YOUR EVENT OR SOCIETY

If you have any events you would like included in the Community Noticeboard email: saron@lineone.net

Website: www.burtonchurch.org.uk