



The Parish Magazine

St Nicholas' Church, Burton-in-Wirral

December 2018 & January 2019

www.burtonchurch.org.uk

SPECIAL CHRISTMAS EDITION



IN THIS ISSUE OF THE MAGAZINE

Christmas Services, Events & Community Activities

Advent 2018 - Follow the Star

News, Views & Information

The magazine is also available at www.burtonchurch.org.uk

GROWING & THRIVING WITH GOD IN OUR COMMUNITY

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Advent

O come, O come,
Emmanuel
And ransom captive
Israel
That mourns in lonely
exile here
Until the Son of God
appear
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O
Israel.



The characteristic note of Advent is expectation, the coming of Christ.

During Advent, church decorations are simple and sparse, and purple is the traditional liturgical colour.

In the northern hemisphere, the Advent season falls at the darkest time of the year, and the natural symbols of darkness and light are powerfully at work throughout Advent and Christmas. The lighting of candles during Advent was imported into Britain from northern Europe in the nineteenth century, and is now a common practice.

During Advent five candles are lit - one each week before the last on Christmas Day.

Advent 1

The Patriarchs

Advent 2

The Prophets

Advent 3

John the Baptist

Advent 4

The Virgin Mary

Christmas Day The Christ

The Moravian custom of the Christingle has similarly enjoyed great success in Britain since the latter part of the twentieth century, with the encouragement of the Children's Society; Christingle services take place in churches throughout the country.

The last days of Advent were marked by the sequence of Great 'O' Antiphons, which continue to inspire modern Advent hymns and meditations.

THE VICAR WRITES



What present do you buy for someone who already seems to have everything they need?

A few years ago, we bought my father-in-law Stan a star. He had always been interested in astronomy and didn't need any more slippers, socks or chocolate so we bought him a star. He was delighted. Obviously it wasn't somewhere we could take him to visit, but he loved the idea of a star being named after him. So at Right Ascension 4hr 19min. 44.5 secs. Declination +3° 26' 30.4" there is Stan's star. If we're honest, we can't see where it is, but we know it's there!

To have a star on the Hollywood walk of fame is seen to be the height of achievement and yet how many of those stars have faded? Who can remember even last year's winners of X factor or Strictly Come Dancing?



Contrary to what is portrayed on Christmas cards, the wise men did not arrive at the stable, following the star they had seen in the east. It probably took them about two years before they found where Mary and Joseph and the young child Jesus were living in Bethlehem.



It has been suggested that if the wise men had been wise women, they would have been much more practical and delivered the baby, cleaned the stable and brought a casserole! But for these men, they took a long journey to find a promised king. It wouldn't have been an easy journey, yet they kept going.



Whatever their motives were, perhaps to curry favour with the new king or to just be able to worship him, when they met this little toddler, there was something about Jesus, whose parents were clearly from very humble origins, that made these grown, rich and influential men bow down onto their knees and worship.

Not only did they worship him, they handed over their very expensive gifts. Gifts which held great significance for Jesus' life, but would also have been of practical use when the young family needed to flee to Egypt.

These men were changed. They had met with Jesus. They had found their wisdom. Perhaps that's why we call them wise men?

The star they followed led them to worship the King of kings. We're told they went home via a different way [Matt. 4:12].

Which star do you like to follow? The star of a promising career, the star of relationships, the star of celebrity or sport? Will it be like the shooting star, that fades and disappears, or will it fulfil all your hopes and dreams?

To follow the star that leads to Jesus brings us not to a stable, or a little house in Bethlehem, it brings us to the cross where he died.

He died to bring us that new life, a life marked by love, a life that is forgiven and released from burdens of the past, a life that is filled with peace that passes understanding, a life which will last for eternity and a life that can rejoice in being loved by the King of kings, the bright Morning Star.

cathy

Prayer



My Lord God,

I have no idea where I am going.

I do not see the road ahead of me.

I cannot know for certain where it will end.

Nor do I really know myself,

And the fact that I think that I'm following your will,

Doesn't mean that I am actually doing so.

But I do believe the desire to please you

Does in fact, please you.

And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing.

And I know if I do this,

You will lead me by the right road

Although I may know nothing about it.

Therefore, I will trust You always,

Though I may seem to be lost

And in the shadow of death,

I will not fear, for You are ever with me

And will never leave me

to face my perils alone.

Thomas Merton

VESTRY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT



Thank You, to all those who have already donated money to the 'Vestry Improvement Project'

through sponsorship, private donations or by attending fund raising events. Your help is very much appreciated and has enabled us to almost reach our goal of raising the £35,000 required to undertake the project. The benefits will be enormous in terms of making the space more usable and energy efficient. At the time of going to press we are still just about £7,000 short of our target.

If you would like to help...

You can donate either by cheque or direct payment to the church bank account. And, if you are able, please Gift Aid your donation so that we can reclaim an extra £25 for every £100 you donate.

Please make cheques payable to St Nicholas' Church, Burton and place in a Gift Aid envelope or plain envelope if you wish marking it 'Vestry Improvement Project'. Direct payment can be made to Barclays Bank, St Nicholas' Church, Burton.

Sort Code 20-29-50,
Account Number 20773638
Ref – VIP and Your Name.

giftaid it

So, who will benefit?

- *Junior Church & Sunday School*
- *Little Stars*
- *Meeting Organisers*
- *Mothers' Union*
- *Marriage Ceremonies*
- *Event Planners*
- *Refreshment Organisers*
- *Flower Arrangers*
- *PCC Members & Committees*
- *Clergy & Service Leaders*
- *Church Administrators*



But indirectly, everyone benefits!



FRIENDS OF ST NICHOLAS' CHURCH



A highly enjoyable and educational evening of wine tasting and gourmet food was enjoyed at Burton and Puddington's Gladstone Village Hall on the night

*of Saturday 13 October which saw FSNC raise just under **£700 for the Vestry Improvement Project***

*Some 54 people came along to enjoy an excellent presentation from **Tom Innes of Fingal Rock Wines of Monmouth** who was back by popular request after his inaugural event last Autumn. The night began with Sherry, Verdicchio, Australian Chardonnay and Chablis followed by tasting of Montepulciano, Chianti, Cahors and finally some Red Burgundy.*

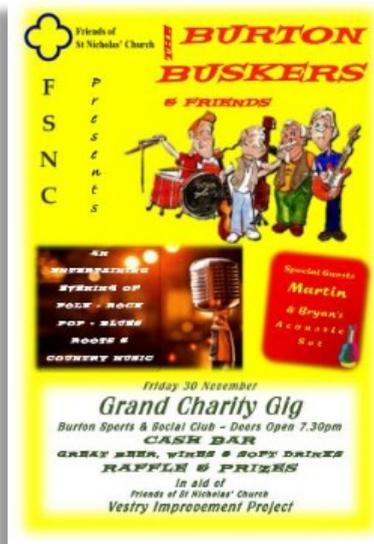


*The night drew to a close with the spectacular and aptly named dessert wine (considering it was a church fundraising event) **'Heaven on Earth'**.*

Happy guests were ably served by an army of helpers - too many to name - but to whom we were all exceedingly grateful.

We are already looking forward to welcoming Tom and his wife back to the parish next year to tempt our palates with other first class, scrumptious vintages.

BURTON BUSKERS' GRAND CHARITY NIGHT



*The FSNC programme ended 2018 with an event which was kindly arranged by Ian McQuair and his **Burton Buskers and Friends** at the Burton Sports & Social Club on Friday 30 November.*

It was an evening of rousing and rollicking music and great raffle prizes.

Thank you to all who came along to support these events.

Robin Cowan

BISHOP WILSON SCHOOL



Bishop Wilson Church of England Primary
"The joy of The Lord is your strength" Nehemiah 8:10

Ethos Group on Tour

On Monday 15 October Katie and Issy, members of our Ethos Group, joined with children from other local Church of England Primary Schools to lead a joint Act of Worship in each other's schools.

The tour began at Bishop Wilson School. It then set off for Capenhurst before moving on to St. Oswald's and ending in Christchurch where we all had lunch before the final worship.

The children all did very well and enjoyed the experience very much. At the end of the tour, they immediately requested that another 'Ethos Group on Tour' takes place and they offered their services to be leaders again! We are now looking forward to using their experience in school to encourage other children to become involved in leading our worship.

Mrs Suzanne Roberts
Headmistress



YOUTH CHURCH

There have been two recent events which have focused the attention of the members of St Nicholas' Youth Church on issues of the day and the remembrance of times past.

Firstly, the Light Party - an alternative to Halloween - was held in church which was attended by young people and their families and was a great success.

Here is the account of Dan, aged 8.

The Light Party

"The light party is always a good experience but this year was great. I helped set up pumpkins on the path to the church which looked amazing when it got dark.

There were lots of activities like apple bobbing, eating a donut off a string and some crafts that helped us to learn about the light of Christ. We did a pumpkin prayer and sparklers and we had hot-dogs and cakes. It was really busy and we all had lots of fun. I really enjoyed it."



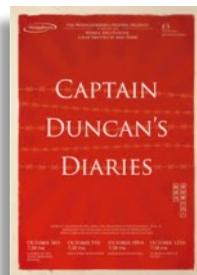
The second event involving members of the TBY (The Burton Youth) was a dramatised reading of a play and was performed as part of St Nicholas' Church's programme involving acts of Remembrance.



Captain Duncan's Diary

The Burton youth group performed a dramatized reading of a play that has been performed in the Wirral Festival this year.

The play was written by Ann Warr.



The play gives an insight into the experience of a soldier who was a prisoner of war in Java and Japan and is based on his illicit diaries that he managed to keep whilst imprisoned.

The young people worked really hard and we were heartened by the number of people who turned out to support TBY and very grateful for the donations that will be put towards the fundraising for the vestry project. Huge thanks go to all those involved and to those who attended the performance and supported the young people.

CHURCH URBAN FUND

CHANGING LIVES AND
COMMUNITIES TOGETHER

We've taken the 'Advent
Sleepout Challenge' again!
Why would we give up our
warm beds for the night at
the beginning of Advent?

A small group of young people from
our church groups took up the
challenge on Friday 30 November.
Like last year they had a big
'sleepover' in church, some fun and
games and a small amount of sleep!
Last year £1,457.29 was raised and
again funds donated this time will be
distributed via the Church Urban
Fund. The money will help people
who need it most. They may be
struggling with debt, homelessness,
isolation, addiction, abuse or vio-
lence.

The 'Sleepover' is not an attempt to
recreate the desperate conditions
many will find themselves in this
Christmas, but a fun way to help raise
awareness of people's plight and raise
money that's desperately needed.

If you would like to donate to our
fund-raising please use the online link
below or there will be a sponsorship
form at the back of Church.

<https://sleepoutchallenge2018.every>

Children's Christmas Book Before Bedtime



FOR OUR YOUNGEST
MEMBERS OF CHURCH

St Nicholas Church
Friday 21 December

6:30pm to 7:15pm

Come along and enjoy a story
and then refreshments of (not
too) hot chocolate, juice and
biscuits. The event is suitable
for all the family.

Come in your PJ's,
and bring your
favourite
teddy bear and
Simply join in
the fun.



Adults can
dress up too!

Further details:
Cathy Helm

 07471 890 827



CHRISTINGLE SERVICE

Sunday 2 December 10.00am



The word 'Christingle' actually means 'Christ Light', and celebrates the light of Jesus coming into the world. Stories of how the Christingle began look back to the Moravian Church, which is found in the Czech Republic. The Moravians have held Christingle services for more than 200 years, and according to them, this is how the first Christingle might have been made:

Many years ago the children in a village were asked to bring a Christmas gift to put beside the crib in the church. One family was very poor, and had no money for gifts, but the three children were still determined to take something. The only nice thing they had was an orange, so they decided to give that to the Christ child.

But then they discovered the top was going green, so the eldest cut it out, and put a candle in the hole.

To add some colour, one of the girls took a red ribbon from her hair and tied it around the middle of the orange. It was hard to make the ribbon stay still, so they fastened it in place with toothpicks. The toothpicks looked a bit bare, so the youngest child added some raisins to them.

The children took their decorated orange lantern to the church for the Christmas Mass. The other children sneered at their meagre gift, but the priest seized upon it with joy. He held it up as an example of the true understanding of the meaning of Christmas,

The orange is round, like the world; the candle gives us light in the dark, like the love of God; the red ribbon goes round the 'world', as a symbol of Christ's blood, given for everyone; the four sticks point in all directions and symbolise that God is over all: North, South, East and West; and the fruit and nuts remind us of God's blessings.

The Children's Society first



introduced the Christingle Service to The Church of England in 1968, and it has since become a popular event in the church calendar.

This candlelit celebration

is an ideal way to share the key messages of the Christian faith, while helping to raise vital funds to help vulnerable children across the country.



'IN MEMORY' GIVING - LEGACIES

St Nicholas' Church has recently received some very welcome legacies from church members who included their church as a beneficiary when they drew up their will - an appropriate opportunity to ensure that they hand something on to the next generation.



**REMEMBER A CHARITY
IN YOUR WILL**
Help the work live on...

For many, gifts in wills are a way of saying thank you to God for the gifts they have received over their lifetime.

Gifts in wills are also an important part of Christian Giving. Many people give regularly to the church each week or each month from their income - so why not make a final gift from our estates too?

St Nicholas' Church depends totally on the generosity of its church members and the community to enable it to operate and to undertake projects. These recent gifts will be used to enable progress to be

made on such vital work as the latest

**Vestry
Improvement
Project.**

A gift in your will can help keep our church alive in our community, and help transform its future.

Please, think about it; pray about it; talk about it; find out more about it and then please act upon it.

LOCAL LEGACY HELPS BUILD A FUTURE

Amongst various charities that St Nicholas' Church



regularly supports is The Mango Tree, an organisation that provides practical support and education to orphans and their families in Kenya and Tanzania. Recently the Mango Tree benefited from a legacy which has enabled a major project to go ahead. Willie Fulton, a Trustee of the charity writes:

“
Last year Puddington resident, Clare Saunders, died leaving her house and the residue of her estate to The Mango Tree. Miss Saunders was well aware of our wish to build a school for girls in the future.

This most generous bequest has enabled us to start to fulfil this dream for our colleagues in Kenya. We have also managed to secure another donation of a similar amount, so our colleagues have started to build a boarding secondary school for girls.

The impact her gift will have in that area will be enormous. She will be remembered by future generations of girls in western Kenya, who will benefit from her generosity. The school will also provide many local people with much-needed employment opportunities and will benefit local farmers and other suppliers.

”

CHARLES THOMPSON'S MISSION - BIRKENHEAD

The work of Charles Thompson's Mission was founded in the late 19th Century by Charles Thompson. He wanted to alleviate the sad condition of the children who were in a state of poverty in those days. He loved children, and this love stemmed from his love of the Lord Jesus Christ.

In helping anyone he could who was in need, he would seek to tell them the good news of Jesus Christ. On 9th January 1892, he opened Charles Thompson's Mission in Birkenhead. People from all over the Wirral including shops, businesses and individuals contributed to the work either with monetary gifts or by donating food, clothes and toys. This would then be distributed to the poor and needy.

Following his death in 1903, Charles Thompson's daughter, Annie Thompson continued the work.

Like her father she was greatly loved and respected, and in 1953 went on to be awarded an OBE for her services to the people of Birkenhead.



The work of the charity continues today through the Centre Manager, Bernie Frost.



Bernie and a team of volunteers continue to serve the people who visit. They provide hot drinks and food (soups, curries, stews and cooked breakfasts) to anyone who comes through their doors, with a particular service to the homeless between 7am and 9am. The charity provides free clothing, toiletries, bedding and household items, as well as access to medical services throughout the week.

The midweek Bible service is popular as is the monthly all-age Sunday service, and they have groups for people who want to explore Christian matters further. They take folk on free day trips (Southport, steam railways, Llandudno etc.) and they subsidise children's places on Summer Christian camps.

Charles Thompson's Mission continues to help people take practical steps out of poverty – as the need today is as great as when it was founded in 1892.

St Nicholas' Church supports the mission through its Outward Giving programme.

One wartime evening in December 1941 the writer Alison Uttley recorded her wonder at the forthcoming Advent and Christmas:

“Beauty of the invisible
becomes visible in
that dimension where we may
wander without hurt and
without hindrance. It is the
essence of the unseen, the
mystery of God and time and
space; it quiets the mind as it
reveals itself.”

On behalf of the Mothers' Union may we share that feeling of wonder with all readers this Christmas.

Looking Back

In September our branch hosted the Mothers' Union Deanery Festival. It was a warm but extremely windy day. However, members came from the various Deanery branches and we shared a service in 'Celebration of Mary, Mother of Jesus'. The service was led by Cathy Helm and we were also pleased to welcome our Deanery and Diocesan leaders.

In October Ruth Chesworth gave an interesting talk on 'Cruising in Northern Waters', including Norway, Iceland, Greenland and the Faroe Islands. We were also treated to pictures of the various places Ruth had visited.

Looking Ahead

Tuesday, 11 December 10.00am

A Coffee Morning is being held in church, organised by the Events Committee, and will include a Mothers' Union sales table.

We do hope that readers will support this event as it provides a welcome break from Christmas preparations. Tea, coffee and cakes will be served and the MU sales table will provide items for you to buy

Wednesday, 12 December 2.00pm

Our 'Christmas Gathering' in church with a service will be followed by refreshments.

Wednesday, 16 January 2019 2.00pm

Held in the Sports and Social Club - a 'New Year Get-Together' and Annual General Meeting.



Hardy Perennials is a lunchtime meeting for ladies who live largely independently. Along with friends, male or female, they meet most months at Pollard's Inn in Willaston for lunch (two courses plus coffee for £13) and to share each other's company. Our next 'get-together' is a Christmas lunch.



Monday - 10 December

If you normally attend Hardy Perennials lunches and would like to bring a friend, please feel free to do so.

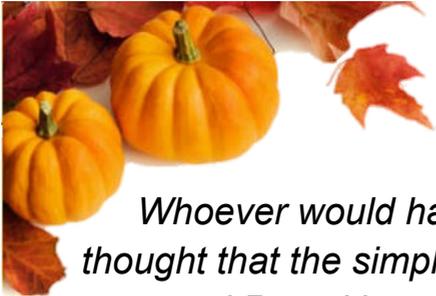
Booking essential - 12.30pm for 1.00pm

☎ Vivienne 336 7435

☎ Linda 336 5017

BURTON & PUDDINGTON PUMPKIN FESTIVAL

A personal perspective - Joanne Beedles



Whoever would have thought that the simple seasonal Pumpkin could help unite a community?

Having lived in Burton for over 15 years and like many of us been guilty of living behind my gates - rushing back and forth - having a daughter has changed all this. So, when the idea of the Pumpkin Festival came about I offered to help.

Delivering leaflets taught me a lot about both villages and their villagers. The support, creativity and commitment we received about the Pumpkin Festival was overwhelming, engendering a real sense of community and the enthusiasm in both Burton and Puddington.

Our aim was to bring the communities together to help another deserving local community, the Charles Thompson's Mission.



Charles Thompson's Mission does excellent work helping the homeless and those in need.

To date we have raised £1,120 for the charity

So on behalf of everyone involved we would like to say a

huge thank you to everyone who helped make the festival such a success.

And, just a final note to those who, like me, rush off to work



every day and close their gates at

night, we need you! We need volunteers to really make the villages of Burton and Puddington thriving, sociable communities.



Church Services

December

- 2 Advent Sunday
8:45 am Holy Communion
10:00 am Christingle Service
6:30 pm Evensong with
Bishop Peter Forster
- 5 10:15 am Holy Communion
- 9 Second Sunday of Advent
8:45 am Holy Communion
10:00 am Morning Worship
- 12 10:15 am Holy Communion
- 16 Third Sunday of Advent
8:45 am Holy Communion
10:00 am Family Communion
7:00pm Carol Service
- 19 10:15 am Holy Communion
- 23 Fourth Sunday of Advent
8:45 am Holy Communion
10:00 am Morning Worship
- 24 Christmas Eve
4:00 pm Carols round the tree
11:15 pm Holy Communion
- 25 Christmas Day
9:30 am Family Communion
- 26 No service
- 30 First Sunday of Christmas
8:45 am Holy Communion
10:00 am Morning Worship

December

Diary Dates

2nd

Christingle Service at 10.00am
Evensong 6.30pm Bishop of Chester

3rd

Holy Communion & Lunch

10th

Hardy Perennial's Christmas Lunch

12th

Mothers' Union Meeting

16th

Nine Lessons & Carols
4.00pm Shotwick 7.00pm Burton

19th

Film Night - 'White Christmas'

21st

Book Before Bedtime

22nd

Puddington - Carols on the Green

24th

Carols Round the Tree 4.00pm
Midnight Communion 11.15pm

25th

Christmas Day Service 9.30am

January

Diary Dates

6th

Shotwick - Plough Sunday
'Bring & Share Lunch'

7th

Holy Communion & Lunch

16th

Mothers' Union Meeting

16th

Bible Book Club - Hebrews

19th

Messy Church

28th

Coffee Morning in Church

Church Services

January

6	Epiphany Sunday 8:45 am Holy Communion 10:00 am Family Worship 4:00 pm Evensong
9	10:15 am Holy Communion
13	Second Sunday of Epiphany Baptism of Christ 8:45 am Holy Communion 10:00 am Morning Worship
16	10:15 am Holy Communion
20	Third Sunday of Epiphany 8:45 am Holy Communion 10:00 am Family Communion
23	10:15 am Holy Communion
27	Fourth Sunday of Epiphany 8:45 am Holy Communion 10:00 am Morning Worship
30	10:15 am Holy Communion

February

3	8:45 am Holy Communion 10:00 am Family Worship 4:00 pm Evensong
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EVENSONG
DURING THE WINTER MONTHS
EVENSONG WILL MOVE TO THE
EARLIER TIME OF 4.00PM
ON THE FIRST SUNDAY
OF THE MONTH

A LOOK FORWARD TO WONDERFUL WINTER SCENES

Here at Burton Mere Wetlands we've been treated to a wildlife spectacular this Autumn with thousands of pink-footed geese arriving fresh from Iceland, and grazing on our wet grassland fields. We've also had good numbers of Pintail and Wigeon on the reserve, along with a record count of Shoveler in September. Pairs can be watched doing their wonderfully comical swirling pirouette as they feed on the pools close to the reception hide. Whooper swan numbers are also beginning to build up, with up to a dozen on view from reception, while a few spoonbill are still being seen intermittently. We've also had a male Goldeneye at the reserve, the first for some time.

The Raptors have been sensational! A Hen Harrier (ringtail) has taken a liking to catching Snipe and we've been spoilt with regular close views of this bird hunting, and then eating prey right in front of reception. Marsh Harrier, Peregrine, Sparrowhawk and Merlin are also daily occurrences, typically spotted by the fleeing smaller birds as they approach.

There's been masses of wader activity, with up to seven Curlew Sandpiper present for several weeks and numerous sightings of Spotted Redshank, Greenshank, Green Sandpiper, Golden Plover, Ruff, Dunlin, Lapwing, Black-Tailed Godwit, Snipe and the odd Little Stint.

Other fantastic sightings include Kingfisher, Water Pipit, Water Rail and a Jack Snipe with many visitors getting great views of these normally elusive birds. Stonechat, Reed Bunting, Linnet, Fieldfare, Redwing and Brambling have been the best of the song birds.

A few lucky visitors managed to get some impressive photographs of a Glossy Ibis from the Inner Marsh Farm hide that stayed all too briefly.



Goldeneye



Hen Harrier



Curlew Sandpiper



Merlin



Bearded Tit



Reed Bunting



However, the star sighting of the Autumn has to be our first ever recorded Bearded Tit at Burton Mere Wetlands, with a male and female pair that can occasionally be quite confiding. We did have a breeding pair in Neston Reedbed in 2003 that successfully fledged 3 chicks. So fingers crossed that they decide to stay and attempt to raise a family.

If all goes to plan we hope to have a new roof on our Bunker Hide before the end of the year which will add a huge value to the reserve and will mean we then have a total of four hides that can be used throughout the worst weather. This has been made possible by the Local RSPB Wirral group, and from a very generous donation from the Bradshaw family in memory of their late father.

Gwen, one of our first our residential volunteers, has completed her time with us but just can't stay away, and continues to volunteer with the warden team once a week until she jets off on her next adventure. Alice, our other residential volunteer, has extended her stay until the end of December and will now be mainly focusing on the reception side of the reserve. Alice has taken on the new responsibilities and her bubbly personality is great to have in reception - look out for her weekly blogs too. A new addition to the house is Steven, who has recently spent time at RSPB Loch Garten and Leighton Moss, is settling in well, getting stuck in on both sides of the reserve.

December will see our Christmas family trail go live. And in the New Year, we will be doing a Big Farmland Bird Walk event on 6 January, to get you ready for the national Big Garden Birdwatch weekend of 26-28 January.

For further details on any of the reserve activity and events please get in touch:

 rspb.org.uk/burtonmerewetlands

 0151 353 2720

'THERE BUT NOT THERE' REMEMBERED

Last year local nurse Helen Hurst applied as a nurse for the Army Reserves with 208 Field Hospital. Disappointingly, she was turned down but her initial interest led to other opportunities.

One of the opportunities was her subsequent involvement in the '*There But Not There*' campaign with the charity '*Remembered*', commemorating 100 years since the end of WW 1.

The aim of '*Remembered*' is to commemorate the fallen, educate all generations and to help and heal those suffering from the hidden wounds of post-traumatic stress disorder and other lasting legacies of combat.

Helen's Great Grandfather, Lieutenant Colonel Louis Meredith Howard, 24th (Tyneside Irish) Battalion, Northumberland Fusiliers, died from his injuries on the 2 July 1916, the day after he had commanded his Battalion to attack on La Boisselle. Subsequently Helen's father became a Founder Trustee of the charity '*Remembered*'.



Helen's second opportunity came about as she had to improve her fitness as part of her Army application. She signed up to take part in the 3500 mile challenge for homeless Ex-Service personnel and, as she says, "It has definitely improved my health and well-being".

BMF Mileage 3500 Mile Challenge

BRITISH MILITARY FITNESS
SERIOUS FUN

3500 MILE CHALLENGE

For Homeless Ex-Service men and Women

Donate via Facebook

www.facebook.com/donate/285625441979811

The Sergeant Major says:

"At least 13,000 hero soldiers are HOMELESS after leaving the military - and almost all have PTSD"

Members of BMF Birkenhead & Liverpool will be running a combined 3,500 miles over 15 weeks to raise money to help get our heroes off the streets

Please help us to support our homeless soldiers"

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To find out more visit www.britmilfit.com or donate through the Facebook link on the poster.





St Nicholas' Church
Burton-in-Wirral

**Nine Lessons
and CAROLS**

Sunday 16 December
7.00pm

St Michael's Church
Shotwick



Sunday 16 December 4.00pm
Nine Lessons & Carols

Thursday 20 December 6.30pm
Christmas Bedtime Story

Sunday 6 January 11.00am
Plough Sunday Service
'Bring & Share Lunch'

St Michael's Church
2019 Calendars - £5



From the Registers

Baptisms

14 October - Thomas Arthur Raynor

4 November - Alistair Giles Hatton

Funerals

19 October - Margaret Elizabeth Elsworth

29 October - Patricia Henshaw

12 November- Leslie Young

17 November- Margaret Wilkinson



St Nicholas' Church

Classic Film Night



Wednesday 19 December - 7.00pm
Mulled Wine - Mince Pies

FLORI BUNDA



WINTER

Cold nights, blue skies and sunny days. The remaining autumn tints continue to look wonderful.

The holly bush in the rear garden has masses of red berries which hopefully will remain and provide Christmas decorations. Any tall roses, in particular 'Freedom', and Buddleia Davidii (butterfly bushes), will be pruned down by one-third to prevent 'wind rock' which can affect the roots.



A Viburnum which had been planted in the wrong place was transferred to the front garden where it continues to flourish.

The Eryngium (sea holly) looks wonderful at the moment with its blue florets and blue stalks – perfect for floral decorations! Crocus, daffodils and tulips which were planted in pots last year have now been placed around the borders.



New bulbs were purchased recently and have now been planted in various pots and containers.

If all the planting proves successful then the garden should be very colourful in spring.

So, on to the start of a new gardening year and awaiting the arrival of the lovely Galanthus Nivalis (snowdrops) the first signs of which are such a joy.



Many varieties of birds have frequented the garden - blue, great and long-tailed tits, nuthatch, green/ gold finches, jenny wren and also robins – often chasing other birds away. The squirrel seen eating the crocus bulbs was not too popular!



Greenfinch

Tasks to be getting on with in the coming months



- Clear all the fallen leaves
- Protect tender plants from frost
- Buy or order seeds for next year

Good gardening,

Flori Bunda

Coffee Mornings

All Welcome



Tuesday 11 December

Monday 28 January

10.00am to 12 Noon

St Nicholas' Church

Any donations of cakes would be
much appreciated

Café Chat

Held on the last Thursday of
the month from 8.00pm at

**The
Elephant
Lounge &
Bar**

in Parkgate



Next dates:

Thursday 27 December

Thursday 31 January

For more information contact:

Ruth Abbott: ☎ 342 5032

St Nicholas' Church

HOLY COMMUNION SERVICE

with

SOUP & SANDWICH LUNCH

held at

BURTON SPORTS & SOCIAL CLUB

Monday 3 December at 11.30.am

Monday 7 January at 11.30am

Monday 4 February at 11.30am

Contact

Basil Keys ☎ 936 1403

Jen Williams ☎ 328 1006



Saturday 19 January

at Gladstone Village Hall

4.00pm to 6.00pm

Children, Parents, Grandparents & Helpers
are all welcome!

BIBLE BOOK CLUB

8.00pm at The
Vicarage



Wednesday 16 January

**Based on the resources of The
Bible Society.**

Anyone can come along and join in
and learn more about the Bible and
its relevance today.

Cathy Helm ☎ 07471 890 827



PUDDINGTON VILLAGE

CAROLS ON THE GREEN

SATURDAY 22 DECEMBER
6.00PM

Everyone
Welcome



Gather Around the
Christmas Tree
Bring Friends & Family

*All Your Favourite Carols
Christmas Tree
& Christmas Lights*

*Warming Mulled Wine &
Delicious Mince Pies*

*A Christmas Message
by Rev Cathy Helm*

*Visit by Father Christmas &
Children's Presents*

**CHARITY COLLECTION
IN AID OF LOCAL HOSPICE**

LIBRARY

Cheshire West Mobile Library will be at
the Car Park at Gladstone Village Hall
from 11.30am to 12.25pm and on the
Village Green in Puddington from 11.00am
until 11.20am on the following dates:

7 December

18 January



GLADSTONE VILLAGE HALL

Saturday 8 December 7.30pm

Christmas Ceilidh 'Save the Donkey' Folk Band

Licensed Bar & Hot Pot Supper

Tickets £10

Booking Essential

☎ 07731 324 630 Or 0151 336 7178

Please continue to
support the foodbank
over Christmas and New
Year - local people are

in desperate need of our support. Please leave
items of tinned or packaged food, toiletries etc in
the boxes in the church porch. *Thank You*



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Gladstone Village Hall Burton Sports & Social Club



Gladstone Village Hall

Burton Sports & Social Club

& Playing Fields

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'Family BBQs'

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'Social Shenanigans'



Bookings:

Hall or Meeting Room

Nicky ☎ 07731 324 630

Social Club

Sheila ☎ 07722 607 123

Weddings

Connie ☎ 0151 336 3679

Burton Village Advent Windows 2018

*Once again look out
for 'Advent Windows'
in Burton Village this
Christmas. Twenty
three houses will be
decorating one of their
windows throughout Advent and over the
Christmas period.*



Bar Staff Required



In order to help meet the running costs of Gladstone Village Hall (GVH) and the Social Club, both venues are being hired out with increasing success. A bar has now been installed at GVH and Wedding Receptions are being held there.

The GVH and Social Club committees require a list of people to act as **Bar Staff** who could be called upon for such events. As the bar is part of each event Bar Staff will be paid **£7 per hour**.

For more information contact John Nuttall:

✉ j.nuttall@gladstonevillagehall.co.uk

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We are The Mango Tree

www.themangotree.org

The Mango Tree was founded in 2003 as a humanitarian response to HIV & AIDS in sub-Saharan Africa with a vision to empower children through education, improving their lives & communities.



What we do

The Mango Tree educates, empowers and reduces inequality in poor rural communities in Africa. We assist children and their families to access and benefit from education and training, by adding value to existing provision and helping to remove the barriers which prevent them from succeeding.

We strive to make education more accessible, improve family and child health, introduce effective natural resource management, increase food security, reduce unemployment and ultimately lift poor communities out of poverty.

Our impact

Since 2003, we have supported over 30,000 orphans and disadvantaged children, and their families in Kenya and Tanzania with education, school infrastructure, family-based foster care, health and welfare, HIV awareness and testing, clean water and sustainable agriculture.



Open 7 Days a Week

*Breakfasts - Toasted Ciabattas & Toasties - Hot Drinks -
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Contact

Lucy Keys  **07421 721 035**

 **wirralkeycomputing@gmail.com**

 **<http://bit.do/wirralkeycomputing>**

YOGA CLASSES

Classes are held on Tuesdays at Gladstone Village Hall, Burton 7.00pm to 8.30pm. - Hatha Yoga

Also on Mondays & Thursdays at the Burton Sports and Social Club - Chair Yoga 9.30 am to 10:30am

Beginners and returners are all welcome and equipment can be provided



Contact Andrew Collin

☎ 0780 273 7258

✉ andrewcollin@btinternet.com

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Membership 07826 417 047



www.gladstonevillagehall.org



@gladstonevillagehallburton

COMMUNITY & SOCIETY INFORMATION

THE BURTON SOCIETY

We meet on the first Thursday of each month at 8.00pm in the Gladstone Village Hall during the winter. Everyone is welcome to join us for a talk and refreshments. Our next meetings are:

Thursday 6 December - *'Village Christmas Show'*
A specially produced drama collection focused on Christmas with local players and music.

Thursday 3 January - *'Gordale - What a Lovely Idea'*
Peter Nichols describes the transition from small market garden to a destination garden centre.

THE PUDDINGTON SOCIETY

The next event is Saturday 22 December at 6.00pm *'Carols on the Green'*
For more information about events call Hazel Huxley on 0151 336 2288

BURTON AND NESTON HISTORY SOCIETY

Every second Thursday of each month at 8:00pm in the Gladstone Village Hall. For more information please contact Clive Edwards on 0151 336 1190

BURTON WALKING GROUP

New members always welcome
For more information please contact John Nuttall on 0151 336 7178

BURTON BRIDGE CLUB

Burton Bridge Club meets every Monday evening at 7.15pm in the Gladstone Village Hall
Experienced players most welcome for duplicate bridge.
For further information please contact Hazel Huxley 0151 336 2288.

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 unless stated
For information see www.manorgatehouse.info

FRIENDS OF BURTON MANOR GARDENS

Meetings at Squirrel Lodge, Burton Manor
For more information ☎ 0151 336 6154 or email, burtonmanorgardens@gmail.com

Next issue deadline for copy and advertisers 8 January 2019
Editor: Sarah Curnow - saron@lineone.net

The Parish Magazine is published by the PCC of St Nicholas' Church Burton. Publication is made possible through the contributions and donations of church members, residents, advertisers and other members of the public.

Copies of the magazine are distributed bi-monthly to circa 500 homes within the parish and surrounding area and the publication is also made available electronically.

The PCC and editorial team retain the right to edit items submitted for publication. The editor's decision is final.

Copies of this magazine can be found at
www.burtonchurch.org.uk

This magazine is published bi-monthly, six times a year. It is distributed to nearly every home in the villages of Burton and Puddington as well as to people attending church and visitors from around the area. In addition it is available on the church website and emailed to around 140 households

To discuss opportunities to advertise here contact

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All proceeds in aid of St Nicholas' Church, Burton

